



An Evaluation of Marital Conflict Resolution in Egor Local Government Area, Edo State, Nigeria

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Abstract. Marriage is a life-long commitment where the couple endures a variety of challenging circumstances, including illness, financial hardship, crises, and so forth. As an age-old institution, marriage is supposed to be an exciting and beautiful adventure, and the relationship between husband and wife is intended to get better with every passing day or year, but in reality, many challenges can mar the relationship. The study therefore examines an evaluation of marital conflict resolution in Egor Local Government Area, Edo State, Nigeria. The descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The study adopted a triangulation of both the quantitative and qualitative method of data collection. The area of study was Egor Local Government Area, Edo State, Nigeria. The population of study consisted of both Literate and non-literate males and females from 18years and above in the study area. The sample size was 396 respondents. Each variable was analyzed descriptively using number and percentages for each of the independent variables. The variables were cross tabulated between major and sub cartegories and tested with appropriate standardized statistical tools. The findings revealed that there are a lot of predisposing factors that trigger marital dissolution among couples in the study area, but few of them were identified. It was also recommended that premarital counseling is necessary for prospective couples to better understand one another before marriage. Couples should regularly attend seminars and workshops on topics related to marital harmony and conflict resolution. The study recommended that the use of uncensored languages should not be used among couples. The study also recommended that there should be the need of premarital counseling among couples

Keywords: Conflict, Divorce, Family, Mariage, Resolutions.

1. Introduction

Marriage is a basic institution in every society all over the world, and most societies are governed by customs, values and law, and marriage exists as cultural heritage and a legal undertaking and not merely a private romantic declaration or religious rite (David & Marzio, 2001). According to Nukunya (1992), marriage is a social union or legal contract between consenting people that creates kinship and bond between members of the union. It is the accepted social institution for forming and preserving humanity and kindred ties in addition to building and upholding families. Gbenda & Akume (2002) posited that marriage is a divine obligation and contract which should be a special relationship for life and which harmoniously integrate the husband and wife into becoming one 'flesh'. Benard, 2012 (1990) in Yahaya, Esere, Ogusanmi and Oniye (2008), argued that, marriage is a partnership contract without escape clause. The inference is that marriage is a lifetime commitment in which the pair must endure a variety of challenging circumstances, including illness, financial hardship and crises amongst others.

Marriage as an institution according to Tolorunleke (2014), is supposed to be an exciting and beautiful adventure and the relationship between husband and wife or wives is intended to get better with every passing day or year but in reality, many form of challenges can mar the relationship. These challenges in marriage relationship may emanate from different sources and may include poverty, sexual incompatibility between couples, infertility, infidelity, unnecessary interference of in-laws, opposing religious interests and procreation of one sex in the family, amongst others (Agboeze, 2004). Hence, if these challenges are not properly handled by the

couples, it may cause frictions and eventual separation of the married partners (Okafor, 2002).

In Nigeria, the rate at which married couples experience divorce and re-marriage is quite alarming as many families have been and some are still seriously at war with themselves simply because of their failure to, manage or resolve conflicting issues between couples or families (Dada & Idowu, 2006). Studies established that many families in Nigeria, for example, face untold stress and suffering due to marital instability. The marital instability and conflicts between couples may not be unconnected with the harsh economic and social realities of the modern Nigerian society coupled with other factors. In Edo State, a preliminary investigation by the Social Welfare Department in Egor Local Government Area shows that many marriages are under pressure from a variety of factors, which can occasionally result in an increase in divorce and marital discord within the local government area due to evidence of reported cases. According to the social welfare official, the cases of marital discord they have handled thus far have been marked by a significant amount of hatred and animosity, uncertainty and hostility, bitterness and animosity and vilification, atrocity and lack of trust, lack of respect and haughtiness, among other things. This study therefore aims to examine social work intervention strategies in marital conflict resolution in Egor local government area, Edo State, Nigeria.

1.1 Statement of the Research Problem

The dissolution of marriage has become an international problem that affects both the wealthy and the poor, from the royal families of princes and princesses all the way down to the down trodden in cities and peasants in the countryside. These show that marital instability knows no boundaries irrespective of the socio-economic and political status of couples in contemporary society (Banifo, 2013). Marriage is a crucial component of human cultures since it gives couples' and their kids' identities and roots. It is thought to be done for the sake of procreation, love, friendship, security, status that has been ascribed and attained, religious responsibilities, economic reasons, and societal norms compliance. For a marriage to be successful according to Osaigbovo & Ehigie (2015), one needs to be biologically, economically, emotionally and socially matured to handle the rigours of marriage responsibilities. One of the topics that is talked the most these days is marriage and family because human society is essentially developed and dependent on family especially the family that enjoy a blissful marital relationship.

Marital relationships are said to have become generally strained in recent past, especially among literate couples, as indicated by scholars like Obe, (1997) and Carew, (1997). Although academics, churches, professionals, and NGOs are working tirelessly to stop this threat, the incidences of marital disagreements and discord appears to be ubiquitous as the stabilization of personality roles in marriage and the family deteriorates at frightening rates. In their attempts to propose remedies, academics, educators, churches, and other stakeholders are, in part, at a loss as to the possibilities available for recognizing the reasons of marital crises situations Otuji, (2000) and Odeh, (2001), opined that marriages, especially among the literate class, have been under serious threat of disintegration. This is allegedly a result of extended family influence, advanced age at marriage, and childlessness or barrenness. The stability of the family is seriously impacted by this circumstance, which also affects the personality, development, and adjustment of the children. Problems that could have been handled succinctly and co-operatively by couples are often allowed to degenerate to crisis levels, which, in turn, result in emotional dislocation that often leads to marital instability and this situation generates fear and impedes proper adjustments among couples (Philips, 1971 and Undie 1997).

1.2 Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

- What are the underlying causes of marital discord among couples in Egor Local Government Area?
- What are the possible conflict resolution methods used in settling marital conflict among couples in Egor Local Government Area?

2. Literature Review

Marital conflict is a phenomenon that upsets the couple's happiness and is primarily experienced by women. It is also a profound social problem, sapping women's energy, compromising their physical health, and eroding their self-esteem (Rodgers & Pryor, 1998). Information on the prevalence of family conflict reveals that it is a common occurrence all around the world. According to Animasahun (2011), conflict in marital union could be said to be an extreme example of the failure of supportiveness found in every kind of family as it can reach extreme levels. Garnezy, Rutter, Izard, & Read, 1986 on the other hand, opined that the most frequent cause of non-fatal

injuries and one of the top causes of death among women, according to research, is marital dispute.

The literature on family and conflict resolution contains many definitions. Most of these definitions treat conflict as a negative pathological condition characterized by lack of co-operation, hostility, struggle, breakdown and destruction (Agboeze, 2004). According to Nwankwo (2007), the entire family set up today seems to be very complex. This is practically true especially when the sweet and harmonious relationship that once existed no sooner than later paves way to strain and stress in the family. Whether the reason behind it is convincing or not, the story is that all these revolve on the orbit of social, economic, traditional, cultural and psychological realms for a proper understanding of it all. A cross examination or look at of family lives under different cultural backgrounds from typical Western societies to African traditional milieu points to the aforesaid. Akumuo (2003) is of the opinion that conflict is an inevitable circumstance that happens in all spheres of life. It cannot be totally eliminated from life activities but it can be controlled.

Marriages can inevitably lead to conflicts, which can happen when miscommunication between the partners is the norm. Some families, particularly those who are illiterate or impoverished, view marriages as the means of having children and then as necessary conditions for a happy home. Families without children may experience marital problems. Marital conflicts are challenging relationships that a husband and wife go through in their marriage. Nwoye (2001) stated that a conflict in a marriage refers to dissensions between marital partners over values, beliefs, mores and behaviours that make up the structure of the nuclear unit. In other words, marital conflict is a negative interaction between a husband and a wife in a marriage that can be vocal, non-verbal, or both, with the intention of neutralizing, harming, and defaming the other.

The inability of the husband and wife to fulfill their roles as spouses results in marital instability or conflict. Disorganization and an insecure marriage are two ways to define instability. According to Lock and Thomas (2011), studies in marital conflict demonstrated that much overt conflict is a symbol of some underlying tension in an area of behaviour than the one in which the overt is manifested. In the same line, Saxton (2002) stated that there are two categories of marital conflict which are either internal or external. For him, a conflict is internal when only one person can feel the two competing wants that caused it, yet it still has an impact on a couple's relationship, while it

is external when one person wants something that the other person does not. Nwoye (2001) opined that conflict may be centered on any or all conceivable areas of interaction in marriage relationship such as economic, leisure, child rearing, decision making, role demand, religion, social activities, sex relation, lack of communication, extra-marital affairs among others. Failure in a marriage is a sign that there are issues within the marriage. The importance of family where there is no disharmony but stability in promoting sustainable family growth and development has been established (George, 2002).

Bacchiocchi (2002) asserted the following strategies for resolving marriage crisis:

Commitment to preserve marriage convenience: Having a loving and unbreakable commitment is the only way to properly resolve marital disputes. Those who are committed to upholding the marriages that God has established (Matt. 19:6) may take a chance by being upfront and honest about their disagreements.

Be honest and open in discussing conflict: Finding fault or assigning blame should not be the goal of a conflict; instead, issues should be resolved. Marriage is a cooperative endeavour rather than a competing activity. When an issue arises, the objective should be to find a workable solution rather than deciding who is right and who is wrong.

Keep your anger under control: This means that truthful persons will not allow their anger to become undisciplined and uncontrolled. If a disagreement in a marriage spirals out of control, the only way to calm the storm is for the more spiritually developed spouse to stop the vicious cycle of victimizing the other by refusing to take revenge. The only way to end a marital argument is to do this. Nzeilo (1994) is of the views that love sharing and understanding, if upheld, brings anger under control in times of crises.

Choose an appropriate time to discuss a problem: The wisest man in the Bible, Solomon, noted that "there is a time for everything under the earth, a time to keep silence, and a time to speak... a time for war, and a time for peace" (Eccl. 3:7-8). Disputes within marriages most surely reflect this. Marriage counsellors as Prudence (1997), Ume (2000) and Undiyaundeye (2001) agree that timing is critical to constructive resolutions of conflicts. The best time to discuss sensitive issues or serious difference is when both husband and wife are well rested, wide awake and feeling at ease. At such a favourable time one can be more rational, considerate and accommodating.

Listen carefully and speak tactfully: Conflicts in marriage should serve to improve communication by helping partners know better how each feels and thinks about an issue (Sotunade, 1999).

Learning to listen carefully to the words of a mate: Yet, this rule of effective listening is the most difficult to implement because in a conflict situation when a person is talking, the other is not listening but thinking about how to respond. The louder our voices and uglier our words, the less our spouses will listen and the poorer will be our communication. It is always important to listen carefully to understand what the real issue is. True courtesy and tactfulness in speech are not learned merely by practising a few rules of etiquette but through renewal of the heart. It is only when the heart has been touched by the love of Christ and other guiding rules of God that people will feel motivated to listen carefully and speak tactfully to all, especially to their marital partners (Stanford 2002).

Be willing to forgive and to forget: Ideally, marital disputes should always be resolved amicably and logically, resulting in improved communication between partners. Realistically, however, in every marriage there are times when conflict becomes uncontrolled and irrational. There are situations when, because of fatigue, pride, selfishness, anxiety, ugly side of our nature breaks out in angry outburst, cutting remarks, abusive language and irrational accusations. Such behaviour awakens the equally negative side in our spouses who may retaliate similarly with angry and abusive language. The only way to bring conflict, which has gotten out of control to a satisfactory end, is for one partner to break the retaliation cycle by forgiving the other partner for the hurt received.

Owan (2000) is of the view that if we have been wounded by the words or actions of our mates, we should refuse to retaliate by returning words or action in kindness. Such a mindset can ease tensions and foster a pleasant environment that is conducive to a reasoned discussion of the issue. The tip of the iceberg is that married people must embrace change, shape their lives to have a healthy self-concept, and adopt the appropriate behavioral orientation in order to live by the motto of promoting peace and harmony.

3. Theoretical Framework: Eclectic Theory

According to Frederick Thorne (1950), humans are social, psychological, and biological entities. These interrelated characteristics are a byproduct of the distresses they go through. The counselor's or therapist's job is to support the person who wants to use intervention to lessen his or her misery. Prior to

any intervention, the issue is evaluated in some way. He applied this approach to help couples who were on the verge of a divorce and had emotional issues with animosity toward one another.

For Thorne (1952) therefore, eclectic theory of counselling is designed to preserve the client's mental health by assisting him to prevent or modify causal factors that produced maladjustment or marital disorder in the client. This is essential in managing a scenario including marital strife. Here, the client's problem is diagnosed according to its causes and symptoms, and a client-centered approach is frequently used to assist the client with non-directive problem-solving. Thorne (1950) went on to suggest five techniques that can be used in solving problems. determining the root of a client's personality maladjustment; planning to change or prevent the incidental causes of the client's issue; ensuring the right conditions and environment for the client to learn effectively; enhancing the client's intellectual capacity to practice the newly learned technique of adjustment; giving the client instructions on how to appropriately address adjustment-related issues.

4. Research Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. The essence of the survey method is informed by the fact that sample was drawn from the target population after which, inference is made. Survey as a research design is therefore more suitable for the study compared to other designs. The study's participants comprised literates, non-literate males and females from age 18 years and above that currently reside and have been living in the study area. This age range is informed by the fact that 18 years is the legally approved marriageable age in Nigeria and as such, anchoring on 18 years as a bench mark, places the study in a better pedestal. The Egor Local Government has an area of 92km² and a population of approximately 340,287 as at the 2006 population census and a projected population of 470,800 for the year 2016. Based on this population estimate, there are 43,311 people who are 18 years and above. Therefore, the population of this study was 43,311, persons who are 18 years and above and have been residing in the area for at least six months.

The study's sample size is 396 respondents, who were chosen from an area with an estimated population of 43,311 using the systematic random selection method. This was utilized to ensure that every component of the population had an equal and random probability of being chosen for the sample. One hundred and thirty-two respondents were selected from each of the

selected three wards in the Local government. From each of the chosen three (3) wards of the Local Government Area, six streets were chosen at random. The researchers trained three research assistants for each of the selected Ward. Using the home numbers and household identification codes assigned to each family in the chosen street, twenty-two couples were randomly selected from each street. The sample size for this study was gotten by using Taro Yamane’s mathematical model. The sample size is presented, thus:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where; n = sample size; N = total population
e= Level of Significant (0.05)2

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{43311}{1 + 43311(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{43311}{1 + 43311(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{43311}{109.28}$$

$$= 396.34$$

$$\cong 396$$

Socio-demographic profile of respondents. The first section covers questions that common to the respondents. These include age, sex, level of educational qualification, occupation, among others. The data are presented as follows:

Table1: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percent
18- 27years	181	47.0
28-37YEARS	76	19.7
38-47YEARS	28	7.3
48-57years	48	12.5
58years and above	52	13.5
Total	385	100.0
Sex	Frequency	Percent
Male	109	28.3
Female	276	71.7
Total	385	100.0
Marital Status	Frequency	Percent
SINGLE	109	28.3
MARRIED	235	61.0
DIVORCED	24	6.2
SEPARATED	17	4.4
WIDOW	Nil	Nil
Total	385	100.0
Educational Status	Frequency	Percent
No formal education	19	4.9
Primary School	104	27
Secondary School	123	31.9
Tertiary	94	24.4
Others	45	11.7
Total	385	100.0
Sex Distribution of Children	Frequency	Percent
Girls & Boys	301	78.2
All girls	45	11.7
All boys	15	3.9
None	24	6.2
Total	385	100.0
Religious Affiliation	Frequency	Percent
CHRISTIANITY	331	86.0
ISLAM	32	8.3
ATR	12	3.1
OTHERS	10	2.6
Total	385	100.0
Occupation	Frequency	Percent
TRADING/BUSINESS	22	5.7

TRADING AND BUSINESS	161	41.8
TEACHING	64	16.6
FARMING	22	5.7
HOUSE WIFE	18	4.7
RETIREE	4	1.0
Others	94	24.4
Total	385	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2022

Data in Table.1 established that the age distribution of respondents in the study. Among the total respondents, majority were between 18-27years. That is, a larger proportion of the respondents were between the age intervals 18-27years old in the study representing 47% of the total participants while the least represented in the study according to their age distribution are those within the age interval 38years and 47years representing 7.3% of the total respondents. The table further revealed that 76 representing 19.7% of the respondents were within the age interval 28years and 37years. 48 representing 12.5% of the respondents were within the interval of 48years and 57years old.

Among the sex distribution of the respondents, it was discovered that majority were females. For instance, 276 representing 71.7% are females while 109 representing 28.3% are males. This implies majority of the respondents are females. The marital status of revealed that majority were married representing 61% of the total participants. For example, 235 representing 61% of the total respondents are married, 109 representing 28.3% are single, 24 representing 6.2% of the respondents are divorced while 17 representing 4.4% are separated from marital union or relation.

The data show that 19 representing 4.9% of the total respondents had no formal education, 104 representing 27% of the respondents had primary school education, 31.9% had secondary school education, 31.9% of the respondents had diploma and other OND related qualification while 11.7 had B.sc and equivalent degrees. This implies that respondents' who had diploma/OND and equivalent qualifications were more. Data in the study established that among the respondents 301 representing 78.2% of the respondents averred that they have both mixed sex of children, 45 representing 11.7% of the respondents all girls and 15 represents 3.9% of the respondents had a sex distribution of all boys. However, 24 representing 6.2% of the respondents had no children hence there was no sex distribution.

On religious affiliation the total respondent, 86% representing 331 of the total participants were Christians, 32 representing 8.3% of the total respondent practiced ATR while 2.6% of the respondents are engaged in different religious practices other than Christianity and Islam practice. This implies that a higher percentage of the participants practice Christianity. Among the total number of respondents, 22 representing 5.7% are into trading and business, 64 representing 16.6% of the respondents are teachers, 22 representing 16.6% of the participants are farmers, and 18 representing 4.7% of the participants are house wives while 94 representing 24.4% of the respondents are into other profession. This implies that majority of the participants are into trading/business. This is perhaps due to the fact that it involves women and in most cases in the study area, women are often engaging in petty trading.

Research Question One: What are the underlying causes of marital conflicts among couples in Egor Local Government Area?

Table 2: Man's inability to meet the financial and moral needs of the family

	Frequency	Percent
YES	271	70.4
NO	56	14.5
CANNOT TELL	58	15.1
Total	385	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2022

Data in Table 2 above shows the respondents view on the causes of marital conflicts among couples in Egor LGA. It was discovered that majority of the respondents representing 271(70.4%) of the total respondents agreed that the remote cause of marital instability is the inability to meet the financial and moral needs of the family. 56 representing 14.5% of the respondents however held that marital conflict is not caused by man's inability to meet financial and moral need while 58 representing 15.1% of the participants were undecided. This implies that man's inability to meet family or household financial and other moral demands are possible cause of marital conflicts in the study area. This was substantiated by the in-depth interview conducted that also revealed that marital instability or conflict is caused

by numerous factors and this ranges from inability to meet financial needs, high expectation from spouse, extreme nagging, communication break down and infidelity among others. When it come to the issue of financial, it is very crucial. At least, a man of the house should be able to meet the financial need when this is not done, crisis become inevitable in the home.

Table 3: Insult/Assault and Infidelity

	Frequency	Percent
YES	369	95.8
NO	10	2.6
CANNOT TELL	6	1.6
Total	385	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2022

The data in Table 3 further established that the perceived risk factors of marital conflicts among the respondents in the study area. From the data, it was discovered that a larger proportion of the respondents representing 369 (95.8%) agreed that insults/assaults and infidelity are the leading causes of marital conflict in families. 10 representing 2.6% of the respondents do not agree that insults/assaults and infidelity are risk factors of conflict in marriages while 6 representing 1.6% respondents were undecided. This implies that majority of the participants believe that conflict in marriages or families is as a result of the constant insults/assaults and infidelity from either of the partners. This abusive behaviour, if sustained over time, could lead to crisis in marriage or marital dissolution. According to the in-depth interview conducted, it was established that there are many reasons families experience crisis in conjugal relationship. Some of among these reasons are the issues of insult, abusive languages and infidelity on the part of either of the partners. According to her:

Insults/assaults in marriages could destroy the marriage if not properly handled. Insulting your partners is like making your partner look inferior. It becomes more serious when the partner is assaulted alongside with the insult. When this happens, the marriage could slide into crisis that is uncontrollable. This can even lead to the dissolution of the union. The worst of it is when a partner is not faithful to the other. That is, the issue of infidelity has destroyed many homes (IDI-Female, Civil servant at Egor secretariat, 48years).

According to another participants in the in-depth interview,

‘Marriage is a good thing but it is sweeter when both parties are satisfied in the union. One of the things that bring satisfaction in marriage is the arrival of the birth of a child or children (especially a male child). Any delay after wedding to have a child might result to frequent issue or misunderstanding on the part of the partners. Although children are not man-made and cannot be decided by anyone, but it is a general expectation that children herald the consummation of a union. Expectation of the nature has resulted in crisis in many marital unions. Childlessness is a serious issue in marriages that most persons do not talk about. This is because many marriages have crumbled due to this issue of childlessness. In most cases, the sex of a child especially a male child has a way of causing crisis in family when the woman is unable to have a male child’ (IDI-Female, civil servant, 27years).

Research question two: What are the possible resolution strategies adopted in resolving marital conflict among couples in Egor Local Government Area?

Table 4: Revisiting the past

	Frequency	Percent
YES	320	83.1
NO	48	12.5
CANNOT TELL	17	4.5

Source: Fieldwork, 2022

Table 4 above also showed that among the respondents, 320 representing 83.1% agreed that revisiting of clients’ past experiences is one of the strategies or technique that can be used for people who are abused in their marital union. 48 representing 12.5% of the respondents however do not believe that could be a good method when attending to people who are challenged martially or who are having conflicts in their union while 17 representing 4.5% were undecided as to whether reviewing or revisit of past experiences could be a good technique or strategies that can be adopted in resolving marital conflict among couples in the study area.

Table 5: Regular Couple Check-Ups

	Frequency	Percent
YES	248	64.4
NO	81	21.0
CANNOT TELL	56	14.5
Total	385	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2022

The table also established that among the respondents, majority agreed that regular check-up of counselor on families with marital issues are good strategies for resolution of family dispute. For example, 248 representing 64.4% of the participants agreed that regular couple check-up is a good strategy for resolving marital dissolution, 81 representing 21% disagreed while 56 14.5% were undecided. This implies that a larger proportion of the respondents agreed that regular check-up is a good intervention strategy for could having conflicts in their marital relationship. It was in confirmed in the in-depth interview where one of the participants said; there are different intervention mechanism designed for prevention from marital crisis. Among these measures or intervention mechanism is regular checkup or visitation of welfare officers to family where there are crisis. Regular checkup actually help welfare officers to know the extent of damage or how tough the crisis or conflict assumes.

Regular checkup is synonymous with home visitation programmes that help bring community resources to families in homes. During the home visit, information, support and other social services to improve the functioning of the family are offered. For example, finding of several studies revealed that women who were visited at home by welfare officers during pregnancy were less likely to be identified as perpetrator of abuse. Through visitation, welfare officers are able to identify, treat or refer families who are in crisis situation.

5. Discussion of Findings

It was discovered in the study that majority of the respondents were married and have children. The findings also show that a large proportion of the respondents were into businesses and majorly practice Christianity. Findings further showed that different predisposing factors account for marital dissolution among couples in the study area, however some of them were identified. These include but not limited to infidelity, preference for a particular sex of children, respect for spouse, insults and assaults amongst others were identified. For instance, majority of the respondents believed that the remote cause of marital instability is the inability to meet the financial and moral needs of the family. When the head of

household or the husband is not living to expectations especially by providing for daily upkeep of children, crisis always ensued. There are different roles and responsibilities assigned to family members in marital union and meeting financial needs of the family is specifically assigned to husband. However, when this role is not well articulated or played, it could result in marital conflicts and in some cases degenerate to marital dissolution particularly when not properly handled.

Financial matters are potent force when addressing issue of marital satisfaction, this is in tandem with Zeynep and Isil (2014), who posited that finance or money has the potential to influence so many aspects of everyday life, continued research in understanding the processes involved in this fundamental area of family studies is vital. Marital satisfaction and, more broadly, life satisfaction can both be improved by feeling satisfied with one's financial situation. This also in agreement with Berry & Williams (1987); Mugenda, Hira, & Fanslow, (1990); Parrotta & Johnson (1998); Hibbert and Beutler (2001), who argued that financial satisfaction is status driven. That is, financial problems or being unhappy with one's financial situation can cause marital discord and possibly divorce.

The findings further established that insult/assaults and marital infidelity are leading predisposing factors of marital conflicts in families. More than 87 percent of the respondents linked infidelity in marriage to marital dissolution in the study area. The abusive behaviour and immoral act of infidelity if sustained over time will results in marital crisis that could degenerate to dissolution. The finding also agree with Okafor (2002) and Tolorunleke (2014), who opined that marriage should be an exciting and beautiful adventure and the relationship between husband and wife. However, little things can slip into the relationship and when these little things are not properly handled, they can cause friction and eventual separation between the marriage partners that may widen over the years (Okafor, 2002).

Conflict resolution's primary goal is to ensure that its occurrence does not jeopardize the foundation of human life, not to prevent conflicts from occurring in the first place. The finding revealed that different strategies are engaged when resolving issues with

marital resolution. For example, it was discovered that regular marriage counseling is one of the possible resolution strategies in resolving marital conflicts among couples in Egor LGA. For instance, 76.9% of the total responded agreed to it. Other intervention mechanism or strategies such as attending seminars, conferences and workshops on healthy marital living were key strategies in marital resolution, defining the place of in-law in the family among others were the possible strategies adopted in reposition of marital dispute.

The findings also show that among the total participants, majority agreed that launching and landing rituals were established. For example, 326% of the participants representing 84.7% of the participants agreed that the technique of launching and landing rituals is one of the strategies for marital restoration among marriage couple. The findings also reveal that listening with purpose is among the resolution strategies adopted in resolving marital conflict among couples in the study area. The analysis of data also showed that among the total participant's majority agreed that regular check-up among counselors on families with marital issues is a good strategy for the resolution of family disputes. For example, 248 representing 64.4% of the participants agreed that regular couple check-up is a good strategy for resolving marital dissolution.

6. Conclusion

The study examined an Evaluation of Marital Conflict Resolution in Egor Local Government Area, Edo State, Nigeria. Marital dissolution occurs as a result of uncontrolled factors. However, they may be controlled when they happen or avoided altogether to prevent homes from collapsing completely or partially. This mostly depend on how the couple handles disagreements together. Therefore, a couple should learn to be fair, objective, and realistic in order to sustain marital stability and satisfaction. These factors are however mitigated by the help of social work intervention strategies that operate in specific modus and processes. The factors that cause marital dissolution if not properly managed through the help of trained social workers can restore and reunites broken homes among others.

7. Recommendations

Based on the findings the following recommendations were made:

- Pre-marital counselling is necessary for prospective couples to better understand one

another before marriage. They ought to be made aware of some of the issues that could spark disputes and how to handle them.

- Through marital and sex guidance, there must be sufficient provision for counselling treatments that are preventive, remedial, and rehabilitative.
- Couples should regularly attend seminars and workshops on topics related to marital harmony and conflict resolution.

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