

# Influence of Family Religious Denomination and Birth Order on Prostitution Tendencies Among Students of Ebonyi State University Abakaliki

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## Abstract

*This study determined the influence of family religious denomination and child birth order on prostitution tendencies among Ebonyi state university female students. Using the multistage sampling technique a total of 299 female students who consented to be part of the study was enrolled. Descriptive research survey was adopted for the study. A self developed questionnaire titled the influence of family religious denomination and birth order on prostitution tendencies (IFRDBO) which was validated by 5 experts in the department of human kinetics and health education were used for data collection. While frequency table, pie chart, bar chart and percentage was used to describe the prostitution tendencies among the students, chi-square statistics was used to test the formulated hypotheses at an alpha level of 0.05. Major findings of the study showed that prostitution tendencies were high among 61.54% of the female students while 38.46 had low prostitution tendencies. It was also observed that child birth order had significant influence on prostitution tendencies but religious denomination did not significantly influence prostitution tendencies among the students. Recommendations were therefore made which include among others that universities and the state government of state universities should reduce financial burden on students through the establishment of affordable school fees and lecturers who are in the habit of exploiting students financially and sexually should be sourced and punished severely.*

## Background

Prostitution which is one of the important social and physical health threats is increasing rapidly all over the world with students of tertiary institutions taking the center stage in the act. A 2012 report revealed that there was a global 40 to 42 million prostitutes with three-quarter of these prostitutes between the ages of 13 and 25, and 80 percent of them females (Gus, 2012). Although prostitution as an old trade has always been in most countries, the level of its prevalence today is not as it was in the past when a relatively high cultural and moral values were revered, chastity highly valued and celebrated and sex seen as a sacred issue left only to be discussed and practiced by the married. It is therefore amazing that even when prostitution is yet to be legalized in most countries of the world such as Nigeria, the unhealthy trade continues to wax strong and generating over \$100 billion annually (Gungul & Audu, 2014). The increase in global prostitution is no doubt a consequence of the expansion of numerous and diverse businesses resulting from urbanization, population explosion and the persistent desire of man to meet up with the basic needs of life which in turn has generated both economic and social problems in societies (Gungul & Audu, 2014). People therefore engage in all manner of illegal means such as prostitution in order to meet up with life challenges and economic pressure. This situation is not different in Nigeria. Report shows that prostitution among young girls is increasing daily amidst severe condemnation and societal rejection on account of its abuse on African culture (Encomium, 2107).

Prostitution is not legal in Nigeria and the philosophy governing the establishment of universities in Nigeria from the onset even up to date indicates that it is a place for the acquisition of understanding, development of intellect and good moral skills. However, with the popularization of prostitution among the students it is doubtful if universities in Nigeria today are still successfully upholding these philosophies especially with respect to character development (Anadi, Egboka and Anierobi, 2011). Research shows that up to 70 percent of female students who were sent to tertiary institutions for the primary purpose of obtaining knowledge and thus become useful members of the society have abandoned their educational goals for prostitution (CADAC, 2018, ; Amadi, 2018).



Jenkins (2018) described prostitution as any act of engaging in immoral sexual activity with a person who is not a spouse or a friend for the sake of money or valuable materials. It is the provision of sex to get financial reward (Scott and Marshall, 2005). Drawing from these two definitions, prostitution in simple terms could be conceived as the act of getting involved in sexual act just to obtain material things such as money or favour. Prostitution in the universities has different street names but the newest name for prostitution in universities in Nigeria is “runs” (CADAC, 2018). As posited by Eruke (2013) prostitution in universities is a situation in which female students hawk sex just to get underserved favours from men. Students who practice prostitution parade themselves as responsible students during the day and at night chooses places such as night clubs, hotels and sometimes hang at strategic locations within the school where they can easily be noticed and their services called for. Adams (2015) observed that female students of universities have made sex so common that they readily give sex to any interested partner just to wear latest dress, shoes and bags, go on expensive vacations, buy expensive hairs, phones and live expensive life style as well as pass exams in school. This has indeed reduced sexual sanity to its lowest ebb and have increased public health hazard index (Onyeoku, Ngwoke, Eskay, & Obikelu, 2017). The situation poses serious health concern because students form an important proportion of people in the society that are very sexually active and are most times not taking seriously with respect to sexual pervasion (Onyeoku, Ngwoke, Eskay, & Obikelu, 2017).

Although both male and female students engage in prostitution, females appear to be more involved in this act and also bear the brunt of its negative implications. It has been established that female prostitutes are more likely to experience sexual violence, verbal and physical assault, rape, homicide, murder (Project, 2018; Farley 2010). Prostitution among females generally leads to the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, human papiloma virus, herpes and incidence of cervical cancer amongst others. Prostitutes are eight times more likely to suffer from HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases than non prostitutes (Ayomide, 2017). Apart from STDs, Some women suffer trauma and pelvic pains which at times spurs up drinking and smoking in order to reduce pain. This lifestyle in turn predisposes prostitutes to numerous health problems, jeopardizes their health and thus increases mortality rate of the country (Alufohai, 2007).

The high life threats of prostitution make its prevention and eradication in our tertiary institutions expedient. Tackling the problem of prostitution in schools is indeed challenging since the act has not been legalized thus no student prostitute would declare to be one. Females who are involved in campus prostitution do so discreetly not to be noticed especially for the stigma that is associated with the act. However these students could be identified through certain behavioural tendencies which are characteristic of prostitutes. The term tendency refers to a characteristic likelihood of a natural disposition toward a certain condition or character or effect (Princeton's WordNet, 2001-2018). It could also mean a possibility of behaving in a particular way or going in a particular direction, a tending toward something (Wiktionary, 2001-2018). From these definitions, prostitution tendencies refer to behaviours or lifestyles that indicate that a persona is likely to be a prostitute or involved in prostitution. They are those sexual and immoral behaviours of students suggestive of prostitution act. These behaviours have been identified to include clubbing, parting, wearing of very expensive dresses, watching of pornographies, nude dressing, luxurious lifestyle even when the person has poor family background, drinking excessive alcohol consumption, smoking and keeping the company of smokers, frolicking with the high and mighty and sitting with abusers of drug, giving sex in other to pass exam and frequent absenteeism from lectures among others (Onyeoku, Ngwoke, Eskay, & Obikelu, 2017). A clear understanding of these prostitution tendencies is fundamental for proper planning of interventions targeted at preventing and eradicating prostitution in tertiary institutions. While High level of prostitution tendencies indicates high likelihood of students involvement in prostitution, low tendencies invariably indicates low level of prostitution.

There are various factors that influence female involvement in prostitution tendencies. Such factors include peer pressure, bad company, broken homes, unemployment, greed, socio-economic factors among others (Uzokwe, 2008). However of all these identifiable factors of prostitution, Uzokwe opined that factors emanating from parent or family background pose the strongest influence. Child birth order has been identified as an important family factor associated with deviant behaviours. Adler (1928) in a theory indicated that while firstborns or single children would score the lowest on a delinquency scale, middle-borns would score the highest, and the youngest children should score somewhere between firstborns and middle-borns. Deducing from this theory of Adler, it is thus likely that a second or third child will be involved in prostitution tendencies than first born or only child. Religious beliefs are known to have strong influence on people's life decisions hence parental religious affiliation is a possible pointer of prostitution tendencies. Parents who are strong members of a religious group that frown and preach against sexual immorality are likely to pass such to their children which in turn can reduce the likelihood of their children's involvement in prostitution tendencies.



Although prostitution remains an observable problem in Nigeria especially in the Universities only few research works have been done on this area. Ebonyi state university is one of the developing universities in the south east of Nigeria located about 15miutets driving distance away from the city capital. In recent times the increase in political activities within the state and the general infrastructural development which attracted business investments such as hotels give cause for worry and the need for the present study. Due to the closeness of the school to the state capital, it is speculated that students could form part of the numerous youth found in night clubs in most hotels around the state capital. Besides research has shown that most prostitutes mingle frequently with politicians who apparently can afford their bills Eruke( 2013). It is further speculated that these resent developments in the state coupled with the desire of students to meet up with high cost of schooling characteristic of state universities like EBSU could have spurred certain unhealthy sexual lifestyles among the students (Onyeoku, Ngwoke , Eskay, & Obikelu, 2017). As far as the researcher knows prostitution tendencies among students of Ebonyi state university has not been established. Available few studies conducted on prostitution tendencies were done outside EBSU and focused on family factors such as parenting and socio-economic status of parents but did not address birth order and parental religion. A good understanding of prostitution tendencies among students of tertiary institutions and its associated family factors is imperative for a sustainable panacea to the problems of prostitution in higher institutions

### Research Questions

1. What is the level of prostitution tendencies among students of Ebonyi State University?
2. What is the influence of religious denomination on prostitution tendencies?
3. What is the influence of birth order on prostitution tendencies?

### Hypotheses

1. Religious denomination of parent will not significantly influence prostitution tendencies among students of Ebonyi State University on prostitution tendencies
2. Birth order will not have any significant influence on prostitution tendencies among students of Ebonyi state University

### Methods

The descriptive survey research design was deemed appropriate for the study since it aimed at giving a description of the true situation of prostitution tendencies among the female students. Using the multistage sampling technique a convenient sample of 300 female respondents drawn from the general population of 13, 917 Ebonyi State University students formed the population. First, simple random sampling was used to select 6 faculties out of which, one department each was also randomly chosen. Out of the six selected departments, 50 female students were randomly chosen from each of the department to form the sample population.

Data collection was done by means of a self developed, tested and validated questionnaire titled Influence of religious denomination and child birth order on prostitution tendencies. The instrument had two sections namely section: "A" which had two questions only and elicited information on respondent's parent religious denomination and student birth order. Section: "B" of the instrument contained 24 item questions of "agree and disagree" on student's involvement in prostitution tendencies. The instrument was then validated by 5 health education experts from the department of human kinetics and Health Education. These experts did a face and content validation of the instrument by effecting grammatic corrections, adding important variables and removing those that were not necessary. 30 copies of the validated instrument were given twice within two weeks interval to a group of students who were not part of the study sample. Responses from this group of students were finally subjected to a reliability test using Pearson's Product Moment. A reliability coefficient of 0.77 was obtained and was deemed appropriate for the study.

Student's informed consent was obtained through a consent letter which was given to them before administering the questionnaire. Only those students who consented to be part of the study were enrolled. The administration of the questionnaire was personally administered and collected on the spot by the researcher and 5 research assistants hence a high return rate of 99.7 was achieved. Frequency tables, pie chart, bar chart and percentage were used to describe level of prostitution tendencies and the influence of prostitution tendencies by religious denomination and child birth order. Percentage scores below 50 was considered low tendency while those up to 50 and above were described as high tendency. Finally, Chi-square was used to test the influence of religious denomination and birth order on prostitution tendencies respectively.

**Results**

**Table 1:** Percentage Distribution of Prostitution Tendencies among Students of Ebonyi State University, South East Nigeria (N=299)

S/N	Prostitution Tendencies	Agree		Disagree		
		F	%	F	%	
1	Love going to clubs	217	72.6	82	27.4	High
2	Likely to engage in sexual activity to make money to pay school fees	161	63.8	138	46.2	High
3	Do not mind engaging in sexual activity so as to obtain money	156	52.2	143	47.8	High
4	Wear clothes that exposes part of my breast, tummy and waist	147	49.2	152	50.8	Low
5	It is okay to have more than one sex partner	145	48.5	154	51.5	Low
6	Like dressing to attract attention	168	56.2	131	43.8	High
7	Can engage in sex in order to pass my exam	141	47.2	158	52.8	Low
8	Watch pornographic films to improve sex skills	148	49.5	151	50.5	Low
9	It is good to satisfy sexual desire whenever the need arises	168	56.2	131	43.8	High
10	Have sex without protection with condom	154	51.5	145	48.5	High
11	Attending parties is a great fun to me	206	68.9	93	31.1	High
12	Like visiting hotels to catch fun	181	60.5	118	39.5	High
13	Send pictures to hotels to advertise self	149	49.8	150	50.2	Low
14	Enjoy taking pictures that expose body parts	174	58.2	125	41.8	High
15	Love drinking alcohol and enjoy the company of drinkers	193	64.5	106	35.5	High
16	Do not mind having smokers as friends	188	62.9	111	37.1	High
17	Have strong desire to meet and be with influential persons	216	72.2	83	27.8	High
18	Feel very uncomfortable when I do not have money	226	75.6	73	24.4	High
19	Love wearing the latest dress and shoes	235	78.6	64	21.4	High
20	Love wearing expensive outfit	229	76.6	70	23.4	High
21	Okay to co-habit with a male student who can take care of your needs	210	70.2	89	29.8	High
22	Living with the opposite sex is common among students	225	75.3	74	24.7	High
23	There is nothing wrong in having sex while in a party	175	58.5	124	41.5	High
24	Hanging out with married men gives great fun	167	55.9	132	44.1	High

**Key 1.** Less than 50 percent =low tendency 2. 50 percent and above =high tendency

**Figure 1:** Pie Chart presentation of the Overall level of prostitution tendencies among the students of Ebonyi State University Abakaliki

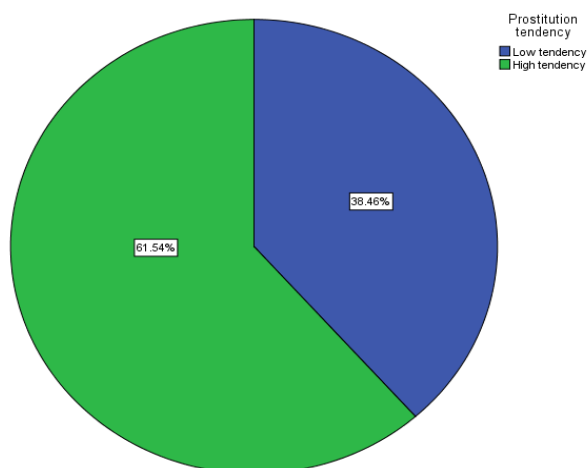
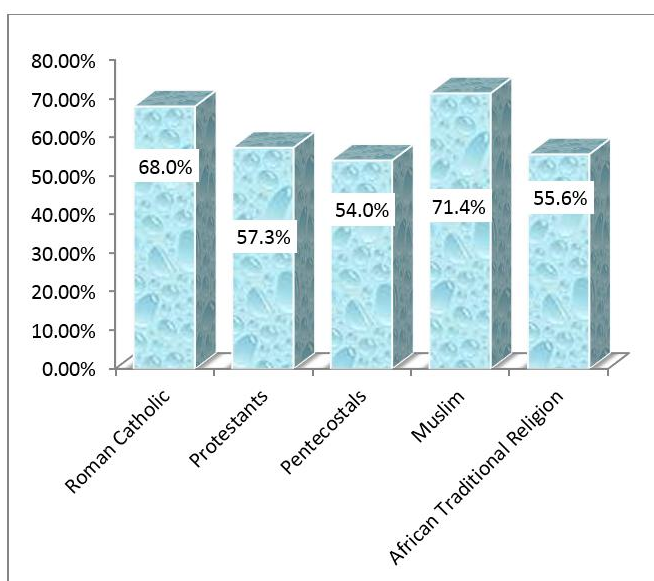


Table 1 shows that the percentage scores for most of the enlisted prostitution tendencies were 50 percent and above indicating high tendency except for wearing transparent clothes(49.2%), having more than one sex partner(48.5%), watching pornography(49.5) and having sex to pass exam(47.2) which had low tendency respectively. However, the overall graphically representation of prostitution tendencies among students of Ebonyi State university as observed in figure 1 shows that prostitution tendency was high in 61.54 percent of the students and low in 38.46 percent of the students

**Table 2: Percentage Distribution of Prostitution Tendencies among Students Based on Religious Denomination**

S/N	Prostitution Tendencies	Rom. Cath N=122	Protest. n=82	Pent. N=63	Musl. N=14	Trad. 18
	love going to clubs	93(76.2)	58(70.7)	41(65.1)	11(78.6)	14(77.8)
	engage in sexual activity to pay school fee	73(59.8)	41(50.0)	29(46.0)	6(42.9)	12(66.6)
	engage sexual activity to obtain money	75(61.5)	39 (47.6)	27(42.9)	7(50.0)	8(44.4)
	wear clothes that exposes the body	72(59.0)	33(40.2)	29(46.0)	6(42.9)	7(38.9)
	Could have more than one sex partner	70(57.4)	35(42.7)	30(47.6)	4(28.6)	6(33.3)
	like dressing to attract attention	80(65.6)	43(52.4)	29(46.0)	8(57.1)	8(44.4)
	engage in sex in order to pass my exam	66(54.1)	34(41.5)	28(44.4)	7(50.0)	6(33.3)
	watch pornographic films to improve sex skills	65 (53.3)	37(45.1)	30(47.6)	8(57.1)	8(44.4)
	Ok to satisfy sexual desire whenever the need arises	83(68.0)	41(50.0)	28(44.4)	8(57.1)	8(44.4)
	have sex without protection with condom	73(59.8)	37(45.1)	29(46.0)	8(57.1)	7(38.9)
	attending parties is a great fun to me	88(72.1)	55(67.1)	38(60.3)	12(85.7)	13(72.2)
	like visiting hotels to catch fun	78(63.9)	47(57.3)	34(54.0)	10(71.4)	12(66.7)
	send pictures to hotels to advertise self	66(54.1)	38(46.3)	28(44.4)	7(50.0)	10(55.6)
	enjoy taking pictures that expose body parts	81(66.4)	45(54.9)	30(47.6)	10(71.4)	8(44.4)
	love drinking alcohol	86(70.5)	50(61.0)	37(58.7)	11(78.6)	9(50.0)
	do not mind having smokers as friends	81(66.4)	47(57.3)	39(61.9)	10(71.4)	11(61.1)
	have strong desire to be with influential persons	95(77.9)	56(68.3)	41(65.1)	12(85.7)	12(66.7)
	feel uncomfortable when I lack money	100(82.0)	59(72.0)	41(65.1)	10(71.4)	16(88.9)
	I love wearing the latest dress and shoes	99(81.1)	63(76.8)	46(73.0)	12(85.7)	15(83.3)
	I love wearing expensive outfit	96(78.7)	60(73.2)	46(73.0)	12(85.7)	15(83.3)
	It's okay to co-habit with a male who can provide your needs	93(76.2)	52(63.4)	41(65.1)	10(71.4)	14(77.8)
	living with the opposite sex is common among students	99(81.1)	60(73.2)	43(68.3)	10(71.4)	13(72.2)
	There is nothing wrong in having sex while in a party	82(67.2)	44(53.7)	31(49.2)	11(78.6)	7(38.9)
	Hanging out with married men gives great fun	77(63.1)	42(51.2)	31(49.2)	10(71.4)	7(38.9)

**Figure 2: Bar Chart Presentation of the Overall Level of Prostitution Tendencies among the Students of Ebonyi State University Abakaliki by Religious Denomination**



**Key**

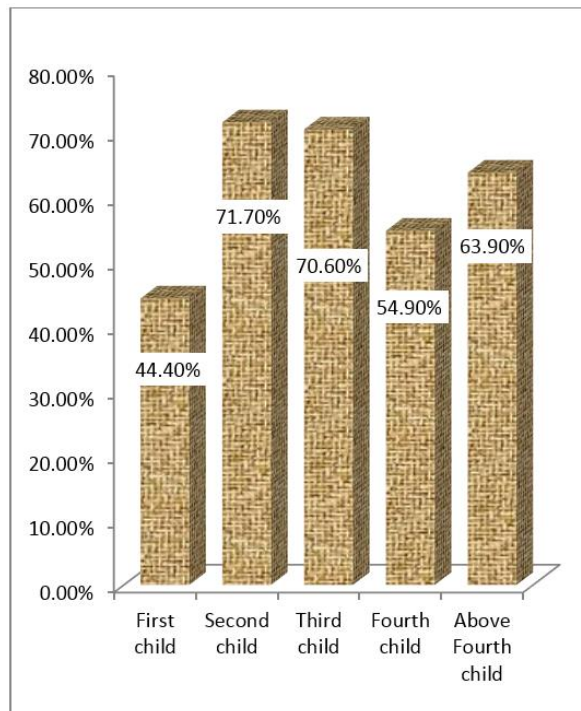
1. Less than 50 percent = **low tendency**
2. 50 percent and above = **high tendency**

Table 2 above shows that un-comfortability without money (82.0%) was the highest prostitution tendency among catholic and African traditional religion students (83.3%), wearing latest dresses and shoes (73.2) was the highest for protestants, while wearing expensive outfit (85.7%) and meeting influential people (85.7%) were the highest for Muslims. Overall as indicated in the bar chart, prostitution tendency was high among students of different religious denomination since all the religious groups had a cumulative score that is above 50 percent. However Muslim students (71.4%) had higher tendency for prostitution followed by, Catholics (68.0%), protestants (57.3%) and African Traditional religion (55.6%) and Pentecostals (54.0%)

**Table 3:** Percentage Distribution of Prostitution Tendencies among Students of Ebonyi State University Based on Birth-Order

S/N	Prostitution Tendencies	Ist born N=54	2 <sup>nd</sup> born N=53	3 <sup>rd</sup> born N=85	4 <sup>th</sup> born N=71	above 4 <sup>th</sup> born n=36
1	love going to clubs	35(64.8%)	42(79.2%)	71(83.5%)	45(63.4%)	24(66.7%)
2	engage in sexual activity to pay school fee	20(37.0%)	34(64.2%)	56(65.9%)	32(45.1%)	19(52.8%)
3	engage sexual activity to obtain money	18(33.3%)	32(60.4%)	52(61.2%)	35(49.3%)	19(52.8%)
4	wear clothes that exposes the body	17(31.5%)	32(60.4%)	48(56.5%)	31 (43.7%)	19(52.8%)
5	Could have more than one sex partner	15(27.8%)	30(56.6%)	47(55.3%)	30(42.3%)	23(63.9%)
6	like dressing to attract attention	22(40.7%)	35(66.0%)	53(62.4%)	35(49.3%)	23(63.9%)
7	engage in sex in order to pass my exam	15(27.8%)	31(58.5%)	43(50.6%)	33(46.5%)	19(52.8%)
8	watch pornographic films to improve sex skills	17(31.5%)	33(62.3%)	47(55.3%)	32(45.1%)	19(52.8%)
9	Ok to satisfy sexual desire whenever the need arises	22(40.7%)	33(62.3%)	52(61.2%)	38(53.5%)	23(63.9%)
10	have sex without protection with condom	17(31.5%)	35(66.0%)	52(61.2%)	34(47.9%)	16(44.4%)
11	attending parties is a great fun to me	28(51.9%)	41(77.4%)	64(75.3%)	46(64.8%)	27(75.0%)
12	like visiting hotels to catch fun	29(53.7%)	40(75.5%)	53(62.4%)	39(54.9%)	20(55.6%)
13	send pictures to hotels to advertise self	19(35.2%)	38(71.7%)	47(55.3%)	29(40.8%)	16(44.4%)
14	enjoy taking pictures that expose body parts	22(40.7%)	35(66.0%)	58(68.2%)	37(52.1%)	22(61.1%)
15	love drinking alcohol	25(46.3%)	37(69.7%)	60(70.6%)	45(63.4%)	26(72.2%)
16	do not mind having smokers/drunks as friends	28(51.9%)	33(62.3%)	60(70.6%)	44(62.0%)	23( 63.9%)
17	have strong desire to be with influential persons	36(66.7%)	39(73.6%)	67(78.8%)	47(66.2)	27(75.0%)
18	feel uncomfortable when I lack money	39(72.2%)	44(83.0%)	61(71.8%)	52(73.2%)	30(83.3%)
19	I love wearing the latest dress and shoes	40(74.1%)	41(77.4%)	71(83.5%)	31 (43.6%)	31( 86.1%)
20	I love wearing expensive outfit always	41(75.9%)	42(79.2%)	65(76.5%)	52(73.2%)	29(80.6%)
21	It's okay to co-habit with a male who can provide your needs	33(61.1%)	43(81.1%)	66(77.6%)	41(57.7%)	27(75.0%)
22	living with the opposite sex is common among students	36(66.7%)	43(81.1%)	63(74.1%)	53(74.6%)	30(83.3%)
23	There is nothing wrong in having sex while in a party	19(35.2%)	35(66.0%)	60(70.6%)	40(56.3)	21(58.3%)
24	Hanging out with married men gives great fun	18(33.3%)	38(71.7%)	54(63.5%)	40(56.3%)	17(47.2%)

**Figure 3:** Bar Chart Summary of The Overall Level Of Prostitution Tendencies Among The Students Of Ebonyi State University Abakaliki By Birth Oder



- Key**
1. Less than 50 percent = **low tendency**
  2. 50 percent and above = **high tendency**

Table 3 reveals that the desire to wear expensive outfit was the highest prostitution tendency for 1<sup>st</sup> (75.9%) and 4<sup>th</sup> (73.2%) borns, feeling of uncomfortability due to lack of money (83.5%) was the highest for 2<sup>nd</sup> and above 4<sup>th</sup> borns, while wearing of latest dresses and shoes was the highest for 3<sup>rd</sup> borns. However, the bar chart reveals that only 1<sup>st</sup> born female students had cumulative score that was less than 50 percent indicating low tendency, while 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and above 4<sup>th</sup> borns had scores higher than 50 percent indicating high prostitution tendencies. This implies that being 2<sup>nd</sup>, third, 4<sup>th</sup> and above 4<sup>th</sup> borns was associated with higher likelihood of prostitution tendencies among the students

**Table 4:** Chi-Square Analysis on The Influence of family Religious Denomination on Prostitution Tendencies among Students of Ebonyi State University Abakaliki.

		Rom. cath.	Protest.	Penticost.	Muslim	Afric Rel.	Total	df	X <sup>2</sup>	P-value	Dec
Low tendency	Count	39	35	29	4	8	115				
	% within religious denomination in the family	32.0	42.7	46.0	28.6	44.4	38.5				
High tendency	Count	83	47	34	10	10	184	4	5.168	.271	NS
	% within religious denomination in the family	68.0	57.3	54.0	71.4	55.6	61.5				
Total	Count	122	82	63	14	18	299				
	% within religious denomination	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0				

Table 4 is a presentation of the chi-square analysis on the influence of family religious denomination on prostitution tendencies among the students. The result shows that religious denomination of family did not significantly influence prostitution tendencies as seen in a p value of .271 df=4, which is higher than 0.05 level

of significance. Consequently the null hypothesis of no significant influence of religious denomination on prostitution tendencies is hereby upheld.

**Table 5:** Chi-square analysis on the influence of birth order on prostitution Tendencies among students of Ebonyi state University

		1 <sup>st</sup> born	2 <sup>nd</sup> born	3 <sup>rd</sup> born	4 <sup>th</sup> Born	Above 4 <sup>th</sup> born	total	df	X <sup>2</sup>	P- value	Dec
Low tendency	Count	30	15	25	32	13	115				
	% within birth order in the family	56.6	28.3	29.4	45.1	36.1	38.5				
High tendency	Count	24	38	60	39	23	184	4	13.277	.010	S
	% within birth order in the family	44.4	71.7	70.6	54.9	63.9	61.5				
Total	Count	54	53	85	71	36	299				
		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0				

**Table 5** represents the summary of chi-square analysis on the influence of birth order on prostitution tendencies among students of Ebonyi state university. The result on the table shows that the p value is .010 which apparently is less than 0.05 level of significance points to the fact that birth order had significant influence on prostitution tendencies among the students. Therefore the null hypothesis of no significant influence of birth order on prostitution tendencies among the students of Ebonyi state university is thus rejected

### Discussion

One of the major findings of the study as revealed in table I is high level of prostitution tendencies among the students. This finding is not out of place as it is consistent with the submission of Akinbayo (2017) which observed the existence of increasing levels of campus prostitution in higher institutions in Nigeria. The result also confirms the Oyeoku, Ngwoke, Eskay and Obikwelu (2017) report of high level of prostitution tendencies among female undergraduates in south east Nigeria. An important factor that may have influenced this result is high cost of schooling. For instance Ebonyi state university has no official hostel for the students within the campus thus students source for private accommodation around the campus which are often very expensive to afford. As a state university the school fees are quite high compared to federal universities and there are also evidences that some lecturers are making undue financial and sexual demands on the female students in order to pass exams. All these factors put together are capable of making schooling financially burdensome to the female students and thus could trigger prostitution tendencies in order to get money to offset school bills. In fact the existence of expensive private accommodations might be the reason for high level of co-habitation among the students as observed in the study. More so Ebonyi state university is located just a few kilometers away from the city capital where numerous hotels that offer clubbing services are available. Prostitutes love clubbing because this is one of the place to find a client (Akinbayo, 2017). The existence of hotels and clubs in the city capital may have also contributed to the high level of tendency with respect to clubbing as seen in table 1.

Another major finding of the study is that family religious denomination did not significantly influence prostitution tendencies. This result is surprising and was not expected. This is because religion is known to influence people's lifestyle and decisions. Sexual practices beyond matrimonial boundaries are often considered immoral and thus, prohibitive within the realm of religion especially among people with extreme religious beliefs (Sorajjakool, & Benitez, 2015; Libraries 2018). It was therefore expected that female students belonging to the religious denomination of the Christian faith (such as the Pentecostals, protestants and Catholics) where eliciting sex is seriously condemned should have made remarkable difference. However the result is not deceitful since the present hardship in the country has negative impact on every one religion notwithstanding. Besides it has been observed that the idea about morality in Nigeria is fast giving way as a result of failure of the value system that spurred the people to contribute and provide a framework for societal regeneration (Eruke, 2013)

The finding on the significant influence of birth order on prostitution tendencies was expected. This result is consistent with the theory of Adler (1928) who posited that first born children or only child are more likely to be responsible than second and third borns. As observed by Adler first borns and only child often receives extra-ordinary attention from parents which enhances the development of the child and in turn builds self confidence which enables the child to be more responsible



The implication of the findings of this study spells doom for the country if nothing is done to curb this social health threat in the universities. It suggests that in no distant time universities will begin to produce half baked graduates. This is because prostitution tendencies have numerous academic implications such as abstaining from lectures, missing exams and failing to do group assignments, getting involved in exam malpractice with consequent expulsion from school (Oyeoku, Ngwoke, Eskay and Obikwelu, 2017). High level of prostitution tendencies could also lead to increase in sexually transmitted diseases in the university and state in general. Further, the high level of prostitution tendencies observed in all the religious groups implies that religious organizations have failed in their responsibility to instill morals, discipline and good character. This is not sheering knowing that prostitution leads to total moral decadence in the society and general human degradation (Obarisiagbon, & Obarisiagbon (2013)

### Conclusion

Generally, the study indicated a high level of prostitution tendencies among the students. While religion denomination had no significant influence on prostitution tendencies birth order significantly influenced prostitution tendencies with 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and above 4<sup>th</sup> borns more likely to demonstrate high level of prostitution tendencies. These finds are not interesting since research shows that prostitution tendencies among other things have negative impact on students academic performance as well as fosters the spread of sexually transmitted diseases especially HIV AIDS. If prostitution tendencies in universities are not curtailed it may ultimately result in total moral decay in the society as well as demeaning of human value especially with respect to the females

### Recommendations

In order to reduce the high level of prostitution tendencies in the universities and consequently reduce its health and academic dangers, there is need for universities to take stringent measures to get rid of this social threat. These measures may include:

1. Decent dressing codes and acceptable behaviour of students should be established and enforced by university management
2. Universities should employ some security measures in order to regulate the movement of students and visitors in and out of the campus premises. This implies that all universities as a matter of compulsion should provide hostel accommodation especially for the female students in order to control their movements in and out of the school
3. Universities and the state government of state universities should reduce financial burden on students through the establishment of avoidable school fees
4. Lecturers who are in the habit of exploiting students financially and sexually should be aggressively sourced and punished severely by university management to serve as a deterrent to others.
5. Universities should include sex education as part of the school general study programme for all departments in the universities

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