MARITAL INSTABILITY AMONG WORKING CLASS COUPLES IN ENUGU STATE NIGERIA: A STUDY OF UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA, 2015-2022

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ABSTRACT

Marriage according to the Christian teachings is the union of a male and female who have willingly accepted to live together as husband and wife, till death do them part. And working-class couples refer to situations where such couples are both salaried workers. For some years now, the researchers haveattended many marriage ceremonies, and it is disheartening to state that through observations, out of these marriages, only one third of these working couples are still leaving together as husband and wife. The major objectives of the study are to examine how economic stability among married couples in University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN) cause marital instability and why there are recurrent cases of marital instability among working class couples in UNN. The study adopted resource and marital communication theory that was applied in accordance with the study. Both qualitative and quantitative method of data collection and analysis were adopted in the course of the study. The study examined the different dimensions of marital instability among working class, and came to the conclusion that there has been prevalent rate of divorce among working class couples in Nsukka Local Government Area in recent time. And based on the findings derived from the field survey and literature reviewed, it showed that economic stability is not a major factor that leads to marital instability as many respondents were of the view that though economic stability helps a great deal in ensuring cordial marital stability among couples, but the study showed that this is not the major factor militating against marital stability but poor and adequate communication between working class couples in Nsukka locality. To this end, the study concluded that couples need to maintain cordial and healthy communication to enhance their relationship and ensure the stability of their marriage, especially among the working class, therefore recommended that religious bodies and cooperate organizations should organize seminars, workshops, talk and conference on the need for marital stability among working class couples in University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Keywords: Marital, Instability, Couple, Working, Class, Nsukka

Introduction

The growing cases of failed marriages and marital instability have led many scholars and marriage counselors into engaging in various forms of research and findings at to ascertain the reasons behind this societal anomaly. This had also inspired and influenced the decision of this researcher who have had course to personally understudy the issues that are behind the trend of marital challenges and instability in the present society, using her own environment as a case study. The rate of failed marriages in today's society have become so alarming that many unmarried men and women today are beginning to lose interest in getting into marriage because of their fear of failing in the process. Where this issue is not properly addressed, it may portend danger for the present generation.

Marriage is a legally recognized union of two adults male and female who are joined together as partners in a personal relationship, and who are from different backgrounds and parentage. Marriage is an institution which is as old as humanity as can be attested by adherents of Christian religion. In the doctrinal teachings of Christianity, they believe that God created man and woman and joined them together as one entity, and this was the very beginning and genesis of the institution of marriage we have today in the world. Marriage according to the Christian teaching is meant to be a covenant where couples enter into till death do them part; and they are meant to remain in the covenant for better and for worse (See, Mark 10:9; John 15:12; Luke 6:31; and Corinthians 16:14). But this appears not to be what is obtainable today as marriage has become a contractual agreement which has been metamorphosed into for better to stay for worse to separate. This assertion has been arrived at in view of the growing cases of marital instability that have overtaken the present society.

Marriage in Nsukka is held as a sacred tradition where the parents of the couples are meant to give their blessings for marriage to be recognized to have taken place. And the ceremony usually attracts relatives, friends and well-wishers of both families. The man is expected to pay some certain amount and provide some items as marriage rite in accordance to the tradition of the women. And the elders of both intended couples are expected to pray and bless the couples to live happily in their new marriage. They are also admonished to be tolerant and live peacefully in their marriage. The eldest man in the family of the woman is expected to call on the ancestors of the land to lead and guide the couples through a fruitful marriage life, and the issue of separation is not tolerated in this marriage as couples are warned against embarking in any act or deed that will lead to un-reconcilable problem.But the standard of marriage of today seems to have departed from what it used to be which has led to several cases of marital instability. And by marital instability, I mean the situations in marriage which are capable of instigating quarrels, fight, malice and lack of forgiveness between the couples. Though some persons have attributed lack of adequate finance as the main cause of marital instability in today's society, but we have come to see overtime where there is marital instability in a wealthy family where finance is not a problem.

Couples in the context of this discourse means legally married adult male and female who have been joined together in traditional and holy matrimony as husband and wife who have agreed before the people to live as married couples all the days of their lives. Also, working

class in this study means where the husband and wife are engaging in ventures that enables them meets their daily ends and be able to put food on their tables, and also be able to attain to their various individual and family needs.

The rampant cases of marital instability within the Nsukka locality which we observed and also head in the new gave rise to undertaking in this study. It is against this background that this study was conducted to investigate the factors associated with marital instability among working class couples in University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Statement of the Problem

The growing trend of marital instability in the world today have become a frightening phenomenon that have unfortunately been making headlines in major media outlets and unconventional media medium. There is a certain fear that usually crops up each time couples are engaged in marital misunderstanding as more often than not; such marriages tend to crash and the couples go their separate parts. And with such scenario playing out each passing day, the institution of marriage is seriously being threatened as many young men and women who are not yet married become afraid to go into marriage, as there is this fear that where they get married to incompatible partner, which may not necessarily be intentional, such marriage is bound to end unhappily, and the partners will be forced to go their separate ways.

In the last two – three years, we have attended at least ten marriage ceremonies that took place within University of Nigeria, Nsukka community, and it is disheartening to state that through my personal observation, out of these ten marriages, one about three are still intact where the man and woman are still living together as husband and wife. This was a great concern to me hence we were compelled into engaging in this research as to find out why there are rampant cases of marital instability in Nsukka locality, especially among the working-class couples in University of Nigeria, Nsukka as almost all the weddings under discourse are working class couples in University of Nigeria, Nsukka which we felt shouldn't have been the case.

Conceptual Analysis

Concept of Marriage

Marriage is a socially sanctioned union between spouses, sometimes known as matrimony or wedlock. It outlines their respective legal rights and responsibilities as well as those of their children and in-laws (Bell, 2019).Although marriage is seen as a cultural universal, its definition changes throughout time and among cultures and religions. It is typically a setting where interpersonal relationships, mainly sexual ones, are accepted or encouraged.In certain cultures, getting married is advised or viewed as a prerequisite to engaging in any sexual behavior.Wedding refers to a marriage ceremony (Westermarck, 2019).

Marriage can be arranged legally, socially, for libidinal, emotional, economical, spiritual, or religious reasons, among others.Gender, socially imposed incest norms, prescriptive

marriage laws, parental preference, and personal desire can all have an impact on who they marries (Gough, 1959).Polygamy, forced marriage, child marriage, and planned marriage are all practices in some parts of the world.In other places, similar activities are prohibited by international law or to protect the rights of women and children (both male and female).Women's rights have historically been curtailed by marriage since they are occasionally seen as the husband's property (Leach, 1955).

Concept of Working-Class

The term "working class" (also known as "labouring class") refers to people who perform paid or salaried work, particularly in manual and industrial jobs. Working-class occupations include most blue-collar, some white-collar, and some pink-collar positions (see also "Designation of workers by collar color").According to more expansive definitions, the category can include nearly all of the working population of industrialized economies, as well as those employed in urban areas (cities, towns, villages) of non-industrialized economies or in the rural workforce (Feingold, 2020). Members of the working class rely solely on earnings from wage labor.

Working class has numerous definitions and applications, like many other phrases used to describe social classes. Many socialists accept the broadest definition, which states that the working class is made up of anybody who has nothing to sell but their labor (more or less; they do not own a factory, for example).The term "proletariat" was once used to describe these individuals, but it is no longer accepted. In that sense, those who earn their living via business ownership and the labor of others are the only ones who are not considered to be part of the working class today. This encompasses both white-collar and blue-collar workers, physical and intellectual workers of all kinds.

The phrase, which typically conjures up ideas of workers who experience "class disadvantage in spite of their individual effort," can also be used to refer to people of different races. The various themes of poverty implied by these racial implications suggest whether a person is deserving of assistance (Edsall, 2012).However, when used in non-academic contexts in the United States, it frequently denotes a group of people who depend on physical labor, particularly when such labor is reimbursed with an hourly salary (for specific scientific disciplines, as well as for journalistic or political analyses).For instance, people without college degrees are often considered to be part of the working class. The four groupings of unskilled laborers, craftsmen, outworkers, and factory workers are then used to classify working-class occupations (Doob, 2013).

Empirical Review

Causes of Marital Instability among Working Class Couples

It is unrealistic to expect a marriage to be problem-free. After all, even well -matched marriage, partners are not perfectly compatible hence difficulties of some sort are inevitable. Just as rust can corrode metal under a coat of paint, a number of factors can eat away at an apparently successful marriage (Awake, 2008).Crises in homes or families do not just go unnoticed because wherever a crisis exists in the family, the atmosphere of such

a family is everything but congenial, the atmosphere changes - a once happy, family would become chaotic and characterized further by teenage rebellion, child abuse, spousal violence, alcoholism, extra-marital affairs, gambling, drug addiction and in extreme cases health problems such as hypertension, heart-attack/failure and emotional breakdown follow as consequences. Some affected couple becomes addicted to their work yet others develop varying degrees of mental disorder including psychotic and psychopathological health conditions.

Keeping away from strife is normal and proper. But the question remains 'whether we should or can handle these crises in order to avoid them developing into conflicts'. Wasson (2010) while, counseling on 'How to keep hope alive during marriage crises' maintains that because of human desires, we will still have misunderstandings, differing opinions, selfish times, lazy moments etc. Though in marriage such differences are presumed to melt away but as a couple, it is not always easy to give up that uniqueness or individualism in our everyday life. This is notably so because both husband and wife have different habits, were nurtured from different socio-economic and psychological backgrounds, with different biological parentage hence different genetic makeup, different educational background, different personalities and different emotional scars (DeHaans, 1986)

Social Incompatibility of Marriage Partners

There is no doubt that some marriages have absolutely no foundation or basis for being contracted at the first instance. This is so because the pair is socially incompatible and may only manage to get along for a short while before signs of incompatibility would start to manifest. It would then be discovered that the couple are strange bed fellows - socially, religiously and ideologically. Crises are bound to ensue in a situation where a marriage partner sets high and unrealistic standards in the home. The fallibility of man is unquestionable and as such it is not possible that such idealistic standards are realized. This is capable of degenerating into crisis in the home. Many married people become disillusioned when they discover that their union is not all they had expected and that their spouse is not quite what they had envisioned him/her to be (Awake, 2008). Additionally, some couples unrealistically expect to get more out of marriage than they put into it.

Poor Marital Communication

A factor that has occupied central position in all discourse concerning successful marriage is 'marital communication (Edger, 1996). Inability of spouses to communication effectively with each other is very unhealthy to the union. Effective marital communication entails that couples discuss issues, respond to questions, call for explanations and accept same timely (when given), as any delay may send out a wrong signal which a partner is bound to interpret same way. Effective marital communication can in fact assuage many other marital disquiets before they could degenerate into crisis situations. Put differently, poor marital communication has been blamed for some other marital problems that have even culminated into divorce or separation of spouses. Purposeful open dialogue between couples often tends to be over taken by incessant arguments about anything, everything, and nothing; misinterpretation generates misunderstandings; verbal attacks are countered

by keeping silence especially on the husband's side (Awake, 2008).

Consequences of Marital Instability

Marital crises may have had some deleterious consequences on couples, their children and the society at large. Available literature reveal as follows:

Social Vices and Crimes

Social vices and crimes may become the order of the day as delinquent children from crisis-ridden or broken homes ultimately graduate into irresponsible adult population. The adolescence is a stage at which human beings are highly emotionally unbalanced, character formation not yet stabilized and as such people can always tilt to either side of the scale at the slightest pressure. This is the singular reason why robbery gangs kidnap and assassination squads, and prostitution are mostly populated by people in their adolescence and early adulthood. Living with their parents did not offer them the opportunity to develop as good citizens with good scales of conscience.

Management of Marital Crises

Couples who are going through a marriage crisis are often tempted to brood over the days when they still saw each other through the blissful eyes of love. At the earlier stages of all marriages, partners are always caught in a whirlwind of passionate emotions thus making them incapable of finding any fault in each other. This is because this highly idealistic phase of marriage temporarily obscures the truth that a marriage is made up of two separate people with differing perspectives on life (www.savemymarriagetoday.com). But sooner or later, such partners will eventually come face to face with the realities of their differences and the experience can be very traumatic for some spouses; some are downright disgusted by suddenly realizing that their marriage is in fact far from the ideal perfect.

Role Theory Model

According to Magnus' (1957) role theory model, role conflict is a key contributor to marital conflicts. When one partner's role expectation differs from the other partner's role expectation, role conflict results. This condition was further supported by the theory, which stated that both the husband and the woman entered into their marriages with preconceived notions and expectations about how the other spouse should behave. Conflict is prone to develop when a couple doesn't live up to the expectations, they have of themselves and of one another. Couples' expectations of their respective roles will differ because the husband and wife come from different backgrounds, making it impossible for them to sit down and talk and agree on how each should behave in a marriage. There is a propensity for conflicts to emerge since role expectations in marriage are shaped by various origins.

Furthermore, the theory predicts that a role conflict would arise in a marriage if the husband perceives his position as superior to that of his wife and extends these views to the function he plays in the union. In this situation, he can believe that anything he does not do in the marriage must be recognized as true. When this occurs, the wife would like to take a stand for herself and begin to demand equality. This kind of circumstance will lead to marital disagreement and conflict between couples. Each spouse in a marriage typically has

expectations about how the other spouse should act in the marriage. When one partner's perception of himself or herself and the other partner's perception of him or her diverge, there will be conflict between the partners. Inter-Party Misunderstanding frequently results in a chronic sort of conflict, especially when the misunderstood spouse in the marriage is unable to clearly understand the reason why they are being misunderstood.

When one spouse in a married connection doesn't live up to the expectations of the other, the husband and wife impose sanctions on each other. For instance, if the husband's role performance differs from what the wife expects, the wife may feel compelled to impose unfavorable sanctions, such as fighting, nagging, withholding affection, or ending the sexual relationship, to protest the husband's violation of his expected roles. The way the husbandandwifeact in this circumstance will cause marital issues. Based on these formulations, the role theory of marital disputes postulates that marital conflict will inevitably develop if spouses are unable to fulfill the expectations,they have for themselves and one another in marriage. According to this point of view, conflict resolution happens when each spouse fulfills their respective responsibilities to the satisfaction of the other spouse and other important members of the relationship.

The mechanisms of work-family conflict are explained by a number of ideas. Role conflict theory, which has its roots in role theory, is one of the most well-known. According to the role hypothesis, people play several different roles on a daily basis. Given that they involve different temporal and behavioral demands, these jobs can be fundamentally incompatible. What some people have referred to as "inter-role conflict" is the result of competing responsibilities. Others used this approach to work-related family conflict. Simply put, when people strive to simultaneously occupy or engage in both sorts of roles, they experience work-family conflict (Greenhaus and Beutell, 1985; Kahn et al., 1964).

Methodology

Research Design

The study design appropriate for this study is a cross-sectional survey design. The reason for this research design is that it focuses on collection of data from a large population at the same point in time using a sample population (Babbie, 2007; Obasi, 1999). The researcher chooses this research design method because the samples drawn to represent the various elements of the population generalize the population of the study. May (2001), was of the view that the application of a cross-sectional survey method is appropriate in obtaining behavioral pattern of a given population on the basis of their knowledge, perception, attitude etc. concerning a given social problem. Therefore this research design will be appropriate in this study on the basis of knowing the effect of marital instability among working class couples in University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Target Population

The population of Enugu state according to National Population Commission (2010) is 3,257,298 of which 1,624,202 are males while 1,633,096 are females. Out of which, Enugu urban has a population of 722,664 (NPC, 2010). The target population for this study will be

389,158 who are adult residents between the ages of 18 years and above (NPC, 2010). Following the 3.5% population estimation, the population of Enugu urban is estimated in year 2020 to be 975,594 while the population of those aged 18years and above are 525,368 and this will be the target population to be used. The reason of adopting this set of people for the study is because they are the people assumed to have come to the age of responsibility in Nigeria and can make an appraisal on marital instability among working class couples in University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Method of Data Analysis

The data generated from the questionnaire was edited, analyzed and interpreted with the help of frequency distribution tables and descriptive statistics like percentages and frequency tables. And of course using version 21 of statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) for the analysis and will be used to describe the characteristics of the study population. Analysis of the qualitative data placed emphasis on the interpretation and description of responses by the respondents to compliment the quantitative data. To this end, relevant themes were developed for the coding and sorting of the qualitative data.

Data Analysis and Results

In the data analysis and results, Gender, Age group and Educational qualifications of the respondents was analyzed to illustrate the level of marriage instability among working class residing in University of Nigeria, Nsukka community and the analyses will be segmented into tables to ease understanding.

In this section, the following will be represented in the stated abbreviations: Strongly Agreed (SA), Agreed (A), Disagreed, (D), Strongly Disagreed (SD), Frequency (F), Percentage (%)

Table 5: Nature/Causes of Marital Instability

S/N		SA	A	SD	D
1	There is increasing rate of marriage instability in Nsukka LGA	15.8	46.0	21.0	17.2
2	Marriages are constantly challenged due to work commitment	40.9	28.9	18.4	11.8
3	Couples job duties/commitment put strain on marriages	40.9	28.9	18.4	11.8
4	Feeling of autonomy and financial independence encourages individualism in marriages among working class couples	48.7	23.7	14.1	13.2
5	Less of time for bonding between couples tends to bring marital instability	51.3	31.6	10.5	6.6
6	Colleagues influence couples contribute to marital instability	15.8	23.7	38.1	22.4
7	Delay in child bearing coupled with job commitment increase marital instability	53.9	28.9	7.9	9.3

Field survey (2023)

Based on the information shown in table 5 on the nature and/or causes of marital instability, on the statement that there is an increase rate of marriage instability in Nsukka LGA, 15.8% of the respondents strongly agreed, 46.0% agreed, 21.0% strongly disagreed, while the remaining 17.2% disagreed. And on the statement that marriages are constantly challenged due to work commitment, 40.9% strongly agreed, 28.9% agreed, 18.4 strongly disagreed, while the remaining 11.8% disagreed. The view that couples job duties/commitment puts strain on marriages, 40.9% strongly agreed, 28.9% agreed, 18.4 strongly disagreed, while the remaining 11.8% disagreed. The issue that the feeling of autonomy and financial independence encourages individualism in marriages among working class couples, 48.7% strongly agreed, 23.7% agreed, 14.1% strongly disagreed, while 13.2% disagreed. Furthermore, on the issue of less of time for bonding between couples tends to bring marital instability, 51.3% strongly agreed with the view, 31.6% agreed with the view, 10.5% strongly disagreed, and 6.6% disagreed. On influence colleagues couples contributing to marital instability, 15.8% strongly agreed, 23.7% agreed, 38.1% strongly disagreed, while 22.4% disagreed. And the last assertion in this section which bothers on the delay in child bearing coupled with job commitment increase marital instability, 53.9% strongly agreed, 28.9% agreed, 7.9% strongly disagreed, and 9.3% disagreed with the asserted view.

Table 6: Lack of Economic Corporation in Marriage

S/N		SA	A	SD	D
1.	Financial rivalry as a result of work status tend to contribute to marriage instability in Nsukka	43.4	34.2	7.91	4.5
2.	Making investment without partners consent contribute to marriage instability	57.9	35.5	3.9	2.7
3.	Social commitment arising from work environment adds to marital instability in Nsukka	38.1	36.8	14.5	10.5
4.	Attending to the financial needs of relatives without consulting spouse increase marital instability	25.0	36.8	22.4	15.8
5.	Assuming equality statues among themselves undermine marital instability	47.4	31.6	11.8	9.2

Field survey (2023)

Based on the information as presented in table 6, on lack of economic cooperation in marriage, the issue of financial rivalry as a result of work status tend to contribute to marriage instability in Nsukka, 43.4% strongly agreed with this assertion, 34.2% also supported the assertion, another 7.9% strongly disagreed with the assertion, and the last 14.5% of the total respondents disagreed with the asserted view. Also, on the issue of

making investment without partners consent contributes to marriage instability, 57.9% of the respondents strongly agreed, 35.5% of the respondents agreed, another 14.5% of the respondents strongly disagreed with the assertion and the last 2.7% of the respondents disagreed with the view. On the issue of social commitment arising from work environment adds to marital instability in Nsukka LGA, 38.1% of respondents, strongly agreed with the asserted view, 36.8% agreed with the view, 14.5% strongly disagreed, while 10.5% disagreed with the asserted view. The views of respondents was sorted about attending to the financial needs of relatives without consulting spouse increase marital instability, 25.0% strongly agreed with the view, 36.8% agreed with the first school of thought, conversely, 22.4% strongly disagreed, while 15.8% disagreed. On the issue of assuming equality status among couples as undermining marital instability, 47.4% strongly agreed with the view, 31.6% agreed with the first group, 11.8% strongly disagreed with the first and second school of thought, while 9.2% disagreed with the view.

Table 7: Socio-cultural values/Expectations

S/N		SA	A	SD	D
1.	Social cultural conflict arising from control of finance undermines marriage stability	15.8	11.8	34.2	38.1
2.	Unrealistic expectations from spouses contribute to marriage instability	53.9	21.0	17.1	7.9
3.	Lack of inclusive approach to decision making undermines marriage stability	47.4	27.6	18.2	6.6
4.	Challenges to cultural norms due to wife's work status undermines marriage stability	19.7	23.7	38.1	18.2

Field survey (2023)

Based on the information as is shown in table 7 above, that deals on the socio-cultural values and expectations of marital couples, respondents bare their minds on socio-cultural conflict arising from control of finance undermines marriage stability; 15.8% of the respondents strongly agreed with the view, another 11.8% of respondents agreed with the view. Conversely, 34.2% of the respondents strongly disagreed with the view, and they were supported by another 38.1% who also disagreed with the view. On the issue that unrealistic expectations from spouse contribute to marriage instability, 53.9% of the respondents strongly agreed, 21.0% of the respondents agreed, 17.1% of the respondents strongly disagreed, while 7.9% of the last respondents in the distribution disagreed. Furthermore, on the notion that lack of inclusive norms due to wife's work undermines marriage stability, 47.4% of the respondents strongly agreed with the view, 27.6% of the respondents agreed with the view, while conversely, another 18.2% of the respondents

strongly disagreed with the view, and supported by another 6.6% who also disagreed with the view. The last issue on this section which dwells on the challenges to cultural norms due to wife's work status undermines marriage stability; 19.7% of the respondents strongly agreed with this view and had the backing of another 23.7%; and their view was opposed by another 38.1% of respondents, and supported by another 18.2% respondents of the total distribution.

Table 8: Physical Abuse Leads to Marriage Instability

S/N		SA	A	SD	D
1.	Resistance to status quo leading to verbal abuse tend to undermine marriage stability	51.3	36.8	6.6	5.3
2.	Physical abuse due to spouses inability to meet financial responsibilities contribute to marital instability	51.3	36.8	6.6	5.3
3.	Repeated emotional abuse from either of the spouses can lead to marriage instability	52.6	35.5	3.9	7.9
4.	External influence leading to physical abuse can undermine marriage instability	9.2	31.6	5.3	3.9

Field survey (2023)

Based on the information as shown in table 8 that deals on physical abuse leads to marriage instability, the issue of resistance to status quo leading to verbal abuse tend to undermine marriage stability, 51.3% of the respondents strongly agreed to the assertion of this view, another 36.8% of respondents agreed with this view, while 6.6% of respondents strongly disagreed with the view and were supported by another 5.3% of respondents who also disagreed with the view. On the view that physical abuse due to spouses' inability to meet financial responsibilities contribute to marital instability, 51.3% of the respondents strongly agreed to the assertion of this view, another 36.8% of respondents agreed with this view, while 6.6% of respondents strongly disagreed with the view and were supported by another 5.3% of respondents in the given distribution. Furthermore, on the notion that repeated emotional abuse from either of the spouses can lead to marriage instability, 52.6% of respondents strongly agreed with the view, 35.5% of another set of respondents supported the first school of thought in their assertion, while 3.9% of respondents strongly disagreed with the view, and were supported by 7.9% of the total distribution. Finally, on the view that external influence leading to physical abuse can undermine marriage stability, 59.2% of the respondents strongly agreed with the view, 31.6% of the respondents also agreed with the view, and conversely, 5.3% of the respondents strongly disagreed with the view, and were supported by another 3.9% of the total distribution of respondent who also disagreed with the view.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study concluded that couples will need to maintain cordial and healthy communication to enhance their relationship and ensure the stability of their marriage. Also, working class couples will need to work out their schedule and financial independence that will serve as a factor that may want to work against them rather than for them. To this end, working class couples must have to understand this factor and work towards this for lasting marriage bliss. The study also came to the conclusion that the prevalence of marriage instability can be linked to different factors, such as influence of colleagues of couples, financial independence, external influence, among others as being the causes of marriage instability in Nsukka Local Government Area of Enugu State. The study examined how economic stability among married couples can led to marriage instability, and came to the conclusion that such economic stability leads to financial independence which tends to infuse some sense of equality among the couples, and this can impede stability in marriage.

On the basis of the findings in this research study, the researcher made the following recommendations to ensure marriage stability among working class couples in Nsukka Local Government Area:

i. Marriage counselors and religious organizations should be able to organize seminars, workshops and conferences to ascertain the root causes of recurrent cases of marital instability and be able to come up with practical solutions
ii. Working class couples should be trained on financial management practices to enable them come to terms with what each couple should contribute individually and collectively in the running of the family.
iii. Marriage counselors should be able to encourage working class married couples to engage in joint financial decision making as this will enhance good relation among them.

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