

AFTERMATHS OF INFIDELITY AS EXPRESSED BY LITERATE WORKING CLASS WOMEN IN LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Background and Purpose: Globally, many married adults engage in infidelity. However, the repercussions of the act appear not palatable for couples, their children and the society at large. This study therefore, investigated the aftermaths of infidelity as expressed by literate working class women in Lagos State. The study also examined whether age and type of marriage would affect the respondents' views.

Methodology: The descriptive design was adopted for this study. A total of 300 literate working class women were drawn from the target population using purposive and simple random sampling techniques. A researcher-developed questionnaire tagged Aftermaths of Infidelity (AIQ) was used to collect data. The instrument was validated by five experts in Nigeria and Nusantara while its reliability was established through test re-test reliability method and a coefficient of 0.74 was gotten. The data collected were analyzed using t-test and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) at 0.05 level.

Findings: Results showed that divorce, unhappiness, contact of sexually transmitted diseases, emotional disability, hatred in the family, unwanted pregnancy, distrust and suspicion in the family, psychological trauma in children, and giving birth to illegitimate children are some of the aftermaths of infidelity as expressed by the literate working class women. Similarly, age and marriage type did not influence the expression of literate working class women in Lagos State on infidelity.

Contributions: Infidelity has devastating aftermaths. Counsellors should enlighten couples on the aftermaths of infidelity; they should enlighten them on the negative effects which infidelity has on the home, children and the society in general.

Keywords: Aftermath, infidelity, literate working class women, Lagos State, Nigeria.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Infidelity has been considered extensively from the psychological and social point of views. This is because the act of infidelity is on the increase, and ways are being explored to bring this complex and challenging issues, which top the list of challenges facing marriage at bay (Zapien, 2017; Piercy, Herlein, & Wetchler, 2006). Infidelity is viewed as a breach of agreement or trust between couples such that one of the spouses does not keep to the marriage vows- ‘I will be with you alone, for better for worse and till death do us part’ (Zapien, 2016). Many times, the act of infidelity is regretted by the perpetrator (Lammers, Stoker, Jordan, Pollman, & Stapel, 2011). This could be one of the consequences or a result of the several implications of infidelity.

Infidelity has been defined in several ways (Atwood, 2005; Guitar et al., 2016; Zapien, 2017). For instance, Glass (2003) viewed infidelity as a case whereby one of the couples feels betrayed. This is one of the most accepted definitions; however, feelings of betrayal varies from one individual to another and from one situation to another. In the opinion of Leeker and Carlozzi (2012), infidelity is a situation whereby one of the two partners cheats and engages in adultery. It is also a situation where one’s partner has violated laid down family rules which results in feelings of rivalry and ill-feeling. Infidelity occurs when couples engage in emotional or sexual exclusivity. Infidelity depends on the whole ideas within the relationship. According to Barta and Kiene (2005), infidelity refers to couples not keeping to marital vows but staying loyal to an acquaintance. Marriage vows are sacred, which should be safeguarded by spouses; however, it is surprising how partners toy with the vows by engaging in infidelity (Whisman & Snyder, 2007).

Infidelity occurs when there is a marriage. Marriage, a socially recognized and acceptable union, is a legal contract between two unrelated individuals, usually a man and a woman that occurs in all human society. DeMaris (2013) observed that marriage establishes

the rights and obligations between partners, their children and their other family members. In union, the man and the woman complement each other; they serve as each other's companions, serves as protection, among other benefits. Marriage ensures adequate nurture of the children. Marriage binds male and female together as one- husband and wife, to be fathers and mothers and to be addressed as a responsible citizen of the society (Leeker & Carlozzi, 2012; Odebode, Oniye, & Akangbe, 2018). Couples enter marriage with specific preconceived ideas and expectations. Satisfaction among couples is a function of expectations that are met while unmet expectations of couples make them sad. These non-satisfactions often lead to looking outside marriage to seek satisfaction, and eventually, infidelity occurs (Leeker & Carlozzi, 2012). Most committed relationships are characterized by an explicit or implicit commitment regarding intimacy, including both sexual and emotional fidelity to one's partner. Infidelity constitutes a betrayal of this implied or stated commitment regarding intimate exclusivity (Allen & Atkin, 2012). With infidelity, emotional and sexual intimacy is shared with someone outside the primary relationship. It is a breach of trust, either personal or physical, that signifies a potential lack of commitment to one's romantic partner (Atwood, 2005). Infidelity can be influenced by geographical factors, cultural and ideological factors which include marrying from another region and generating incompatibility among couples. For instance, a Nigerian who marries someone from Nusantara may be faced with cultural differences and may lead to one of the partners cheating on the other.

Infidelity is common with an estimate of 20%-55% of all marriages in the US (Atkins, Baucom, & Jacobson, 2001) between 26%-75% (Eaves & Robertson-Smith, 2007) to be more significant. Looking at the modest 20% rate of infidelity suggest that infidelity is prevalent and has eaten deep into marriages. Infidelity is increasing as it is among men (Atkins et al., 2001; Lammers et al., 2011) primarily due to freedom and the use of technology among women. According to a conservative estimate, infidelity occurs in 20–25% of all marriages and can have several deleterious effects on a relationship and individuals involved (Zapfen, 2017). The damage done after the discovery or revelation of an affair can destroy a marriage and family and rebuilding a relationship after an affair while undoubtedly possible, can take a long time and in some cases, maybe unattainable. Infidelity may have a severe negative effect on marriages. It has been observed to be the top cause of divorce among couples (Amato & Previti, 2003). It leads to anxiety, depression and increases poor psychological health (Gordon, Baucom, & Synder, 2004). Infidelity often results in anger, disappointment, self-doubt (Whisman & Synder, 2007), depression on the cheated spouse and eventually divorce (Brown, 2001; Cario & O Leary, 2000).

Further, therapists indicated that infidelity is the third most challenging problem to treat (Previti & Amato, 2007). The consequences of infidelity extend beyond the individuals involved in it. With the rapid spread of sexually transmitted diseases (STD), infidelity has become a significant public health issue. Not only are individuals who engage in unprotected sex outside a committed relationship are at immediate risk of exposure to STDs, but there is also emerging evidence that the partners of these individuals are at immediate risk of exposure to diseases such as HIV/AIDS (Allen & Atkin, 2012).

Infidelity is the primary cause of divorce, spousal battering and other kinds of family violence; hence, infidelity may have no rival in disrupting marital relationships. Infidelity is a traumatic life experience especially for the individual that is being cheated (Amato & Previti, 2003). Infidelity, contrary to what people think is not only common among men, is also common among women. Several marriages are confronted with increasing rates at which women engage in infidelity and how to deal with the aftermaths of extramarital affairs. It is alarming that the statistics of infidelity among women are swiftly catching up to those of men. Infidelity has become an equal opportunity for both men and women (Makman, 2005).

Infidelity results in family strife, violence, depression and low self-esteem. Similarly, for not keeping marital vows and sacredness, couple care has a feeling of guilt (Cario & O Leary, 2000). Regret is when an individual knows that he has done certain things wrongly and this thought lingers on his heart; guilt affects cheating women in particular, and it could last for a lifetime (Amato & Previti, 2003). The conscience is plagued by moral guilt which tells one specifically when they have stepped outside boundaries of conduct. Among the consequences of infidelity is unplanned or unwanted pregnancy. Having unprotected sexual intercourse with someone who is not one's primary partner not only exposes one to the risk of STD, but it can also result in unplanned pregnancy which in turn leads to giving birth to illegitimate children. (Zapien, 2017). There is a common saying among Africans that only a woman knows the father of her children. A man was said to kill his wife when he discovered that he was not the father of his 21 years old son, that her boyfriend impregnated his wife. Infidelity also builds a bridge of distrust among couples. Usually, the foundation of mutual trust is threatened, there is fear that the marriage will end and fear of being replaced/displaced in the matrimony (Gordon et al., 2004), some are vulnerable to the shame of rejection (Leeker & Carlozzi, 2012).

The spouse that has been cheated may end up having a shattered self-image/esteem. He/she goes into severe self-doubt or tends to indulge in a lot of self-blame. Such a person may become too depressed and even suicidal (Synder, Gordon, & Baucom, 2004). He/ she may lose

extreme faith in relationships and the ability to trust people because of the immense betrayal caused by infidelity. Infidelity can result in spousal battering and homicide (Barta & Kiene, 2005). In March 2015, a man in Lagos was reported in the Nigerian dailies, to have caught his wife cheating with a neighbour, he dragged her out naked, and she was brutally beaten and in rage hit her on the head with a stick which leads to her death. It was also reported in the Vanguard ("Threaten to commit suicide", 2016) that, a famous musician's husband threatened to commit suicide over his wife alleged infidelity. Children of parents who are involved in extramarital affairs may experience a lot of turmoil ranging from psychological/emotional trauma, poor performance at school, anti-social behaviour. The effect of cheating mothers includes hurting the husband, disrupting the family peace and adversely affect children. This is so because, the woman is often seen as the hub of the family, when she cheats, her act affects every member of her family. When a child learns of his parent's affair, he/she may have emotional turbulence in the viability of marriage.

Furthermore, many studies have shown that the majority of spouses that experienced infidelity do not survive the storm (Charny & Parnass, 1995; Hasen, 1987). Charny and Parnass (1995) found that not all of these marriages break but may remain unstable. About 80% of these research revealed anger, depression, mistrust, decreased confidence, reduced love and course for divorce (Charny & Parnass, 1995). Sweeney and Horowitz (2001) believed that spouse divorce their partners due to extramarital affairs have less depression and sadness than those who divorced due to other reasons. Shackelford, Besser, and Goetz (2008) found that the reaction of husbands and wives toward infidelity differ. Men have less forgiving spirit over infidelity, particularly sexual infidelity than women, and there is every probability that they break up with their wives (Shackelford, Buss, & Bennet, 2002). Ojedokun (2015) found that infidelity harms the health of the partner being cheated and the one who cheats. In the study of Zapien (2016), it was concluded that infidelity is threatening to a marriage.

A cursory look at Lagos State shows high human population; this has led to continuous hustling and bustling where husband and wives go their separate ways to fend for the family. It appears as if couples in Lagos State are more concerned with making ends meet than investing in their homes. Worse still, women should be at home and keep the family together are also at work mingling and struggling with other men at work. There are also stories on media and Newspaper of cases of infidelity in Lagos State. Even though other researchers have worked on causes, predispositions, consequences of infidelity, among others, the issues of infidelity seem to be gaining more ground. It is, therefore, worthwhile to investigate the aftermaths of infidelity for couples to learn. It is on this note that this study assessed what

culminate the aftermaths of infidelity as expressed by literate king class women in Lagos State. In this research, the perception of women who can read and write (literate) and her working in either private or public establishments (working-class) in Lagos State was sought to reveal the aftermaths of infidelity.

1.1 Theoretical Basis of the Study

1.1.1 Park's Theory

Mark, Janssen, and Milhausen (2011) submitted that individuals have expectations of marriage. They tend to conceive in their minds what they stand to experience in marriage. Similarly, they examine and weigh their pros and cons before they settle with their spouses that is, what will they benefit in terms of happiness, growth, money, children among others after getting married to their spouses (Hasen, 1987). After marriage, this may not work out the way couples have conceived the idea of marriage. The higher the expectation level, the less one is happy in marriage (Mark et al., 2011). The happenings of marriage are thus compared with preconceived ideas. The higher the congruent level, the more satisfied the couples will be, however, the lower the harmonious level, the lower the satisfaction level. According to Mark et al. (2011), individual couples that are not satisfied with the comparison seek outside marriage for satisfaction; this leads to violation of marital vows. In the end, the happiness they seek outside marriage later generate hatred and discord in the family and many at times, it leads to divorce.

1.1.2 Maslow Theory

Maslow (1943) believed that happiness and satisfaction ensue from self-fulfillment. Maslow believed that human pleasure is enhanced by fulfilling the needs of food, shelter, protection, loving and be loved, self-esteem, sense of acceptance, among others. Abraham made use of insights derived from the theories of Skinner, Freud, Jung and Fromm. This theorist focused on human's instincts and human's desire for happiness. Abraham submitted that happiness is dependent on self-actualization. Furthermore, Maslow (1987) opined that individuals strive to feel among, to succeed, to be the best among peers, to be confident and be free psychologically-happiness, to be talented. A deviation or inability to achieve all these brings unhappiness. This theory implies that couples strive to be loved, be accepted; they strive for companionship and friendship with their spouses. When they can achieve all these, they are happy and satisfied. Anything contrary to this will mean that couples result in infidelity to seek love and acceptance outside marriage, which they often end up regretting. Many of the cheating partners later realized that the happiness they are seeking outside is right in their homes.

1.1.3 Need Theory

McClelland (1960) propounded this theory after that of Maslow. McClelland believed that all human beings have needs that they are motivated for their actualization. People's needs are based on their culture, belief, religion, gender, educational status, age, ethnic group and the experience they had. The requirements are of three types (1) achievement: the motivation to progress and succeed in all endeavours (2) power: the motivation to attain the position of power, to control others (3) affiliation: the reason to belong, to be accepted and loved. By all means, individual couples are motivated to meet these needs, inability to meet these needs in marriage, makes the spouse(s) approach other partners usually a concubine to help them meet these needs (McClelland, 1960). It is, however, worrisome that the satisfaction they derive from the concubines are short-lived, as many of them end up feeling guilty and ashamed of their actions.

1.2 Research Question

1. What are the aftermaths of infidelity as expressed by literate working-class women in Lagos metropolis?

1.3 Hypotheses

1. There is no significant difference in the aftermaths of infidelity as expressed by the literate working-class women in Lagos State based on age.
2. There is no significant difference in the aftermaths of infidelity as expressed by the literate working-class women in Lagos State based on marriage type.

2.0 RESEARCH DESIGN

This study focused on the aftermaths of infidelity as expressed by literate working-class women in Lagos State; hence, the descriptive survey method was adopted. All married adults in Lagos State, Nigeria constituted the population for the study and it was estimated at 4,394,480 while literate working-class women in selected Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Lagos State formed the target population. Using The Research Advisor (2006), at 5.0% margin of error and 10% confidence level, a total of 384 respondents was recommended. A three-stage sampling procedure was adopted. At stage 1, the researchers adopted the simple random sampling technique to select 5 LGAs (Surulere, Lagos Island, Lagos Mainland, Apapa, and Ikeja Local Government Areas) in Lagos State. At stage 2, purposive sampling technique was employed to select five establishments that literate women dominate as workers in Lagos State (public and

private schools, local government headquarters, clinics, governmental and non-governmental organizations) that were chosen from the LGAs earlier chosen. Furthermore, the simple random sampling technique was again employed to select 76 literate working-class women in each of the five chosen establishments in Lagos State. This procedure led to the selection of 380 respondents.

The researchers made use of a researcher-designed instrument titled Aftermaths of Infidelity Questionnaire (AIQ). AIQ, which was derived from the literature reviewed; it consisted of 20 items and has two sections; sections A and B. Section A was based on eliciting demographic information of the respondents. AIQ was validated by five experts from the University of Ilorin while its reliability was established through the test re-test reliability method; a coefficient of 0.74 was obtained. AIQ was patterned after four points Likert-type rating scale ranging from Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree with a scoring of 4-1. The mean score is 2.5 (i.e. $4+3+2+1/4$) therefore, in section B of AIQ, the mean scores between 2.5 and above; indicated the aftermaths of infidelity as expressed by literate working-class women in Lagos State. Similarly, a score of 50% and above indicated the same.

3.0 ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Results

3.1.1 Demographic Information

Out of the 300 participants that responded to the questionnaire completely, 62 (20.7%) of the respondents were between 18-27 years, 86 (28.7%) were between 28-37 years, 97 (32.3%) were between 38-47 years while, 55 (18.3%) were between 48 years and above. Similarly, 218 (&2.7%) of the respondents were from monogamous family while, 82 (27.3%) of the respondents were from polygamous family.

Table 1: Mean and rank order on the aftermaths of infidelity as expressed by literate working class women in Lagos state

Item No.	In my own opinion, the consequences of infidelity as expressed by literate working class women are	Mean	SA/A	D/SD	Rank
3	Divorce	3.60	84%	16%	1 st
16	unhappiness in the family	3.45	83%	17%	2 nd
14	contraction of sexually transmitted diseases	3.42	82%	18%	3 rd
5	emotional instability	3.40	80%	20%	4 th
6	hatred in the family	3.40	80%	20%	4 th
12	unwanted pregnancy	3.38	79%	21%	6 th
7	distrust and suspicion in the family	3.86	78%	22%	7 th
3	psychological trauma in children	3.35	77%	23%	8 th
13	giving birth to illegitimate children	3.34	76%	24%	9 th
6	feeling of abandonment by the children	3.32	75%	25%	10 th
7	low self-esteem in children	3.30	74%	26%	11 th
18	guilt and shame	3.20	72%	28%	12 th
2	spousal homicide	3.17	70%	30%	13 th
1	spousal battering	3.16	69%	31%	14 th
8	female child waywardness	3.14	67%	33%	15 th
11	stigmatization of the children	3.12	65%	35%	16 th
14	poor performance of the children at school	3.08	63%	37%	17 th
1	development of anti-social behaviour among the children	3.06	62%	38%	18 th
20	inability of children to form a lasting relationship	3.04	61%	39%	19 th
4	problem in child raising and having children's loyalty	3.00	60%	40%	20 th

Table 1 showed the rank order of the aftermath of infidelity as expressed by literate working-class women in Lagos State. The table indicates that item 3, which stated that “divorce” ranked 1st with a mean score of 3.60 with 84% of the respondents agreeing with the statement. Item 9, which stated that “unhappiness in the family” ranked 2nd with a mean score of 3.45 with 83% of the respondents agreeing with the statement. Similarly, item 10, which stated that sexually transmitted disease ranked 3rd with a mean score of 3.42 with 82% of the respondents agreeing with the statement. Others are item 5; emotional instability with mean score 3.40 item 6; hatred in the marriage with mean score 3.40, which both ranked 4th with 80% of the respondents agreeing with the statements respectively. The table shows that all the items have a mean score above 2.5. Considering the percentage of respondents agreeing to the statements, it can be concluded that the aftermaths of infidelity as expressed by literate working-class

women in Lagos state are divorce, unhappiness in the family, sexually transmitted diseases, emotional instability, and hatred in the family among others.

3.2 Hypotheses Testing

Hypothesis one:

There is no significant difference in the aftermaths of infidelity as expressed by literate working class women in Lagos state based on age.

Table 2: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) showing the difference in the aftermath of infidelity as expressed by literate working class women in Lagos state based on age

Source	SS	df	Mean Squares	Cal. F-value	Crit. F-value	P-value
Between groups	118.149	4	29.530	0.55	2.37	0.11
Within groups	15772.631	295	53.460			
Total	16960.780	299				

The analysis of this hypothesis was analyzed by Analysis of Variance (Table 2). The result of the analysis showed a calculated f-ratio of 0.55 and a critical f-ratio of 2.37. Since the calculated f-ratio is less than the critical f-ratio; the hypothesis which stated that there is no significant difference in the aftermaths of infidelity as expressed by literate working class women in Lagos State based on age is accepted.

Hypothesis Two: *There is no significant difference in the aftermaths of infidelity as expressed by literate working class women in Lagos State based on marriage type.*

Table 3: Mean standard deviation and t-value on the aftermath of infidelity as expressed by literate working class women in Lagos state based on marriage type

Variables	N	Mean	SD	df	Cal. t-value	Crit. t-value	P-value
Monogamy	218	65.33	9.40				
Polygamy	82	65.18	7.87	298	0.06	1.96	0.15

The analysis of this hypothesis was analyzed by t-test (Table 3). The result of the analysis showed the calculated t-value of 0.06 and a critical t-value of 1.96. Since the calculated t-value is less than the critical t-value, the hypothesis which stated that there is no significant difference

on the consequences of infidelity as expressed by literate working class women in Lagos state based on marriage type is accepted.

3.3 Discussion

In answering the main question of this study, which is ‘What are the aftermaths of infidelity as expressed by literate working-class women? The result of this study revealed that divorce, unhappiness in the family, sexual transmitted diseases, emotional instability, unwanted pregnancy, distrust and suspicion in the family, and psychological trauma in children, among others, are some of the consequences of infidelity as expressed by literate working-class women in Lagos state. Divorce tops the list of aftermaths of infidelity as expressed by the respondents. This implies that the partner being cheated may not wish to continue with the cheating partner; hence, the marriage will be dissolved. On the other hand, the cheating partner may be engrossed with the concubine and then call for divorce. Consistent with this finding is that of Scott, Rhodes, Stanley, Allen, and Markman (2013) which showed that divorce ranked first as the consequence of infidelity. This finding also agrees with Amato and Previti (2003) in the research of marital infidelity and divorce which revealed that infidelity results in 65 per cent of divorce cases in Nigeria. The study indicated that only 35 per cent of couples remain together after the discovery of an adulterous affair. Amato and Previti (2003), therefore, concluded that the aftermaths of infidelity are divorce, psychological threats in children, unhappiness and lack of trust among couples. Likewise, the finding tallies with the theory of Mark et al. (2011) which says. However, married individuals seek the happiness that they cannot get in marriage through infidelity, but in the end, the act can lead to divorce. Again, the finding of the study tallies with that of Zapien’s (2016) research finding which revealed that the topmost aftermaths of infidelity are divorce.

Second on the list of the aftermaths of infidelity as revealed in this study is unhappiness in the family. This unhappiness could be among the children or the partner being cheated. Despair is not unlikely, since the cheating partner will care less about his/her partner and the children. This finding corroborates the finding of Dean (2011), whose finding revealed that infidelity could lead to trauma and grieving in the cheated partner. Likewise, this finding is in line with the submission of Maslow (1987) that despite that the cheating individuals want to feel loved, accepted, they are seeking happiness, they end being unhappy. In the same manner, this finding tallies with that of Cario and O Leary (2000), Baucom and Synder (2004) and Leeker and Carlozzi (2012) whose findings revealed that infidelity has debilitating consequences such as dissatisfaction, unhappiness, and lack of trust.

Also, the finding revealed that contraction of sexually transmitted diseases, this could be due to having multiple sex partners, emotional stability, due to unhappiness, hatred in the family and unwanted pregnancy, distrust and suspicion in the family, guilt and shame, spousal homicide, spousal battering. This findings are in line with the Need theory that theorized that individuals' needs for affiliation led to infidelity; nonetheless, the satisfaction that a cheating partner derive are short-lived and emotional instability, feeling of guilt and shame follow. Likewise, the finding is in line with the conclusion reached by Schereen, Appellaniz, and Wagner (2018) in a study that infidelity is prevalent and lead to a high level of suffering. Similarly, this finding is consistent with that of Dupree, White, Olsen, and Lafleur (2007) whose finding showed that infidelity could lead to spousal abuse, domestic violence and death.

Again, respondents expressed that the aftermaths of infidelity include giving birth to illegitimate children, feeling of abandonment in the family and low self-esteem in the children. These have been theorized by Maslow (1987), McClelland (1960) and Mark et al. (2011) that spouses engage in infidelity because they seek power, satisfaction and happiness yet, they end up unhappy due to the enormity of the psychological trauma that the cheating partner face and subject their partners and children too. Furthermore, the findings showed that female child waywardness, stigmatization of the children, children poor performance at school, development of anti-social behaviour among the school children, the inability of the children to form lasting relationships, problems in raising and having children's loyalty are part of the aftermaths of infidelity. All these are most likely since the cheating partner will not have enough time to care, guide, guard and monitor the children's actions. Many of the children use their discretion to behave, which are most times faulty, some rely on peers; development of anti-social behaviour and some feel disappointed since their parent is not there when he/she is needed most. Such a parent is never involved in the children's academic pursuit. More so, when the children get to know about the parent infidelity, they feel life-long pain and betrayal, which often lead to problems in raising and having children's loyalty. This finding is consistent with the findings of Harold, Shelton, Geoke-Morey, and Cummings (2004) that infidelity affects parent-child relationship such that the relation is impaired and children could develop maladaptive behaviours.

Similarly, Ablow, Measelle, Cowan, and Cowan (2009) found that infidelity gives children a big blow that they may never recover. Besides, this study tallies with that of Bargarozz (2007) that children whose parent engages in infidelity have low emotional development and low-income family relationship. In all, Zapien (2017) affirmed that infidelity is common and result in difficulties for individuals, families and society. The reason for this

finding could be that infidelity has been a long time cankerworm that ruins marriage; the respondents are married; hence they will be able to express the aftermaths of engaging in the act.

Hypothesis one stated that there is no significant difference in the aftermaths of infidelity as expressed by literate working-class women in Lagos State based on age. The testing of this hypothesis showed that there was no significant difference in the aftermaths of infidelity as expressed by literate working-class women in Lagos State based on age. This implies that literate working-class women did not perceive the consequences of infidelity differently. This finding corroborates that of Atkins et al. (2001) who concluded that age of the respondents did not influence the expression of the aftermaths of infidelity and Lammers et al. (2011) whose finding showed that age does not affect women's expression on the causes and consequences of infidelity. However, this finding is not in support of the conclusions of Leeker and Carlozzi (2012) and that of Barta and Kiene (2005) which showed that age of women affects their expression of infidelity; women of different ages express the issue of infidelity differently. Again, the finding is not in line with the theory of McClelland (1960), whose theory stated that age could influence one's expression of infidelity. The reason for this finding could be that all the respondents are women, despite that there are differences in their ages, their experiences of, and exposure to the commonness of infidelity in the society might influence their expressions of the aftermaths of infidelity.

Hypothesis two stated that there is no significant difference in the aftermaths of infidelity as expressed by literate working-class women in Lagos State based on the type of marriage. The testing of this hypothesis also showed that there was no significant difference in the consequences of infidelity as expressed by literate working-class women in Lagos state based on marriage type. This implies that literate working-class women did not perceive the consequences of infidelity differently despite their differences in their types of marriage. The finding of this study is in line with that of Gordon et al. (2004) that family type has no influence on the respondents' expressions of the aftermaths of infidelity. Besides, this finding is consistent with Whisman and Synder (2007), whose studies concluded that family type does not influence the expressions of the causes and consequences of extramarital affairs. The finding of this study nonetheless negates the findings of Bargarozz (2007), who found that family types and dynamics influence the expressions of the consequences of marital infidelity. The reason for this result might be that the respondents are all married women, and irrespective of the type of marriage they are, due to the prevalence of marital infidelity can perceive and express the aftermaths of infidelity.

4.0 CONCLUSION

As expressed by the literate working-class women in Lagos State, Nigeria, the aftermaths of infidelity are enormous and devastating. Furthermore, age and marriage type did not influence the expression of the literate working-class women in Lagos State on infidelity. Based on these findings, it is recommended that counsellors in Nigeria and other regions like Nusantara, should enlighten couples on the aftermaths of infidelity; they should keep them abreast of the adverse effects which infidelity has on the home, and the psychological trauma children will go through. Counsellors should also encourage couples to work out their differences and resolve issues before it escalates. Counsellors should also help couples who are going through the aftermaths of infidelity to ensure their wellbeing, and foster peace and forgiveness among themselves as this might save the marriage. Counsellors should organize continuous counselling and enlightenment programmes for couples so that they could be constantly aware of the aftermaths of infidelity; this could help in curbing marital infidelity.

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