

Perceived Manifest Implications of Cohabitation Among Undergraduate Students of The Niger Delta University, Bayelsa State

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ABSTRACT: The habit of students of the opposite sex that are not related by blood but have mutually decided to stay together participating in marital affairs is known as cohabitation. In this study, the researchers used a descriptive research design to find out about the perception of the manifest implications of cohabitation among undergraduate students of the Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State. Third year and final year students from the Faculty of Education, served as sample for the study. A researcher designed questionnaire, titled “Manifest Perception of Students’ Cohabitation Questionnaire” (MPSCQ) was employed to elicit responses from the sample. Six research questions were raised to elicit responses from the sample. The study concluded that students are aware of the multiple implications of cohabitation among students in higher institutions. It was concluded that many students cohabit believing that it could be of economic benefits to them. Far reaching recommendations were made to help as guide to support young adolescents who in many instances are leaving their parents homes to stay on their own for the first time alone while studying.

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

The essence of acquiring higher education is to equip one’s self for the future. The institutions are centers for human capacity development. It is envisioned that having gone through the requisite programme, a student would be fully prepared to face the challenges that are bedeviling his or her area of specialization in the profession for which they are trained. Most significantly, these citadels of learning are expected to certify their students as being found worthy both in character and in learning. One critical area in which higher educational institutions in Nigeria appears not to have paid enough attention to, is in the area of students’ accommodation. Concerns about the safety of the students in terms of adequate accommodation, is a major such of worry according to Agunza, Oboighe and Umekwe (2019). It is vital to note that shelter (accommodation) is a basic need for man.

The basic physiological needs of man according to Maslow (1970) consists of food; air, clothing and shelter among others. Shelter has been described as a significant component for human survival and a useful barometer for measuring social development (Chukwuka, 2016). Among other symbolic features of shelter to human existence, beyond given society a place to rest, accommodation, Jiboye (2011) affirms, creates a great opportunity in terms of the productivity of humans. It helps in organizing a secure well-being for all persons. Housing which is the same as accommodation helps in the physical protection of man from various environmental hazards. It is basic for the biological and social sustenance of life. Without doubt, shelter is central to the healthy and meaningful development of the mind. The multiple roles accommodations supports’ in the healthy survival of humanity, made Aliko (2009) to maintain that housing reflects the culture and economic values of a society, noting that it is the best physical and historical evidence of civilization for any nation.

For students, lack of adequate accommodation can cause a lot of damage and distraction to their academic pursuit. A student requires some element of comfort and privacy to succeed in learning and this could be enhanced where there is proper accommodation. In most of the higher institutions in Nigeria today, many hostel rooms accommodate as much as four students officially. However, these students also bring inn squatters so that as many as eight students are cramped together in the same space. The disadvantage here is that, were plenty persons share the same room space, there will also be more issues of misunderstandings, unhealthy and poor atmospheric conditions that could lead to diseases/sicknesses, coupled with poor sanitary conditions especially in their toilets, among others.

A common observation from a distance by many education stakeholders tends to reveal that after the students’ have been admitted, perhaps because of limited hostel accommodations, most students rent accommodations Off-Campus. These living spaces are most a-times in the communities or satellite settlements around these centers of learning. Surprisingly, beyond the institutions’ authorities (administrative leadership) admitting and informing the students about their limited bed-spaces in the hostels, not much seems to be considered or concerned about the welfare of majority of the students who may be constrained to seek for alternative residential

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accommodations outside the campus'. The practice in many instances is that Off-Campus students normally attend lectures and participate in different co-curricular activities on campus and return back to their abodes outside the school environments.

A source of mind-boggling challenge with respect to Off-Campus residency that it seems to be providing for these future generational hopefuls of society is that, most of them Cohabits without considering the likely consequence of their behaviour. Cohabitation had been defined by various researchers. Cohabitation is a setting whereby people of the both sex (male and female), who are not biologically related live together in one space or apartment. The Chambers 21st Century Dictionary explains cohabitating as the staying together as husband and wife of persons of the both sex without formal marriage rite been done. Furthermore, cohabitation means man and woman frolicking together possibly having sexual relationship and mutually doing the things which married couples do by sharing virtually every thing in common.

Generally, the significance of accommodation cannot be over emphasized as it is a vital aspect to the entire human life. Specifically, accommodation which could also be referred to as housing or shelter helps in the physical protection of man from various environmental hazards. Shelter without doubt is equally basic for the biological and social processes necessary to sustain life. Housing contributes meaningfully to the healthy growth and development of the mind. Beyond its profound influence on health, social behaviour satisfaction and the general welfare of the community.

According to Ogadima (2013), when two persons of the opposite sex, without being conventionally (formerly) wedded resides mutually and enjoy all or some of the values of marital relationship, they are indeed cohabiting. The above submissions are also supported by Obikeze and Obi (2016), the duo agreed that pre-marital cohabitation is the establishment of an intimate relationship between a man and a woman to satisfy each other's sexual desires as well as other needs without formal marriage. Similarly, Svodziwa and Kurete (2017) explained that cohabitation stands for an intimate sexual union between two unmarried partners who share the same living quarters for a period of time.

Generally, in many societies especially in African cultures, cohabitation is considered as a deviant and irresponsible life style. However, Ogadima (2013) had explained that, there is an alarming increase in the number of youths of the opposite sex living together under the camouflage of lack of hostel accommodations in the Nigerian higher institutions of learning. At best, the phenomenon is viewed as deviant marriage more so when the parents have not given their consent to such relationships.

Over the ages, housing had been one of the major challenging issues humanity is confronted with globally. This research paper intends to x-ray this intractable problem which requires governments at all levels to address not only for students' accommodation needs but provide housing for all citizens. It is probable that addressing the accommodation needs of students might drastically check mate or reduce the extent of cohabitation among students of higher institutions especially viewing against the multiple consequences of such relationships.

While it is difficult to hold a particular gender more liable for been involved in cohabitation, Amauche (2016) emphasizes that it appears female students has more tendency to cohabit. Female students' indulgence to such practices no doubt may not be unconnected with their search for security and fears of being molested be the opposite sex (boys) which happens rampantly among Off-Campus students. Unfortunately, many of these ugly incidents are not even reported officially to the college authorities or the law enforcement agencies.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE ON REASONS WHY STUDENTS COHABIT

A lot of reasons might be responsible why students make risky choices related to cohabitation. In their studies, Jiya and Alhassan (2019) pointed out that students from the opposite sexes live together due to peer pressure or influence; some argue that they cohabit because of inadequate hostel spaces to accommodate them on campus'. Other likely reasons for demonstrating such risky behaviours could among many include poverty, inability to manage their sexual urge, and for some students, it could be due to the exposure or access to pornographic materials.

Other scholars such as Svodziwa and Kurete (2017) opined that students often times cohabit for personal growth especially for them to get a deeper understanding of their future partners. How certain this position might be, leaves much to be desired. The whole essence of education which is to guide the students appropriately might be defeated when students instead of been studious could begin to venture in to matters of relationship at tender ages. Some students feel that going into cohabitation, promotes them to higher levels of general well-being and happiness. It is also maintained that some female students attempt to cohabit because perhaps they require protection from aggressive individuals to avoid constant harassments by miscreants around the university environment.

Onoyase (2020) had enumerated some probable causes of students to cohabit. Onoyase explained that some students exhibit such forms of inter-relationships most likely because of the high cost of tuition fees as well as other sundry expenses with in the higher institutions of learning. In most institutions, students are informed that available bed spaces in the hostels will be given out on the bases of 'first come, first serve'. Some students indulge in the act of cohabitation in order to study each other for future marriage purposes. While others could become involved due to financial distress. Again, some students reason that with Western cultures, the African value system is out dated and no longer fashionable, such students see sexual gratification as a promotion of their social status. In Onoyase's submission, the youth especially are no longer holding on tenaciously to religious beliefs or tradition due to

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urbanization. The age at which many students are admitted in to the higher institutions could also probably be responsible for their embarking on sexually risky behaviours such as cohabitation too. Here, lack of maturity and self-discipline might be quarried. Many undergraduates are stepping out of direct parental control for the first time and tends to abuse their new found freedom from home. All these might contribute to the challenges or risky coping mechanisms among students.

The researchers cannot also rule out poor economic circumstances as a likely reason for cohabitation. According to Obikezei and Obi (2016), difficulty to raise funds for hostel accommodation or single-handedly rent a living space, forces some students to go into the practice of cohabitation. Some students are completely homeless upon securing admission. It is extremely difficult to continue to sleep in empty classrooms coupled with the risk of being raped in the case of female students or followed by other mischief makers on campus. Obikeze and Obi concluded that homelessness without contradictions could give students out of frustration to either consciously or otherwise embark on risky behaviours. Hardship could affect the health of a student when the resource for upkeep is difficult to come by. Such students may become cheap targets for cultists to persuade, they may also consider other alternative methods to raise money to meet their basic needs such as becoming commercial sex worker, use narcotics and other substances. It is situations like these that made Alo (2008) to submit that, increased cohabitation is one of the most significant issues that had led to shifts in family demography's in Nigeria.

From their studies, sexual activities according to Haber and Runyon (1983), it is pointed out that adolescence fulfill a number of important needs. Apart from sheer pleasure enjoyed by the cohabiters, been in such relationship provides opportunity for and practice in communicating and investigating the mysteries of love. Going further, cohabitation appears to promote peer approval among young ones. As a result of westernization and urbanization, society seems to frowned less towards sexual intimacy outside wedlock, subsequently, the rate of persons indulging in the act no doubt might be increasing. The economy is certainly not helping matters too. With scarce resources in addition to high bride prices demanded in some traditional settings, people seemed compelled to satisfy their physiological urges through cohabitation without perhaps considering its manifest implications. This paper is intendeds to investigate the perception of students in the Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State to ascertain if similar views are share among them too.

CONSEQUENCE OF COHABITATION AMONG OFF-CAMPUS STUDENTS

Most behaviours human beings exhibit has their consequences as time passes by. Cohabitation has its own social results which might affect those indulging in the act and by extension rubs off on the entire society. Among other dreaded outcomes of cohabitation is unwanted pregnancies among female students. Students in the colleges are at the prime of their ages. Most of them are in their twenties and could be actively reproductive when they experience marital duties even out of wedlock. Staying together for months might lead to sexual intercourse which could ultimately result into pregnancies. At this junction, there may be pressure from the male partner that he is not ready for family responsibilities. The female student too may also become anxious and scared of the reactions or repercussions from her family. The only option left is to attempt an abortion (whether legitimate or illegal). Most adolescents who undergo these precarious circumstances especially, the illegal abortions (crude and without professional touch by quarks) might experience various forms of complications that had being a major cause of death as submitted by Adeniyi (2019) and Aluko (2011). Statistics of young people whose life are cut short is alarming and abortion is a major cause of death for female adolescents and students. According to the Society of Gynecologists and Obstetricians of Nigeria, on the average about 20000 women lost their lives annually due to unsafe acts of terminating pregnancies (Abiodun (2002) and Bell (2020). Some female students consistently go into serial abortions without understanding the aftermaths. Iweama, C.N., Agbaje, O.S, Lerum, N.S., Igbokwe, C.C., and Ozoemena, L.E. (2024), had emphasized further through their studies that situations such as these could lead to suicidal ideations, depression, hopelessness, burdensomeness and thwarted belongingness among undergraduate students.

Cohabitation might have its seeming benefits but the underlying dangers appear to be much. For example, unprotected sex while living together with the opposite sex could result into someone contacting various sexually transmitted infections that might lead to barrenness in future when not properly treated. Furthermore, many female students may be prone to domestic violence if the partners are the aggressive types. A little suspicions-of-cheating on each other could result into violent attacks. These situations can as well be fatal and not support the well-being of the victim. Odhiambo (2014) reported that men and women who cohabit are more likely than married people to experience partner abuse (which could be both physical and sexual) emphasizing that assault is 62 times more likely among cohabiting couples. It is also being argued that cohabitation leads to telling lies especially to their sponsors and others who are been supportive for their school responsibilities. This category of student's say lies in other to sustain their expensive life styles.

It could lead the cohabiters to partake in other antisocial behaviours like stealing, as well as part-taking in cyber-crimes possibly with the intent to prepare themselves economically stable in maintaining their affair. Additionally, cohabitation appears to encourage such students' involvement in having multiple sexual partners all with the ambition of raising their financial base for sustenance of their relationship.

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Above all, cohabitation might affect the students' academic performance according to Oluwasinaayin and Olusegun (2017). In a study conducted at Ibadan, they found out that students who cohabit performed lower in academics depending on how long the relationship lasted. Students who are into such relationships might not be focused enough to combine academics with their private life style. Distractions such as these might result into either poor grades or withdrawal on grounds of under-performance. In the argument posited by Aluko (2009), the kind of room-mate a student keeps, could affect the accommodations' social adjustment as well as the students' mental state of mind, which are all contributory factors for academic success.

It is also reported by Odhiambo (2014) that most cohabiters but more among girls in this instance suffer depression due to the stress and violence they experience from such relationships in the hands of their partners. Stress generally is seen as when external-demands exceed peoples coping resource and capacities (Ekpenyong and Udisi (2016). Depression according to these researchers could be as a result of emotional aftermath of broken relationships which are also common and occurs often. Depression could eventually stimulate thoughts of suicide attempts among these adolescents. For many who survive the shock of breakups, could if care is not taking, live the rest of their lives in perpetual psychological trauma recalling such sodic moments.

Problem of the Study

The idle situation for students that are admitted into an institution of higher learning especially when they are from distant locations is to provide accommodation for those young people. School managers from their vest experiences can be assumed to be aware of the likely implications of homelessness on these young minds. Adequate accommodate or shelter is a basic prerequisite of life. It is therefore one symbolic need of man. All students upon being admitted are expected to be well catered for if they must develop mentally and be ready for the academic rigors upon admission for a course of study. In the hostels each student is provided with a bed space, a reading table and chair, and possibly a ward robe to keep their cloths. All of these accounts for reasonable comfort and maximum opportunity to concentrate with their studies.

A curious observation however indicates that in most higher institutions in Nigeria, there appears to be most students residing off-campus than those given accommodations on campus. Again, due to the liberal nature of academic freedom in these centers of learning, there are hardly any disciplinary measures put in place to monitor or sensitize students who stay off-campus about their behavioural conducts. Many of these students who are leaving the homes of their parents for the first are therefore led like "sheep without shepherds" in to engaging in activities that could affect their academics, mental wellbeing/health, venture into drugs and other immoral acts like cohabitation without necessarily considering the future implications. It will not be out of place to state that many students therefore miss out on their only opportunities of schooling due to the manifest outcomes of cohabitation. Many female students' gets' pregnant, and in extreme cases die through abortions, while others loose track or focus due to indulging in living with the opposite sex and could not graduate from school in many instances. The psychological effects of these risky behaviours extend beyond the students to their parents who will suffer the shock of their waisted investment on their children upon discovering that a son or daughter who went to school has ended up cohabiting rather than concentrating on their studies.

This study is therefore set out to find out the extent to which students of the Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State can perceive the manifest implications of cohabitation among off-campus students and be better enlightened to pursue their school programmes with cushion. The study is a clarion call for students to be focused, rather than get distracted by their involvement in risky social pleasures such as cohabiting. Again, since the ripple effects could affect their parents, loved ones and society at large, conscious effort must be employed to ensure their future success to avoid any debilitating consequences.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

In other to assist identify the perceived manifest implication of cohabitations among students, the researchers posed six research questions for the respondents to answer.

RQ1. What factors do students perceived to be responsible for cohabitation among off-campus undergraduates in Niger Delta University?

RQ2. What factors attracted 60% and above of students' positive responses to factors of co-habitation?

RQ3. What factors attracted 60% and above of students' negative responses to factors of co-habitation?

RQ4. What percentage of students disagreed that co-habiting is the best thing for off-campus students in Niger Delta University?

RQ5. What are the manifest implications of co-habitation as perceived by undergraduates in Niger Delta University?

RQ6. Which of the statements on manifest implication of co-habitation attracted 80% and above response of students' agreement?

METHOD

This study utilized the survey research design. All students in the Faculty of Education served as the population of the study. Out of the population, a portable number of 107 students in their third year and final year were drawn as sample for the study. The researchers assumed that students in the penultimate session and final year are appropriately equipped with their wealth of academic and social experiences in the university to perceive some manifest implications of cohabitation among students. There are nine Departments in the Faculty of Education and a purposive sampling technique was adopted in the selection of the respondents that

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were engaged for the study. A researcher designed questionnaire, titled “Manifest Perception of Students’ Cohabitation Questionnaire” (MPSCQ) was employed to elicit responses from the sample. The items in the instrument were presented to experts in Measurement and Evaluation to ascertain the content validity of the items in the instrument before they were administered on the respondents that served as sample. The instrument is made up of two (2) parts, with Part “A” attending to respondent’s demographic details. Part “B” which is prepared using the Likert type scale of Strongly Agree (SA); Agree (A); Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD). There are in all 24 items in Part “B” of the instrument examining respondents Perceived factors of cohabitation among off-campus students (with 14 items) and Perceived manifest implications of cohabitation among off-campus students (made up of 10 items). Item are measured and scored using frequency counts, per centages (%), mean ($\bar{x}$) and standard deviation (SD). The researchers personally administered the instrument and retrieved same upon completion for analysis.

RESULTS

After collating the responses upon administration of the instrument, the items were analyzed using frequency counts, per centages, mean, and standard deviation. The results from the analysis is presented as follows in line with each research question.

RQ 1. What factors do students perceived to be responsible for cohabitation among off-campus undergraduates in Niger Delta University?

Table 1: Descriptive statistics of factors responsible for co-habitation.

Item statement	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	SD
A. Perceived factors of cohabitation of campus students						
Only few students live off campus	6(24)	16(48)	54(108)	31(31)	30.925	
Students cohabit off campus because of lack of spaces in the hostel	12(48)	31(93)	43(86)	21(21)		4.649
It is less expensive financially to cohabit	28(112)	38(114)	26(52)	13(13)	30.925	
I don’t see anything wrong for students cohabiting	13(52)	42(126)	27(54)	25(25)		
Students cohabit for security reasons	9(36)	23(69)	40(80)	34(134)		
Students cohabit in order to enjoy their freedom from authorities/parents and guardians	20(80)	44(132)	25(50)	18(18)		
Students cohabit due to peer pressure	12(48)	43(129)	34(68)	18(18)		
Students cohabit in order o understand their future marital partners well	12(48)	39(117)	24(48)	31(31)		
Students cohabit due to lack of orientation programs organized for them by the university	19(76)	24(72)	37(74)	27(27)		
Students cohabit due to weak religious inclinations	16(64)	25(75)	41(82)	25(25)		
I perceived that cohabiting is the best thing for students	3(12)	15(45)	49(98)	39(39)		
Cohabiting enables students to study hard	8(32)	19(57)	40 (8)	36(36)		
Cohabiting give me sense of prestige	1(4)	22(66)	49(98)	31(31)		
I prefer to cohabit instead of living with persons of same sex with me.	7(28)	20(60)	39(78)	41(41)		

From table 1, a mean of 30.925 and standard deviation of 4.649 indicate a low coefficient of variation of 0.150. That is students are homogenous in their responses. They have about the same range of agreement about the factors responsible for cohabitation among off-campus undergraduates in the Niger Delta University.

RQ 2: What factors attracted 60% and above of students’ positive responses to factors of cohabitation?

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Table 2: Statistics on positive responses or factors of cohabitation

Item statement	Frequency	Percentage
It is less expensive financially to cohabit	66	62%
Students cohabit in order to enjoy their freedom from authorities/parents and guardians	64	60%

66 students representing 62% of the sample agreed that it is less expensive financially to cohabit, 64(60%) of the students agreed that students cohabit in order to enjoy their freedom from authorities/parents and guardians.

RQ 3: What factors attracted 60% and above of students' negative responses to factors of cohabitation?

Table 3 Statistics on Negative responses on factors of cohabitation.

Item statement	Frequency	Percentage
Students cohabit for security reasons	74	69%
Students cohabit due to lack of orientation programs organized for them by the university	64	60%
Students cohabit due to weak religious inclinations	66	62%
Cohabiting enables students to study hard	76	71%
Cohabiting give me sense of prestige	80	75%
I prefer to cohabit instead of living with persons of same sex with me.	80	75%

Findings on Table 3 show 75% of the students disagreed that cohabiting gives a sense of prestige and their preference to cohabitation.

RQ 4: What percentage of students disagreed that cohabiting is the best thing for off campus students in Niger Delta University?

Table 4: Descriptive statistics

Item statement	Frequency	Percentage
11. I perceive that cohabitation is the best thing for students.	88	82%

82% of the students did not agree that cohabiting is a best practice for students who stay off-campus in the Niger University.

RQ 5: What are the manifest implications of cohabitation as perceived by undergraduates in Niger Delta University:

Table 5: Descriptive statistics of manifest implications of cohabitation

Item statement	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	SD
B. Perceived manifest implications of cohabitation						
Students may not concentration on their studying due to cohabitation	39(156)	32(111)	23(46)	12(12)	30.594	
Students endanger their health through unprotected sexual activities with partners	66(264)	34(102)	4(8)	3(3)		
Student that cohabit are likely to have more than one sexual partner for economic reasons	31(124)	42(126)	26(52)	7(7)		
Students especially the female might attempt abortion when pregnant	54(216)	46(138)	3(6)	4(4)		
Students' security may not be guaranteed due to cohabitation	20(80)	52(156)	29(58)	4(4)		
Students might experience violence/abuse from their partners in case of misunderstanding	43(172)	58(174)	4(8)	2(2)		
Students might attempt some illegitimate means to sustain their lifestyle (i.e telling lies to parents to obtain more money, stealing, prostitution)	54(216)	43(129)	4(8)	2(2)		
Male students are likely to become proud and not focus on their studies	27(108)	45(135)	23(46)	8(8)		
Female students might use pills to prevent pregnancy without thinking of the aftermaths	58(232)	44(132)	2(4)	3(3)		
Students who cohabit are most likely not to show their parents where they stay/reside in the university community	10(40)	29(87)	32(64)	35(35)		

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Finding on table 5 shows a low coefficient of variation of 0.145. This implies that the students have about the same range of agreement on manifest implications of cohabitation.

RQ 6: Which of the statements on manifest implication of cohabitation attracted 80% and above response of students' agreement?
Descriptive statistics

Item statement		Frequency	Percentage
	Students endanger their health through unprotected sexual activities with partners	100	93%
	Students especially the female might attempt abortion when pregnant	100	93%
	Students might experience violence/abuse from their partners in case of misunderstanding	101	94%
	Students might attempt some illegitimate means to sustain their lifestyle (i.e telling lies to parents to obtain more money, stealing, prostitution)	97	91%
	Female students might use pills to prevent pregnancy without thinking of the aftermaths	102	95%

From table 6 the most Frequent statement that attracted students' agreed perception of manifest implications of cohabitation among undergraduates in Niger Delta University.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Based on the data analyzed the collation of responses from the items in the instrument, it is obvious that most students have homogenous perceptions about cohabitation among their colleagues. For instance, majority of the students in item 1 (108) are of the view that there are more off-campus students than those staying as residents in the university hostels. This could be in line with the emphasis by Onoyase (2020), who explained that many students may be staying off-campus because the accommodations on the campuses are limited and in many instances given out on the bases of first come first serve; again some students might wish to save themselves from the high cost of fees and maintenance cost for different things including feeding while staying on campus. Furthermore, Obikeze and Obi (2016), concluded that difficulty to raise funds for hostel accommodation or single-handedly renting a living space, forces some students to go into the practice of cohabitation. The contradiction from item 2, on why students prefer off-campus as perceived by the respondents is equally understandable. Many students deliberately wish to stay off-campus to assert their new found freedom and peer approval in terms of promoting their status without a proper sense of guidance (Haber and Runyon (1983).

The result from the Research Question 2 intended to find out why students prefer to cohabit. It is obvious that most students cohabit due to economic reasons. Such students might have perceived that staying with the opposite sex might lighten their financial burdens hence they choose it as an option. About 60% of the respondents are of this opinion. Again, the position of this analysis is in line with the submissions of Onoyase (2020) and Obikeze and Obi (2016). Some students deliberately choose to go into cohabitation due to the high cost of the tuition fees as well as other charges which are imposed on the students to pay. Living together might assist them to share some responsibilities especially financial issues which may be very demanding.

The strongest factor that may be responsible for students' cohabitation is the fact that students are not adequately given proper orientation concerning the health implications of such risky behaviours. There is therefore need to educate the students upon admission concerning their personal conducts and attitudes even if they will stay off-campus. The instances about the risk, mostly concerning abortion and its consequences as a leading factor for female students' mortality rate should be echoed as an anthem to freshers as much as possible. Recall that Abiodun, (2002), explained that, unsafe abortions cause 20000 deaths a year in Nigeria. Awareness campaigns mentioning the after effects, could help serve as deterrents to enable wisdom to prevail over pleasure to a large extent.

In tune with Research Question 4, 82% of respondents assume that cohabitation is not the best option for students, be they male or female. The above position notwithstanding, what might prompt students to cohabit? Adventure in to their new academic world off the watchful eyes of their parents and guidance may likely induce them to cohabit. Coupled with peer pressure, might be among other factors reasonable for the continuous exhibition of cohabitation (Jiya and Alhassan (2019), Svodziwa and Kurete (2017). Above all, cultural dynamics mostly due to westernization and globalization can be quarried for cohabitation (Ogadima (2013). The African moral values are steadily been replaced by modernity.

Responses to Research Question 5 indicates that many of the students who served as sample for the study are aware of the implications or consequences of cohabitation. Their response indicate that cohabitation is perceived as leading students not to concentrate on their studies; can lead to negative thoughts as depression and suicidal attempts, committing abortion and in extreme

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cases death. The best option is for students to realize these factors early enough and avoid being dragged into cohabiting in the first instance (Ekpenyong and Udisi (2016).

Research Question 6 is totally in line with most of the literature reviewed. From the analysis, it is explicitly clear that cohabitation potent danger for those who may be unlucky. It exposes female students to early use of pregnancy prevention drugs which might later affect their health in a variety of ways. The same might increase the rate of abortions among female students; they might also become soft targets for violence from their partners; findings again supports the view that co-habiting might help to instigate lying behaviour and several anti-social conducts (Odhiambo (2014). Many students may derail academically and find it difficult to complete their programmes in colleges and universities (Oluwasinaayin and Olusegun (2017).

CONCLUSIONS

Cohabitation is an integral culture among many off-campus students in Nigerian Tertiary institutions including students of the Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa state. The cohabitation is a risky behaviour that could result into multiple negative academic, health and other social implications among student who are involved in such practices. The ripple effects of these attitude is likely to rub off on the entire society including the parents of the students whose investments on their education would be a colossal wastage.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of the findings above had prompted the researchers to proffer the following recommendations.

1. Authorities managing tertiary institutions must make deliberate attempts to collaborate with both government and the private sector to ensure that many more hostels are built on the campuses to accommodate all students.
2. The management of high institutions needs partner with community and the traditional institutions to revitalize the African culture where the child belongs to the entire society. The Chiefs and elders of the communities where these higher institutions are situated must take up the responsibility to check, speak with such cohabiting students and advise them on the risks involved from time to time. Remember, in Africa, the child belongs to the community and not only to their biological parents.
3. Parents should owe their children a duty by going to the institutions and residents on a regular bases to find out how their wards faring in schools. They can pay impromptu visits and ask questions within the neighborhood about the conducts of their children who are students. It appears like many parents are too distant from their undergraduate students in school. Parents are expected to monitor their children and cushion them where they see sudden behavioural changes.
4. Regular orientation exercises and counselling is required in school of higher learning. School authorities must not only expose the students in terms of academic discipline but also promote positive character and conducts. Prizes and awards should be presented to students with positive conducts at all times.
5. Special marks should be award to students during examinations based on recommendations by community leaders concerning each student mostly those staying off-campus. This may be difficult to collate but it is do able.
6. As part of the sensitization campaign, the school authorities can create bill boards with different concerns that can result from cohabiting. These large banners should be kept at various vantage points in and outside the institution's premises for all to view/sight at every moment.
7. All 100 level students (freshers) upon admission requires adequate mentorship through their academic advisers/school counselling units on the need to uphold moral values and decency.

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APPENDIX

Frequencies

Frequency Table

sex

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
.00	3	2.8	2.8	2.8
Male	38	35.5	35.5	38.3
Female	66	61.7	61.7	100.0
Total	10	100.0	100.0	

age

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
.00	1	.9	.9	.9
17-18	2	1.9	1.9	2.8
Valid 19-21	23	21.5	21.5	24.3
22+	81	75.7	75.7	100.0
Total	107	100.0	100.0	

religion

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
.00	2	1.9	1.9	1.9
christian	103	96.3	96.3	98.1
Muslim	2	1.9	1.9	100.0
Total	107	100.0	100.0	

Perceived factors of cohabitation

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
sd	31	29.0	29.0	29.0
d	54	50.5	50.5	79.4
Valid a	16	15.0	15.0	94.4
sa	6	5.6	5.6	100.0
Total	107	100.0	100.0	

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f2

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
sd	21	19.6	19.6	19.6
d	43	40.2	40.2	59.8
Valid a	31	29.0	29.0	88.8
sa	12	11.2	11.2	100.0
Total	107	100.0	100.0	

f3

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
.00	2	1.9	1.9	1.0
sd	13	12.1	12.1	14.0
d	26	24.3	24.3	38.3
Valid a	38	35.5	35.5	73.3
sa	28	26.2	26.2	100.0
Total	107	100.0	100.0	

f4

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
sd	25	23.4	23.4	23.4
d	27	25.2	25.2	48.6
Valid a	42	39.3	39.3	87.9
sa	13	12.1	12.1	100.0
Total	107	100.0	100.0	

f5

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
.00	1	.9	.9	.9
sd	34	31.8	31.8	32.7
d	40	37.4	37.4	70.1
Valid a	23	21.5	21.5	91.6
sa	9	8.4	8.4	100.0
Total	107	100.0	100.0	

f6

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
sd	18	16.8	16.8	16.8
d	25	23.4	23.4	40.2
Valid a	44	41.1	41.1	81.3
sa	20	18.7	18.7	100.0
Total	107	100.0	100.0	

f7

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
sd	18	16.8	16.8	16.8
d	34	31.8	31.8	48.6
Valid a	43	40.2	40.2	88.8
sa	12	11.2	11.2	100.0
Total	107	100.0	100.0	

f8

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
.00	1	.9	.9	.9
sd	31	29.0	29.0	29.9
d	24	22.4	22.4	52.3
Valid a	39	36.4	36.4	88.8
sa	12	11.2	11.2	100.0
Total	107	100.0	100.0	

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f9

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
sd	27	25.2	25.2	25.2
d	37	34.6	34.6	59.8
Valid a	24	22.4	22.4	82.2
sa	19	17.8	17.8	100.0
Total	107	100.0	100.0	

f10

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
.00	1	.9	.9	.9
sd	25	23.4	23.4	24.3
d	41	38.3	38.3	62.6
Valid a	25	23.4	23.4	86.0
sa	15	14.0	14.0	100.0
Total	107	100.0	100.0	

f11

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
.00	1	.9	.9	.9
sd	39	36.4	36.4	37.4
d	49	45.8	45.8	83.2
Valid a	15	14.0	14.0	97.2
sa	3	2.8	2.8	100.0
Total	107	100.0	100.0	

f12

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
.00	4	3.7	3.7	3.7
sd	36	33.6	33.6	37.4
d	40	37.4	37.4	74.8
Valid a	19	17.8	17.8	92.5
sa	8	7.5	7.5	100.0
Total	107	100.0	100.0	

f13

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
.00	4	3.7	3.7	3.7
sd	31	29.0	29.0	32.7
d	49	45.8	45.8	78.5
Valid a	22	20.6	20.6	99.1
sa	1	.9	.9	100.0
Total	107	100.0	100.0	

f14

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
sd	41	38.3	38.3	38.3
d	39	36.4	36.4	74.8
Valid a	20	18.7	18.7	93.5
sa	7	6.5	6.5	100.0
Total	107	100.0	100.0	

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Perceived manifest implications of cohabitation

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
sd	12	12.2	11.3	11.3
d	23	21.5	21.7	33.0
Valid a	32	29.9	30.2	63.2
sa	39	36.4	36.8	100.0
Total	106	99.1	100.0	
Missing system	1	.9		
Total	107	100.0		

m2

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
sd	3	2.8	2.8	2.8
d	4	3.7	3.7	6.5
Valid a	34	31.8	31.8	38.3
sa	66	61.7	61.7	100.0
Total	107	100.0	100.0	

m3

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
.00	1	.9	.9	.9
sd	7	6.5	6.5	7.5
d	26	24.3	24.3	31.8
Valid a	42	39.3	39.3	71.0
sa	31	29.0	29.0	100.0
Total	107	100.0	100.0	

m4

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
sd	4	3.7	3.7	3.7
d	3	2.8	2.8	6.5
Valid a	46	43.0	43.0	49.5
sa	54	50.5	50.5	100.0
Total	107	100.0	100.0	

m5

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
.00	2	1.9	1.9	1.9
sd	4	3.7	3.7	5.6
d	29	27.1	27.1	32.7
Valid a	52	48.6	48.6	81.3
sa	20	18.7	18.7	100.0
Total	107	100.0	100.0	

m6

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
sd	2	1.9	1.9	1.9
d	4	3.	3.	5.6
Valid a	58	54.2	54.2	59.8
sa	43	40.2	40.2	100.0
Total	107	100.0	100.0	

m7

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
sd	6	5.6	5.6	5.6
d	4	3.7	3.7	9.3
Valid a	43	40.2	40.2	95.5
sa	54	50.5	50.5	100.0

Perceived Manifest Implications of Cohabitation Among Undergraduate Students of The Niger Delta University, Bayelsa State

m8

Total	107	100.0	100.0	
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	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
.00	3	2.8	2.8	2.8
sd	8	7.5	7.5	10.3
d	23	21.5	21.5	31.8
Valid a	46	43.0	43.0	74.8
sa	27	25.2	25.2	100.0
Total	107	100.0	100.0	

m9

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
sd	3	2.8	2.8	2.8
d	2	1.9	1.9	4.7
Valid a	44	41.1	41.1	45.8
sa	58	54.2	54.2	100.0
Total	107	100.0	100.0	

m10

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
.00	1	.9	.9	.9
sd	35	32.7	32.7	33.6
d	32	29.9	29.9	63.6
Valid a	29	27.1	27.1	90.7
sa	10	9.3	9.3	100.0
Total	107	100.0	100.0	

VAR00001

	Frequency	Percent
Missing system	107	100.0

VAR00002

	Frequency	Percent
Missing system	107	100.0



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