AN EXAMINATION OF FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DELAYED MARRIAGE AMONG YOUTH IN TARAUNI L.G.A., KANO STATE

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ABSTRACT
In the wake of globalization, technological advancements, and large-scale social change worldwide, youth attitudes and opinions on marriage have undergone transformations due to the multidimensional development of human society, including educational and economic changes. The phenomenon of delayed marriage has become increasingly prevalent among youth in contemporary Nigeria, posing substantial social, cultural, and economic implications. This pressing issue of social concern affects thousands, if not millions, of individuals. In Nigeria, individuals who experience delayed marriage often face ridicule, mockery and individual stigma from relatives and peers. This study investigated the factors contributing to delayed marriage among youth in Tarauni L.G.A., Kano, Nigeria. It explored socio-economic factors, consequences, perceptions surrounding delayed marriage, and potential strategies to reduce its occurrence in the area. The researcher adopted a qualitative research design and employed purposive sampling, selecting eight respondents for in-depth interviews. Thematic summary was used to analyze the data, describing, summarizing, and interpreting it based on the research objectives. The results revealed that various factors contribute to delayed marriage among youth in Tarauni L.G.A., including joblessness, educational pursuits, personal preference and choosiness, particularly among women. This research provides valuable insights into the phenomenon of delayed marriage among youth in Tarauni L.G.A., Kano State. The study confirms the prevalence of delayed marriage, high awareness among the population, and offers a comprehensive understanding of its contributing factors, effects, and potential mitigation strategies.

Introduction

Marriage is as old as human society. The evolution of human society is characterized by the development and diffusion of institutions that facilitate societal survival. Marriage, a paramount institution, regulates conjugal and filial ties, thereby contributing to the preservation and continuation of societal structures (Wimalasena, 2016; Okunlola et al., 2023). Marriage is a socially and legally sanctioned institution, defined by the voluntary union of two individuals of opposite sexes, with the intention of forming a lifelong partnership, building a family, and maintaining exclusivity(Asien et at, 2020). For the purposes of this research, delayed marriage refers to individuals who have not entered into a legally recognized marital union by a certain age or stage of life that is considered typical or expected within the cultural and social context of Tarauni L.G.A. In traditional Nigerian society, adult males are socialized to prioritize marriage as a demonstration of masculine identity and responsibility, which is actualized through the roles of husband, father, and household head (Smith, 2020; Adebowale, 2018). Similarly, young individuals in Tarauni Local Government Area are also expected to adhere to these cultural norms and expectations.

Moreover, in the wake of globalization, technological advancement and large-scale social change across the world, attitudes and opinions of youth regarding marriage have tremendously changed due to multidimensional development of human society including educational and economic changes. Delayed marriage becomes a serious issue because those who delay marriage while their peers have already settled down and started families are often ridiculed, bullied, and labeled as subjects of social shame. In extreme cases, individuals especially in Africa and Asia are even forced into marriage against their will, leading to unfortunate events. This issue concerns not only the individuals involved but also the society as a whole. It is against this backdrop that this study seeks to investigate the factors associated with Delayed marriage among youth and also the negative effects it has on their well-being. The family institution is critical in human society, and any dysfunction within it translates to a serious problem that affects all other institutions. In recent years, the average age at which people get married has been steadily rising across the globe. Carroll (2017) notes that this trend is observed for both men and women in every region of the world. He further added that in many developed countries, more than 50% of marriages now take place after the age of 30.

Globally, individuals who experience delayed marriage are frequently subjected to ridicule and stigma from their social cycle which lead to social ostracism and labeling as objects of shame. This phenomenon especially affects women, who face intensified societal pressure and scrutiny. As noted by Chen and Tong (2021), these social consequences can have profound psychological effects, including diminished self-esteem, life dissatisfaction, reduced fulfillment, and depression among unmarried adult men. Furthermore, parental distress and depression may also arise among parents who eagerly anticipate their children's marriage. These findings show the pervasive and deleterious impacts of societal expectations surrounding marriage with regard to delayed marriage. Nevertheless, according to the results of a study conducted by Brian et al. (2015), despite all the transformations that marriage may go through and in spite of all changing of attitudes towards marriage, marriage remains an important role for many young adults.

Problem Statement

The phenomenon of delayed marriage has become increasingly prevalent among youth in contemporary Nigeria, posing significant social, cultural, and economic implications. This significant issue of social concern affects thousands if not millions of individuals. Unmarried individuals in northern Nigeria, for instance, are often subjected to direct and indirect emotional and psychological abuse via societal pressure. Unfortunately, such insensitive and outrightly cruel behavior are more likely to push them into developing emotional problems such as depression and anxiety. Thus, they suffer a lot of misery and endure feelings of inadequacy, low self-esteem and hostility – for situations that are more often than not, completely outside their control (Abdulmalik, 2023).Thus, delaying marriage sparks a lot of situations where individuals may experience unequal treatment. For example, in religion affairs, political affairs, or community leadership, an unmarried person is rarely seen as a leader. The assumption is that when a person is married, they have assumed certain responsibilities and are more psychologically and mentally stable. In line with this, Akpan (2022) observes that increasing belief that unmarried individuals are less deserving of being

considered responsible just because of their marital status is both concerning and gaining credibility. This is in addition to the mockery and ridicule that single adult experience, either playfully with their peers or other community members.

Significance of the Study

The study will contribute to the existing body of knowledge on the factors influencing delayed marriage, providing a deeper understanding and shedding more light on unique factors that may be at play. The findings of the study will also inform policymakers and local authorities in Tarauni Local Government about the factors contributing to delayed marriage. This can help in the development of targeted interventions and policies to address these factors. The findings of this study will serve as a foundation for future research on related topics, such as the consequences of delayed marriage, the impact of delayed marriage on gender dynamics and equality, and interventions to support individuals in making informed decisions about marriage timing.

Research Aim and Objectives

This study is part of a larger research project that investigated the factors contributing to delayed marriage among youth in Tarauni L.G.A., Kano, Nigeria. It explored the socio-economic factors, consequences, perceptions surrounding delayed marriage, and how delayed marriage could be reduced in the area. This article is an extract from that research, examining how delayed marriage affects individuals and society in this part of the metropolitan Kano. This part of the research aims to find out the factors contributing to delayed marriage among youth, and how it impacts their lives, relationships, and societal roles. It explains what those who are experiencing delayed marriage are going through in the society. The study aims to examine the effects of delayed marriage on various aspects, including family relationships, social status, economic stability and mental health. On the whole, this article aims to contribute to the discussion on the social and economic implications of delayed marriage in Nigeria's urban centers.

Methodology

This study adopted qualitative research design. Qualitative research method was initially used in psychological studies when researchers found it tedious to evaluate human behavior in numbers. The population of this study typically included youth in Tarauni Local Government Area (L.G.A.) in Kano State, who are eligible for marriage or within the age range that is commonly associated with marriage but were not married, community leaders and religious leaders. Moreover, this study used purposive sampling which, according to Creswell & Creswell (2017) is vital in social research due to its focus on selecting specific participants who possess unique insights or experiences relevant to the study's objectives. Using this sampling technique, 8 respondents were selected for interview from whom the qualitative data was collected. The primary data for this study was collected using In-depth interview. The data was analyzed using thematic summary by describing, summarizing and interpreting the data based on the research objectives.

Literature Review

Although delayed marriage is a phenomenon that has received relatively little attention from researchers, there is a body of existing literature on the topic. Despite the presence of these literatures, significant knowledge gaps persist. Most of the studies conducted in this area primarily used quantitative approaches. These include Akhter & Bhat (2018), who studied " Late Marriage Consequences and Concerns among women of Kashmir Valley" and Karamat (2016) who studied "Perceptions on Implications of Delayed Marriage: A Case Study of Married Adults in Kuala Lumpur." They all employed quantitative methods for their studies. Nevertheless, this study was conducted specifically to explore the negative implications of delayed marriage. It was also conducted in northern Nigeria, unlike others that were either conducted in the south or foreign countries. In addition to its unique objectives, this study will adopt a qualitative approach, which sets it apart from previous research. Rehim et al. (2023) argue that the increasing trend of delayed marriage is an important and noteworthy phenomenon for it has significant implications and consequences on individuals, families, and society as a whole. In addition, he believes that this shift in marriage is influenced by various factors, including social, economic, cultural, and psychological causes, and these causes contribute to the transformation of personal and societal values.

Factors Associated with Delayed Marriage Among Youth

Delayed marriage can be attributed to a myriad of societal and personal factors some of these factors include:

Economic Conditions: Difficult economic circumstances may discourage men from getting married or cause them to postpone marriage due to financial constraints that make it hard for them to meet their financial obligations and responsibilities as husbands (Wrenn, Yi, & Zhang, 2019; Kim, 2017; Krafft&Assaad, 2020).

Parental Influence: Adebowale (2018) believes that parental pressure influences marriage timing, and this influence of parents on marriage timing shows the relationship between family dynamics and individual choices in the decision to marry.

Educational Pursuits: Higher levels of education often lead to delayed marriage as individuals focus on their careers and personal development. This delay allows them to establish a strong educational foundation and secure better job prospects, enhancing their future financial stability (George, 2019).

Female Education: Maharaj and Shangase (2020) note that the majority of women wanted to delay marriage to a later stage. When asked about their goals for the next ten years, most readily gave details of their career plans. They aspired to further their education and were quite keen to obtain a postgraduate qualification. The majority did not perceive education as an impediment to marriage but rather viewed it as an asset.

Attitudes Towards Marriage: Today, many individuals view marriage as a deeply personal and transformative commitment that should only be entered into when they feel ready for the emotional and psychological demands it entails. Consequently, some may choose to delay marriage until they believe they have achieved a level of personal fulfillment, self-awareness, and emotional readiness that aligns with their expectations for marriage. According to Gündoğdu and Bulut (2022) due to shifting attitudes towards marriage, many individuals now prioritize economic stability and personal growth, leading to a preference for delayed marriage. Pursuing higher education, particularly postgraduate degrees, contributes to this trend, as does the focus on achieving career goals. Even those in relationships may postpone marriage to fulfill their professional aspirations.

Studies have shown that delayed marriage is a prevalent phenomenon globally attributed to various societal and personal factors. Economic constraints, parental influence, educational pursuits, and shifting attitudes towards marriage contribute to this trend. Youths in Tarauni L.G.A prioritize tertiary education for better career prospects, leading to delayed marriage, while others lack economic capabilities. Similarly, women in the area aspire to further their education and establish careers before considering marriage. The results of the above-reviewed literatures are also observable in Tarauni L.G.A.

Implications of Delayed Marriage

Studies have been conducted on the effects of delayed marriage on youth and society in general. Those studies proved that delayed marriage has a number of detrimental effects which include:

Intergenerational Gaps: Delayed marriage can create intergenerational gaps between parents and children affecting the quality of parent-child relationships.It could lead to disparities in values and perspectives between generations. This is because parents would grow older while their children would become younger. This is due to the fact that, at the time when the parents were supposed to take care of their children, they were single. (Akhter & Bhat, 2018).

Inferiority complex: persistent sense of inferiority can detrimentally affect self-esteem and interpersonal relationships of those experiencing delayed marriage.Those who experience delayed marriage in societies that highly emphasize marriage as an important institution, often face negative perception and stigma, making them feel inferior (Chen & Tong, 2021; Mohd Isa et al., 2022).

Premarital Sex: It is often likely that people who postpone marriage may become engaged in pre-marital sexual behaviour. As marriage gets delayed to later ages, unmarried people who are involved in pre-marital sexual behaviour also carry the risk of unintended pregnancies. It is associated with infidelity, promiscuity and spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) (Asien et at, 2020; Nduonofit&Nwala-Cadger, 2015).

Interpersonal Relationship Challenges: individuals who marry later may face challenges in forming and maintaining intimate relationships due to prolonged singlehood. Additionally, this may impact their ability to handle the complexities of emotional connections (Akhter & Bhat, 2018).

Reduced Fertility: Delayed marriage, especially among women as noted by Mathews& Hamilton (2016) has been associated with reduced fertility. As adults delay marriage, they are also navigating their reproductive lifespan, particularly for women, who have a limited window of fertility within which to conceive.

Risk of Remaining Childless: Delayed marriage increases the risk of remaining childless, which can be emotionally distressing for couples desiring children. The longer couples wait to start a family, the greater the potential impact on their ability to conceive and raise children (Mcllhaney & Sprigg, 2021).

In Tarauni L.G.A., delayed marriage has far-reaching consequences for youth and society. Studies have shown that delayed marriage can lead to intergenerational gaps, inferiority complex, premarital sex, interpersonal relationship challenges, reduced fertility, and the risk of remaining childless. These effects can have lasting impacts on individuals, families, and communities. In Tarauni L.G.A., where marriage is highly valued, delayed marriage can lead to negative perceptions, stigma, and emotional distress. Therefore, it is essential to address the root causes of delayed marriage and provide support for young people in Tarauni L.G.A. to navigate the challenges of marriage and family formation.

Data and Findings

Interview data were collected in Hausa language which is the native language of the interviewed respondents. It was audio recorded and transcribed verbatim to English language. As earlier mentioned, the respondents comprised eight community members and leaders in Tarauni L.G.A., Kano state.

Table1 Background Characteristics of the Respondents

S/N	Age	Sex	Marital status	Level of education	Occupation
1	48	Male	Married	NCE	Religious Leader
2	55	Male	Married	Degree	Community Leader
3	32	Female	Single	ND	Baker
4	29	Female	Single	SSCE	Entrepreneur
5	34	Female	Single	Degree	Class teacher
6	36	Male	Single	SSCE	Plumber
7	30	Male	Single	NCE	Civil Servant
8	35	Male	Single	Degree	Shop owner

Source: Madachi, I. K. (2024)

Out of the 8 respondents interviewed, as shown in Table 1, the majority 5, (62.5%) are males, while females account for 3 (37.5%) of the respondents. This is because Tarauni L.G.A is largely a patriarchal society, but where women are respected and given due consideration. Therefore, the data are gender-sensitive, as they include the voices of women, which is essential

since the topic deals with youth, comprising both males and females.

The age range of 29-38 years constitutes the largest proportion (75%) of the respondents, followed by the 39-48 years' age range (12.5%), and then the 49-58 age range (12.5%). This reveals a significant aspect of our respondents' profile, who are considered mature enough to provide valuable insights into the phenomenon being studied. All respondents were mature adults above 25 years old.

In terms of marital status, a larger proportion, 6 (75%) of the respondents are single, while only 2 (25%) are married. This is because the study's target population consists of single adults who have reached the customary ages for marriage but remain unmarried, making them ideal participants for providing firsthand information crucial to the research's success. The few married individuals among the respondents are community and religious leaders, as it is rare to find individuals of their stature in Tarauni L.G.A who are not married.

Regarding education, the majority, 3 (37.5%) of the respondents hold a degree, followed by NCE and SSCE, which account for 2 (25%) each. The remaining 1 (12.5%) holds a National Diploma. Their educational background indicates a high level of academic achievement, with the majority having completed their degree and the rest holding other higher institution certificates. Only two respondents have an SSCE certificates, which is a basic qualification, but at least they have some formal education.

The respondents' occupations are diverse, with no single occupation predominating. Notwithstanding, various professions are represented equally, each accounting for 1 (12.5%) of the respondents, including Religious Leaders, Community Leaders, Bakers, Entrepreneurs, Class Teachers, Plumbers, Civil Servants, and Shop Owners. This indicates that all respondents have a source of income, ranging from those who are well-off to those who struggle to make ends meet. As a result, the perspectives of both the affluent and the struggling individuals are equally represented.

The findings of this study revealed that multiple factors contribute to delayed marriage among youth in Tarauni L.G.A. The primary factors include joblessness, educational pursuit, personal preference, and choosiness, predominantly among women. Additionally, the research identified various detrimental effects of delayed marriage on the society of Tarauni and on individuals experiencing it. At the societal level, these effects include abandoned babies, abortions, infidelity, mental health pressure on parents, moral decadence, and substance abuse. At the individual level, the effects include emotional and psychological distress, health concerns, stigma, difficulties in partner selection, and constant pressure and interrogation. Furthermore, the study explored the youth's perceptions on reducing delayed marriage in Tarauni L.G.A., which include promoting early vocational training and employment, reforming traditional marriage practices, changing attitudes and expectations regarding partner selection, encouraging honest communication in relationships, government intervention in job creation, and addressing cultural spending expectations associated with marriage ceremonies.

All interviewed respondents demonstrated awareness of delayed marriage as a burgeoning phenomenon. Some respondents expressed the belief that this issue extends beyond Kano state or Hausaland, with a global proliferation of the problem. For example, an Imam, a religious leader, noted the prevalence of delayed marriage in Tarauni and highlighted the universality of the issue. He said:

> *Of course, there is a prevalence of this problem in this area, and I think it's everywhere today. Not only in Hausa land, but I hear people talking about this issue on the radio, television, etc. (IDI with religious leader from Tarauni L.G.A., 2024).*

Corroborating the above, another male respondent, who is also experiencing delayed marriage, added that:

> *Well, there is a presence of this issue in this area, and I believe it is now frequent almost everywhere. There are people that I know who have reached the ages of marriage but are still yet to get married. I'm even younger compared to some people that I know, both the men and women (IDI with an unmarried male from Tarauni L.G.A., 2024).*

The initial respondent, a religious leader, exhibited awareness of the delayed marriage

phenomenon. The subsequent respondent, who is personally experiencing delayed marriage, also acknowledged its prevalence in Tarauni L.G.A. nevertheless, he noted that despite having attained the customary marriageable age in Tarauni, he is still relatively younger compared to some unmarried individuals within his social circle.

Moreover, although several factors were identified by the respondents, joblessness emerged as the most prominent contributing factor. All of the interviewed individuals, including both males and females, community leaders, and religious leaders, cited joblessness as a key economic factor contributing to the proliferation of this problem. There was a unanimous consensus among the respondents that joblessness is the primary contributing factor. A community leader mentioned:

> *Even if there are other factors that contribute to this problem, those two things that is, joblessness and laziness from the part of guys and choosy behavior by the girls, are what stand out and contribute the most. The males don't have a stream of income while the females prefer those who are ready-made (Interview with a community leader, 2024).*

Agreeing with the community leader's testimony, one of the female respondents also opined that:

> *The number one factor for men is about joblessness. Second, their preferences also play a role in delaying them from getting married. Some would say they will only marry daughters from well-to-do families, or else they keep waiting (An unmarried female respondent, 2024).*

Both the community leader and the second speaker recognize unemployment and selectiveness as obstacles to timely marriage. Moreover, the second speaker's perspective differs in attributing selectiveness to men as well, whereas the community leader primarily associates it with women. This suggests a more clear understanding of the issue, acknowledging that selectiveness is not exclusively attributed to one gender.

The phenomenon of delayed marriage has been found to have numerous effects on the society of Tarauni L.G.A., as well as on the individuals concerned. According to the respondents, some of the effects include illegal abortions, infidelity in the form of illicit sexual behavior, and the production of children out of wedlock, which contravenes the societal standards of Tarauni L.G.A., Kano. A religious leader further emphasized this point, saying:

> *Whoever is acquainted with media or would hardly pass a week without hearing news of people picking up a baby thrown away by his parents. Such babies are thrown away because they were born out of the wedlock. After that, there is a frequency of abortion among the youth. These are some of the serious effects of this issue in this area (IDI with a religious leader, 2024).*

Agreeing with the above, an unmarried female respondent buttressed that:

> *This problem leads to a high level of infidelity in society, where both men and women engage in various forms of illegal sexual activities. I believe this also leads to the production of children out of wedlock, which inflicts pain and shame on the family of the girl and especially on the children themselves. There is also a frequency of abortion, which affects women's health (An unmarried female respondent, 2024).*

The first speaker and the second speaker both acknowledged the new phenomenon of giving birth to children outside of wedlock, which contravenes the norms and standards of Tarauni L.G.A. They also decried the prevalence of infidelity and illegal sexual activities among youth, noting that illegal abortion is another issue exacerbated by these activities, which in turn affects women's health.

The research respondents identified a multitude of specific challenges faced by individuals experiencing delayed marriage. Notably, the researcher observed that these challenges disproportionately affect women. Furthermore, stigma and mental health

instability emerged as the most prominent challenges, surpassing others in significance. As one unmarried female respondent poignantly remarked:

> *There is an issue of stigma for the women, especially from their sisters. When you don't get married earlier, all eyes will be on you. I am talking from experience. In fact, it leads to frustration and even depression. It also leads to drug abuse for both males and females. Most importantly is the issue of stigma from the people because not even long ago someone made a comment on me that landed both of us in trouble (IDI with an unmarried female respondent, 2024).*

Another female respondent, who shared a personal example, emphasized the challenges faced by mature adults in Tarauni L.G.A. She explained that all her peers were married with children, causing her significant anxiety about her future prospects. Furthermore, she noted that she was subjected to ridicule and nicknames due to her marital status, as she was frequently called different names simply because she was single. She recounted:

> *To give an example with myself, most, if not all, of my age mates have already got married. This makes me worried about the future. There is also a challenge of stigma, sincerely from both my family and the society. Their concern is just I should get married. Sometimes people call me with many unprintable names just because I'm single (An unmarried female respondent from Tarauni L.G.A., 2024).*

In line with the above, the religious leader interviewed also said:

> *Males are affected emotionally and psychologically because as a man, you can't have absolute peace of mind when you reach the ideal age to get married without getting married. For women, they can experience problems like stigma, health challenges, and bullying even from their family members (IDI with a community leader, 2024).*

Regarding the challenges faced by individuals experiencing delayed marriage, as mentioned above by the respondents, it is clear that they all emphasized the issue of stigma. Individuals who delay marriage in Tarauni L.G.A are vulnerable to individual stigma. The first speaker even shared that a neighbor made a comment about her marital status, which led to a dispute between them. The second and third speakers expressed their concerns about the health challenges affecting both men and women.

In order to fulfill the research objectives, the respondents' perspectives were also sought on potential solutions to alleviate the issue of delayed marriage among youth in Tarauni L.G.A. A wide range of solutions were suggested, but the most notable ones that stood out were: promoting early vocational training and employment, reexamining attitudes and expectations regarding partner selection, government intervention in job creation, and addressing cultural spending expectations associated with marriage ceremonies. The religious leader interviewed offered the following insight:

> *In my opinion, to address this issue, we have to go back to the drawing board. It's a systemic problem. It is something that has to do with the family institution in general. Parents should make sure they find something for their children to do even before they become fully adults. Moreover, modern marriage has to be on the low key. Everyone should go for a partner that belongs to his or her economic class. Moreover, from the government's side, it should prioritize reviving technical and vocational schools where young people could learn different occupations, so that by the time they finish, they have something to do, making marriage easier for them (A religious leader from Tarauni L.G.A.).*

The community leader interviewed also has an opinion that aligns with the above. He said:

> *In order to address this issue, Kano state government has started a very good work in curbing bride price, but I don't know why it has not been implemented. I don't hear anything about it anymore. Secondly, parents should also change their attitude of*

> *saying that their children must marry rich men. I think one should give his daughter's hand to a man once he is satisfied with his adherence to religion, respect for elders, and has something to do. We should stop so many unnecessary rituals that are attached to marriage in Hausa land. The bride price, for example, is the most significant (IDI with a community leader, 2024).*

An unmarried male respondent also buttressed that:

> *In a straightforward language, the government should provide jobs for the youth first. Second, too much expectations and spending attached to the culture of Hausa people in marriage should be addressed. I think that's all (IDI with another unmarried male respondent, 2024).*

Finally, according to the respondents' opinions on how to address the issue of delayed marriage in Tarauni L.G.A, they unanimously agreed that the best solution is to provide job opportunities and sources of income for the youth. Additionally, they pointed out the need to reduce the bride price associated with marriage in Tarauni L.G.A and address the high expectations surrounding marriage arrangements.

Discussions of the Major Findings

Based on the findings presented, the research has successfully addressed its objectives pertaining to the factors associated with delayed marriage, its effects, and perceptions on how to reduce it in Tarauni L.G.A. A substantial awareness of the issue of delayed marriage among youth in Tarauni L.G.A, Kano state, has been observed. However, this problem has not received the attention it warrants. Several factors have been identified as contributing to delayed marriage in this area, but joblessness, educational pursuit, and preference and choosiness have been proven to be the most important. Furthermore, delayed marriage among youth has several detrimental effects on the society of Tarauni L.G.A., including the prevalence of infidelity, illegal abortion, and the production of children outside of wedlock, all of which are contrary to the norms of the area. The affected youth also experience various challenges, including stigma, mental health instability, and health challenges. To address the issue of delayed marriage, several solutions have been identified, but the most important ones are: promoting early vocational training and employment, changing attitudes and expectations regarding partner selection, government intervention in job creation, and addressing cultural spending expectations associated with marriage ceremonies.

Summary and Conclusions

This research on the factors associated with delayed marriage among youth was conducted in Tarauni Local Government Area, Kano State. The main aim of the study was to explore the major factors associated with delayed marriage among youth in Tarauni L.G.A. To address the objectives of the research, the researcher adopted qualitative method, precisely in depth interview (IDIs) and conducted interviews with religious leader, community leader, and some selected unmarried males and females within the various parts of the study area. The sample of the population was drawn using purposive sampling technique due to the nature of the research.

In conclusion, this research has provided valuable insights into the phenomenon of delayed marriage among youth in Tarauni L.G.A., Kano state. The study reveals that there is prevalence of this phenomenon, and people are highly aware of it. Through an exploration of factors contributing to delayed marriage, effects thereof, and perceptions on potential mitigation strategies, a clear understanding of this issue has been achieved. Economic challenges, societal expectations, parental influence, new attitude towards marriage, and individual preferences emerged as significant determinants influencing marital decisions within the Tarauni L.G.A. One important thing that also stands out is the issue of bride wealth. Moreover, there are far-reaching consequences of delayed marriage on both the society of Tarauni L.G.A., and the affected individuals, including social, emotional, and psychological impacts on individuals, and the broader societal fabric of Tarauni L.G.A.

Policy Recommendations

Based on the findings of this research, the following recommendations are made in order

to address the issue of delayed marriage among youth in Tarauni L.G.A.:

1. Promotion of Economic Opportunities: Efforts should be made to enhance economic opportunities for youth in Tarauni L.G.A., through initiatives such as vocational training programs and job creation schemes. Providing viable employment opportunities can empower individuals to overcome financial barriers and facilitate timely marriage.

2. Reform of Traditional Marriage Practices: There is a need to reform traditional marriage customs and practices in Tarauni L.G.A. to reduce the financial burden associated with marital ceremonies. Simplifying ceremonial rituals and adjusting cultural expectations, particularly regarding bride price and extravagant spending, can alleviate financial strain and facilitate more accessible marriage arrangements.

3. Collaborative Intervention: stakeholder collaboration involving policymakers, community leaders, religious institutions, and civil society organizations is essential to develop and implement targeted interventions addressing the causes of delayed marriage in Tarauni L.G.A.

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