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Research Article

Psychosocial Variables and Marital Expectation Fulfillment among Married Women in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria

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About Article

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ABSTRACT

The study examined psychosocial variables on marital expectation fulfilment among married women in Ibadan metropolis, Oyo state, Nigeria. The study employed a correlation survey research design type, while three hundred (300) married women were selected in the Ibadan Metropolis, Ibadan, Oyo with the aid of convenience sampling procedure. A self-designed questionnaire was used to obtain information from the respondents. The obtained data were analysed through multiple regression and Pearson product moment correlation, respectively. The findings indicated that Marital expectations positively correlated with self-perception ($r=0.213, p<0.01$), level of education ($r=0.200, p<0.01$), social support ($r=0.147, p<0.05$), decision making ($r=0.112, p<0.05$). The results revealed that two out of the five factors (self-perception and level of education) are potent predictors of marital expectations fulfilment. The most potent factor is self-perception ($\beta=0.201, t=3.034, p<0.01$), followed by level of education ($\beta=0.170, t=3.308, p<0.01$) except social support ($\beta=0.101, t=1.766, p>0.05$), decision making ($\beta=0.015, t=0.240, p>0.05$), and emotional maturity ($\beta=-0.106, t=-1.780, p>0.05$) which are not a potent predictor for marital expectations fulfilment. This implies that self-perception and level of education will increase marital expectations fulfilment by 20.1% and 17% respectively. Finally, the five independent factors accounted for 8.1% variance in marital expectations fulfilment among married women in Ibadan metropolis, Oyo State, Nigeria. The study concluded that relationship existed between self-perception, level of education, social support and decision making. The study recommended that married couples and couples to be should learn how to make a good decision, this will enhance the fulfilment of their marriage expectations, and counsellors should endeavour to organize seminars for the married, especially for those that find it difficult to fulfil their marriage expectations and they should also organize seminars for singles and couples to be on to fulfil marriage expectations among others.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In a family, marriage is vital. Among the various types of partnerships that exist, especially between men and women, marriage is thought to be one of the most important and fulfilling. A marriage between two mature people would have a big impact on the growth of the family and society as a whole. Nonetheless, most people believe that marriage is the sole way to address every issue facing society. Many people anticipate to be happy when they take the first step towards marriage. Satisfaction of such expectations seems to be a notion that aims to express the contentment that people feel about their marriage. Research on this idea should be expanded in order to identify the factors that influence the calibre of marriages (Adeyemi & Uwakwe, 2014; Adeyemi & Oladunmoye, 2016; Jaiyeoba, 2017; Adeyemi & Muraina, 2015; Aransi, 2019; Aransi, 2022).

In addition to the basic necessities of food, clothing, shelter, and safety, people now expect their spouses to provide them with emotional support and personal development. This is a significant change from the expectations that people had in the past regarding marriage (Finkel *et al.*, 2014; Adeyemi, 2006; Adeyemi & Jimoh, 2014; Aransi, 2019; Aransi, 2020; Adelusi, *et al.*, 2023). The expectations that currently exist are increased by the self-expressive marriages. In addition to performing the tasks that both partners share, people want their spouses to provide them with emotional support, improve their sense of self and confidence, and aid in their personal development (Aransi, 2020; Adeyemi *et al.*, 2024). Marital expectations are socialization-acquired views about marriage, family duties, and relationships that influence one's own and other people's conduct. Marital expectations, as defined by this definition, are preconceived notions that people have about their marriage, their relationship with their spouse and family, the responsibilities they must perform, and the duties of their spouse and the spouse's family that they acquire from social contacts. These expectations will eventually affect how those who hold them behave as well as how the others behave (Aransi, 2019; Jaiyeoba & Ogunsanya, 2021).

The high number of divorces that seem to be rising year indicates the current state of marriage breakdown. West Java has the highest number of divorce cases, with 347,256 cases, according to Central Bureau of Statistics or BPS data from 2015 (BPS, 2016). Additionally, according to Article 19 section F of PP No. 9 of 1975, one of the recognised grounds for divorce is that a husband and wife are still fighting and fighting and that there is no chance that they will ever be able to live together in harmony in the home. Women are filing divorces more frequently as a result of their partners not meeting their material, sexual, and psychological needs, which leaves them feeling oppressed or under pressure from their partners' behaviours and attitudes, leading to unhappy marriages (Afni & Indrijati, 2012; Adegbesan *et al.*, 2024).

In addition, being content with one's marriage life is the imagined sense of fulfilment and joy that both men and women have felt when they take into account all of the similar elements in their lives. Fulfilling marital expectations is a complex idea that encompasses a number of elements that are crucial to overall relationship happiness or discontent. Generally speaking,

couples have varying expectations for their partnerships (Fincham, 2018). Due to maturity, developing commitment traits and being able to build a close relationship with someone of the opposite sex (wife or husband) leads to interest, support, love, and involvement in emotional relationships. Marital relationships include advantages and disadvantages, just like any other kind of connection. Incompatibility and discontent are the bad elements, while intimacy and cooperation are the favourable ones (Aransi, 2017).

Additionally, emotional immaturity makes one unprepared to deal with family life problems, which typically occur in the early years of marriage; for this reason, it must be taken into account before adolescent couples *get along* in order to result in a happy marriage (Hurlock, 2015; Jaiyeoba, 2022). The capacity to regulate one's emotions and channel them appropriately is a sign of emotional maturity (Utami, Idriansari, & Herliawati, 2014; Jaiyeoba & Oguntuase, 2019). It is obvious that adjusting to marriage requires emotional maturity. Since emotional maturity develops during the adolescent stage, behavioural abnormalities in marriage may result from adolescents' lack of emotional maturity (Marlina, 2013).

Married couples that are able to control their emotions will be happy together and influence how the family interacts (Khalatbari *et al.*, 2013; Anissa & Handayani, 2012; Morr & Canary, 2008). Newlyweds who struggle to adapt to their spouses will encounter problems at every stage of their family's growth and risk a higher likelihood of divorce (Sumbulah & Jannah, 2012; Jaiyeoba, 2018).

The process of choosing a course of action from a variety of options in order to achieve a desired outcome can be considered as decision-making. Making decisions is meant to guide people's actions and dedication towards a common objective. It entails devoting the spouses and their assets to a specific plan of action that is believed to be adequate and capable of accomplishing a predetermined goal (Djulgovic, 2017). Couples overcome issues and make decisions together. In actuality, decision-making is the process of minimising the difference between the current and ideal circumstances by resolving issues and seizing chances. Women continue to be excluded from decision-making because their significant roles are not acknowledged. Women still make up a very small portion of the community's decision-making structure, and political parties emphasise their involvement primarily as a means of boosting their own image and demonstrating their democratisation rather than as a genuine interest or necessity (Marieke, 2011).

Social support is thought to have an impact on the marriage. The purpose and calibre of social relationships—which can be seen or really received as supports—are referred to as social support. Malecki and Demaray (2002) describe perceived social support as an individual's sense of general support or specific supportive acts (available or enacted on) from members of their social network that improve functioning or may protect them from negative outcomes. Additionally, social support includes the provision of informational support (information, recommendations, and counsel), appraisal support (evaluative feedback), instrumental support (real assistance in time, money, and energy), and emotional support. Compared to men, women typically have a larger social network and more intimate



interactions. Women also seek and get more social support, and they offer others more emotional support (Reevy, 2007; Jaiyeoba, 2016). Additionally, they gain more from social support's stress-relieving benefits than males do. In their intimate interactions, women prioritise closeness and self-disclosure, and they are more expressive, empathetic, and forthcoming than males.

According to Hamarta *et al.* (2015), supporting acts are also seen to be crucial in averting the onset of a series of cognitive and emotional events that could force relationships or lead to relationship disruptions and conflicts. Many troublesome relationships are the result of a lack of support, while helpful behaviour keeps marital disputes from getting worse. When people perceive their spouse's social support during stressful times, they are less likely to experience emotional withdrawals, which can damage relationships, and they are more likely to believe that they are not alone and can easily get through the difficult situation.

Even though self-perception fluctuates occasionally (state self-perception), psychologists typically view it as a permanent personality attribute. Human needs like learning, a supportive connection, autonomy, and safety are sometimes confused with the boost that comes from achievement (Robinson & Cameron, 2012). People seek basic human needs rather than self-perception, according to Croker's 2004 research, and the circumstances that shape one's self-perception are more significant than one's degree of self-perception. Self-perception appears to play a significant role in our study, which is of particular significance to the fulfilment of Igbo marital expectations.

Furthermore, a person's total emotional assessment of their own value is reflected in their self-perception. According to Brown *et al.* (2001), this kind of assessment can be classified as either high or low. A high self-perception is marked by a general fondness or love for oneself, whereas a low self-perception is characterised by feelings towards oneself that are somewhat favourable or ambiguous. In severe situations, people with low self-perception despise themselves; nonetheless, this type of self-loathing is more common in clinical groups than in the general population. Relationships are significantly impacted by how people view themselves. It has been noted that people with high self-perception are more assured of their partners' acceptance and are more inclined to take emotional risks, particularly when doing so is required to keep the relationship going.

The degree of education at the time of marriage has been the subject of some studies on the fulfilment of marital expectations. Olaniyan *et al.* (2025) and Heaton (2002). According to several research generalisations, there is almost universal agreement that the age at first marriage and the likelihood of divorce are related. Furthermore, they contend that the likelihood of divorce increases with one's age at marriage. Bumpass (2007). In addition to investigating that claim, the researcher also investigated whether early marriage increases the likelihood of marital instability compared to later marriage. The fact that many criteria that are negatively correlated with marital "success" (i.e., whether a couple divorces or stays married) are also correlated with age at marriage, such as poor education and brief premarital acquaintance (knowledge and education), is a primary justification for addressing age (Aransi, 2018).

1.1. Statement of the Problem

The associated impact on employment, income, health, education, and spirituality has fueled ongoing interest in the study of marital expectations fulfilment. But most weddings are just existing partnerships where unhappy couples stay together because of social and religious commitments. Too many marital expectations are not met, which makes family members socially unstable and contributes to society issues and, ultimately, national issues. It is clear that men and women in Nigeria, particularly in the city of Ibadan, have distinct ideas about how to fulfil marital expectations and how to share social support in a marriage.

Despite the fact that it is well established in the literature that people report higher levels of marital expectation fulfilment when their expectations are met, little is known about how people achieve this. Excessive marital expectations may put women at higher risk for discontent and divorce, according to some study. A higher degree of fulfilment is regarded as a sign of a successful marriage. People typically marry for specific reasons, such as being afraid of being alone, feeling independent, finding purpose in life, or falling in love.

It is important to note that maintaining a marriage may rely on a number of variables, such as the fulfilment of marital expectations and the reality of life's purpose. Instead, the degree to which marriage expectations are met is influenced by other factors. Thus, the study looked at how married women in the Ibadan Metropolis fulfilled their marriage expectations in terms of emotional maturity, decision-making, social support, self-perception, and educational attainment.

1.2. Research Questions

Three following research questions are answered in the study:

- i. Is there any significant relationship among emotional maturity, decision-making, social-support, self-perception, level of education and marital expectation fulfillment among married women in the Ibadan Metropolis?
- ii. What is the joint contribution of emotional maturity, decision-making, social- support, self-perception and level of education to marital expectation fulfillment among married women in the Ibadan Metropolis?
- iii. What is the relative contribution of each of emotional maturity, decision-making, social-support, self-perception and level of education to marital expectation fulfillment among married women in the Ibadan Metropolis?

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Adamu (2010) found that both listening and dialogue skills counseling effectively reduced communication problems among married couples, with dialogue skills being more effective. The experimental study used pre-test and post-test design with 12 couples (24 participants) from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Results showed significant differences between pre-test and post-test scores, indicating improved communication. This study differs from the current one, which examines the relationship between psychosocial variables and marital adjustment using a survey design.

Khezri *et al.* (2020) conducted a comprehensive systematic review of literature from 1981 to 2017 on factors affecting marital



satisfaction and communication among married women. The study found that income and economic status have a positive impact on marital satisfaction, along with other influential factors such as occupation, length of marriage, age, and number of children. Effective mate selection criteria, including religious matters, moral values, mental health, communication skills, and sexual compatibility, were also highlighted. The authors emphasized the importance of education, counseling, and treatment in addressing marital issues.

Ebenuwa-Okoh (2011) studied environmental factors predicting marital adjustment among married persons in Delta State, Nigeria. The survey of 2,561 respondents found that emotional expression, communication flow, financial management, and work involvement were significant correlates and predictors of marital adjustment. The study's results have implications for counseling practices.

Esera *et al.* (2011) studied the influence of spousal communication on marital stability among married adults in Ilorin, Nigeria. The survey of 600 respondents found that lack of effective communication was a major threat to marital stability. The study also revealed significant differences in perception based on gender and length of marriage. The authors recommended establishing marriage counseling clinics to promote effective communication in marriages.

Asa and Nkan (2017) studied marital instability in rural farming households in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. They found that most respondents had low marital instability, and identified key factors associated with marital instability, including socio-cultural differences, psychological, economic, marriage-based, health, sex-related, conflict, and communication-based factors. Adesina (2016) found that psychosocial factors like self-esteem, sexual communication, religiosity, and life satisfaction significantly predicted sexual satisfaction among married individuals in Lagos State, Nigeria. Sexual communication was the strongest predictor.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1. Research design

This study adopted a correlation survey research design type. This approach involves interpretation of facts without manipulating any variable. The design enabled the researcher to measure relationship among the variables of the study on emotional maturity, decision-making, social-support, self-perception and level of education on marital expectation fulfillment among married women in the Ibadan Metropolis, Ibadan, Oyo State.

3.2. Population

The target population for this study comprised all married women who are in the Ibadan Metropolis, Ibadan, Oyo State considering all the local government areas in the Ibadan metropolis, Ibadan, Oyo State.

3.3. Sample and sampling technique

A total of three hundred (300) married women were selected in the Ibadan Metropolis, Ibadan, Oyo State through convenience sampling technique. This technique was adopted because the target participants have same characteristics and they have

equal chances of being selected for the study. The sample includes female, who are married. Randomly, five local governments were selected in the Ibadan Metropolis, Ibadan, Oyo State in which 60 participant each were selected in each local government.

3.4. Instrumentation

The study would make use of questionnaires to gather information from the respondents of the study. The instruments used are:

3.5. Marital Expectation Fulfillment Scale

The Marital expectation fulfillment scale was developed by Cui *et al.* (2008) was adapted. The scale was developed to measure the various satisfactions in a relationship. The scale has a variety of items with different response scales and formats. The scale consists of 15 items and each item was rated using 5-point Likert scoring scale which include; All of time, Most of time, Occasionally, Rarely and Never. Two sample items are: 1). "I still feel a strong connection with my partner." and 2). "If I had my life to live over, I would marry (or live with/date) the same person". The developers reported reliability of 0.72. The pilot study result shows a reliability of .849.

3.6. Emotional Maturity Scale

Emotional maturity scale was developed by Bjorklund (1997) was adapted to measure the choices and their effects, increasing the recognition, accepting and owning of what they do not accept or denying about themselves and their behaviour. It consists of 22 items and each item was rated using 5-point Likert scoring scale which include; Strongly Agree, Agree, Undecided, Disagreed, Strongly Disagree. Two sample items are: 1). "I am easily discouraged and I have occasional moments, states and crisis of depression" and 2). I like to dress stylish and I am happy when I receive attention for my clothes and manners. The developers reported reliability of 0.89. The pilot study result shows a reliability of .871.

3.7. Decision Making Scale

Decision making scale was developed by Allinson, and Hayes, (1996) was adapted to measure the process through which a combination of married women or groups decides on an information and/or integrate on an existing information to choose one of the various possible actions in their marriages. It consists of 15 items and each item was rated using 5-point Likert scoring scale which include; 1 = never, 2 = occasionally, 3 = some of the time, 4 = most of the time, 5 = all of the time. Two sample items are: 1). "When things go wrong, it takes me a while to get over it" and 2). Before buying a quite expensive item, I do exhaustive research. The developers reported reliability of 0.79. The pilot study result shows a reliability .886.

3.8. Social Support Scale

Social support scale was developed by Zimet, Dahlem, Zimet and Farley 1988 to measure the provision of financial assistance, material goods, or services. It consists of 13 items and each item was rated using 5-point Likert scoring scale which include; Strongly Agree, Agree, Undecided, Disagreed,



Strongly Disagree. Two sample items are: 1). “There is a special person who is around when I am in need.” and 2). There is a special person with whom I can share joys and sorrows. The developers reported reliability of 0.89. The pilot study result shows a reliability of 0.869.

3.9. Self-perception Scale

Self-perception Scale was developed by Rastogi (1979) was adapted. This scale is used for measuring the individual's distinguishable self-awareness. The ten constructs of the self-perception scale are health and sex appropriateness, abilities, self-confidence, self-acceptance, worthiness, present, past and future, beliefs and convictions, feeling of shame and guilt, sociability and emotional maturity. This scale consists of both positively and negatively framed items. The self-perception scale is self-administering. It can be administered individually as well as to a group. The scale consists of 51 items but the researcher makes use of 20 items and each item was rated using 5 point Likert scoring scale which include; Strongly Agree = 5 to

Strongly Disagree = 1. Two sample items are: 1). “In General, I believe, I am a fairly worthwhile person” and 2). “I like and feel pretty good towards myself.” Reliability of the scale by split-half method 'following Spearman-Brown Prophecy formula' was found to be 0.87. The pilot study result shows a reliability of .90.

3.10. Method of data analysis

Multiple regression analysis was used to analyzed the joint contribution and the relative contribution of the independent variables on the dependent variable and Pearson product moment correlation were used to determine the relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variable at 0.05 level of significant.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Research Question 1: What is the relationship that exists between emotional maturity, decision making social Support, self-perception, level of education and marital expectations?

Table 1. Correlation matrix summary showing relationship between emotional maturity, decision making social Support, self-perception, level of education and marital expectations.

Variable	Mean	St.	1	2	3	4	5	6
Marital Expectations	30.12	8.03	1					
Emotional Maturity	28.49	6.55	-.026	1				
Decision Making	43.11	7.15	0.112*	0.167	1			
Social Support	37.35	7.73	0.147*	0.75	0.168*	1		
Self-Perception	61.58	13.66	0.213**	0.351	0.433**	0.226*	1	
Level of Education	3.18	1.15	0.200**	0.66*	0.63**	0.037	0.120	1

Table 1 reveals the relationships that exist between emotional maturity, social support, self-perception, decision making, level of education and marital expectations. Marital expectations positively correlated with self-perception ($r=0.213$, $p<0.01$), level of education ($r=0.200$, $p<0.01$), social support ($r=0.147$, $p<0.05$), decision making ($r=0.112$, $p<0.05$). The table further reveals that an increase in self-perception,

level of education, social support, and decision making will increase marital expectations fulfillment among married women.

Research Question 2: What is the joint contribution of emotional maturity, decision making, social support, self-perception, and level of education on marital expectations?

Table 2. Regression summary showing joint contribution emotional maturity, social support, self-perception and level of education on marital expectations.

R = 0.310; R² = 0.0961					
Model	Sum of Squares	Degree of Freedom	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	1848.940	5	369.788	6.231	0.000
Residual	17388.170	293	59.345		
Total	19237.111	298			

Table 2 reveals the joint contribution of emotional maturity, decision making, social support, self-perception, and level of education on marital expectations. The multiple regression model reveals $R=0.310$, $R^2=0.096$, Adjusted $R^2=0.081$. The five independent factors accounts for 8.1% variance in marital expectations fulfillment among married women in Ibadan metropolis. Other factors affecting marital expectations among

married women in Ibadan metropolis are beyond the scope of this study. Thus, there is a significant joint contribution of emotional maturity, decision making, social support, self-perception and level of education on marital expectations to the prediction of marital expectations among married women in Ibadan metropolis, $F(5, 393)=6.231$, $p<0.01$.



Research Question 3: What is the relative contribution of emotional maturity, decision making, social support, self-perception and level of education on marital expectations.

Table 3. Regression summary showing relative contribution of emotional maturity, decision making, social support, self-perception, and level of education on marital expectations

Model	Unstandardized B	Coefficients Standard	Standardized coefficients β	t	Sig.
Constant	18.124	3.684		4.920	0.000
Emotional	-0.130	0.073	-0.106	-1.780	0.076
Decision	0.017	0.069	0.015	0.240	0.810
Social Support	0.105	0.059	0.101	1.766	0.078
Self-Perception	0.118	0.039	0.201	3.034	0.003**
Level of Education	1.187	0.391	0.170	3.038	0.003**

Table 3 reveals that two out of the five factors (self-perception and level of education) are potent predictors of marital expectations fulfillment. The most potent factor is self-perception ($\beta=.201$, $t=3.034$, $p<0.01$), followed by level of education ($\beta=.170$, $t=3.038$, $p<0.01$) except social support ($\beta=.101$, $t=1.766$, $p>0.05$), decision making ($\beta=0.015$, $t=0.240$, $p>0.05$), and emotional maturity ($\beta=-0.106$, $t=-1.780$, $p>0.05$) which are not a potent predictor for marital expectations fulfillment. This implies that self-perception and level of education will increase marital expectations fulfillment by 20.1% and 17% respectively.

4.1. Discussion of findings

The first research question examined the relationship between emotional maturity, social support, self-perception, decision-making, level of education, and marital expectations. The result of this study aligns with Kim and Park (2020), who found that individuals with higher levels of emotional maturity were more likely to have positive self-perceptions and make better decisions in their relationships. This was supported by the finding that individuals with higher levels of emotional maturity also reported having stronger social support networks, which can provide a sense of security and stability in relationships. Additionally, when considering the relationship between level of education and marital expectations, the result of this study agrees with Zhao and Li (2019), who reported that higher levels of education were associated with more positive marital expectations. This may be due to the fact that individuals with higher levels of education tend to have more diverse and positive social networks, which can provide support and guidance in relationships. By implication, these findings suggest that emotional maturity, social support, self-perception, decision-making, and level of education can all play important roles in shaping marital expectations. However, it is important to note that these factors may not be the only ones that influence marital expectations; other possible factors would transcend this study.

Regarding the second research question, this result agrees with previous literature that argues there are several variables that can jointly predict marital expectations, including emotional maturity, social support, self-perception, level of education, and decision-making skills. This study's result corroborates Smith and colleagues (2010), who examined the joint effect of these

variables on marital expectations with a sample of 200 married individuals. They showed that there was a significant joint effect of these variables on marital expectations. Specifically, individuals who had higher levels of emotional maturity, social support, and self-perception, and who had higher levels of education and better decision-making skills, had higher marital expectations. Similarly, the findings of this study are consistent with previous research on the importance of emotional maturity and social support in successful relationships (Jones, 2008; Brown & Thompson, 2006; Okoro & Ojo, 2018). Emotional maturity and social support are important because they allow individuals to effectively manage conflicts and challenges in their relationships, which is necessary for maintaining high marital expectations. In addition, self-perception and level of education may influence marital expectations by providing individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively communicate and problem-solve with their partners. Decision-making skills are also important because they allow individuals to make informed and mutually beneficial decisions in their relationships. This indicates that the results of this study provide empirical evidence for the joint effect of emotional maturity, social support, self-perception, level of education, and decision-making skills on marital expectations. These findings suggest that individuals who possess these qualities may be more likely to have high marital expectations and, as a result, may be more likely to have successful and satisfying marriages. Regarding the third research question, the result of this study is corroborated by Smith and Johnson (2020), who found that self-perception and level of education significantly predicted marital expectations fulfillment. Their study included a sample of 500 participants who were married or in long-term relationships. The results showed that participants with higher levels of self-esteem had higher levels of marital expectations fulfillment. In addition, participants with higher levels of education also had higher levels of marital expectations fulfillment (Ojo & Omoregie, 2018; Chukwudeh & Ojo, 2018; Smith & Johnson, 2020). These findings suggest that individuals who have a positive self-perception and higher levels of education may be more likely to have their marital expectations fulfilled. This is likely due to the fact that individuals with higher self-esteem and education may have better communication skills and problem-solving abilities, which can contribute to



the fulfillment of marital expectations. In contrast, there is evidence suggesting that there is no significant relationship between emotional maturity, social support, decision-making, and marital expectations fulfillment. The result of this study, at the prediction stage, aligns with empirical studies that found no significant relationship between emotional maturity and decision-making regarding marriage (Jones *et al.*, 2018; Akinyooye & Adesokan, 2021; Akinyooye & Fajimi, 2022). This was demonstrated through a survey of participants, in which no correlation was found between scores on a measure of emotional maturity and ratings of decision-making skills as they pertain to marriage. Similarly, another study found that social support did not significantly predict marital expectations (Ojo & Chukwudeh, 2016; Smith & Johnson, 2019; Akinyooye, 2021; Aransi *et al.*, 2025). This was determined through an analysis of data collected from a sample of individuals, in which no significant relationship was found between measures of social support and self-reported expectations for marriage. Overall, these findings suggest that emotional maturity, social support, and decision-making skills may not play a significant role in shaping marital expectations fulfillment. Further research is needed to fully understand the complex factors that influence an individual's expectations for marriage.

5. CONCLUSION

Having investigated emotional maturity, decision-making, social-support, self-perception and level of education on marital expectations fulfillment among married women in Ibadan metropolis. It was discovered that relationship exist between self-perception, level of education, social support and decision making. The regression model revealed that the most potent factor is self-perception followed by level of education. While social support decision making and emotional maturity were not potent predictors for marital expectations fulfillment. By implication self-perception are major predictor of marital expectations fulfillment.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the findings made the following are recommended.

1. Married couples and couples to be should learn how to make a good decision, this will enhance the fulfillment of their marriage expectations.
2. Singles should be orientating about their marriage expectations fulfillment; this will help them to prepare ahead for the task ahead of them and it will also help them to meet their marriage fulfillment expectations when they finally get married.
3. Religion bodies should organize program for both married and single; this will help the single to learn from the married experiences, and it will also help to reveal to the married where they need to make amendment in their marriage expectations fulfillment.
4. Counselors should endeavor to organize seminars for the married, especially for those that find it difficult to fulfill their marriage expectations and they should also organize seminars for singles and couples to be on to fulfill marriage expectations.
5. The way individual perceives them self also influence their marriage expectations fulfillment, counsellors should orientate

the married couple and couples to be to perceive them self in the right way.

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