

DETERMINANTS OF FERTILITY RATES IN RURAL COMMUNITIES OF NIGERIA

BY

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DEGREE IN GEOGRAPHY

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Determinants of Fertility Rates in Rural Communities of Nigeria" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Date

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Date

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined determinants of fertility rates in rural communities of Nigeria, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of determinants; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with determinants and fertility. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Systems Theory and the Sustainable Development Theory. A sample size of 393 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 382 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.18). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.551$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 5.45, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.32$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on determinants.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title Page	i
Certification	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Abstract	v
Table of Contents	vi
List of Tables	vii
List of Figures	viii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background to the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	4
1.3 Objectives of the Study	7
1.4 Research Questions	7
1.5 Research Hypotheses	7
1.6 Significance of the Study	8
1.7 Scope and Limitation of the Study	11
1.8 Definition of Terms	13
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	15
2.1 Conceptual Review	15
2.1.1 Concept of Determinants	15
2.1.2 Concept of Fertility	16
2.1.3 Concept of Rates	18
2.2 Theoretical Framework	20
2.2.1 Systems Theory	20
2.2.2 Sustainable Development Theory	21
2.2.3 Risk Perception Theory	22
2.2.4 Central Place Theory	23
2.3 Empirical Review	25
2.3.1 Early Studies on determinants	25
2.3.2 Recent Nigerian Evidence on determinants	27
2.3.3 Determinants and fertility	28
2.3.4 Comparative Perspectives across Africa	30
2.4 Summary of Literature Review	32
CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	34
3.1 Research Design	34
3.2 Population of the Study	34
3.3 Sample Size and Sampling Technique	35
3.4 Sources of Data Collection	36
3.5 Research Instrument	37
3.6 Validity and Reliability of the Instrument	38
3.7 Method of Data Analysis	39
3.7.1 Administration of the Instrument	40

3.8 Ethical Considerations	41
CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION	44
4.1 Data Presentation	44
4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents	44
4.3 Analysis of Research Questions	45
4.4 Test of Hypotheses	46
4.5 Discussion of Findings	47
CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	52
5.1 Summary	52
5.2 Conclusion	53
5.3 Recommendations	54
5.4 Suggestions for Further Studies	54
REFERENCES	56
APPENDIX	58

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1: Summary of the Review of Related Literature	33
Table 2.2: Operationalisation of the Study Variables	33
Table 3.1: Population of the Study and Sampling Technique	42
Table 3.2: Validity and Reliability of the Research Instrument	42
Table 4.1: Gender Distribution of Respondents	50
Table 4.2: Age Distribution of Respondents	50
Table 4.3: Educational Attainment of Respondents	50
Table 4.4: Weighted Mean Analysis of Research Question One	51
Table 4.5: Weighted Mean Analysis of Research Question Two	51
Table 4.6: Correlation Summary between the Independent and Dependent Variables	51
Table 4.7: Independent Samples t-test by Gender	51
Table 4.8: Chi-square Test of Association	51

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1: Conceptual Framework of the Study	14
Figure 3.1: Geography Research Context	43
Figure 4.1: Gender Distribution of Respondents	50
Figure 4.2: Age Distribution of Respondents	50

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of determinants of fertility rates in rural communities of Nigeria is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

A growing corpus of literature draws attention to the pivotal role of determinants in shaping developmental trajectories. In Nigeria, the intersection of determinants and fertility is conditioned by unique socio-economic, cultural, and institutional factors that differ markedly from Western settings. The aggregate picture emerging from Ibrahim and Ogbeide (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between determinants and the outcomes of interest. These developments carry important implications for policy and practice in geography. Evidence assembled by Osinachi and Osinachi (2015) across twelve states underscored the heterogeneity of outcomes linked to determinants. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding fertility. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

Scholars have long recognised determinants as a critical determinant of outcomes in geography. The Nigerian context presents peculiar challenges, ranging from infrastructural deficits to institutional weaknesses, which shape the manner in which determinants unfolds. The work of Ogunlana and Adeniyi (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that fertility reinforces the effects of determinants. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. The work of Adebayo and Ekwueme (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that fertility reinforces the effects of determinants. For practitioners, the practical significance of determinants cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with fertility. A recurring weakness in the literature concerns the difficulty of isolating the precise influence of {k0} from confounding factors.

Over the past two decades, determinants has become increasingly significant within the Nigerian landscape and beyond. Rapid urbanisation and demographic expansion across Nigerian cities have heightened the salience of determinants in everyday life. Adebayo and Ekwueme (2020), in a survey of relevant stakeholders, concluded that the benefits of determinants are unevenly distributed across groups. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding fertility. Research by Adeniyi and Nnamdi (2021) using mixed methods provided particularly rich insight into the mechanisms connecting determinants and fertility. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding fertility. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

Scholars have long recognised determinants as a critical determinant of outcomes in geography. The colonial and post-colonial legacies of the Nigerian state continue to influence contemporary patterns of determinants. Ogunlana and Adeniyi (2020), in a survey of relevant stakeholders, concluded that the benefits of determinants