Effect of Socio-economic Status on Female Undergraduate Prostitution Tendency

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Abstract:
Prostitution tendency by female undergraduate students is affected by many factors such as family background, socio-economic status of parents, drug abuse, student self-esteemetc. (Ibu 2010). The present study was conducted to find out the effect of family socio-economic status on prostitution tendency of female undergraduate students in three Universities in the South-South regions of Nigeria. This study captures the population of 42,905 students consisting of 20,829 females and 22,976 males. The instrument used was female student's opinion questionnaire (FSOQ) designed by Ibu (2010) and measured on Likert-type scale of 1, 2, 3 and 4. The sampling technique used was stratified random sampling of 1,040 female students out of female population of 20,829, representing about 50% of the population under study. Two hypotheses (the null hypothesis and alternate hypothesis) were tested. The results were analyzed using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with SPSS statistical passage and the graphics were done using Microsoft word. For comparison of multiple groups, a post hoccomparative analysis was done using Fisher's least Significant Difference (LSD) of the data which were scored on a scale of 1 to 4. Differences were accepted as significant when P<0.05. The results showed that family socio-economic status significantly affected the prostitution tendency of female undergraduate students in the Nigerian Universities studied.

Keywords: prostitution tendency, family socio-economic status

1. Introduction

There are many social vices spreading in the Universities and other tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Prostitution and prostitution tendency is one of such social vices. Terhile and Pinga (2017) stated that some of these vices have even gone down to our secondary schools. Chikwature etal (2016) condemned some of these vices. Okwu (2006) stated that these antisocial behaviours are evil, wicked and criminal. He further stated "Although sociologists believed that social pathology was the consequence of bad people, social problems may result from maladjusted people who are abnormal because of mental deficiency, mental disorder, and lack of education or incomplete socialization", Okwu (2006). Eitizen (1980), said those social problems are a behavior that disturb the normal order. In as much as sociologist may attribute many of these anti-social behaviours to pathology, Guidance Counsellors think differently. In fact,Guidance Counselling Educationists have stated a paramount influence of parental causes on prostitution tendency in female undergraduate students in some Nigerian universities studied (Ibu, 2010).

In some earlier studies, Kayode and Adeyinka (2009) stressed the importance of parental care (or lack of it,on some anti-social behaviours in University campuses in Nigeria. Lien (1945) and Safi (1949) indicated sexual promiscuity of the adolescents are related to personality deficiencies which in turn are related to homes characterised by disorganization, weak or broken families.

This study aimed at finding out if family socio-economic status has any effect on prostitution tendency among female undergraduate students investigated in some three Nigeria universities.

2. Methodology

2.1. Research Design
The research method of Denga and Ali (1998) was adopted in this study. It is a method useful in collecting data from large and small populations. This study was also adopted by Isangedighi et al (2004). It is a non-experimental design in which the study employed questionnaire for collection of empirical data rather than laboratory experimental design.

2.2. Area of Study and Population Sampled
The area covered by this study is Cross River and Akwa Ibom States in the South-South geopolitical region of Nigeria.
The population sampled was from three Universities based in this region. The sampled population comprised of female undergraduates in the three Universities as follows:

        University A   =   9,863 samples
        University B   =   8,668 samples
        University C   =   2,298 samples

The total in the three Universities was 20,829 (twenty thousand, eight hundred and twenty-nine) female students.

2.3. Sampling Technique
From a target population of 20,829 female undergraduate students as stated above, 1,040 students were sampled using stratified random sampling techniques. Out of the 1,040 students, 433 students were from University A, 493 students from University B and 115 from University C (as representing 5% of female population in each of the Universities). The numbers from each University was subdivided into eight faculties used for the study. These were the faculties common to the three Universities. At the faculty level, the population was further divided into departments using simple random sampling techniques. This process was adopted to ensure adequate representative sample was obtained from each department of study.

2.4. Sample Size
The sample size of 1,040 undergraduate female students was employed as stated in section 3 above.

2.5. Instrumentation
The research instrument used in this study is that developed by Ibu (2010) as guided by experts in Educational Tests and Measurement and Educational Psychology at the Faculty of Education, University of Calabar, Nigeria. The instrument was the female student's opinion questionnaire (FSOQ), which consisted of three independent variables about parents of the students.
        1.   Low Socio-economic status
        2.   Average Socio-economic status
        3.   High Socio-economic status
The dependent variable is prostitution tendency among female undergraduates. The results were subjected to statistical analysis using SPSS statistical package. Group means and standard deviation as well as Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) were deployed. Group differences were compared using Fisher's least significant difference (LSD).

3. Results
The results were presented from the data collected to test two hypotheses namely the Null hypothesis and the Alternate hypothesis.

3.1. Null Hypothesis
Family socio-economic status has no effect on female undergraduate student's prostitution tendency.

3.2. Alternate Hypothesis
Family socio-economic status has effect on female undergraduate student's prostitution tendency.

Data collected from the Academic Planning Director's office of each of the three universities studied showed the student population in each of the three universities total population are shown in figure 1.
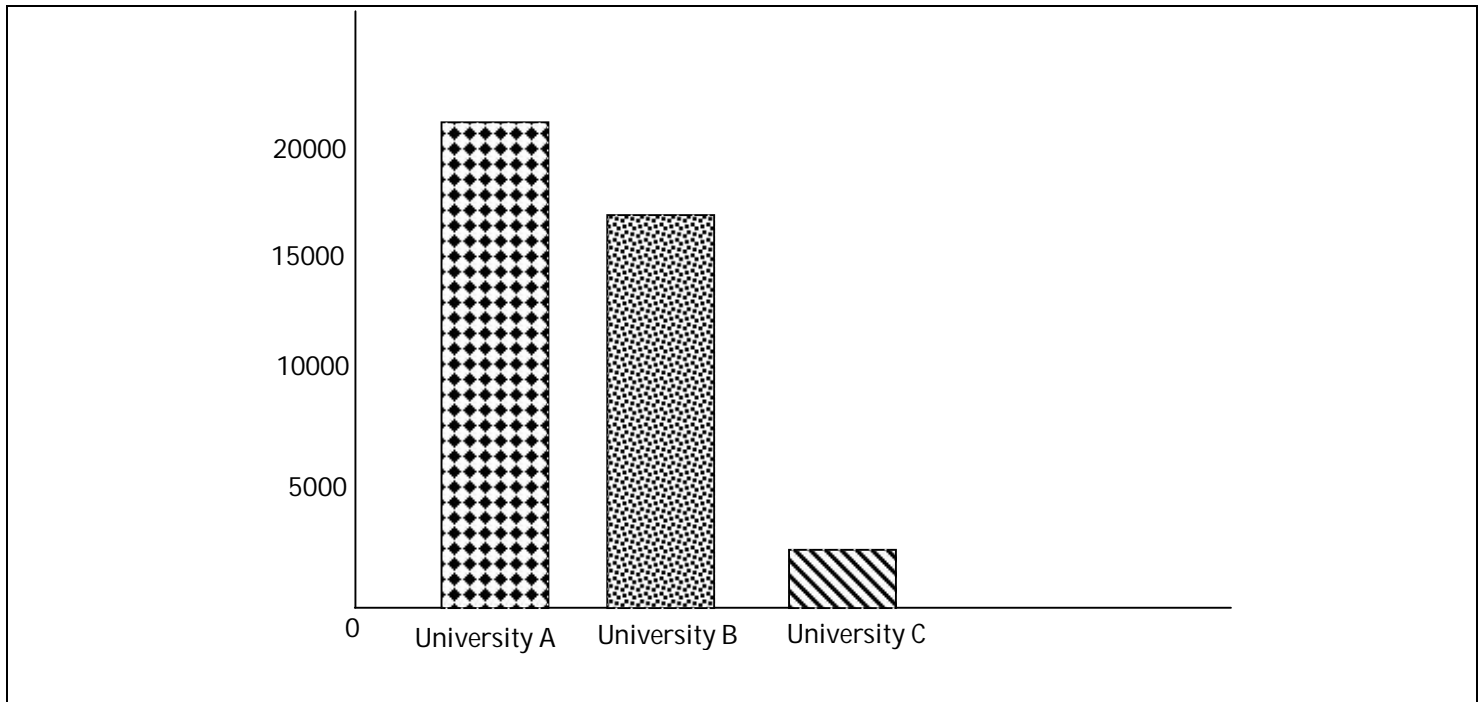
Figure 1: Total student population in the three universities (A, B, & C) studied

Student population (both male and female) was 42,905. Out of this the males were 22, 076 as against female 20,829 presented from the same source of data. The male and female student distribution is shown here in figure 2.
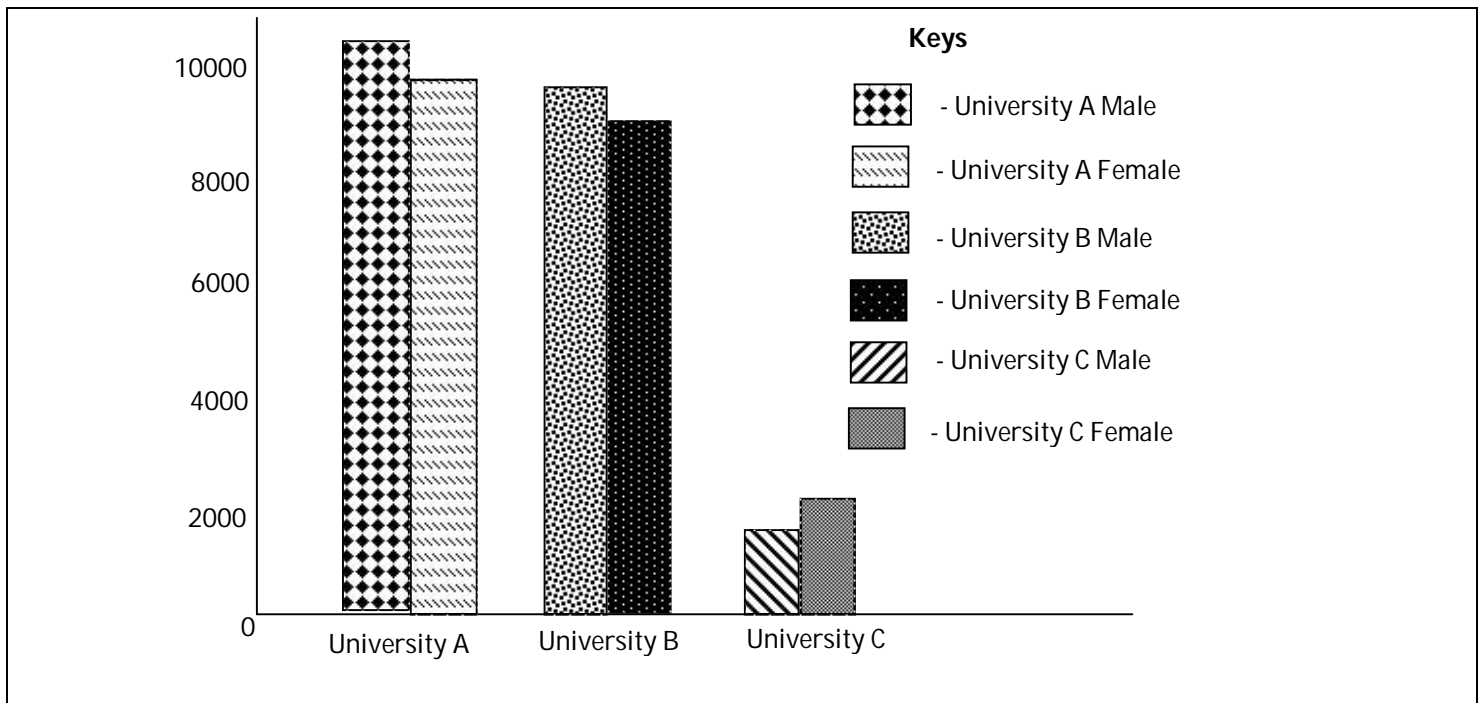

Figure 2: Distribution of student's population by gender (male and female)

S/N	Institutions	Female Population	5% of Population
1	University A	9,863	433
2	University B	8,668	493
3	University C	2,298	115
	Total	20,829	1041

Table 1: Shows the female student population sampled (5%) in this study by Universities A, B, and C
(433, 493, and 115 respectively) out of female population of 9,863, 8,668 and 2,298 respectively

Table 1 sampled (5%) of female student sampled.

The demographic study of the female undergraduates sampled according to their year of study was presented as **table 2**

Variable	Group	F
Year of study	Year 1	85
	Year 2	107
	Year 3	249
	Year 4 and above	599
	Total	1040

Table 2: frequency (F) of student population according to the year of study in the Universities

The pie graph in fig 3 shows the percentage distribution of sampled female undergraduates students according to the year of study.
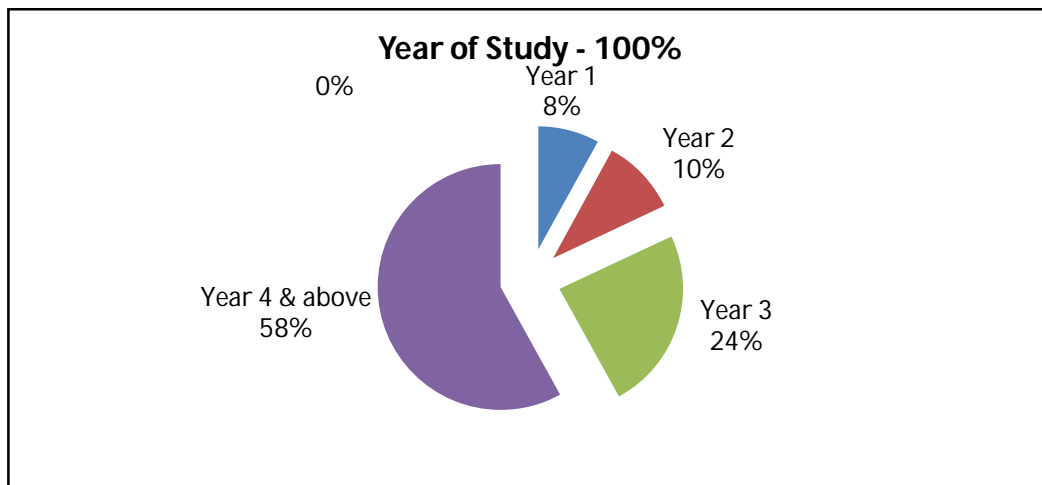

Figure 3: Pie chart showing percentage distribution by the year of study by the female student

The demographic study of this group by age brackets is shown in the histogram in figure 4
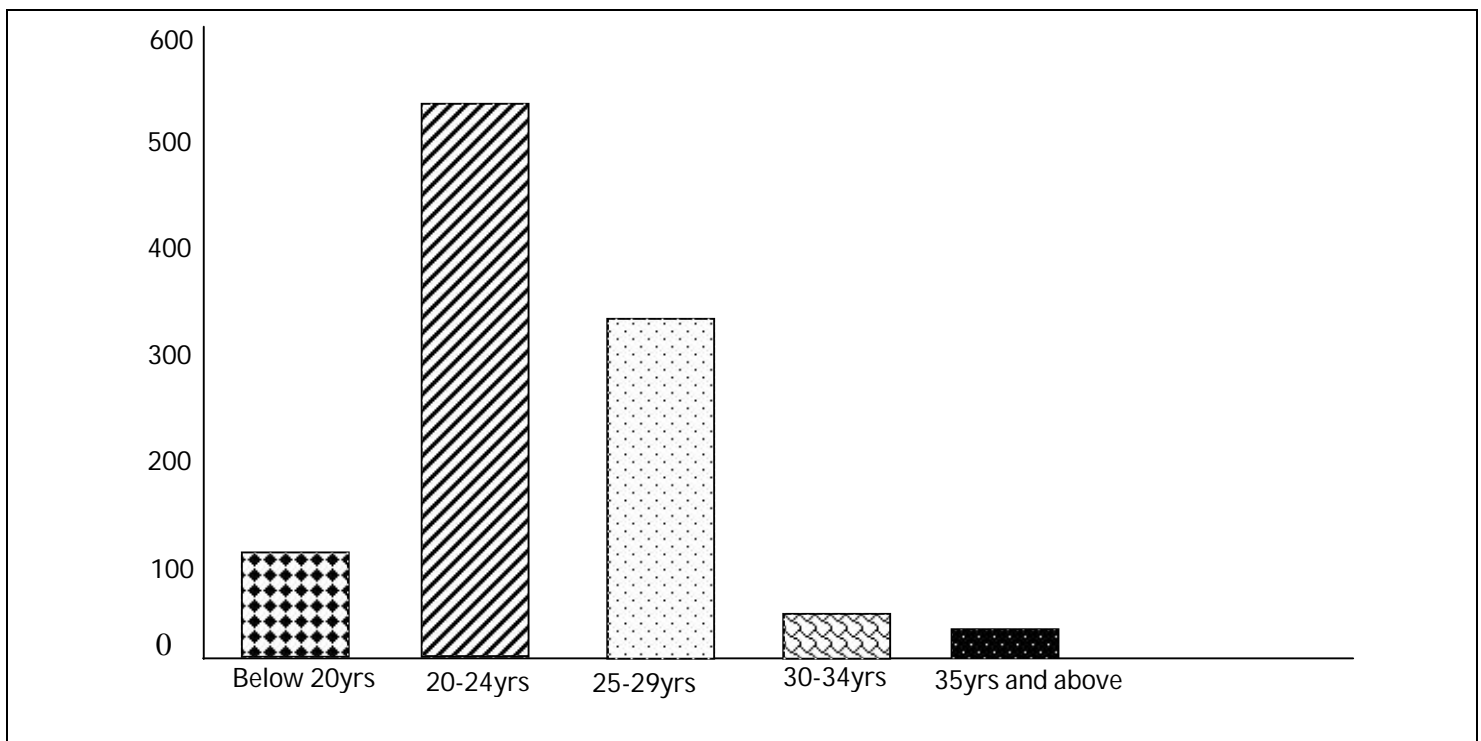

Figure 4: demographic study of female student by age groups

The corresponding pie chart as percentage distribution by age group is shown in **Figure. 5**
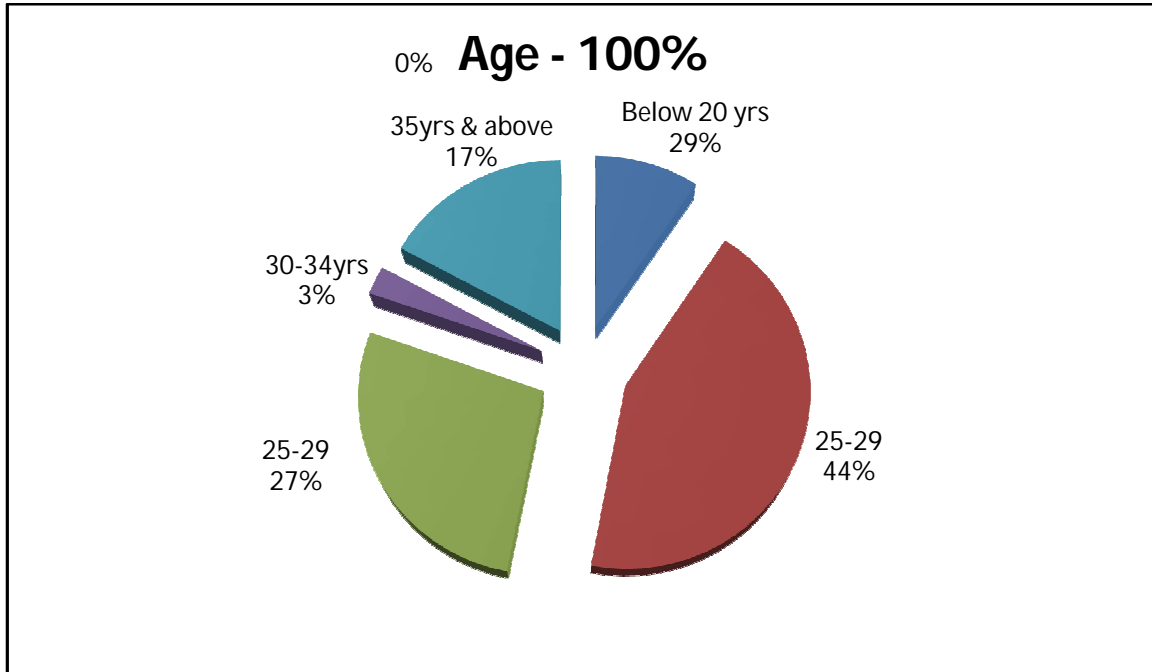

Figure 5: pie chart showing percentage distribution by age groups

Prostitution Tendency	Group (SES)	N	Mean	SD
Overall Prostitution Tendencies	1. Low	329	36.27	5.68
	2. Average	346	35.50	4.57
	3. High	365	35.28	5.31
	Total	1040	35.67	5.21

Table 3: shows the mean and standard deviations of respondents on prostitution tendency based on their parental socioeconomic status

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Prostitution Tendency	Source of Variance	Sum of square	Df	MS	F-ratio
Overall Prostitution Tendencies	Between Groups	73.25	2	91.99	
	Within Groups	11020.44	1037	27.04	3.40
	Total	11093.69	1039		

*Table 4: shows analysis of variance of the influence of parental
socio-economic status of prostitution tendency among female undergraduate
Significance at .05 level; Critical $F_{2,1037}$ = 3.00*

Prostitution Tendency	Parental socioeconomic status	Small (N=329)	Medium (N=346	Large (N=365)
Overall Prostitution Tendencies	Small	0.77[a]	36.27[b]	0.99
	Medium	1.92c	35.50	0.22
	Large	2.50*	0.56*	35.28
	MSW = 27.04			

*Table 5: shows Fisher's post-hoc multiple comparison analysis of significant influence of
parental socioeconomic status on female undergraduates' prostitution tendency*

a- Group means are placed along the diagonals
b- Differences between group means are placed above the diagonal
c - Fisher's t-values are placed below the diagonal
*- Significant at .05 level (critical t=1.96)
MSW = Married, Single, Windowed

The results presented in table 3 show the mean and standard deviations of the three groups of respondents (based on their parental socio-economic status) on the four and overall dimensions of prostitution tendency. With these results, the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that female undergraduates' parental socioeconomic status has a significant influence on their influence on their prostitution tendency.

In order to have a clearer understanding of the patter of the significant influence of parental socio-economic status on prostitution tendencies (i.e. which pairs of groups were significantly different), a post-hoc comparison was carried out using Fisher's least significant difference (LSD) multiple comparison analysis. The results of the analysis are presented in table 5.

For overall Prostitution tendencies, the prostitution tendencies of students from low socio-economic status is significantly higher than the prostitution tendencies of students from high socio-economic status (t =2.50; P <.05). Students from low socio-economic status and those from medium socio-economic status are not significantly different in the prostitution tendencies (t = 1.92; P>.05); also, students from medium socio-economic status and those from high socio-economic status are not significantly different in their prostitution tendencies (t=0.56; P>.05).

4. Discussion

One of the findings of this study also shows that students from low socio-economic status families are more prone to prostitution tendency than their counterparts from other socio-economic status families. This result agrees with the findings of Hayward's earlier study as cited in Obi (2002). According to Hayward, the influence of socio-economic status on adolescents' premarital pregnancy reveals that African-Americans risk of pregnancy is heightened by both economic and social problems. In their own contribution, Mclead and Shanahan (1993) attribute the relationship between poverty and adolescents' premarital sexuality to parental distress and parenting behaviour. Parent inability to respond appropriately to the physical and emotional needs of their adolescent children according to the view, may expose them to conditions that promote sexuality.

As opposed to these results from this hypothesis, other scholars feel that parental socio-economic status alone does not have significant influence on adolescents' premarital sexuality. In one of his writings, Reis (1967) opines that the expected negative relationship between class and sexual permissiveness is marked by other socio-cultural factors such as religious attitude as measured by commitment to church activities. While Mclead and Shanahan (1993) attribute the relationship between poverty and adolescent premarital sexuality to parental distress and parental behaviour. Parent inability to respond appropriately to the physical and emotional needs of their adolescent children according to their view, may expose them to conditions that promote premarital sexuality. Given the views of the scholars as mentioned, the results of this hypothesis call for further study which will include the other factors that influence adolescence prostitution tendencies different from parental socio-economic background as enunciated by the writers.

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