

INFIDELITY PREDISPOSITION AMONG SOCIO-OCCUPATION GROUPS IN OMAMBALA, ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT: *The study is on infidelity predisposition among socio-occupations in Anambra State, Nigeria. Infidelity seems to increase with social relations and contact of modernization (for example networking and communication). In Nigeria, empirical studies on infidelity seems rare. This study is therefore worthwhile testing 5 hypotheses using 99 participants of average 36.87 years. Sample clusters were gender (male = 57, female = 42); marital status (married = 68, single = 26, divorced = 1, widowed = 2, separated = 1); education level (BSc/HND = 17, OND/NCE = 32, SSC = 42, FSLC = 8); occupation (civil service = 44, business = 20, education = 7, artisans = 2, farming = 6, students = 20). State of origin (Anambra = 93, Delta = 2, Enugu = 4); religion (Catholic = 94, traditional = 1, none 4). Sampling methods were cluster and incidental techniques. Measuring instrument was the "Infidelity Scale" by Nwankwo (2025) measured on 5-point format of Strongly Disagree (1), Disagree (2), Sometimes (3), Agree (4), and Strongly Agree (5). The overall convergent validity of the Infidelity Scale = 0.95, Cronbach alpha reliability = 0.79 (Standardized Cronbach alpha = 0.90), and norm = 72.5, with 10 minutes response. Design was cross-sectional and statistics ANCOVA. Findings show gender, marital status, education, and occupation are predisposing factors to infidelity. Recommendation was for personality of self-discipline to be developed by individuals to reduce infidelity across socio-occupations.*

KEYWORDS : Infidelity Predisposition, Socio-Occupation Groups, Omambala, Anambra State.

INTRODUCTION

As the society modernizes, social interactions and relations become complex and uncontrollable. Among the uncontrollable characteristics of social mix is the issues of infidelity among people. Infidelity is a violation of a couple's emotional or sexual exclusivity that commonly results in feelings of anger, sexual jealousy, and rivalry. Infidelity is synonyms include non-consensual non-monogamy, cheating, straying, adultery, being unfaithful, two-timing, or having an affair. Someone guilty of infidelity is cheating on a spouse or romantic partner. A common cause of divorce and heartbreak is infidelity. Fidel means "faithful" or "loyal." Infidelity is therefore the act of being unfaithful. Couples need to define for themselves what constitutes infidelity in the context of their relationship (Sachdev, 2024).

Opportunistic infidelity occurs when a person is in love and attached to their partner, but succumbs to their sexual desire for someone else. Typically, this type of cheating is driven by situational circumstances or opportunity, risk-taking behaviour, and alcohol or drug use. As social psychologist DiDonato (2024) says, "Not every act of infidelity is premeditated and driven by dissatisfaction with a current relationship. Maybe they were drinking or in some other way

thrown into an opportunity they didn't anticipate." While this is certainly not an excuse for the behaviour, it can help you understand why it happened.

This type of infidelity is based on the fear that resisting someone's sexual advances will result in rejection. People may have feelings of sexual desire, love, and attachment for a partner, but still end up cheating because they have a strong need for approval. It's their need for acceptance that causes them to act in ways that are at odds with their other feelings. In other words, some people cheat not because they want to cheat, but because they need the approval that comes along with having the attention of others.

"Sometimes (but not always) a deficit in an existing relationship leads people to have extradyadic affairs," says DiDonato (2024). This type of infidelity occurs when the cheater has little emotional attachment to their partner. They may be committed to their relationship and making it work, but they long for an intimate, loving connection with someone else. More than likely, if married, their commitment to the marriage will prevent them from ever leaving their spouse, but their desire to cheat will continue until they deeply sort out their issues with their partner.

This type of infidelity occurs when people experience genuine love and sexual desire for more than one person at a time. Despite our idealistic notions of having only one true love, it is possible to experience intense romantic love for multiple people at the same time. While such situations are emotionally possible, they are very complicated and tend to create a lot of anxiety and stress. In this case, cheating partners, in their attempt not to cause anyone harm, often end up hurting everyone.

This type of infidelity occurs when a person is in a committed relationship but has no feelings for their partner. There is no sexual desire, love, or attachment, only a sense of obligation keeping the couple together. "Lacking love and lacking commitment to a current romantic partner are both tied to general feelings of relationship dissatisfaction," (DiDonato, 2024).

These people justify cheating by telling themselves they have the right to look for what they are not getting in their present relationship. Unfulfilled sexual desires can easily come into play here. "Maybe in their established relationship, individuals aren't engaging in the frequency of sex, style of sex, or specific sexual behaviours that they want," DiDonato (2024). "This can contribute to their reasons to cheat."

For those engaging in commemorative infidelity, it is important, for the sake of appearances, that their primary relationship last. The cheater does not want to be viewed as a failure, so they stay in an unhappy relationship and seek to fulfill their needs outside of their union.

Statement of Problem

There are many Court cases of divorce in Nigeria. Even with the prevailing incidence of sexual transmitted diseases (infections) STD/I, infidelity in relationship still seems very high. My observations show many people known to me who exhibit unfaithfulness to their partners in relationship. Surprisingly, infidelity as observed by the researcher seems to be exhibited by all classes of people, like the married, single, divorced, widowed, and separated. Again, infidelity seems to be witnessed across all categories of occupations.

Before, it is believed that infidelity could be exhibited by single persons. There is also the notion that the male gender is more predisposed to infidelity than the female gender. These types of presumptions are also made across various

occupations and education attainments. There is also a seemingly presumption that the socio-economic misery and adversities could predispose all and sundry to infidelity just to survive the distress in the society.

Despite lines taken in the studies above, it seems studies are rare to dispel the conjectures that some socio-occupation groups exhibit more infidelity than others. This study is therefore very cogent as it examines infidelity predispositions among socio-occupation groups in Anambra State, Nigeria. The study will explore the types of infidelity exhibited by different socio-occupation groups. From the findings, recommendation are to be made on healthy intimate-partner relationship.

Purpose of Study

The aims of the study are to:

1. Investigate whether significant gender differences exist in infidelity.
2. Examine whether significant marital status differences exist in infidelity.
3. Explore the significant differences education attainment makes in people's infidelity.
4. Investigate significant differences occupation makes in people's infidelity.
5. Explore the significant interactions effects of gender, marital status, education, and occupation in people's infidelity.

Research Questions

Below are the research questions for the study

1. How significant are gender differences in infidelity?
2. How significant are marital status differences in infidelity?
3. In what ways are education attainment make significant differences in people's infidelity.
4. What are the significant differences that occupation makes in people's infidelity?
5. What are the significant interactions effects of gender, marital status, education, and occupation in people's infidelity?

Significance of the study

The study is relevant on the following grounds.

1. The study will be very relevant in marriage counselling. Infidelity is one of the major causes of breakdown of marriage. So, knowledge of infidelity will go a long way in saving marriages.
2. The study will make empirical contribution to knowledge. This will help resolve a lot of conjectures about groups variations on exhibition of infidelity.

Operational Definition of Terms

1. **Infidelity Predisposition:** This is the tendency of a partner to have extra-relationship affairs thereby cheating on the partner. It is measured with Nwankwo (2014) "Infidelity Scale" under five dimensions of Opportunistic Infidelity, Obligatory/Instrumental Infidelity, Romantic Infidelity, Conflicted Infidelity, and Commemorative Infidelity.
2. **Socio-Occupation Groups:** These are identifiable groups in the population capable of exerting behavioural influences on the samples. In the study, socio-occupation groups are gender, marital status, education level, and occupation.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Empirical Review

Hackathorn and Harvey (2011) conducted a study to predict sexual double standards that occur in reactions to computer-mediated infidelity. A total of 115 undergraduate psychology students, 53 males and 62 females, participated. The average age was 19.97 and the majority of participants were Caucasian and heterosexual. Results showed that males are more forgiving when other males commit cyber infidelity, and vice-versa; females are more forgiving toward females committing cyber infidelity. Results also indicated that both genders are more likely to view the opposite sex committing cyber infidelity as more threatening or upsetting.

One of the goals Schmitt and Buss (2001) was to determine the frequency of mate poaching. Results from a sample of American undergraduates, with an average age of 20 years and a standard deviation of 2.5 years, indicated that poaching is a prevalent phenomenon. For instance, 64% of men and 49% of women reported having, at some time, attempted to poach someone as a short-term mate, 83% of

men and 81% of women reported that, at some time, 11 someone had attempted to poach them as a long-term mate and 43% of men and 49% of women reported that, at some time, someone had successfully poached them as a long-term mate. Similar results were found among a sample of mature individuals, who ranged from 30 to 65 years, and had an average age of 41 years and a standard deviation of 8.7 years. For instance, 60% of men and 38% of women reported having, at some time, attempted to poach someone as a short-term mate, 93% of men and 82% of women reported that, at some time, someone had attempted to poach them as a long-term mate and 53% of men and 41% of women reported that, at some time, someone had successfully poached a partner of theirs as a long-term mate.

Davies, Shackelford and Hass (2006a) investigated whether significant percentages of individuals would still report having experience with poaching if they were presented with a survey whose devising was informed by a definition of poaching that more clearly demarcated poaching from general romantic attraction (i.e. the attracting of unattached individuals), than that which informed the devising of the surveys presented to participants in the two earlier studies. To be considered a poacher, the pursuing individual must be aware that the targeted individual is already in a romantic relationship and that this relationship must be considered by all parties (poacher, poached, and poachee) to be exclusive or monogamous, such that any sexual relations outside of this relationship are viewed as violating it. The definition formulated by Davies et al. was, "Mate poaching occurs when an individual has, or attempts to have, sexual relations with a person that the former individual knows is already in an exclusive relationship with someone else" (p. 9).

As expected, out of a possible 10 comparisons (five categories across two temporal contexts of poaching.), nine of the percentages of men in Davies et al. (2006a) who reported some experience with poaching were lower than the corresponding percentages in Schmitt and Buss (2001) ($p < .05$ by the binomial sign test). Four of these differences were significant ($z > 1.96$). For instance, 70% of men in Davies et al., as compared to 95% of men in Schmitt and Buss, reported that, at some time, someone had attempted to poach them as a short-term mate,

19% of men in Davies et al., as compared to 43% of men in Schmitt and Buss, reported that, at some time, someone had successfully poached them as a long-term mate.

Further, seven of the 10 percentages of women in Davies et al. were lower than the corresponding percentages in Schmitt and Buss. Three of these differences were significant ($z > 1.96$). For instance, 27% of 13 women in Davies et al., as compared to 63% of women in Schmitt and Buss, reported having, at some time, attempted to poach someone as a long-term mate and 64% of women in Davies et al., as compared to 79% of women in Schmitt and Buss, reported that, at some time, someone had attempted to poach their partner as a long-term mate.

In addition, each of the six percentages for men in Davies et al. (2006a) was lower than the corresponding percentages in Schmitt et al. (2004) ($p < .05$ by the binomial sign test). Four of these differences were significant ($z > 1.96$). For instance, 50% of men in Davies et al., as compared to 63% of men in Schmitt et al., reported having, at some time, attempted to poach someone as a long-term mate, and 19% of men in Davies et al., as compared to 52% of men in Schmitt et al., reported that, at some time, someone had successfully poached them as a long-term mate. Five of the six percentages for women in Davies et al. were lower than the corresponding percentages in Schmitt et al. Two of these differences were significant ($z > 1.96$). 27% of women in Davies et al., as compared to 52% of women in Schmitt et al., reported having, at some time, attempted to poach someone as a long-term mate; and 19% of women in Davies et al., as compared to 48% of women in Schmitt et al., reported that, at some time, someone had successfully poached them as a long-term mate.

Participants in Davies et al. (2006b) were 215 undergraduates at a public university in the southeastern United States (125 men, M age = 19.9 years, $SD = 3.2$; 90 women, $M = 19.8$, $SD = 4.2$). Participants completed a survey that asked them to rate the likelihood that several benefits and costs exclusive to poaching would, respectively, motivate them to poach or deter them from poaching. Participants provided ratings on a 10-point scale, with 0 = Definitely No, 4 = Probably No, 5 = Probably Yes, and 9 = Definitely Yes. A rating of “5” or greater for a benefit was interpreted as indicating that the benefit would motivate the participant to attempt

to attract the attached individual instead of the unattached individual (i.e., the benefit would motivate the participant to poach).

A rating of “5” or greater for a cost was interpreted as indicating that the cost would motivate the participant to attempt to attract the unattached individual instead of the attached individual (i.e., the cost would deter the participant from poaching). Results first considered the mean ratings provided by men and women in Davies et al. (2006b) for the benefits and costs of poaching. Next, we present additional findings regarding sex differences relating to ratings of benefits and costs. Table 1 presents mean ratings and standard deviations by sex for all benefits and costs. The results of all statistical tests were evaluated at $\alpha = .05$ (two-tailed). Mean Ratings for Benefits and Costs

Specific to Poaching Both men and women gave all benefits associated with poaching a mean rating of less than 5.0, indicating that none of the benefits would motivate them to poach. The mean ratings 19 provided by both men and women for the majority of the benefits were between 2.0 and 3.0. In contrast, the mean ratings given by both men and women for the majority (13 of 19) of the costs associated with poaching were above 5.0, indicating that these costs would deter them from poaching. Men gave a mean rating below 5.0 for five of the costs. Women gave a mean rating below 5.0 for three of the costs.

Women rated the “danger of being physically harmed by the partner of the poached” a greater disincentive to poaching than did men, across all three temporal contexts: for a short-term sexual partner [$t(212) = -2.14$, $p < .05$]; for a long-term sexual partner [$t(212) = -2.17$, $p < .05$]; for a new monogamous relationship [$t(212) = -3.05$, $p < .05$]. Throughout human evolutionary history, physical violence has been a central feature of intra-male competition for mates, and is the primary reason why men have evolved to, typically, have a greater body mass than women (Geary, 1998). Any men who displayed a fear of being physically harmed in intra-male competition would have given their same-sex rivals a psychological advantage in such contests and, consequently, are likely to have had a relatively low reproductive success.

Accordingly, men are expected to have evolved a psychology that causes them to be less likely to experience fear in response to threats of

violence or more likely to self-deceive or to bluff about their fear. Hence, the lower ratings given by men. Men gave a higher rating than women for the benefit, “challenge of trying to attract someone away from their partner,” as a short-term sexual partner [$t(213) = 3.33, p < .05$] and for a long-term sexual affair [$t(213) = 2.00, p < .05$]. Men also gave a higher rating than women for the benefit of gaining an “ego boost” from successfully poaching someone as a short-term sexual partner [$t(213) = 2.74, p < .05$]. These findings might have been predicted through the following evolutionary reasoning.

Women gave a higher rating than men for the cost “suffer shame and gain a bad reputation” if one becomes known to have poached someone, across all temporal contexts: for a short-term sexual partner [$t(209) = -3.22, p < .05$]; for a long-term sexual affair [$t(208) = -3.49, p < .05$]; for a monogamous long-term relationship [$t(207) = -3.64, p < .05$]. Evolutionary psychological meta-theory predicts

that, due to paternity uncertainty, men will have an evolved psychology that motivates them to avoid long-term commitments with women who have a reputation for being sexually promiscuous (Buss, 1989).

HYPOTHESES

The following hypotheses were tested in the study.

1. There will be no significant gender differences in infidelity.
2. There will be no significant marital status differences in infidelity.
3. Education attainment will not make significant difference in people’s infidelity.
4. Occupation will not make significant difference in people’s infidelity.
5. Interactions of gender, marital status, education, and occupation will not make significant difference in people’s infidelity.

METHOD

Participants: The participants for the study were as presented below.

Table 1: Participants’ Distribution

Participants’ Category	Sample Cluster	N
GENDER	Male	57
	Female	42
	TOTAL	99
MARITAL STATUS	Married	68
	Single	26
	Divorced	1
	Widowed	2
	Separated	2
	TOTAL	99
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL	BSc/HND	17
	OND/NCE	32
	SSC	42
	FSLC	8
	TOTAL	99
OCCUPATION	Civil Servant	44
	Business	20
	Education	7
	Artisan	2
	Farming	6
	Student	20
	TOTAL	99
STATE	Anambra State	93
	Delta State	2
	Enugu State	4
	TOTAL	99
RELIGION	Catholic	94
	Traditional	1
	None	4
	TOTAL	99

Source: Questionnaire primary data

The average age of the participants was 36.87 years. Table 1 shows that a total of 99 participants were sampled for the study through hybrid sampling of cluster and incidental techniques. The sampled clusters were gender (male = 57, female = 42); marital status (married = 68, single = 26, divorced = 1, widowed = 2, separated = 1); education level (BSc/HND = 17, OND/NCE = 32, SSC = 42, FSLC = 8); occupation (civil service = 44, business = 20, education = 7, artisans = 2, farming = 6, students = 20). State of origin (Anambra = 93, Delta = 2, Enugu = 4); religion (Catholic = 94, traditional = 1, none = 4). The incidental sampling was based on participants' availability and willingness to participate in the study.

Instrument: The instrument for data collection was "Infidelity Scale" by Nwankwo (2025). The instrument was measured on 5-point Likert (1932) format of Strongly Disagree (1), Disagree (2), Sometimes (3), Agree (4), and Strongly Agree (5). The instrument had content and convergent validity with sexual satisfaction scale using Nigerian samples. The instrument had five dimensions namely Opportunistic Infidelity (convergent validity = 0.96, reliability = 0.79, norm = 17.5), Obligatory Infidelity (convergent validity = 0.94, reliability = 0.69, norm = 12.5), Romantic Infidelity (convergent validity = 0.96, reliability = 0.67, norm = 12.5), Conflicted Infidelity (convergent validity = 0.92, reliability = 0.91, norm = 15.0), and Commemorative Infidelity (convergent validity = 0.94, reliability = 0.76, norm = 15.0). The overall convergent validity of the Infidelity Scale = 0.95, Cronbach alpha reliability = 0.79 (Standardized Cronbach alpha = 0.90), and norm = 72.5.

Procedure: The study was conducted among the residents of Anambra State, Nigeria. The participants were sampled from communities in Omambala sociocultural part of Anambra State, Nigeria. The participants were reached and the questionnaire administered on them in their communities or environment. Two research assistants were used in the study. The instrument took about 10 minutes to be responded to per participant. The researchers had to exercise so much patience as they had to answer a lot of questions from participants and make a lot of

explanations. The instruments were collected back after being responded to. Before responding to the instrument, the participants were requested to fill up a consent form that their participations in the study were voluntary and freely. The study and its instrument could have elicited some reserved memories of sexual relations or infidelity, which the researchers could not do anything to assuage. To administer the instrument, efforts were made to access the relevant clusters of the population.

The study adopted hybrid sampling (Gerlich, 2023) also known as multi-system sampling (Nwankwo et al, 2020) consisting a combination of two or more sampling methods. Incidental and cluster sampling methods were combined. Incidental sampling used only those that were available and willing to participate in the study. Cluster sampling sampled from various groups like gender, marital status, education attainment, State of origin, occupation, and religion of the participants.

Design/Statistics: The design for the study is cross-sectional design. It a type of design that is applicable when the data are collected across various clusters of a static population. A researcher who is interested in a certain subset of the population might use a cross-sectional design to gather and analyze the relevant data. A cross-sectional study is a type of research design in which you collect data from many different individuals at a single point in time (Thomas, 2024). In cross-sectional research, you observe variables without influencing them (Thomas, 2024). This makes the design most appropriate when a study involves a survey. The statistics for the study was Analysis of Covariance (ANCOVA). The Analysis of Covariance (ANCOVA) combines regression analysis and analysis of variance procedures for multiple dependent variables by more factor variables and covariates. The factor variables divide the population into groups (Posodobitev, 2024). Various groups as captured in table 1 constituted the different independent variables (IV), while infidelity and its various dimensions constitute the dependent variable(s).

RESULT

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics Infidelity Predisposition and Socio-Occupation

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	SD	Skewness	Std. Error	Kurtosis	Std. Error
GENDER	99	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
MARITAL STATUS	99	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL	99	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
AGE	99	20.00	65.00	36.8687	11.63882	.650	.243	-.209	.481
OCCUPATION	99	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
STATE	99	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
RELIGION	99	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
CHRISTIAN DENOMINATION	99	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Opportunistic Infidelity	99	10.00	30.00	18.8889	4.31393	-.154	.243	-.225	.481
Obligatory/Instrumental Infidelity	99	7.00	21.00	14.7475	3.59803	-.147	.243	-.631	.481
Romantic Infidelity	99	8.00	22.00	14.3636	3.35168	.360	.243	.019	.481
Conflicted Infidelity	99	10.00	30.00	19.1717	6.66094	.277	.243	-1.211	.481
Commemorative Infidelity	99	10.00	26.00	17.4646	4.68892	.370	.243	-1.079	.481
INFIDELITY BEHAVIOUR	99	53.00	111.00	85.0000	18.48220	-.032	.243	-1.503	.481
Valid N (listwise)	99								

Source: Questionnaire primary data

Table 2 shows the means of the “Infidelity” (85 of 111), “Opportunistic Infidelity” (18.89 of 30), “Obligatory Infidelity” (14.75 of 21), “Romantic Infidelity” (14.36 of 22), “Conflicted Infidelity” (17.17 of 30), and “Commemorative Infidelity”

(17.46 of 26). The response was skewed toward low performance. The kurtoses were low and negative below the 3-point kurtosis benchmark, indicating a sort of normative performance among the participants.

Table 3A: Tests of Between-Subjects Effects Infidelity Predisposition and Socio-Occupation

Source	Dependent Variable	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Partial Eta Squared	Noncent. Parameter	Observed Power
AGE	INFIDELITY/CHEATING BEHAVIOUR	15.645	1	15.645	.169	.682	.003	.169	.069
	Opportunistic Infidelity	.634	1	.634	.058	.811	.001	.058	.056
	Obligatory/Instrumental Infidelity	1.409	1	1.409	.212	.647	.003	.212	.074
	Romantic Infidelity	5.771	1	5.771	1.166	.284	.017	1.166	.186
	Conflicted Infidelity	11.661	1	11.661	1.500	.225	.022	1.500	.227
GEN.	Commemorative Infidelity	13.773	1	13.773	2.050	.157	.030	2.050	.292
	INFIDELITY/CHEATING BEHAVIOUR	54.501	1	54.501	.588	.446	.009	.588	.118
	Opportunistic Infidelity	1.290	1	1.290	.118	.733	.002	.118	.063
	Obligatory/Instrumental Infidelity	48.179	1	48.179	7.236*	.009	.099	7.236	.755
	Romantic Infidelity	6.248	1	6.248	1.262	.265	.019	1.262	.198
M.STA.	Conflicted Infidelity	1.515	1	1.515	.195	.660	.003	.195	.072
	Commemorative Infidelity	8.447	1	8.447	1.257	.266	.019	1.257	.197
	INFIDELITY/CHEATING BEHAVIOUR	1431.822	4	357.955	3.865*	.007	.190	15.460	.877
	Opportunistic Infidelity	186.925	4	46.731	4.263*	.004	.205	17.054	.909
	Obligatory/Instrumental Infidelity	48.125	4	12.031	1.807	.138	.099	7.228	.522
EDU.	Romantic Infidelity	218.646	4	54.662	11.044**	.000	.401	44.176	1.000
	Conflicted Infidelity	63.446	4	15.862	2.041	.099	.110	8.163	.580
	Commemorative Infidelity	93.434	4	23.358	3.477*	.012	.174	13.906	.835
	INFIDELITY/CHEATING BEHAVIOUR	786.224	3	262.075	2.830*	.045	.114	8.489	.654
	Opportunistic Infidelity	119.799	3	39.933	3.643*	.017	.142	10.930	.775
OCC.	Obligatory/Instrumental Infidelity	3.479	3	1.160	.174	.914	.008	.522	.081
	Romantic Infidelity	88.203	3	29.401	5.940**	.001	.213	17.821	.945
	Conflicted Infidelity	1.752	3	.584	.075	.973	.003	.225	.063
	Commemorative Infidelity	28.547	3	9.516	1.416	.246	.060	4.249	.359
	INFIDELITY/CHEATING BEHAVIOUR	6813.293	5	1362.659	14.713**	.000	.527	73.566	1.000
OCC.	Opportunistic Infidelity	201.151	5	40.230	3.670*	.005	.218	18.352	.908
	Obligatory/Instrumental Infidelity	94.197	5	18.839	2.829*	.022	.177	14.147	.807
	Romantic Infidelity	173.499	5	34.700	7.011**	.000	.347	35.055	.998
	Conflicted Infidelity	762.047	5	152.409	19.609**	.000	.598	98.046	1.000
	Commemorative Infidelity	480.131	5	96.026	14.292**	.000	.520	71.460	1.000

Source: Questionnaire primary data; * = p<0.05; p<0.001; GEN. = GENDER, M.STA = MARITAL STATUS, EDU. = EDUCATION, OCC. = OCCUPATION

Table 3B: Tests of Between-Subjects Effects Infidelity Predisposition and Socio-Occupation

Source	Dependent Variable	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Partial Eta Squared	Noncent. Parameter	Observed Power ^a
GEN *M.STA	INFIDELITY/CHEATING BEHAVIOUR	87.598	1	87.598	.946	.334	.014	.946	.160
	Opportunistic Infidelity	.495	1	.495	.045	.832	.001	.045	.055
	Obligatory/Instrumental Infidelity	6.528	1	6.528	.980	.326	.015	.980	.164
	Romantic Infidelity	14.404	1	14.404	2.910	.093	.042	2.910	.390
	Conflicted Infidelity	49.845	1	49.845	6.413*	.014	.089	6.413	.704
	Commemorative Infidelity	24.684	1	24.684	3.674*	.060	.053	3.674	.472
GEN * EDU	INFIDELITY/CHEATING BEHAVIOUR	5329.454	3	1776.485	19.181**	.000	.466	57.544	1.000
	Opportunistic Infidelity	255.660	3	85.220	7.775**	.000	.261	23.325	.985
	Obligatory/Instrumental Infidelity	123.483	3	41.161	6.182**	.001	.219	18.545	.953
	Romantic Infidelity	180.949	3	60.316	12.187**	.000	.356	36.560	1.000
	Conflicted Infidelity	592.499	3	197.500	25.410**	.000	.536	76.231	1.000
	Commemorative Infidelity	236.564	3	78.855	11.736**	.000	.348	35.209	.999

Source: Questionnaire primary data; * = $p < 0.05$; $p < 0.001$; GEN. = GENDER, M.STA = MARITAL STATUS, EDU. = EDUCATION, OCC. = OCCUPATION

Hypothesis One: It states that “there will be no significant gender differences in infidelity.” Table 3A showed that the hypothesis is rejected for gender and “Obligatory/Instrumental Infidelity” ($P < 0.009 < 0.05$, $F = 7.24$, $N = 99$, $df = 1;99$), indicating that there are significant gender differences in “Obligatory/Instrumental Infidelity”.

Hypothesis Two: It states that “there will be no significant marital status differences in infidelity.” Table 3A showed that the hypothesis is rejected for marital status and “Infidelity” ($P < 0.007 < 0.05$, $F = 3.87$, $N = 99$, $df = 1;99$), “Romantic Infidelity” ($P < 0.000 < 0.001$, $F = 11.04$, $N = 99$, $df = 1;99$), “Commemorative Infidelity” ($P < 0.012 < 0.05$, $F = 3.48$, $N = 99$, $df = 4;99$)

Hypothesis Three: It states that “education attainment will not make significant difference in people’s infidelity.” Table 3A showed that the hypothesis is rejected for education attainment

and “Infidelity” ($P < 0.045 < 0.05$, $F = 2.83$, $N = 99$, $df = 3;99$), “Opportunistic Infidelity” ($P < 0.017 < 0.05$, $F = 3.64$, $N = 99$, $df = 3;99$), “Romantic Infidelity” ($P < 0.001 < 0.001$, $F = 5.94$, $N = 99$, $df = 3;99$).

Hypothesis Four: It states that “occupation will not make significant difference in people’s infidelity.” Table 3A showed that the hypothesis is rejected for occupation and “Infidelity” ($P < 0.000 < 0.001$, $F = 14.71$, $N = 99$, $df = 5;99$), “Opportunistic Infidelity” ($P < 0.005 < 0.05$, $F = 3.67$, $N = 99$, $df = 5;99$), “Obligatory/Instrumental Infidelity” ($P < 0.022 < 0.05$, $F = 2.83$, $N = 99$, $df = 5;99$) “Romantic Infidelity” ($P < 0.000 < 0.001$, $F = 7.01$, $N = 99$, $df = 5;99$), “Conflicted Infidelity” ($P < 0.000 < 0.001$, $F = 19.61$, $N = 99$, $df = 5;99$), “Commemorative Infidelity” ($P < 0.000 < 0.001$, $F = 14.29$, $N = 99$, $df = 5;99$).

Table 3C: Tests of Between-Subjects Effects Infidelity Predisposition and Socio-Occupation (CONTINUES)

Source	Dependent Variable	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Partial Eta Squared	Noncent. Parameter	Observed Power
GEN * OCC	INFIDELITY/CHEATING BEHAVIOUR	284.752	3	94.917	1.025	.387	.045	3.075	.266
	Opportunistic Infidelity	44.936	3	14.979	1.367	.261	.058	4.100	.347
	Obligatory/Instrumental Infidelity	61.334	3	20.445	3.071	.034	.122	9.212	.694
	Romantic Infidelity	17.435	3	5.812	1.174	.326	.051	3.523	.302
	Conflicted Infidelity	78.518	3	26.173	3.367	.024	.133	10.102	.738
	Commemorative Infidelity	141.215	3	47.072	7.006	.000	.242	21.018	.974
M.STA * EDU	INFIDELITY/CHEATING BEHAVIOUR	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Opportunistic Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Obligatory/Instrumental Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Romantic Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Conflicted Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Commemorative Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.

Source: Questionnaire primary data; * = $p < 0.05$; $p < 0.001$; GEN. = GENDER, M.STA = MARITAL STATUS, EDU. = EDUCATION, OCC. = OCCUPATION

Table 3D: Tests of Between-Subjects Effects Infidelity Predisposition and Socio-Occupation (CONTINUES)

Source	Dependent Variable	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Partial Eta Squared	Noncent. Parameter	Observed Power
M.STA * OCC	INFIDELITY/CHEATING BEHAVIOUR	834.362	1	834.362	9.009	.004	.120	9.009	.841
	Opportunistic Infidelity	24.717	1	24.717	2.255	.138	.033	2.255	.316
	Obligatory/Instrumental Infidelity	48.174	1	48.174	7.235	.009	.099	7.235	.755
	Romantic Infidelity	41.793	1	41.793	8.444	.005	.113	8.444	.817
	Conflicted Infidelity	81.252	1	81.252	10.454	.002	.137	10.454	.890
	Commemorative Infidelity	11.792	1	11.792	1.755	.190	.026	1.755	.257
EDU * OCC	INFIDELITY/CHEATING BEHAVIOUR	2632.549	5	526.510	5.685	.000	.301	28.425	.988
	Opportunistic Infidelity	188.392	5	37.678	3.438	.008	.207	17.188	.886
	Obligatory/Instrumental Infidelity	95.606	5	19.121	2.872	.021	.179	14.359	.813
	Romantic Infidelity	92.545	5	18.509	3.740	.005	.221	18.698	.914
	Conflicted Infidelity	167.551	5	33.510	4.311	.002	.246	21.557	.951
	Commemorative Infidelity	240.740	5	48.148	7.166	.000	.352	35.831	.998
GEN * M.STA * EDU	INFIDELITY/CHEATING BEHAVIOUR	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Opportunistic Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Obligatory/Instrumental Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Romantic Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Conflicted Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Commemorative Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
GEN * M.STA * OCC	INFIDELITY/CHEATING BEHAVIOUR	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Opportunistic Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Obligatory/Instrumental Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Romantic Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Conflicted Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Commemorative Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
GEN * EDU * OCC	INFIDELITY/CHEATING BEHAVIOUR	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Opportunistic Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Obligatory/Instrumental Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Romantic Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Conflicted Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Commemorative Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.

Source: Questionnaire primary data; Computed using alpha = 0.05; GEN. = GENDER, M.STA = MARITAL STATUS, EDU. = EDUCATION, OCC. = OCCUPATION

Hypothesis Five: It states that “interactions of gender, marital status, education, and occupation will not make significant difference in people’s infidelity.” The hypothesis was generally

rejected for the interactions of “gender and education” (See table 3B), as well as “education and occupation” (See table 3D).

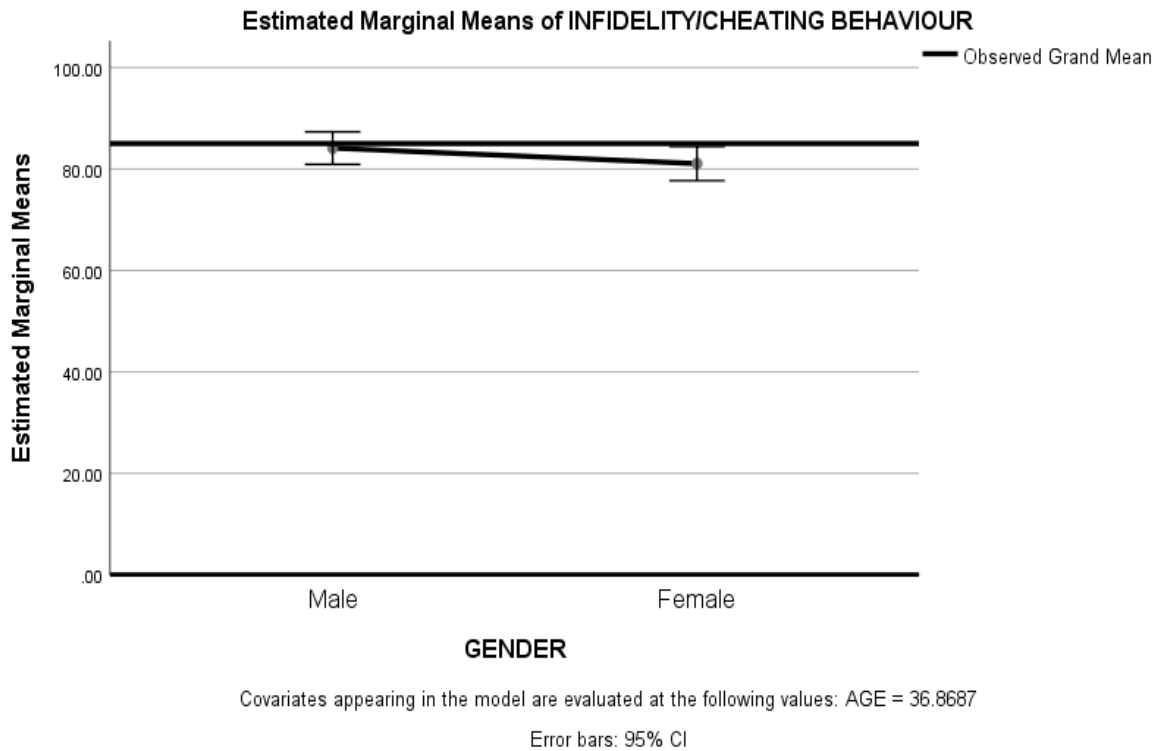
Table 3E: Tests of Between-Subjects Effects Infidelity Predisposition and Socio-Occupation (CONTINUES)

Source	Dependent Variable	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Partial Eta Squared	Noncent. Parameter	Observed Power
M.STA * EDU * OCC	INFIDELITY/CHEATING BEHAVIOUR	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Opportunistic Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Obligatory/Instrumental Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Romantic Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Conflicted Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Commemorative Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
GEN * M.STA * EDU * OCC	INFIDELITY/CHEATING BEHAVIOUR	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Opportunistic Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Obligatory/Instrumental Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Romantic Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Conflicted Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.
	Commemorative Infidelity	.000	0	.	.	.	.000	.000	.

Source: Questionnaire primary data; Computed using alpha = 0.05; GEN. = GENDER, M.STA = MARITAL STATUS, EDU. = EDUCATION, OCC. = OCCUPATION

From table 3E, no significant interaction effects were found for marital status, education, and occupation; as well as gender, marital status, education, and occupation.

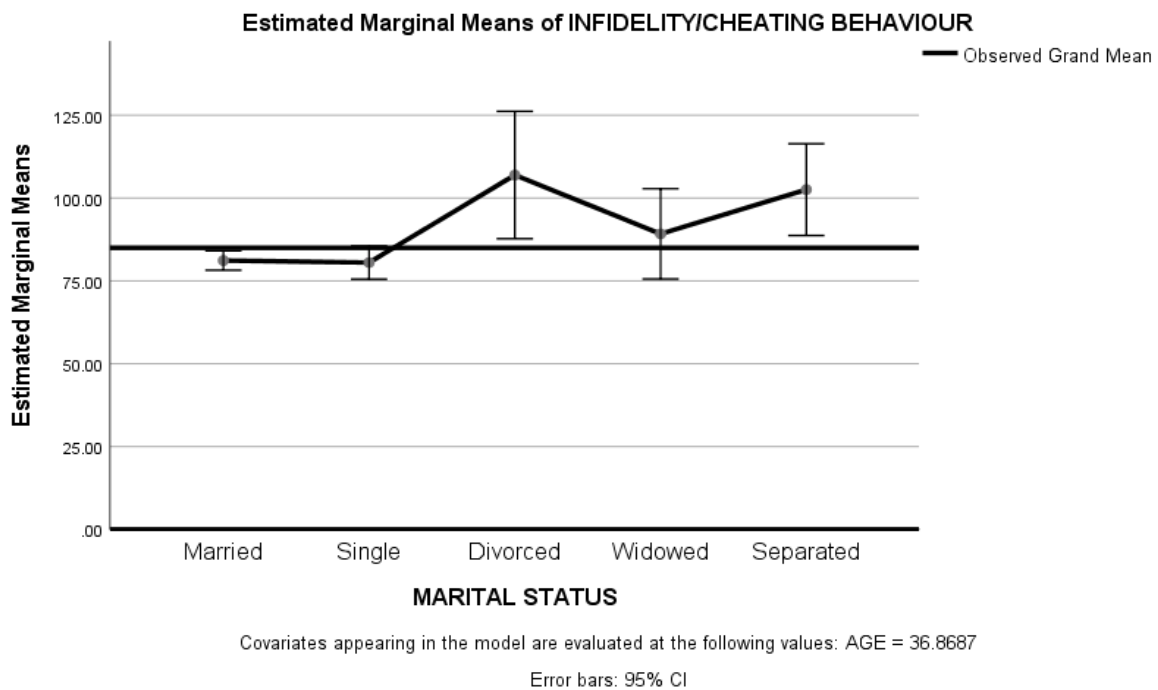
Figure 1: Gender and Infidelity



Source: Questionnaire primary data

From figure 1, the male (80.20) gender exhibited average (80.20) infidelity than the female (80.00) gender.

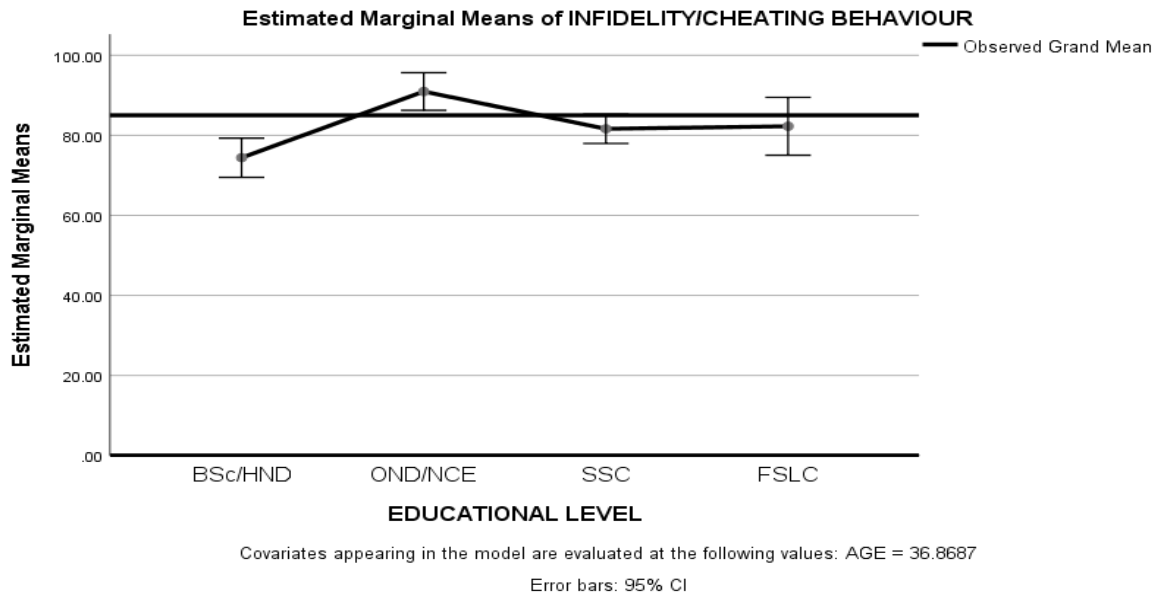
Figure 2: Marital Status and Infidelity



Source: Questionnaire primary data

Figure 2 shows that the divorced (112.50), widowed (80.20), and separate (100) exhibited above average (87.00) infidelity than the married (79.00) and single (79.00).

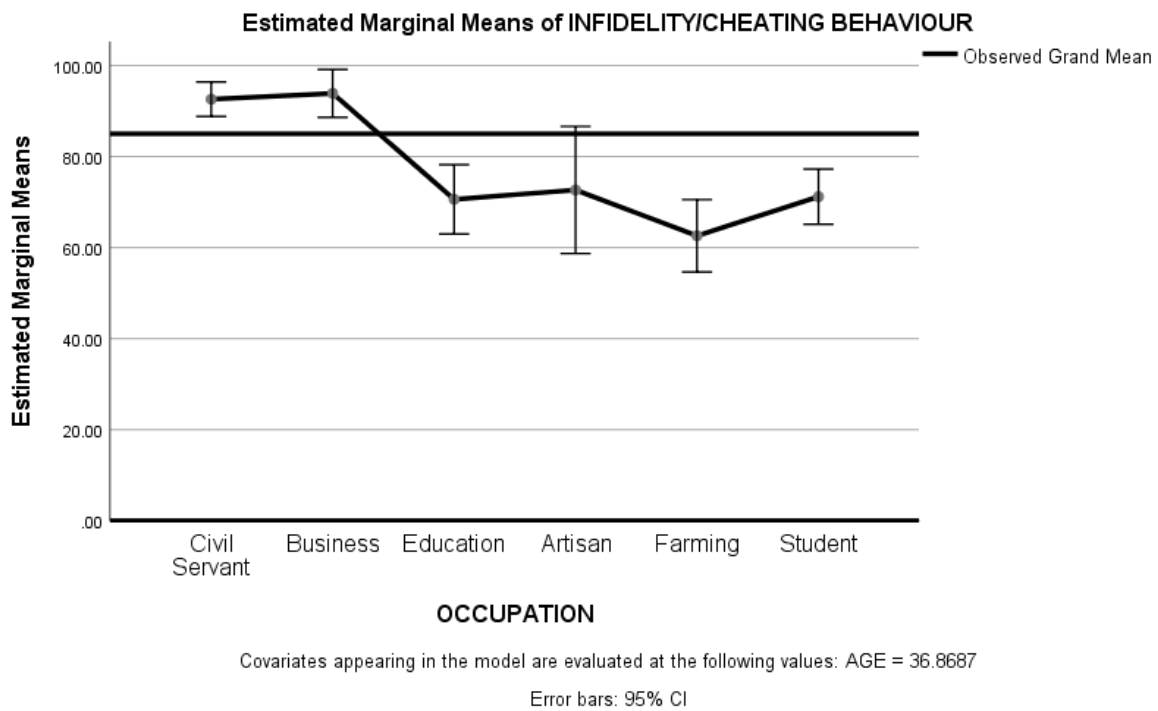
Figure 3: Education and Infidelity



Source: Questionnaire primary data; BSc = Bachelor of Science, HND = Higher National Diploma, NCE = National Certificate of Education, SSC = Senior School Certificate, FSLC = First School Leaving Certificate

Figure 3 shows those with average education of OND/NCE (88.00) have above average (82.50) infidelity than BSc/HND (78.00), SSC (80.01), and FSLC (80.01).

Figure 4: Occupation and Infidelity



Source: Questionnaire primary data

Figure 4 shows participants of civil service (90.00) and business (90.00) exhibited above average (82.00) than those of education (70.00), artisan (71.00), farming (62.00), and student (70.00).

Summary of Findings/Results

Hypotheses Findings/Results

1. There are significant gender differences in “Obligatory/Instrumental Infidelity”.
2. There are significant marital status differences in infidelity.
3. There are significant marital status differences in “Romantic Infidelity”.
4. There are significant marital status differences in “Commemorative Infidelity”.
5. Education attainment makes significant difference in people’s infidelity.
6. Education attainment makes significant difference in people’s “Opportunistic Infidelity”.
7. Education attainment makes significant difference in people’s “Romantic Infidelity”.
8. Occupation makes significant difference in people’s infidelity.”
9. Occupation makes significant difference in people’s “Opportunistic Infidelity”.
10. Occupation makes significant difference in people’s “Obligatory/Instrumental Infidelity”.
11. There are occupation significant differences in people’s “Romantic Infidelity”.
12. There are occupation significant differences in people’s “Conflicted Infidelity”.
13. There are occupation significant differences in people’s “Commemorative Infidelity”.
14. Interactions of gender, marital status, education, and occupation make significant difference in people’s infidelity.
15. Interactions of “gender and education” make significant difference in people’s infidelity.
16. Interactions of “education and occupation” make significant difference in people’s infidelity.

Descriptive Findings

17. Male gender exhibited average infidelity than the female gender.
18. The “divorced”, the “widowed”, and the “separated” exhibited above average

infidelity than the “married” and “single”.

19. The “average educated” has above average infidelity than the “graduate”, those who attended only secondary and primary school.
20. Infidelity is exhibited above for those engaged in civil service, and business than those in education, artisan, farming, and student.

Variables Comparisons Findings

21. “Infidelity” was high above average.
22. “Opportunistic Infidelity”, “Obligatory Infidelity”, “Romantic Infidelity”, “Conflicted Infidelity”, and “Commemorative Infidelity” were all exhibited above average.

DISCUSSION

There are significant gender differences in “Obligatory/Instrumental Infidelity”. There are significant marital status differences in infidelity. There are significant marital status differences in “Romantic Infidelity”. There are significant marital status differences in “Commemorative Infidelity”. Education attainment makes significant difference in people’s infidelity. Education attainment makes significant difference in people’s “Opportunistic Infidelity”. Education attainment makes significant difference in people’s “Romantic Infidelity”. Occupation makes significant difference in people’s infidelity.” Occupation makes significant difference in people’s “Opportunistic Infidelity”.

Occupation makes significant difference in people’s “Obligatory/Instrumental Infidelity”. There are occupation significant differences in people’s “Romantic Infidelity”. There are occupation significant differences in people’s “Conflicted Infidelity”. There are occupation significant differences in people’s “Commemorative Infidelity”. Interactions of gender, marital status, education, and occupation make significant difference in people’s infidelity. Interactions of “gender and education” make significant difference in people’s infidelity. Interactions of “education and occupation” make significant difference in people’s infidelity.

Male gender exhibited average infidelity than the female gender. The “divorced”, the “widowed”, and the “separated” exhibited above average infidelity than the “married” and “single”. The “average educated” has above average infidelity than the “graduate”, those who attended only secondary and primary school. Infidelity is exhibited above for those engaged in civil service, and business than those in education, artisan, farming, and student.

The findings might correspond with the observations that Evolutionary psychological meta-theory which predicts that, due to paternity uncertainty, men will have an evolved psychology that motivates them to avoid long-term commitments with women who have a reputation for being sexually promiscuous (Buss, 1989). Accordingly, it might be predicted that women will have, in turn, evolved a psychology that motivates them to avoid gaining such a reputation. This may account for the relatively high rating given by women to the cost associated with gaining a reputation for poaching individuals for relationships other than those that are both long-term and monogamous. This argument does not, however, account for why women wish to avoid a reputation for having poached someone for a monogamous, long-term relationship.

Some other studies have mixed outcomes. Many of us have the idea that infidelity only happens in unhappy relationships, but even people in happy relationships cheat. Infidelity often happens because of dissatisfaction within a relationship, but it can also happen because of low self-esteem, or an addiction to sex or romance. At other times, it happens because of personality traits, a permissive attitude about sex, and cultural and societal norms about sex and relationships that support infidelity. There are some studies that show that men are more likely to cheat than women, but others show that men are more likely to engage in sexual infidelity, whereas women are more likely to engage in emotional infidelity. People with higher sexual urges are more likely to engage in infidelity, as are people with higher levels of insecurity, who may be seeking validation through an affair (Wisner & Kwong, 2024).

Infidelity can be seen from the perspective of love adventure and conquering tendency. Unlike the earlier definition, that

formulated by Davies et al (2006a) which made it explicit that to be considered a poacher, the pursuing individual must be aware that the targeted individual is already in a romantic relationship and that this relationship must be considered by all parties (poacher, poached, and poached) to be exclusive or monogamous, such that any sexual relations outside of this relationship are viewed as violating it. The definition formulated by Davies et al. was, “Mate poaching occurs when an individual has, or attempts to have, sexual relations with a person that the former individual knows is already in an exclusive relationship with someone else.

Conclusion

The study examined infidelity predisposition among socio-occupation groups in Anambra State, Nigeria. The study found significant group differences in infidelity. Again, various dimensions of infidelity have been significantly manifested across the socio-occupations studied.

Limitation of the Study

The study was conducted in sociocultural setting of Omambala, Anambra State, Nigeria. Obviously, some sociocultural environments may not give serious disdain to infidelity. This may impact in the study.

Implications of the Study

1. The findings of the study are necessary in refuting the unfounded conjectures on socio-occupations with infidelity. There are perceptions about particular groups as possessing infidelity attributes.
2. The findings can be implicated in parenting and marital counselling. Knowledge from the study will be very necessary in counselling couples on marital infidelity.

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that personality of self-discipline needs to be developed by individuals. This will a lot in checking the increasing infidelity across socio-occupations.

Suggestions for Further Studies

1. Future studies need to focus on the personality factors that predispose individuals to infidelity.
2. Future studies should also enlarge the number of participants. This will

increase the robustness of the studies and their generalization.

3. There is also the need for cross-cultural studies to enrich the comparative advantages of the studies.

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INFIDELITY (CHEATING) QUESTIONNAIRE

TO WHAT EXTENT DO THESE STATEMENTS APPLY IN YOUR LIFE?		Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Sometimes (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
ALL YOUR ANSWERS OR RESPONSES ARE PERSONAL AND SHOULD BE KEPT SECRET.						
OPPORTUNISTIC INFIDELITY						
1.	It is possible for me to have love relationship with another person not my partner.					
2.	Situations can make me to engage in love affair with another person not my partner.					
3.	I won't mind having love relationship with somebody else if opportunity calls for it.					
4.	I had indulged in risky sexual behaviour in the past with a person not being my partner.					
5.	Under the influence of alcohol, I do become sexual very sociable.					
6.	I can use drug to enhance my sexual behaviour with somebody not my partner.					
7.	I have been able to maintain more than one love partners.					
OBLIGATORY INFIDELITY						
8.	I don't mind using sex to get what I want.					
9.	Sex is part of modern life which I can't escape.					
10.	If cheating my partner will bring success to me, so be it.					
11.	There is no need denying love to someone that is willing to help me.					
12.	The need for connection can make me cheat on my partner.					
ROMANTIC INFIDELITY						
13.	I can cheat my partner if I have little emotional attachment to another person.					
14.	If my partner doesn't give me the intimate relationship I want, I can cheat on him/her.					
15.	I occasionally experience intense romantic feeling for another person not my partner.					
16.	Someone who can't solve my major problems is not worthy of my committed love.					
17.	I will cheat on my partner if the person cheats on me.					
CONFLICTED INFIDELITY						
18.	No relationship is worth dying for.					
19.	There is nothing wrong in expressing genuine love for more than one person at time.					
20.	I don't hide my love feelings to anybody that merits it.					
21.	It is necessary to keep more than one partner in case one hurts badly.					
22.	Though I have moved on, but I still have feeling of intimate desire for my first love.					
23.	It is not bad to enjoy more than one love partner.					
COMMEMORATIVE INFIDELITY						
24.	Even when committed to a relationship, I have learnt not to have feelings for a partner.					
25.	In a relationship, I only maintain a sense of obligation and not love.					
26.	Once a relationship becomes dissatisfactory to me, I just backout for a new one.					
27.	I have the right to look elsewhere for what I am not getting from my present partner.					
28.	It is easier for me to hook-up during festive celebrations.					
29.	Unfulfilled sexual desire is a major reason why I can cheat on my partner.					

SOURCE: Nwankwo, O.D. (2025), Department of Psychology, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Anambra State, Nigeria.