

Extended Abstract

Title: Nomadic Male Babymakers Versus Collusive Female Allies: Conjugal Pairs in Fluid Cohabitation and The Scourge of 'Exposed' Children in Mushin and Ikorodu Local Government Areas of Lagos State

Introduction

The dynamics of urban family structures continue to evolve in response to socio-economic changes, particularly in densely populated areas like Mushin and Ikorodu in Lagos State, Nigeria. This study examines the roles of men and women within these fluid cohabitation arrangements, specifically focusing on the phenomenon of 'nomadic male babymakers' and their 'collusive female allies.' The objective is to understand how these partnerships contribute to the societal challenge of 'exposed' children—those at risk due to lack of stable familial support. The research aims to contribute to the understanding of urban family structures in the two councils of Lagos State by shedding light on the complexities of cohabitation and child-rearing practices. By examining the roles of 'nomadic male babymakers' and 'collusive female allies,' we hope to inform policy-makers and community leaders on the need for targeted interventions to combat the challenges facing 'exposed' children in the target settings of study.

Theoretical Focus

The research is grounded in the framework of family ecology theory, which examines the interplay between individuals and their environments, particularly regarding how socio-economic conditions influence family structures. Additionally, intersectionality is also utilized to understand how gender, socio-economic status, and cultural factors converge in shaping the lived experiences of these families. By situating this study within these theoretical contexts, we aim to elucidate the complexities of parenthood and partnership in urban environments.

Theory	Focus
Family Ecology Theory	Interaction of family units with their environments
Intersectionality	The convergence of gender, socioeconomic status, and culture

Data

The study uses mixed-methods approach, integrating qualitative and quantitative data. Primary data was collected through surveys and semi-structured interviews with parents residing in Mushin and Ikorodu. The survey captured demographic data, cohabitation patterns, and perceptions regarding child-rearing practices of 200 respondents. Qualitative interviews offered deeper insights into actual experiences of sampled families.

Table 1: Demographic Overview of Study Participants

Demographic Factor	Mushin (N=100)	Ikorodu (N=100)
Male Participants	50	50
Female Participants	50	50
Age Range (Years)	18-45	18-45
Average Household Size	4	5
Educational Attainment		
- Primary	30%	25%
- Secondary	50%	60%
- Tertiary	20%	15%

Research Methods

The research employs a combination of quantitative methods (surveys) and qualitative methods (interviews) to provide a comprehensive understanding of family dynamics. A stratified random sampling approach ensured representation across different demographics in both localities. Data analysis involves statistical tools for the survey results and thematic coding for interview transcripts to extract key themes related to cohabitation and child-rearing.

Table 2: Research Methodology Overview

Methodology	Description
Surveys	Quantitative data collection through structured questionnaires

Methodology	Description
Semi-Structured Interviews	Qualitative insights from in-depth discussions with participants
Data Analysis	Statistical analysis for survey data and thematic coding for interviews

Expected Findings

We anticipate that the findings will reveal distinct patterns of cohabitation where 'nomadic male babymakers' may have transient living arrangements, leading to instability within family units. In contrast, 'collusive female allies' may adopt adaptive strategies to manage child-rearing responsibilities despite societal pressures. Furthermore, the study is expected to unveil the socio-economic factors that contribute to the prevalence of 'exposed' children, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive social interventions.

Table 3: Expected Themes in Findings

Themes	Description
Fluid Cohabitation Patterns	Analysis of living arrangements and their impacts on family stability
Gender Roles in Child-Rearing	Exploration of responsibilities assumed by men and women
Socio-economic Influences	Examination of how economic factors shape family dynamics and child welfare