

CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF COHABITATION AMONG TERTIARY INSTITUTION STUDENTS IN KWARA STATE, NIGERIA

AUN THOMPSON TORYUH

Department of Social Sciences Education, Faculty of Education,
University of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria.
+2348141990480 aunthompson17@gmail.com

ONIYE RIDWANULLAHI KOLAPO

Department of Social Sciences Education, Faculty of Education,
University of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria.
+2347062166465 oniye.rk@unilorin.edu.ng

IBRAHEEM, ISLAMIYYAH OLAJIRE

Department of Educational Management and Counselling,
Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria.
+2348030631209 ibraheemislamiyyah@gmail.com

LAWAL, ADEWUMI, BALIQIS

Federal Polytechnic Offa +2348052667798

ABSTRACT

This study examined Causes and Consequences of Cohabitation among Tertiary Institution Students in Kwara State, Nigeria. Descriptive survey was adopted for the study where 864 students from universities, colleges of education and polytechnics were selected using multistage sampling technique. A researcher designed questionnaire with a 5 points Likert's scale containing 22 items, of twin halves was used for data collection. The data was analysed using descriptive statistics. Mean rating and simple percentage were used to answer research questions while t-test was used to test hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. Causes of cohabitation include insufficient on-campus accommodation, financial distress, and fear of losing loved ones, moral and religious decadence whereas death, STDs, dropout of school, poor academic performance and health or social issues were some of the consequences of cohabitation. It was recommended among others that the school authority should try to provide sufficient on-campus accommodation for the students.

Keywords: Cohabitation; tertiary-institutions; causes; consequences

INTRODUCTION

Conventionally, the way and manner with which things are done these days portray a different and rather devastating nature as against the way things were done in the yesteryears. It seems our culture has been overtaken by modern culture, albeit civilization, westernization and modernization which we have not just copied but copied mostly the wrong side. From parental upbringing to several other spheres of life, things have changed, couple with the invention of social media and proliferation of schools in the country and Kwara state is not spared out of this, given there are several tertiary institutions (universities, polytechnics and

colleges of education) in the state, especially in recent times. The lackadaisical culture or culture of chastity and impurity is more pronounced with the proliferation of schools in town and with the availability of little or no hostel accommodation in many of them cum hike in price of things, especially in the present dispensation.

Several things or acts that were not found in the society are now present and have become new normal to the present day generation and those not involved in such acts amongst them are seen as not being wise to the extent that some feel intimidated. Youths and students alike these days feel comfortable indulging in such acts due to reasons best known to them. This has almost conquered a greater part of our society where some parents are even aware and feel reluctant due to their inability to afford the needs of their children. One of such perilous and lugubrious act that is rampant and more welcomed is among students of tertiary institutions is cohabitation. Cohabitation is the act of living together, and having sexual relationship or to living together as married couples, even though the persons are not married. Cohabitation in Nigeria among youths has become a new normal (Bello, 2022) as it is not rare but very common to see matured and even young adults stay together even if they are not married. The rate at which youths, especially tertiary institution students cohabit these days in Kwara State calls for grave concern as one could be left wondering what has become of our schools and society at large. It has observed that this trend gets worse when students leave their homes, knowing fully well that they are not under the watch of their parents/guardian or they are where not many people know them. Cohabitation has become to some tertiary institution students a new normal and some purposely refuse to stay on campus, owing to the fact they are gaining their freedom for the first time while others stay outside for the first time against their wish and are being cajoled to becoming used to it. To some students, admissions to higher institution is considered liberty and freedom to do whatever they like.

Accordingly, there have been increase in number of schools in Kwara State since the creation of the first tertiary institution (university of Ilorin) in the state in 1975. Presently, there are many universities, polytechnics and colleges of education in the state, owned by government and individuals. The universities include amongst others University of Ilorin, Al-Hikmah University, Kwara State University Malete, Summit University Offa, Offa University, Landmark University, Crown Hill University and recently Thomas Adewumi University, Oko. There are also private and government owned polytechnics and colleges of education such as Kwara State Polytechnic Ilorin, Federal Polytechnic Offa, Kwara State College of Education Ilorin (offering degree programs), Kwara State College of Education Oro, Kinsey College of Education Ilorin, Grand-Plus College of Education, Imam Hamzat College of Education Ilorin, amongst others. There are also other tertiary institutions that offer other programmes like remedial and IJMB or JUPEB that also requires accommodation for such students where they are staying for their quest of education. All these schools and many other things may have in a way or the other contribute to rise to cohabitation among youths and students alike.

Majority of the aforementioned schools are concentrated in the two major cities of the state (Ilorin and Offa) which has made it difficult for students to gain willful accommodation but then possible for them those who want to cohabit or not to practice the act to reduce cost, stress, and also keep themselves in vogue with their mates. These cities harbors 90% of these

tertiary institutions and this may assuredly make the towns and or villages close to them to be congested and extremely expensive to reside, thus leading to some students cohabiting in the name of squatting with their friends and or mates to school owing to the fact that things are literally hard and not easy to come by but one must survive. To worsen the situation is the quest or urge or rural-urban migration due to quest for white collar jobs and other reasons. For example, Offa alone has federal polytechnic Offa, Offa University, Summit University Offa, while Ilorin harbors of University of Ilorin, Al-Hikmah University, Crown Hill University, Kwara State Polytechnic Ilorin, Kwara state College of Education Ilorin, Grand Plus College of Education, Kingsey College of Education, Imam Hamzat College of Education amongst others. At present, these institution have several faculties, schools and or departments with different program run at different levels and years (2 years f or OND, 4 years for HND 3 years for NCE, and a minimum of 4 years for university) with several students and staff; academic and non-academics. (Field Survey, 2022).

Consequently, with the continuous growing number of schools and by implication population, the students of these tertiary institutions are assumed and also believed to have been left with no choice than to make do with the available houses within these prominent cities (Ilorin and Offa) where Offa alone is believed to have an estimated number of 100,000 or more (Bello, 2022) and Ilorin has and estimated number of over 500,00 residents which as a result some of them are believed to be staying with others, even to the extent of the female staying with their male friends in the name of insufficient on-campus or in-school accommodation or inability to afford the available ones. The simple truth is that there are no sufficient on-campus accommodation in all the aforementioned tertiary institutions, to house all the students as the institutions continues to expand its faculties, schools, departments and programs without adequate provision. Although, some hostels are within the school community and nearby villages that students can stay at to study at the institutions. However, maybe for reasons like distance, fear, financial distress, and the likes, some of these students decides to cohabit and this calls for concerns as the students affairs department of these institution have in the recent past recorded high number of cases between and among students staying together in the name of cohabitation. Some of these cases have not been reported but some studies within and without the state have carried some of the causes of cohabitation and its attendant consequences.

Bello (2022) in a study on causes and consequences of cohabitation among students of federal polytechnic Offa quoted Jiya and Alhassan (2019) in their study on Factors influencing cohabitation among undergraduate students of federal university of technology Minna, Niger State, Nigeria: implications for counselling stated the factors influencing the prevalence of cohabitation among students as including inadequacy of school hostel accommodation since cohabitation is not possible on campus accommodation, lack of money or resources to pay as at when due thereby creating the opportunity for students who have resources to lure poor students to stay with them, peer influence or pressure, inability to manage or control sexual urges or desire for sexual satisfaction, etcetera. Other causes may include the fear of losing out on a partner or loved one, greed, extravagance or desire to live large while on campus, fear, among others. In the end, cohabitation and premarital sex have become kinds of passports to acceptance in a particular age group (Ekpenyong and Ekpenyong, 2016). Nonetheless, Jiya and Alhassan (2019) in another study on cohabitation stated that inadequate

hostel accommodation, financial challenges faced by students (most especially female students), peer pressure, lack of supervision by parents (under the guise that students have “grown”), the use of erotic sexual films and magazines etc are the causes or influencing factors of cohabitation among tertiary institution students. Freedom from Parental Supervision, loss of religious inclination, abandonment of valued African culture, sexual gratification, financial distress, to study each other for marriage, shortage of on-campus accommodation, and higher tuition fee were the factors responsible for cohabitation among tertiary institution students (Onoyase, 2020, Bello, 2022).

Cohabitation, remains on an ascendant among adults and youths, including students in many tertiary institutions of the nation, particularly in Kwara State. It is generally envisaged that globalization, urbanization and civilization have aided the spread of cohabitation in Nigerian tertiary institutions, particularly those in Kwara State and this has become a subject of concern to researchers, especially sociologists, practitioners of couples therapy or couples education, marriage counsellors as well as parents, and other stakeholders in education industry (Duyilemi, Tunde-Awe, & Adekola 2018; Bello, 2022). Cohabitation occurs when couples (married or unmarried) choose to live together and form a romantic relationship while remaining unmarried. Researchers began paying more attention to this living situation as the number of cohabiting couples began increasing since the turn of the century. Researchers differentiate the types of cohabitation in their studies (Adeniyi, 2019) such as limited cohabitation, premarital cohabitation, substitute marriage cohabitation, no alternative cohabitation, and convenient cohabitation. Whatever the reason, the consequences and whichever the type of cohabitation that the students of the tertiary institutions in Kwara State, Nigeria are involved in remains to be examined and that has informed the reason for this study.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

At the student affairs unit of both the aforementioned Universities, Colleges of Education and Polytechnics, several cases have been reported by cohabiting students who many times upon reporting present their cases differently but upon investigation ends up to be that they were cohabiting and hence such occurrence. Many students tends to lose sight of why they are in school and are preoccupied with unnecessary issues, these cause lots of distractions for many students and make them perform below expectations. Cohabitation has become rampant that students have become promiscuous, it has leads to unwanted pregnancies which has affect their completion of education. Female student go for abortion which expose them to risk of death or damaged uterus. Another problem is the threat of sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS etc and uses of oral contraceptive by female students in order to avoid pregnancy can leads to health issues that shortened the educational aspiration. Students of the polytechnic and other tertiary institutions alike in Nigeria sees cohabitation as nothing bad as majority of them are noticed to be happily involved in this act. Many tertiary institution students nowadays are fond to be involved in cohabitation as many of them in a way or the other seize the opportunity of been alone to do things they ordinarily cannot do. Other students may have different reasons for cohabiting but whatever the reason, cohabitation has its consequences. It is common to see male and female students moving together both on and off campus as some of them are even known among their friends as been married to each

other while they are truly not but are called so because of cohabitation. Some of the relationships ends.

Several studies have been conducted on the causes, consequences, prevalence and even commonality of cohabitation among tertiary institutions both within and outside Kwara state. For instance, Bello (2022) Arisukwu (2014) opined that students indulge in cohabitation for pragmatic considerations to save money on rent and other living expenses. That is, they cohabit with those whom they perceive are capable of solving their financial problems. Other reasons or forms of support that may make students cohabit include academics, emotional stress, and social engagement (Duyilemi, Tunde-Awe, Adekola (2018). Some researchers opined that cohabiters cohabit in order to study each other and test compatibility with their partners, while they still have the option of ending the relationship if things turn sour or do not work in their favour. Accordingly, Elise (2004) revealed that in the United States (US), cohabitation is often seen as a natural step in the dating process as more than two-thirds of married couples in the US were said to have cohabited (lived together) before getting married. Among students, Risman, Hill, Rubin and Peplau (1981) maintained that cohabitation is a stage of courtship. Thus, cohabitation is viewed as a prelude to marriage or as an important antecedent to marriage. As revealed by Bumpass and Lu, (2000), almost 60% of all marriages formed had begun as non-marital unions. However, a survey by a University of Chicago sociologist Linda Waite found that 16% of cohabiting women reported that arguments with their partners became physical, while only 5% percent of married women had similar experiences while 19% were indifferent about the situation.

Consequences of cohabitation among tertiary institution students abound. Adeniyi (2019) conducted a study on The effects cohabitation on academic performance of the students in tertiary institutions Nigeria, the study revealed that cohabitation breeds abortion, sexually transmitted diseases, and some even tend to indulge in social vices like stealing, lying and cybercrimes in order to raise finances to keep their affairs going. In addition, at times, the females are more often than not abused and molested by their partners or “would be husbands” when they quarrel or have a fight, leading to grave psychological trauma that could affect their health, social life and education while some of the students who cohabit find it difficult to graduate and make lower grades because they do not have enough time to read. Majority often withdraw from or are been dismissed from school, while some involve in death, depression and suicidal attempts, others spend longer time than necessary as a result of carryovers (Adeniyi, 2019). Ojewole and Okinduyo (2017) in a study on Prevalence and Factors Responsible for Cohabitation among Undergraduates of Adekunle Ajasin University, Ondo State quoted the above factors but also included religion. Despite all the efforts by researchers, none of the study has been conducted in all the tertiary institutions in Kwara state, with Bello (2022) only focusing on federal polytechnic as none has been conducted in the a university, college of education or combined both in Kwara state while the incidence of cohabitation still persist among students in higher institutions as it is evident among their students and this has created a gap in knowledge in that regards and has necessitated the reason for this study as the researcher is interested to finding out whether or not these tertiary institution students have different or akin reasons for cohabiting among themselves in their respective schools.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The general purpose of this study is to examine Causes and Consequences of Cohabitation among Tertiary Institution Students in Kwara State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to;

- a) evaluate the causes of cohabitation among tertiary institution students in Kwara state; and
- b) examine the consequences of cohabitation among tertiary institution students in Kwara state, Nigeria.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This study sought to address the following research questions;

- a) what are the causes of cohabitation among tertiary institution students in Kwara state, Nigeria?; and
- b) what are the consequences of cohabitation among tertiary institution students in Kwara state, Nigeria?

RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

H₀₁: There is no significance difference between causes and consequences of cohabitation among tertiary institution students in Kwara State, Nigeria based on gender

H₀₂: There is no significance difference between causes and consequences of cohabitation among tertiary institution students in Kwara State, Nigeria based on school location

METHODOLOGY

The study employed the descriptive survey method. To Daramola (2006), descriptive research survey is the systematic attempt to describe the characteristics of a given population or areas of interest factually. It looks at a phenomena critically and describes it the way it is without any addition or reduction. That is, it avails the researchers the opportunity to determine and report phenomena the way they are, without altering any or the whole of it. In like manner, the researcher considers the survey type as most suitable for this study because it availed the researcher the opportunity to describe accordingly the concepts of causes and consequences of cohabitation among tertiary institution students in Kwara state. The population of the study incorporated all the tertiary institution students in Kwara State, Nigeria. The sample of the study was 864 students cut across all the students of tertiary institutions in Kwara (universities, polytechnics and colleges of education) who were selected using multistage sampling procedure of purposive to select the tertiary institutions, proportionate to select students from each school according to their numbers and simple random sampling technique to select the respondents per institution. Accordingly, 300 student were sampled from university of Ilorin, 200 students each from Federal Polytechnic Offa and Kwara State College of Education Ilorin respectively while 100 students from Kwara State Polytechnic Ilorin and 64 students were sampled from Kingsey College of Education. The instrument for the collection of data for this study was a researcher designed questionnaire tagged "*Causes and Consequences of Cohabitation among Tertiary Institution Students in Kwara State, Nigeria, (CCCTIS)*". It was distributed to the respondents to gather the needed information from them. The questionnaire was in Likert's scale with five (5) options of Strongly Agreed, Agreed, Disagree, Strongly Disagree and Undecided responses. The questionnaire contained eleven (11) items each on causes and consequences of cohabitation, summing up to 22 items. The instrument was validated by submitting it to some experts/professionals in the field of

measurement and evaluation, department of social sciences education, university of Ilorin for vetting and approval. The reliability of this instrument was 0.87, gotten by using test retest method where some tertiary institutions that weren't considered for the main study were used for pilot testing. The researcher got a letter of introduction from the department of social sciences education, faculty of education, university of Ilorin for recognition and took it along to the field with the questionnaire. The questionnaires were distributed to the respondents at their respective institutions and the researcher with the aid of research assistants retrieved them afterwards. The data collected for this study was analysed using descriptive statistics. Mean rating of simple percentage was used to answer the research questions.

RESULTS

Table One (1) Causes of cohabitation among tertiary institution students in Kwara State

ITEM	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	U (%)
Insufficient in-school hostel or on-campus accommodation has led some students to cohabitation	352 (40.7)	276(32)	134(15.5)	48(5.5)	54(6.3)
Fear of losing boy/girlfriend (lover) also necessitates cohabitation	284(32.8)	304(35.2)	112(13)	71(8.2)	93(10.8)
Freedom and lack of monitoring by parents/guardian leads to cohabitation	286(33.1)	312(36.1)	81(9.3)	86(10)	99(11.5)
Fear or insecurity in the school area also brings about cohabitation	276(32)	361(41.7)	96(11.1)	58(6.7)	73(8.5)
Some students are cohabiting due to poverty or financial distress	324(37.5)	343(39.6)	89(10.3)	48(5.5)	61(7.1)
Desire to practice living as married couples push some students into cohabitation	321(37.2)	342(39.5)	56(6.5)	54(6.3)	91(10.5)
Decline in moral and religious values is also a cause of cohabitation	336(39)	318(36.8)	72(8.3)	41(4.7)	97(11.2)
Laziness among some students is also responsible for their cohabiting habits	348(40.2)	287(33.2)	76(9.0)	78(9.0)	75(8.6)
Distance and stress of waking up early and looking for vehicles also prompts cohabitation	263(30.5)	432(50)	54(6.2)	37(4.3)	78(9.0)
Desire to live large and feel belonged especially among peers	374(43.2)	321(37.2)	59(6.8)	43(5.0)	67(7.8)
Using money meant for accommodation for betting or gambling	331(38.3)	359(41.5)	57(6.5)	46(5.3)	71(8.2)

From table one (1) above, the causes of cohabitation among tertiary institution students in Kwara state were discovered to include amongst others desire to live large or big, betting with accommodation fee, freedom and poor or no monitoring; fear of losing a lover, fear or insecurity in the school area, desire to practice couple's life, insufficient on-campus accommodation, decline in moral and religious values, poverty and financial stress, and laziness respectively.

Table Two (2) Consequences of cohabitation among tertiary institution students in Kwara State

ITEM	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	U (%)
Contacting sexually transmitted infections is easy among cohabiting students	325(37.6)	241(28)	109(12.6)	81(9.3)	108(12.5)
Unexpected pregnancies is common among cohabiting couples, thus leading to abortion	304(35.2)	372(43)	89(10.3)	46(5.3)	53(6.1)
Abortion by a cohabiting person may lead to complications and eventually death	431(49.8)	272(31)	63(7.2)	33(4)	65(7.5)
Some students may end up dropping out of school due to their inability to provide for their needs and that of their partners	392(45.3)	243(28.1)	74(8.5)	57(6.5)	98(11.3)
Joining bad gangs to keep up with such lifestyle is common among cohabiting students	356(41.2)	238(27.5)	116(13.4)	63(7.2)	87(10)
Frequent quarrel/fight that may turn violent and lead to separation/divorce is common among cohabiting students	348(40.2)	267(31.0)	149(17.2)	22(2.5)	78(9.0)
Declining/fluctuating or poor academic performance is likely to arise from one or all the cohabiting students	324(37.5)	204(23.6)	163(18.8)	92(10.6)	81(9.3)
Deep thoughts, psychological, health and other related health issues may be common among cohabiting students	368(42.5)	206(23.8)	111(12.8)	75(8.6)	104(12.0)
Display of pretentious habits or attitudes at home during holidays	216(25)	336(38.8)	148(17.1)	86(9.9)	78(9.0)
Inability to mingle with others and or make friends at will	224(26.0)	499(57.7)	101(11.6)	87(10)	33(4.0)
Getting families worried or in trouble for what they know nothing about	462(53.4)	184(21.2)	93(11.0)	28(3.2)	97(11.2)

From table two (2) above, the consequences of cohabitation among students of Federal Polytechnic Offa are unexpected pregnancies, inability to mingle and create new friends, dropout of school, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), display of pretentious attitudes at home during holidays, deep thoughts, trauma and other health related issues, getting families in trouble for what they know not, joining of bad gangs, abortion that may lead to complications, poor academic performance and quarrel or fight that may lead to separation.

HYPOTHESES TESTING

H₀₁: There is no significance difference between causes and consequences of cohabitation among tertiary institution students in Kwara State, Nigeria based on gender

Table 3: T-test table for respondents on the causes and consequences of cohabitation among tertiary institution students in Kwara State, Nigeria based on gender

Availability	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	T	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Female	468	18.27	3.242			
Male	396	17.40	2.327	1.466	56.344	.148

Table 3 above shows a calculated t-value of 1.466 and a p-value of 148 testing at an alpha level of 0.05. The table shows that there was no significant difference in the causes and consequences of cohabitation among tertiary institution students in Kwara State based on gender; female (M = 18.27, SD =3.242) and male (M = 17.40, SD = 2.327; $t(103) = 1.466, p = .439$ (two-tailed). Accordingly, since the p-value is greater than the alpha level ($p > 0.05$), the null hypothesis which states that, there is no significant difference in the causes and consequences of cohabitation among tertiary institution students in Kwara State based on gender is therefore accepted. Consequently, there is no significant difference in the perception of male and female respondents on the causes and consequences of cohabitation among tertiary institution students in Kwara State.

H₀₂: There is no significance difference in causes and consequences of cohabitation among tertiary institution students in Kwara State, Nigeria based on school location

Table 4: T-test table on causes and consequences of cohabitation among tertiary institution students in Kwara State based on school location.

Availability	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	T	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Ilorin	477	18.29	3.132			
Offa	387	16.88	2.395	2.096	28.043	.045

Table 4 shows a calculated t-value of 2.096 and a p-value of .045 testing at an alpha level of 0.05. There was no significant difference in the causes and consequences of cohabitation among tertiary institution students in Kwara State based on school location; Ilorin (M = 18.29, SD =3.132) and Offa (M = 16.88, SD = 2.395; $t(103) = 2.096, p = .045$ (two-tailed). Since the p-value is less than the alpha level ($p < 0.05$), the hypothesis which states that, there is no significant difference in the causes and consequences of cohabitation among tertiary institution students in Kwara State based on school location is therefore rejected. Consequently, there is a slight significant difference in the causes and consequences of cohabitation among tertiary institution students in Kwara State based on school location.

DISCUSSION

The first findings of the study revealed that freedom and poor or no monitoring/monitoring; fear of losing a boy or girlfriend/lover, fear or insecurity in the school area, desire to practice couple's life, insufficient on-campus accommodation, decline in moral and religious values, poverty/financial stress, and laziness are the causes of cohabitation among tertiary institution students in Kwara State. This finding then tandem with Bello (2022), Jiya and Alhassan (2019) and Onoyase (2020) whom identified financial issues, inadequate on-campus accommodation, decline in religious values or loss of religious inclination, abandonment of valued African culture, sexual gratification, desire to study each other for marriage, and higher tuition fee as factors responsible for cohabitation among tertiary institutions students. As seen in this study, it is evident clear that the on-campus accommodation is a cause of cohabitation but some students would still cohabit even if there is enough on-campus accommodation or hostels. For instance, at the University of Ilorin, the students always queue on the roadside every morning from Tanke Tipper Garage to Tanke Oke-Odo every morning looking for vehicles and from experience, this practice has been like that for years without evidence of declination. Some students have to move and cohabit with their friends that are staying at Tanke (Ajanaku, Oke-Odo, Sanrab, Bubu, Iledu, Chapel, MFM, Tipper Garage, etc) and other close by areas to try and overcome lateness and traffic so as to have good time for their examinations. The Federal Polytechnic Offa also has areas like Ilomena, Erinle, Ipee, Ikotun, Ijagbo, Igosun, etc are highly cohabited by students and the case is not different with Al-Hikmah University that has areas like Mandate, Adeta, Saw-Mill, Geri Alimi and Atere among others occupied by both students and workers. The situation is not different with those students in Kwara State University, Kwara State College of Education Ilorin and other tertiary institutions within the state as they both suffer the same issue of insufficient on-campus or in-school accommodation.

The second and last findings of the study discovered that unexpected pregnancies, dropout of school, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), deep thoughts, trauma and other health related issues, joining of bad gangs, abortion that may lead to complications, theft and robbery, declining/fluctuating or poor academic performance and quarrel or fight that may lead to separation. This finding coincides the studies of Adeniyi (2019) and Ojewole and Okinduyo (2017) whose studies found out the consequences of cohabitation among students of tertiary institutions as including STDs, abortions, deaths, poor academic performance, depression, amongst others. That is, in conjunction with involvement in illegal or other criminal acts, students who cohabit try to live lives that will impress their partners or try to live in accordance with their partners' expectations, even if it is against their academics.

CONCLUSION

From the above it can be seen that cohabitation is a menace as observed among the students of tertiary institutions in Kwara State as several students have responded with high percentage to the causes as can be seen in this study. The causes of cohabitation among tertiary institution students were observed to include breakdown in moral values, freedom or no supervision, peer influence, fear of losing loved one, financial distress, practicing married couples' life amongst others. As a result, some of the students feel they have gained freedom by leaving home to stay on their own and this lead some of them to doing things that even their parents have only been hearing about. These acts may have consequences on them which include death, abortions that may lead to complications, poor academic performance and or

drop out of school, emotional, social and health effects, which some may be present while some are in the aftermath.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the finding of the study, it was recommended that;

- a) The school management should try to increase the size of the on-campus hostel and make it compulsory for the students at least for the first and last year to curb this menace
- b) Parents and guardian counsellors should try as much as they can to educate their wards and warn them on the dangers of cohabitation on both their physical, social, academic and health life as students
- c) Students of the polytechnic should desist from these acts as they are culpable of marring their future by inflicting social, health, emotional, psychological and other related problems to their lives

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