

P3.11. The Big Five Personality Factors and Peer Influence as Predictors of Young Adults' Premarital Sexual Behavior - King Odor, University of Ibadan, Nigeria; Keyna Chimenka Abiahu, University of Ibadan, Nigeria
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Background/Significance: The extent to which young adults are prone to premarital sexual behaviour is increasingly becoming alarming and worrisome. If this problem is persistently unabated, the society would be threatened of the safety of the young adults' sexuality and personality. Previous studies have been done on young adults' premarital sexual behaviour, but no attention has been given in relation to personality factors and peer influence in Nigeria.

Objective: This study therefore examined the Big Five personality factors (Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness to experience, Conscientiousness and Agreeableness) (NEOCA) and peer influence on young adults' premarital sexual behaviour.

Methodology: Five hundred and four (504) respondents were drawn from Ibadan Polytechnic and University of Ibadan both in Oyo State, Nigeria by accidental sampling technique. Questionnaire was the major instrument used in data collection in the study. The study adopted the ex post facto design. Multiple regression, Pearson "r" correlation, Two-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and Independent t-test were used for the statistical analysis.

Data: A validated quantitative instrument (Questionnaire) was the major source of data collection for the study.

Findings: Two hundred and seventy one (271) (53.8%) of the respondents were males while two hundred and thirty three (233) (46.2%) were females. The age of the participants ranged from 18 - 30 years. Precisely, (93%) of total participants were single, and (0.4%) were married. About (78.0%) were Christians, (21.0%) Muslims, (0.4%) traditional worshipers, and (0.6%) others, participated in the study. Results from the analysis revealed that the Big five personality factors (NEOCA), jointly predicted significantly the young adults' premarital sexual behaviour ($R^2 = .059$, $P < .05$). Neuroticism, extraversion, conscientiousness and agreeableness showed significant relationship while openness to experience was not significant at both levels. There was significant difference between young males and young females in their reports of premarital sexual behaviour ($t = 5.77$, $df = 502$, $P < .05$). No significant difference was found in young adults who were high on peer influence in both institutions ($F(1,499) = 21.43$, $P > .05$). There was also no significant difference between young female adults who are high on conscientiousness and their male counterparts on premarital sexual behaviour. Age, Sex and religion independently and jointly predicted significantly the young adults' premarital sexual behaviour.

Knowledge Contribution: Based on the findings, special attention should be giving to the Big Five Personality Factors especially in designing effective gender based sensitive programmes channeled towards providing solution to premarital sexuality, and the achievement of high standard of morality and discipline particularly among young adults in Nigeria and the world at large.