

Barriers to Marital Expectation among Individuals with Hearing Impairment in Oyo State

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Abstract : The study was designed to examine the barriers to marital expectations among unmarried persons with hearing impairment in Oyo State, Nigeria. Descriptive survey research design was adopted. Purposive sampling technique was used to select one hundred participants made up forty-four (44) males and fifty-six (56) females, all with varying degrees of hearing impairment. Eight research questions were raised and answered. The instrument used was Marital Expectations Scale with reliability coefficient of 0.86. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics tools of frequency count and simple percentage as well as inferential statistics tools of T-TEST and ANOVA. The findings revealed that there was a significant relationship existing among the main identified barriers (environmental barrier, communication barrier, hearing loss, unemployment and poor sexuality education) to the marital expectations of unmarried persons with hearing impairment. The joint contribution of the independent variables (identified barriers) to the dependent variable (marital expectations) was significant, $F = 5.842$, $P < 0.05$, accounting for about 89% of the variance. The relative contribution of the identified barriers to marital expectations of unmarried persons with hearing impairment is as follows: environmental barrier ($\beta = 0.808$, $t = 5.176$, $P < 0.05$), communication barrier ($\beta = 0.533$, $t = 3.305$, $P < 0.05$), hearing loss ($\beta = 0.550$, $t = 2.233$, $P < 0.05$), unemployment ($\beta = 0.431$, $t = 2.102$, $P < 0.05$), poor sexuality education ($\beta = 0.361$, $t = 1.985$, $P < 0.05$). Environmental barrier proved to be the most potent contributor to the poor marital expectations among unmarried persons with hearing impairment. Therefore, it is recommended that society dismantles the nagging environmental barrier through positive identification with individuals suffering from hearing impairment. In this connection, members of society should change their negative attitudes and do away with all the wrong notions about the marital ability of individuals with hearing impairment.

Keywords : environmental barrier, hearing impairment, marriage, marital expectations

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