Exploring Factors That Influence Sustainable Marriage In St. Francis College Of Education And St. Francis Demonstration Basic School Community, Hohoe

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Abstract

This study investigates measures that ensure sustainability of marriages and to find out the extent to which these measures contribute to stable marriages. The research is undertaken in St. Francis College of Education Community, Hohoe. A sample of 140 respondents made up of teaching and non-teaching staff was randomly selected to complete questionnaire asking them to indicate the extent to which identified indicators contribute to stability of their marriages. The raw data of 21 original factors were subjected to factor analysis to identify the factors that contribute most to marriage stability. The result of the study shows that Love, understanding, acceptance and respect for each other, commitment to the marriage are factors that ensure sustainable marriage.

Keywords: Marriage, stability, divorce, husband, wife.

1. Introduction

Marriage is a formal and legal union of a man and a woman by which they become husband and wife [1]. Marriage is contracted to provide a socially approved sexual and economic union, as a way of establishing a family of procreation, companionship, mutual assistance, peace and social cohesion and also to enhance social status of the couples among others [2, 3]. All these reasons together notwithstanding the challenges make marriage a great source of happiness to successfully married couples and young adults desiring to enter into the institution. The importance of marriage cannot be over emphasized as it constitutes the nucleus of the nuclear family and the family also forms the basis of the society.

In Ghana, the law recognizes customary marriage, Christian/ordinance or Islamic marriage and civil marriage. In whichever way the marriage is contracted, it is the objective of families that the marriage should be stable, long lasting and successful.

People enter into marriage daily while others quit marriage every now and then as records show [4], that several marriages are contracted monthly and that at the same time there are numerous cases of domestic violence in marriage, divorce and spousal killing. Varied are the factors responsible for this phenomenon in marriages and it is important for one to be knowledgeable about these factors since one can either influence them to make a marriage strong and stable or weak and unstable.

To date, no studies have been carried out on factors that contribute to stable marriage in St Francis College of Education Community. This study therefore focuses on exploring the key factors that contribute to stable

marriages through factor analysis. The key question addressed by the study is what are the variables that contribute to stable marriage in St. Francis College of Education Community?

Key factors among identified include; love, sexual intercourse, religious belief, socio-economic status, family background, mutual support, children, counseling, companionship, communication, honesty, cohabitation, courtship, respect for each other, planning before marriage, commitment to the marriage, acceptance of each other, and understanding. An opinion can then be formed that marriages that are stable in St. Francis College Community are influence by these important factors.

2.   Methodology

2.1   Research Area

The study was carried out in St. Francis college of Education, Hohoe in the Volta Region of Ghana. St. Francis College of Education is one of the 38 Colleges of Education that runs Diploma in Basic Education program for teachers in Ghana with teaching and non-teaching staff strength of 103 employees. It is also a host to University of Cape Coast Post Diploma Education (Sandwich) Program.   The study covers both students of the Sandwich Program and teaching and non teaching staff of the College.

The College was chosen for the study because of its mandate to train teachers of high moral standard that should save as role models to the country's children, adolescents, and the youth as a whole.

2.2   Sampling and Sample Technique

The target population was all the teaching and non teaching staffs (85 people), and Sandwich students   (400 people) of St. Francis College Community. A sample of 140 married people was selected for the project. Purposive sampling technique was adopted in the choosing of the sample size in order to avoid sample frame error and to obtain accurate result.

2.3   Data Collection Procedure

The major instrument used to collect data was self-administered questionnaires. The questionnaires were hand delivered to the respondents to ensure high response rate, which in turn ensure that responses are a good representation of the views of the majority of the populace. Rating questions were used, where respondents were asked to indicate the degree of importance attached to each of the indicators using Likert Scale; 1= (strongly disagree/strongly dissatisfy), 2= (disagree/dissatisfy), 3= (uncertain), 4= (agree/satisfy), 5= (strongly agree/satisfy).

2.4   Variables in the research

The indicator/variables of study are; love, sexual intercourse, religious belief, socio-economic status, family background, mutual support, children, counseling, companionship, etc.

The indicator / variables of study are;

V1	=	Love
V2	=	Children
V3	=	Counseling
V4	=	Companionship
V5	=	Communication
V6	=	Honesty
V7	=	Cohabitation
V8	=	Courtship
V9	=	Understanding

V10	=	Sexual Intercourse
V11	=	Religious Believe
V12	=	Socio-Economic Status
V13	=	Family Background
V14	=	Mutual Support
V15	=	Respect for Each Other
V16	=	Planning Before Marriage
V17	=	Commitment to Marriage

V1	=	Love
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V16	=	Planning Before Marriage
V17	=	Commitment to Marriage
V18	=	Acceptance of Each Other
V19	=	Patience and tolerance
V20	=	Appreciation each other
V21	=	Beauty/appearance

4.   Data Analysis

The data obtained for the research has been thoroughly edited and non numeric variables in the data were all assigned codes so as to check   omissions, ensure consistency, and also for good statistical analysis. Data was analyzed using SPSS version 16. The main statistical tools used for further analyzes were the principal

component factor analysis and Kaiser-Meyer- Olkin (KMO) and Bartlett's Test (1937). The principal component analysis was used to study and identify salient construct with the highest loading on the construct to be selected. The KMO and Bartlett's test (1937) measure the strength of the relationship among the variables [5, 6].

5.   Discussion Of Results

5.1   Preliminary Analysis.

The preliminary analysis is aimed at examining the responses provided by both male and female, age groups, number of years experienced in marriage and recent marital status.

5.2   Sex of Respondents:

The analysis revealed that most of the respondents were men. Specifically, the data showed that 73 of the respondents representing 52.1% were male while a total of 67 representing 47.9% were female. Table 1 below presents the result.

Table 1: Sex of Respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percent
Male	73	52.1
Female	67	47.9
Total	140	100.0

5.3   Age of Respondents

The next demographic variable of the participants examined was their age. The results showed that, majority of respondents were above 45years representing 35.7%. 34 representing 24.3% were between 30 - 34 years. It can be seen from the table that majority (64.3%) of the respondents were below 45 years while the remaining were above 45 years. This can be seen in table 2 below.

Table 2: Age of Respondents (years)

Ages	Frequency	Percent
Less than 30	19	13.6
30 – 34 years	34	24.3
35 - 39 years	22	15.7
40 - 44 years	15	10.7
Above 45	50	35.7
Total	140	100.0

5.4   Number of Years in Marriage

Number of years one experience in marriage is very important in identifying the measures that ensure sustainability of marriages. The study then examined the number of years respondents spent in marriage. The result indicates that majority (32.1%) of the respondents have spent less than 5 years in marriage, 20.0% have spent 5- 9 years in their marriages while 24.3%   spent above 20 years in marriage. It can be seen from the graph

that almost all the respondents in this study have enough experience in marriage which can assist in the identification of the measures that ensure sustainability of marriages.
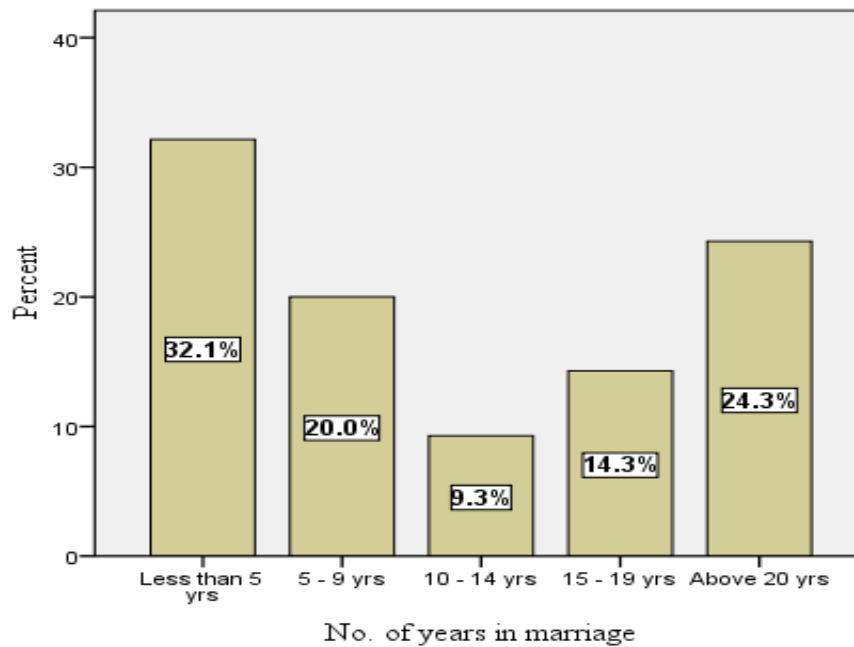
Figure 1: Number of years' experience in marriage

5.5   Recent Marital Status

As seen from the figure below it can be found that majority (90.0%) of the participant in this study are still in marriage while 8.6% are widowed.
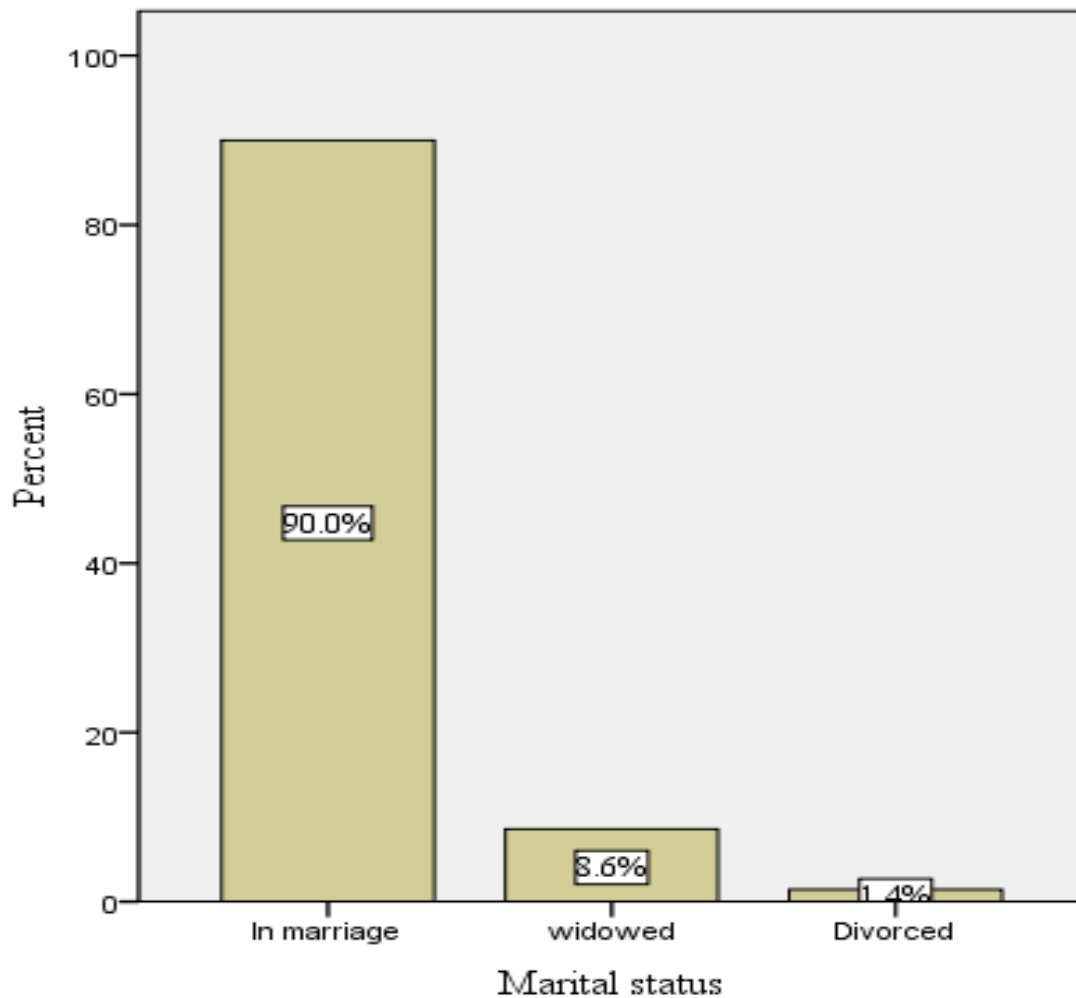
Figure 2: Recent status in marriage

6.   Further analysis

The rationale behind the further analysis is to examine if there is inter correlations among the variables identified.

6.1   Descriptive statistics of indicators

The table below shows the descriptive statistics (mean and standard deviation) of the 21 variables. We can see high mean values recorded for some of the variables; V1, V14, V16 and V18 (Love, Mutual Support, Planning before Marriage and Acceptance of Each Other). This suggests that they have been rated high by majority of the people as measures (factors) that ensure sustainability of marriages. There are other set of variables with also high mean values recorded. These are V5, V9, V14, and V16. This also suggests that they have been rated high.

Table 3: Descriptive Statistics factor indicators

Variables	Mean	Std. Deviation
V1	4.63	.713
V2	4.14	.956
V3	3.99	1.073
V4	3.76	.951
V5	3.69	1.092
V6	4.46	.772
V7	4.23	.884
V8	4.07	.801
V9	4.31	.821
V10	4.48	.861
V11	4.32	.892
V12	3.46	1.172
V13	3.80	.969
V14	4.55	.733
V15	4.44	.798
V16	4.62	.724
V17	4.46	.843
V18	4.60	.687
V19	4.24	.878
V20	4.35	.758
V21	4.41	.805

6.2   Correlation between variables

From the correlation table, it can be seen that every variable is perfectly correlated to itself, having correlation coefficient of 1. There is a high correlation between other individual variables, such as between 'Love and Honesty, Understanding, Sexual Intercourse, Planning before Marriage and Commitment to Marriage'

Correlation matrix of variables

Varia bles	V1	V2	V3	V4	V5	V6	V7	V8	V9	V10	V11	V12	V13	V14	V15	V16	V17	V18	V19	V20	V21
V1	1.0																				

	V1	V2	V3	V4	V5	V6	V7	V8	V9	V10	V11	V12	V13	V14	V15	V16	V17	V18	V19	V20	V21
V2	0.3	1.0																			
V3	0.2	0.1	1.0																		
V4	0.1	0.0	0.4	1.0																	
V5	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	1.0																
V6	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	1.0															
V7	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	1.0														
V8	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.2	1.0													
V9	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4	1.0												
V10	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	1.0											
V11	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	1.0										
V12	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1	1.0									
V13	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.2	1.0								
V14	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.1	1.0							
V15	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	1.0						
V16	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.6	1.0					
V17	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.7	1.0				
V18	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.7	1.0			
V19	0.1	0.4	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	1.0		
V20	-0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	-0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	1.0	
V21	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	1.0

Source: *SPSS Principal Component Analysis of Field Data*

6.3 KMO AND BARTLETT'S TEST

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) and Bartlett's Test: it measures strength of the relationship among variables. The KMO measures the sampling adequacy which should be greater than 0.5 for a satisfactory factor analysis to proceed. With the KMO value of 0.820 from the table below, we say that the test is adequate for factoring. This suggests that factor analysis is appropriate and the correlation matrix is appropriate for factoring. The Bartlett's Test of sphericity is also highly significant (at $p-value\ of\ 0.0)$ at a large chi-square value of 1.117E.

This though relative, is large enough to warrant factor analysis. This is seen in the table below.

Table 4: KMO and Bartlett's Test

Measure		Value
Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		.820
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	1.117E3
	df	210
	Sig.	.000

6.4 Total variation explained

The table below shows all the factors extractable from the analysis along with their eigenvalues, the Percent of variance attributed to each factor, and the cumulative variance of the factor. It can be seen that out of the 21 factors, only six of them have eigenvalues significantly greater than one. It is also noticed that the first factor accounts for 30.1% of the variance, the second 9.0%, the third 7.73% and the sixth 4.98%. All the remaining factors are not significant.

Table 5: Total Variation Explained

Factors	Eigen Values	% of Variation	Cumulative %
1	**6.33**	**30.14**	**30.14**
2	**1.90**	**9.02**	**39.16**
3	**1.62**	**7.73**	**46.90**
4	**1.38**	**6.56**	**53.46**
5	**1.24**	**5.91**	**59.37**
6	**1.05**	**4.98**	**64.35**
7	0.92	4.39	68.73
8	0.82	3.89	72.62
9	0.74	3.51	76.12
10	0.67	3.19	79.31
11	0.64	3.03	82.34
12	0.59	2.79	85.12
13	0.53	2.52	87.64
14	0.48	2.26	89.90

15	0.45	2.14	92.04
16	0.37	1.78	93.83
17	0.33	1.57	95.39
18	0.30	1.44	96.84
19	0.29	1.37	98.21
20	0.22	1.05	99.26
21	0.16	0.75	100.00

6.5   The Scree Plot

The Scree plot confirms the importance of the first component in explaining the factors that ensure sustainability of marriages. It can be seen that the 'elbow' of the diagram occurs at the sixth component. This suggests that the number of factors that must be considered for extraction cannot exceed six.
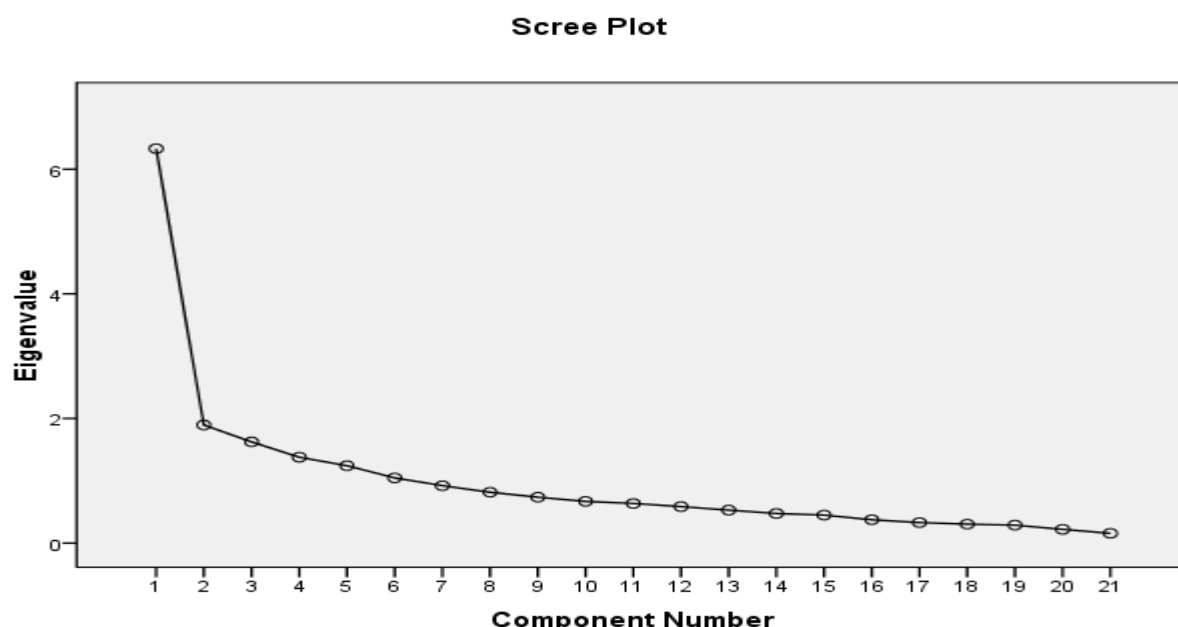
Scree Plot

6.6   Extraction of factors

In the factor extraction, we use the two rules of; the eigenvalues-greater-than-one and the Scree plot presented above. Going by the eigenvalues-greater-than-one rule, it can be seen that six of the 21 factors explained 64.35% of the total variation in the data set. This suggests that the six factor model is adequate in this study.

More so, the Scree plot has shown a steep from the first factor to the sixth (6th) factor. The sixth (6th) to the twenty-first (21st) exhibits a decline chain that is uniform. Thus both the eigenvalues-greater-than-one and the Scree plot coincide on the six factor model.

6.7 Unrotated Component (Factor) Matrix

The Unrotated factor matrix below gives clues to the interpretability of the underlying factors that ensure sustainability of marriages. At a cut-off value of 0.5, it can be seen that the first component is highly loaded by twelve indicator variables. These variables are Love, Mutual support, Counseling, Companionship,

Communication, Honesty, Respect for each other, Planning before marriage, Commitment to marriage, Acceptance of each other, Understanding and Beauty/appearance. Factor one is therefore the general measures/factors that ensure sustainability of marriages.

6.8   Unrotated Factor Matrix

Variables	Component					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Love	.589					
Sexual intercourse						
Religious believe						
Socio-economic status		.655				
Family background						
Mutual support	.685					
Children						
Counseling	.505					
Companionship	.698					
Communication	.768					
Honesty	.698					
Cohabitation				.539		
Courtship						
Respect for each other	.550					
Planning before marriage	.569					
Commitment to marriage	.835					
Acceptance of each other	.739					
Understanding	.756					
Patience and tolerance		-.563				
Appreciation each other			.510			
Beauty/appearance	.522					

7.   Conclusion

The results of the study show that Love, understanding, acceptance and respect for each other, commitment to the marriage are factors that ensure sustainable marriage.

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