



ANALYSING THE IMPACT OF MULTIPLE RELATIONSHIPS AMONG CONTENT, FREQUENCY, INTENSITY AND PARENTS RESOLUTION OF MARITAL CONFLICTS ON ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN ENUGU STATE, NIGERIA.

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Article history:	Abstract:
Received: 14 th January 2022 Accepted: 13 th February 2022 Published: 25 th March 2022	<p>The term "marital conflict" refers to a dispute between spouses on a different course of action (s). This research work tried to assess multiple relationships among content of marital conflict, frequency of marital conflict, intensity of marital conflict and parents' resolution of marital conflict on academic achievement of secondary schools students in Enugu State, Nigeria. A correlational survey is used in this research work in ascertaining the relationships among these variables. The population for the study consist of selected Senior Secondary 2 Students (SS2) in seventeen Local Government Areas of Enugu State. The sample size of the study was 291 respondents from senior secondary school 2 students. The sample size was selected using a stratified random sampling procedure. Twelve secondary schools were therefore sampled from each zone. The research instrument used was a structured questionnaire. Multiple Linear regressions were used to show the relationship that exists between the conflict dimensions. A t-test statistical technique was used to test the hypotheses that guided the study. All computations were done with the use of Statistical Package of Social Science (SPSS: version 20). The results obtained showed a statistically significant relationship among the Conflict dimensions and Academic Achievement of the Student's bases on the significance value of 0.000 that is less than the alpha level of 0.05. The researcher rejects the null hypothesis and concludes that there is a strong relationship between content of marital conflict, frequency of marital conflict, intensity of marital conflict and parents' resolution of marital conflict on academic achievement of secondary school students in Enugu State Nigeria.</p>

Keywords: Marital Conflict, Content, Intensity, Frequency, Academic Achievement.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Marital conflict is not only a difference of viewpoint that causes marital strife. Rather, it is a set of events that have been managed in such a way that the married connection has been severely harmed. Marriage concerns including stubbornness, pride, hatred, hurt, and bitterness make it difficult to communicate effectively. Selfishness on the side of one or both partners is at the basis of practically all major marital problems (Tom and Joy, 2003). Every married couple has disagreements over money, sex, raising children, and other matters from time to time. According

to Samuel (2016), parents quarrel over finances, in-law meddling, child sex, adultery, infertility, and even their children's schooling. Adriana (2016) went on to say that because they came from different family histories, it's natural for one parent to be stricter and the other to be more relaxed.

According to Carly and Erika (2017), on-going fights and disagreements between parents can have an influence on a child's mental health, development of social and emotional skills, academic achievement, and ability to create future relationships. Constant arguing and disagreeing can harm their physical health, which can endure throughout their adult life and into the next generation, and these arguing and disagreeing have an impact on their children's academic accomplishment in one way or another (Fiona and Wendy, 2013). When compared to overt interactions between persons who are not parents, babies as young as six months display stronger physiological indications of distress, such as a raised heart rate, in reaction to overt exchanges between their parents. Destructive inter-parental conflict may influence children of all ages, manifesting itself in high levels of aggressiveness, hatred, and violence. Parents may believe that their children are unaffected by rows, but the truth is that kids are acutely aware of how their parents interact with one another. Children's perceptions of their parents' amount of conflict influence how they anticipate their parents to treat them, which can lead to psychological anguish and poor academic performance. Parents are their children's first and most essential role models, and they play a crucial part in their life. From an early age, children look up to and follow their parents' behaviour. Family experiences shape children's attitudes, beliefs, and expectations throughout their youth (Michelle, 2015). Children observe their parents' marital connection to learn about marriage and family life. A child's physical, mental, and emotional growth are all heavily reliant on a strong emotional and physical tie that must exist in the family in order for the child to better comprehend and overcome the parents' marital dispute in order to attain superior academic results.

2.0 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

There is a raising need to investigate the relationship between marital conflict indices (content, frequency, intensity, and resolution) and secondary school student's academic achievement. In Enugu State, the prevalence of family disharmony is rising. The researcher observed that in most secondary schools in Enugu State both in the urban and rural areas, students who often perform very low in their examinations and have antisocial behaviour are from broken and conflict laden families. According Amadi and Uzoh (2012) Students that participate in antisocial behaviors such as child bullying and cultism, among others, generally have poor academic performance. According to the author, these youngsters frequently come from homes that are prone to conflict. In this context, the researcher attempts to investigate the association between parental marital problems and secondary school kids' academic success in Enugu State, Nigeria. Nonetheless, the effects of marital conflict on children's scholastic accomplishments were only conjecture because no definitive study had been conducted, particularly in Enugu State.

3.0 AIM AND OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The aim of this study is to assess the impact of multiple relationships among Content of marital conflict, frequency of marital conflict, intensity of marital conflict and parents resolution of marital conflicts on academic achievement of secondary school students in Enugu State, Nigeria. Objectively, the study sought to assess:

1. The impact of multiple relationships among Content of marital conflict, frequency of marital conflict, intensity of marital conflict and parents resolution of marital conflicts on academic achievement of secondary school students in Enugu State, Nigeria

4.0 RESEARCH QUESTION

What is the impact of multiple relationships among Content of marital conflict, frequency of marital conflict, intensity of marital conflict, parents resolution of marital conflicts on academic achievement of secondary school students in Enugu State, Nigeria?

5.0 HYPOTHESIS

The following hypotheses were subjected to a tested at 0.05 level of significance;

H₀: There is no statistical significance between multiple relationships among Content of marital conflict, frequency of marital conflict, intensity of marital conflict, parents' resolution of marital conflicts and academic achievement of secondary school students in Enugu State.

H₁: There is statistical significance between multiple relationships among Content of marital conflict, frequency of marital conflict, intensity of marital conflict, parents' resolution of marital conflicts and academic achievement of secondary school students in Enugu State.

6.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

The learner's educational outcome is referred to as academic achievement. Academic achievement, according to Fafunwa in Udom (2015), is the degree to which a student, instructor, or institution has met their short or long-term educational objectives. Academic achievement is defined in this study as the knowledge or abilities demonstrated in a school topic. Teachers award exam scores or marks to demonstrate such success. It is the appraisal of classroom work by the school based on the grades given.

6.1 Content of Marital Conflict

The content of marital conflict is a catalog of events that have molded family life to achieve certain goals. These are disputes that are expressed in a variety of ways, such as criticism, scorn, defensiveness, stonewalling, and so on. The expressions of these family disputes have a direct or indirect impact on the academic accomplishment of students who are members of the family. It's ridiculous to anticipate a problem-free marriage. Even in well-matched marriages, spouses are not totally compatible, which means that some marriages may face challenges. A multitude of variables may eat away at an apparently happy marriage, much as rust can corrode metal under a layer of paint (Gill, 2008). Resentment, continual squabbling, adultery, angry speech, aggressive replies to basic queries or little mistakes, distrust, and bickering, to name a few, are all signs that a marriage is headed for a crisis. A sudden loss of interest in usual family activities, a sudden desire to leave family early to go to work and stay late after work, a sudden inability to satisfy one's spouse, and unexpected and inexplicable vacations out of town are all signs of a family in conflict (Amadi, 2016).

6.2 Frequency of Marital Conflict

The number of times a repeated event occurs per unit of time is known as frequency. In terms of marital conflict, the frequency of marital conflict is the rate at which conflict happens in a household during a certain period of time. According to studies, there is a link between the frequency of parental conflicts and the amount of maladjustment in children (Quard, 2013). The frequency of parental disagreements has been connected to continual hostility of children in schools (Chuble, 2015). According to Durugbo (2015) persistent antagonism among students has an impact on successful peer evaluation and group study development. According to Compton and Hoffman (2013), a lower prevalence of marital conflict creates good feelings in students, allowing them to live a happy and fulfilling life. They also stated that, while marital conflict is unavoidable, a lower rate of marital conflict has a significant impact on a student's academic performance. Children have been related to greater distress and violence after being exposed to inter-adult rage in controlled, laboratory-based settings. The monitoring of family conflict by parents has also been linked to behavioural and emotional issues in children. Mothers were taught how to keep a daily journal of family conflict episodes in a series of experiments. Children who experienced more frequent inter-parental conflict expressed higher anxiety, uncertainty, and rage (Cummings and Davies, 1994). Adriana (2016) asserted that children have challenges not just in the immediate aftermath of marital conflict and disruption, but also in adulthood. According to Giles (2017), frequent and strong marital disagreement has a detrimental impact on children, including hostility and low academic attainment. The educational level of the parents has been linked to frequent marital dispute in the household. According to Akinleke (2017), both educated and illiterate parents appear to dispute frequently and for extended periods of time, affecting their children's academic progress. He further stated that, compared to parents with little or no educational experience, educated parents have a lot easier time preparing their children for school, especially during times of marital difficulty. It is clear from the preceding research that the frequency of marital conflict has an impact on children's/students' psychosocial welfare, which in turn has an impact on their academic accomplishment.

6.3 Intensity of Marital Conflict

The term intensity describes the magnitude of a phenomena or event. The degree of negative influence or hostility exhibited by parents might be thought of as the level of marital conflict in this study. Within and across couples, the level of marital conflict varies greatly. Mild disputes or complaints constitute some resistance. They get little attention and have short-term impacts. Other disputes are persistent battles over personally important matters that cause considerable personal worry and relationship difficulty. Relational stability is most harmed by high-intensity conflicts that last a long period (Lloyd, 2010). Relational injury can be lessened when partners express relationally affirming signals during on-going arguments (Johnson and Roloff, 2000). It is difficult to determine the level of marital conflict and if it is usual or normal between couples. According to McGonagle, Kessler, and Schilling (1992), there is no way to assess the severity of marital conflict; in fact, averages of the number of disagreements across marriages are probably meaningless because different types of marriages have different levels of conflict (Fitzpatrick, Gottman, Raush, 1994). Some couples cultivate a relationship culture in which they quarrel regularly, while others have fewer arguments and create a habit of disagreeing primarily on important subjects. When compared to younger newlyweds, elder spouses who have been married for a longer amount of time have less overt disputes (Zietlow and Sillars 1988). Significant dependency, on the other hand, is the rule rather than the exception. The impact of each factor on child development is likely to be influenced by other indices of the family setting in which marital conflict exists.

6.4 Parents' Resolution of marital conflict

Conflicts, disagreements, and change are inevitable in our lives, as well as the life of every family, organization, and nation. Conflict resolution is a process that allows two or more parties to work out a peaceful solution to a problem. The conflict might be personal, economical, political, or emotional in nature. When a conflict develops frequently, the best course of action is to negotiate a solution. Talking (rather than verbal or physical force) and collaboration are required for dispute resolution (not avoidance, competition, antagonism, or coercion). A solution that is acceptable to all parties and solves all of their concerns is the result of conflict resolution (Nicolletti and Flater, 2003). Every marriage has its share of squabbles. How a problem is settled is typically what divides a happier marriage from a less happy marriage. Some couples never seem to be able to reconcile their differences. Instead, the disagreement appears to go away with time; but, it is undoubtedly simmering under the surface, generating anger, and will almost always resurface in the future. Some couples insist on having no disagreements by acting as if

everything is normal even though the home is on fire. In this situation, one person generally gives in to the other without complaining; yet, the one who gives in is likely to have issues later on, such as sadness or anxiety. Couples deal with disagreement in a variety of ways, some of which are healthy and others which are not. Conflict becomes simpler to cope with and the marriage gets stronger and happier if couples can learn to handle disagreements in a healthy way.

7.0 METHODOLOGY

7.1 Population for the Study

The population for the study consisted of selected senior secondary 2 students (SS2) in the seventeen Local Government Areas of Enugu State, Nigeria.

7.2 Sampling Techniques

The survey had a total of 291 respondents, all of whom were senior secondary school students. The sample size was calculated using a multi-stage sampling technique. On the basis of school zones, the population was divided into six strata. Stratified and simple random sampling approaches were used to determine the sample size. Each zone was therefore given a sample of twelve secondary schools. The SS2 students that made up the sample were chosen using stratified random selection in each of these schools. This was due to the fact that they were deemed old enough to understand what was going on in their families, allowing them to properly judge the dimensions of the disputes and reply appropriately to the questionnaire topics.

7.3 Method of Data Analysis

Linear regressions were used to show the relationship between multiple relationships and students academic achievement. A t-test statistical technique of testing for significance relationship was employed in testing the hypothesis. All computations were done by means of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS: version 20).

8.0 RESULT DISCUSSION

Data collected on Content of marital conflict, frequency of marital conflict, intensity of marital conflict, parents’ resolution of marital conflicts were subjected to multiple correlation procedure with the academic achievement of secondary school students as the dependent measure. Summary of data analysis is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1: The multiple relationships among content of marital conflict, frequency of marital conflict, intensity of marital conflict, parents resolution of marital conflicts and academic achievement of secondary school students in Enugu State.

Variable	N	Mean (\bar{x})	SD	r	r ²
Multiple Relationships	291	19.38	6.39	-.53	.47
Academic achievement	291	12.52	11.25		

Source: Field survey 2021

Table 1 showed the mean and standard deviation (\bar{x} 19.38, \pm 6.39) for multiple relationships among conflict dimensions (Content, Frequency, intensity and conflict resolution) and (\bar{x} 12.52, \pm 11.25) for academic achievement. The table also showed a computed r of -.53 which is a relative strong negative relationship between parents’ resolution of marital conflicts and academic achievement of secondary school students in Enugu State. Table 1 recorded r² of 0.47 implying that 47% of secondary school students’ academic achievement was attributable to the content, frequency, intensity and parents’ resolution of marital conflicts.

9.0 HYPOTHESIS

Data collected on content of marital conflict, frequency of marital conflicts, intensity of marital conflicts and parents resolution of marital conflicts (X₁ X₂, X₃ and X₄) with academic achievements of students (Y) as the dependent measure were subjected to multiple correlation procedure to determine the statistical significance of the multiple r. Summary of data analysis is presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Test of significance of the multiple relationships among Content of marital conflict, frequency of marital conflict, intensity of marital conflict, parents’ resolution of marital conflicts and academic achievement of secondary school students in Enugu State.

Computed r	r. Square	Adjusted r Square	Standard Error	T	p-value
-.68797	.47330	.46594	8.21894	22.567	.0000

Source: Field survey 2021

The result gotten from the analysis of research in table 2 above indicated multiple relationship among Content, Frequency, Intensity and Parents resolution of conflicts and academic achievement of secondary school students. The result obtained from the analysis of data collected on the Content, Frequency, Intensity and Parents resolution of conflicts was 47%. The number of academic achievement of secondary school students’ was attributed

to multiple relationships among the above mentioned dimensions of marital conflict. As shown in table 2, the remaining 53% of the secondary school students' academic achievement was positively attributable to multiple relationships among them. This result was buttressed by that of the t-test analysis of research hypothesis presented in table 2. The hypothesis stated that:

Ho: There is no statistical significance between multiple relationships among Content of marital conflict, frequency of marital conflict, intensity of marital conflict, parents' resolution of marital conflicts and academic achievement of secondary school students in Enugu State.

H₁: There is statistical significance between multiple relationships among Content of marital conflict, frequency of marital conflict, intensity of marital conflict, parents' resolution of marital conflicts and academic achievement of secondary school students in Enugu State.

However, the index of the relationship obtained for parents' resolution of marital conflict (X) and academic achievement of secondary school students' (Y) which were subjected to a test of significance at 95% of confidence level using t-test analysis of significance of r. Table 2 indicates that the p-value of (.000) is less than the alpha level (0.05). Based on the decision rule, the researchers rejects the null hypothesis (**Ho**) and accept the alternative hypothesis (**H₁**) then concludes that, there is a significant relationship among content of marital conflict, frequency of marital conflict, intensity of marital conflict, parents' resolution of marital conflicts and academic achievement of secondary school students in Enugu State, Nigeria. The result was supported with an earlier result of Nduka (2017) who opined in his similar study that the multiplicities of family climate affect students' academic.

10.0 CONCLUSION

Couples who never learn how to successfully handle their conflicts, according to Tim and Joy (2003) in their book *The Seven Conflicts*, begin a sequence of stages in their relationship that might eventually destroy it. According to the data gathered and analyzed above, marital conflict correlates to students' low academic progress in school. As a result, the researcher concludes that family stability encourages healthy growth and development, which in turn produces healthy and disciplined children who will become excellent citizens for the country. This emphasizes the importance of family harmony not just for everyone's own well-being, but also for national growth and progress.

11.0 RECOMMENDATION

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made by the researcher.

1. Parents must lessen the level of marital conflict in their own homes.
2. It is necessary for parents to handle family problems in the shortest period feasible.
3. Trained counsellors and tutors should work closely with students to identify traumatized victims of marital conflict so that they can get appropriate academic help.
4. Educational psychologists and school officials should arrange outreach programs to educate parents and the broader public about the impacts of marital conflicts among couples, and techniques for resolving disputes should be stressed.
5. The researchers urged for additional research into societal problems and conflict resolution.

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