



Parents' and Teachers' Perception of Indicators for The Choice of Marriage Partner Among Hearing-Impaired Adults

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the parents' and teachers' perceptions of the indicators for the choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults. A descriptive survey research design was used and the sample size was 400 respondents which were purposively selected. The instrument for data collection was a questionnaire titled Indicators for Choice of Marriage Partners Questionnaire. Three research questions and hypotheses were generated for the study. The findings of the study revealed that parents' and teachers' perception of the indicators for the choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara Nigeria is positive. There was a significant difference between the parents' and teachers' perceptions, but no significant difference between the parents' perceptions based on gender. There was a significant difference between the teachers' perceptions based on gender. It was concluded that parents and teachers have a positive perception of the indicators for choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults therefore it was recommended that Parents and teachers should help their hearing-impaired adults to consider some indicators when they want to choose a marriage partner.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Marriage is an institution ordained by God and it has a special significance in our society. It is an intimate union and equal partnership of a man and a woman. Marriage is both a natural institution and a sacred union because it is rooted in the divine plan of creation. The free consent of the spouses makes a marriage. From this consent and from the sexual consummation of marriage a special bond arises between husband and wife. This bond is lifelong and exclusive.

Ajayi et al. (2021) defined marriage as a union between a man and a woman that lasts the duration of the man's life and the woman's life, as well as a social structure that promotes an association and agreement between two families. In other words, marriage is predicated on the mutual consent of a man and a woman to live together as husband and wife. Ordinarily, an ideal marriage will remain united, undivided, and unbroken. Therefore, all efforts must be made to encourage couples to stay together or get back together, even when they have separated. It is therefore imperative that marriage be contracted for life or an indefinite period.

There are many processes and factors involved in marriage. According to Maliki (2011), in preindustrial society socio-economic status was a crucial determinant of the living conditions of individuals and families. Most predominantly, socio-economic status determined the access to economic resources, thereby reflecting group-specific differences in the standard of living in terms of nutrition, housing and vulnerability to economic hardship. Thus, individuals and families of higher socio-economic status generally had better live conditions than those of lower socio-economic status. Despite the significance of marriage, every society is faced with situations in which marriage fails and couples cannot tolerate living together. The aftermath of this is divorce.

Strongly related to the concept of marriage is family. The family as the smallest and oldest institution in society is important for the growth and development of society. It is the building block of society. The family takes a central role in the survival of society as a whole, both for biological and social reproduction (Olutayo & Omobowale, 2012). In Nigeria, marriage is a pathway for the existence of the family. The family is considered a primary aspect of an individual's life. There is a high value placed on marriage and the family, and most individuals will identify their families as the most important thing in their lives. However, with modernization, industrialization, urbanization, and globalization, there is a shift in how marriage and family are now viewed. Marriage and family have experienced fundamental changes, and this has major consequences for individuals and society.

Partner selection is potentially one of the most important factors contributing to socio-economic status and mobility besides the individual's socio-economic origin. The real transformation of modern love is that ranking mates for material and social assets is now incorporated into unconscious structures of desire. Smt. Sandhya (2013) posited that it was the entry of women into the labour force throughout the 20th century that shook the foundations of marriage. In the 70s, economics and feminism equal higher divorce and lower birth rates; with new possibilities for economic independence from men, more women were free to leave unsatisfying marriages, which also meant they tended to make more demands on the ones they choose to stay in.

In any society, there is bound to be a category of people with special needs and disabilities such as the deaf. A hearing handicap or deafness involves not only the loss or impairment of hearing but the loss or limitation of the ability to acquire language and speech naturally or spontaneously. Impaired or total lack of language has serious implications for the child's

development. It is worth noting that the characteristics of a child with mild hearing loss are in many ways more similar to a hearing child's than to a deaf child's characteristics. It causes many other serious problems that are linked to the inability to receive or express messages and thoughts (Gudyanga *et al.*, 2014).

It has been shown that the romantic attachment adults acquire has its roots in the attachment patterns developed during childhood and plays an important role in the adult deaf person's psychosocial adjustment (Treboux *et al.*, 2004). Based on John Bowlby and Mary Ainsworth's models of attachment, Santiago *et al.* (2017) described three styles of romantic attachment (secure, avoidant, and anxious). Researchers manifested a great deal of interest in the impact romantic attachment has on the quality of adult couple relationships (Marchand, 2004; Timm & Keiley, 2011). Studies have shown that attachment patterns tend to be associated with variables such as the degree of affection expressed towards the partner, satisfaction regarding marital life, marital conflict-solving styles, control of emotions or frequency of positive emotions expressed by marital partners. Del Giudice (2011) suggested that romantic attachment plays a central role both in the long-term regulation of the affective connections within a married couple and in parenting style, yet this process takes place differently for men and women.

Also, socioeconomic status can be regarded as one of the variables determining the choice of partners among the deaf. People value socio-economic status as a means to predict one's ability to provide for their young ones. The ability and willingness to provide their resources are traits that have been correlated with high male value. Human males can and do provide a range of resources for the female before, during and after she has produced offspring. This can include food, shelter, and protection from other males. Females would have evolved preferences for males who had good financial prospects, were older than themselves, had higher social status, and who displayed hardworking and industrious characteristics as these are clear signs of resource acquisition (lihat <http://www.relationships.bloc-city.com/womenobjectipy-men.htm>).

According to Maliki (2011), partner selection is potentially one of the most important factors contributing to socio-economic status and mobility besides the individual's socio-economic origin. The real transformation of modern love is that ranking mates for material and social assets is now incorporated into unconscious structures of desire. Smt. Sandhya (2013) posited that it was the entry of women into the labour force throughout the 20th century that shook the foundations of marriage. The 70s, economic and feminism equal higher divorce and lower birth rates; with new possibilities for economic independence from men, more women were free to leave unsatisfying marriages, which also meant they tended to make more demands on the ones they choose to stay in.

Cross-cultural perspective of love and sex find that women value more than men, marriage partners who possess status, who had good financial prospects, and who are ambitious and industrious. Supporting this view Khallad (2005) found out that Jordan female college students show greater interest in potential marriage partners who exhibit economic ability and commitment. This finding further indicated that women's differential preferences for resources – and commitment-related attributes were mainly determined by socio-economic status. Students of the middle class as well as the higher class primarily choose those who are of their socio-economic status to date or marry. Also, the study revealed that those of high socioeconomic status have previously preferred those of either the same or lower socioeconomic status. It was also found in their data that both males and females prefer those of a relatively equal social class to themselves to those of lower or higher socio-economic

classes. Feingold (1992) posited that women accord more weight than men to socioeconomic status, as women prefer marriage partners that will be able to take care of them financially.

South (1991) examined data collected from over 2,000 respondents in the United States, data collected was used to examine sociodemographic differentials in the stated willingness of deaf individuals to marry persons with various social, economic and demographic characteristics, it draws on exchange and marriage marked theories to develop hypotheses age, race, sex and socioeconomic resources of respondents, respondents stated willingness to marry persons outside the normative age range, who have been previously married, who already have children; who are of a different religion and race, who have relatively high or low earning and education, and who are not physically attractive. It can thus be stated that, among the deaf, while selecting a marriage partner, various factors usually come into play as indicators guiding the choice of spouse among deaf people. This research work will thus focus on identifying those variables through the parents and teachers of the deaf as they are the closest to them.

Marriage is essential in humans' life as it is an institution ordained by God, so we can be a help mate to ourselves. Marriage is an institution where both male and female are involved and both parties need to work effectively to make it work. The effectiveness and commitment of both parties will help to enhance their intimacy and this will help in making babies which is also an essential importance of marriage.

Despite all these benefits, we need to know what to look out for when selecting or choosing a marriage partner that is the indicators of choice of marriage partners, because if the indicators are not rightly set and looked into one may end up choosing the wrong partner which can have a negative effect on such individual. Therefore, this study then looks for what is perceived to be the indicators of the choice of marriage partners.

Many studies have been carried out in the area of hearing loss within marriage: perception of the spouse with normal hearing, however not much work has been done to find out the parents' and teachers' perception of the indicators of choice of marriage partners among adults with hearing impairment in Kwara State. All these created parts of the existing gap which this study sought to fill.

The following research questions were answered to guide the study.

- (i) What is the parent's perception of the indicators for the choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State?
- (ii) What is the teachers' perception of the indicators for the choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State?

The following research hypotheses were formulated and tested on a 0.05 level of significance:

- (i) H₀1: There is no significant difference between the parents' and teachers' perceptions of the indicators for the choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State.
- (ii) H₀2: There is no significant difference in the parents' perception of the indicators for the choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults based on gender.
- (iii) H₀3: There is no significant difference in the teachers' perception of the indicators for the choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults based on gender.

2. METHODS

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, the design involves collecting data to test hypotheses and answer research questions raised in the study. This method was adopted for this study since the aim is to examine parents' and teachers' perceptions of the

indicators for the choice of marriage partner among adults with hearing impairment using the quantitative method. The population of this study comprises all parents and teachers of hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State. The sample for the study was 400 respondents that comprises of 200 parents and 200 teachers of hearing-impaired adults. Purposive sampling technique was used for this study, this technique was used to purposively select parents and teachers of hearing-impaired adults, and then random sampling was done to get the respondents in each group. The research instrument used for data collection was a questionnaire designed to ensure parents' and teachers' perceptions of the indicators for the choice of marriage partner among hearing-impaired adults. The questionnaire was divided into two sections. Section 'A' comprised the demographic data of the respondents such as gender and status either parent or teacher. Section 'B' contained 15 sets of closed-ended items. Responses were rated on four points modified Likert scale of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), and Strongly Disagree (SD).

To ensure the validity of the research instrument, the instrument was given to lecturers in the Department of Special Education, and experts in test and measurement for face and content validity. The instrument was modified along the line of the comments, suggestions and amendments given by the experts and shown to the supervisors for necessary corrections to make it better before its administration. To ensure that the instrument test scores are consistent, we subjected the questionnaire to a reliability test using different respondents that were not part of the sample. A split method was used that is, the even numbers were administered to the respondents and the odd numbers followed immediately in each case without time interval Cronbach Alpha technique was used to establish the reliability coefficients of the instruments and the reliability coefficient of 0.75 coefficient was generated. The data collected for the research questions were analysed using descriptive statistics of mean, percentage, and frequency count, while independent samples t-test was used to test the null hypotheses.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Demographic data

Table 1 shows the parents' gender distribution of the respondents eighty (80) of the respondents representing 40% were male while one hundred and twenty (120) of the respondents representing 60% were female. From the analysis above, it is evident that female respondents were found to be more in number than male respondents.

Table 1. Distribution of respondents based on Parents' Gender.

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	80	40
Female	120	60
Total	200	100

Table 2 shows the teachers' gender distribution of the respondents ninety (90) of the respondents representing 45.0% were male while one hundred and ten (110) of the respondents representing 55.0% were female. From the analysis above, it is evident that female respondents were found to be more in number than male respondents.

Table 2. Distribution of respondents based on teachers' Gender.

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	90	45
Female	110	55
Total	200	100

3.2. Research Question 1: What are the parents' and teachers' perception of the indicators for the choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State?

Table 3 shows parents' and teachers' perceptions of the indicators for choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State. The following shows parents and teachers' perception of the indicators for choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State as follows: adults with hearing impairment would like to marry a partner with different age (3.1), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with the same ethnicity (3.0), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with the same religion (3.2), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with the same impairment (3.2), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with the different impairment (3.1), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner without disability (3.1), adults with hearing impairment are afraid of getting married so as not to have a baby with the same impairment (3.2), female adults with hearing impairment can marry a man who already has wife (2.9), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner who is of the same profession (3.1), adults with hearing impairment would like to marry a partner that is more educated than they are (3.2), adults with impairment should marry a partner with the same socio-economic status (3.3), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with physical attracted too (3.2), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with high self-esteem (3.2), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with empathy (3.3), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner who is independent (3.0). The weighted mean was 3.1, which means that the calculated mean was greater than the fixed mean (2.5). This implies that parents' and teachers' perception of the indicators for the choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State is positive.

Table 3. Parents and Teachers' Perceptions of the Indicators for Choice of Marriage Partners among Hearing-impaired Adults in Kwara State.

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SA	Mean
1	Adults with hearing impairment would like to marry a partner with different age	156(39.0)	152(38.0)	69(17.3)	23(5.8)	3.1
2	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with the same ethnicity	151(37.8)	140(35.0)	83(20.8)	26(6.5)	3.0
3	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with the same religion	164(41.0)	179(44.8)	48(12.0)	9(2.3)	3.2
4	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with the same impairment	155(38.8)	177(44.3)	52(13.0)	16(4.0)	3.2
5	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with the different impairment	140(35.0)	174(43.5)	60(15.0)	26(6.5)	3.1
6	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner without a disability	167(41.8)	137(34.3)	70(17.5)	26(6.5)	3.1

Table 3 (continue). Parents and Teachers' Perceptions of the Indicators for Choice of Marriage Partners among Hearing-impaired Adults in Kwara State.

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SA	Mean
7	Adults with hearing impairment are afraid of getting married so as not to have a baby with the same impairment	165(41.0)	145(36.3)	68(17.0)	22(5.5)	3.2
8	Female adults with hearing impairment can marry a man who already has a wife	128(32.0)	171(42.8)	54(13.5)	47(11.8)	2.9
9	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner who is in the same profession	163(40.8)	142(35.5)	70(17.5)	25(6.3)	3.1
10	Adults with hearing impairment would like to marry a partner that is more educated than they are	158(39.0)	184(46.0)	38(9.5)	22(5.5)	3.2
11	Adults with impairment should marry a partner with the same socio-economic status	182(45.5)	156(39.0)	47(11.8)	15(3.8)	3.3
12	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with a physical attraction too	195(48.8)	109(27.3)	75(18.8)	21(5.3)	3.2
13	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with high self-esteem	170(42.5)	145(36.3)	60(15.0)	25(6.3)	3.2
14	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with empathy	206(51.5)	145(36.3)	28(7.0)	21(5.3)	3.3
15	Adults with hearing impairment should marry an independent partner	198(49.6)	126(31.5)	55(13.8)	21(5.3)	3.0
Weighted mean 3.1						

3.3. Research Question 2: What is the parent's perception of the indicators for the choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State?

Table 4 shows parents' perception of the indicators for the choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State. The following shows parents perception of the indicators for choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State as follows: adults with hearing impairment would like to marry a partner with different age (3.2), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with the same ethnicity (2.7), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with the same religion (3.1), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with the same impairment (3.1), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with the different impairment (2.9), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner without disability (3.2), adults with hearing impairment are afraid of getting married so as not to have a baby with the same impairment (3.1), female adults with hearing impairment can marry a man who already has wife (3.0), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner who is of the same profession (3.1), adults with hearing impairment would like to marry a partner that is more educated than they are (3.2), adults with impairment should marry a partner with the same socio-economic status (3.3), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with physical attracted too (3.2), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with high self-esteem (3.1), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with empathy (3.2), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner who is independent (3.3). The weighted mean

was 3.1, which means that the calculated mean was greater than the fixed mean (2.5). This implies that parents' perception of the indicators for the choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State is positive.

Table 4. Parents' Perception of the Indicators for Choice of Marriage Partners among Hearing-impaired Adults in Kwara State.

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SA	Mean
1	Adults with hearing impairment would like to marry a partner with different age	93(46.5)	66(33.0)	27(13.5)	14(7.0)	3.2
2	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with the same ethnicity	50(25.0)	70(35.0)	57(28.5)	23(11.5)	2.7
3	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with the same religion	78(39.0)	79(39.5)	37(18.5)	6(3.0)	3.1
4	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with the same impairment	80(40.0)	72(36.0)	33(16.5)	15(7.5)	3.1
5	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with the different impairment	52(26.0)	86(43.0)	43(21.5)	19(9.5)	2.9
6	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner without a disability	102(51.0)	48(24.0)	32(16.0)	18(9.0)	3.2
7	Adults with hearing impairment are afraid of getting married so as not to have a baby with the same impairment	85(42.5)	62(31.0)	43(21.5)	10(5.0)	3.1
8	Female adults with hearing impairment can marry a man who already has a wife	73(32.0)	77(38.5)	22(11.0)	28(14.0)	3.0
9	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner who is in the same profession	76(38.0)	80(40.0)	26(13.0)	18(9.0)	3.1
10	Adults with hearing impairment would like to marry a partner that is more educated than they are	87(43.5)	84(42.0)	20(10.0)	9(4.5)	3.2
11	Adults with impairment should marry a partner with the same socio-economic status	98(49.0)	66(33.0)	28(14.0)	8(4.0)	3.3
12	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with a physical attraction too	98(49.0)	55(27.5)	33(16.5)	14(7.0)	3.2
13	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with high self-esteem	84(42.0)	65(32.5)	31(15.5)	20(10.0)	3.1
14	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with empathy	94(47.0)	83(41.5)	9(4.5)	14(7.0)	3.2
15	Adults with hearing impairment should marry an independent partner	106(53.0)	60(30.0)	22(11.0)	12(6.0)	3.3
Weighted mean 3.1						

3.4. Research Question 3: What is the teachers' perception of the indicators for the choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State?

Table 5 shows teachers' perceptions of the indicators for the choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State. The following shows teachers' perception of the indicators for choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State as follows: adults with hearing impairment would like to marry a partner with different age (3.0), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with the same ethnicity (3.3), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with the same religion (3.3), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with the same impairment (3.3), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with the different impairment (3.3), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner without disability (3.1), adults with hearing impairment are afraid of getting married so as not to have a baby with the same impairment (3.2), female adults with hearing impairment can marry a man who already has wife (2.9), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner who is of the same profession (3.1), adults with hearing impairment would like to marry a partner that is more educated than they are (3.2), adults with impairment should marry a partner with the same socio-economic status (3.1), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with physical attracted too (3.2), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with high self-esteem (3.2), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with empathy (3.4), adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner who is independent (3.2). The weighted mean was 3.2, which means that the calculated mean was greater than the fixed mean (2.5). This implies that teachers' perception of the indicators for the choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State is positive.

Table 5. Teachers' perception of the indicators for choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State.

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Mean
1	Adults with hearing impairment would like to marry a partner with different age	63(31.5)	86(43.0)	42(21.0)	9(4.5)	3.0
2	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with the same ethnicity	101(50.5)	70(35.0)	27(13.0)	3(1.5)	3.3
3	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with the same religion	86(43.0)	100(52.5)	11(5.5)	3(1.5)	3.3
4	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with the same impairment	75(37.5)	105(52.5)	19(9.5)	1(0.5)	3.3
5	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with the different impairment	88(44.0)	88(44.0)	17(8.5)	7(3.5)	3.3
6	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner without a disability	65(32.5)	89(44.5)	38(19.0)	8(4.0)	3.1
7	Adults with hearing impairment are afraid of getting married so as not to have a baby with the same impairment	80(40.0)	83(41.5)	25(12.5)	12(6.0)	3.2

Table 5. Teachers' perception of the indicators for choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State.

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Mean
8	Female adults with hearing impairment can marry a man who already has a wife	55(27.5)	94(47.0)	32(16.0)	19(9.5)	2.9
9	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner who is in the same profession	69(34.5)	100(50.0)	18(9.0)	13(6.5)	3.1
10	Adults with hearing impairment would like to marry a partner that is more educated than they are	84(42.0)	90(45.0)	19(9.5)	7(2.5)	3.2
11	Adults with impairment should marry a partner with the same socio-economic status	87(43.5)	62(31.0)	44(22.0)	7(3.5)	3.1
12	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with a physical attraction too	97(48.5)	54(27.5)	42(21.0)	7(3.5)	3.2
13	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with high self-esteem	86(43.0)	80(40.0)	29(14.5)	5(2.5)	3.2
14	Adults with hearing impairment should marry a partner with empathy	112(56.0)	62(31.0)	19(9.5)	7(3.5)	3.4
15	Adults with hearing impairment should marry an independent partner	91(45.5)	67(33.5)	33(16.5)	9(4.5)	3.2
Weighted mean 3.2						

3.5. H₀₁: There is no significant difference between the parents' and teachers' perceptions of the indicators for the choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State.

Table 6 shows the summary of t-test results showing parents' and teachers' perceptions of the indicators for the choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State. It was revealed that parents had a mean of 23.11 and a standard deviation of 3.32 while teachers had a mean of 13.71 and a standard deviation of 10.60, the t-cal was 11.96, the degree of freedom was 398, F was 950.86 and a significant level of 0.00 ($P < 0.05$). This implies that there is a significant difference between the parents' and teachers' perceptions of the indicators for the choice of marriage partners among adults with hearing impairment in Kwara State. Therefore, the null hypothesis that states that there is no significant difference between the parents' and teachers' perception of the indicators for the choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State was rejected.

Table 6. Summary of T-test Result Showing Parents' and Teachers' Perception of the Indicators for Choice of Marriage Partners among Hearing-impaired Adults in Kwara State.

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-cal	df	F	Sig	Decision	
Indicators	Parents	200	23.11	3.32	11.96	398.00	950.68	0.00	Sig
	Teachers	200	13.71	10.60					

3.6. H₀₂: There is no significant difference between the parent's perception of the indicators for the choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State based on gender.

Table 7 shows the summary of the t-test result showing parents' perception of the indicators for choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State based on gender. It was revealed that male parents had a mean of 23.03 and a standard deviation of 3.37 while female parents had a mean of 23.17 and a standard deviation of 3.30, the t-cal was 0.29, degree of freedom 198, F was 950.86 and a significant level of 0.83 ($P > 0.05$). This implies that there is no significant difference between the parent's perception of the indicators for the choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State based on gender. Therefore, the null hypothesis that states that there is no significant difference between the parent's perception of the indicators for choice of marriage partners among adults with hearing impairment in Kwara State based on gender was not rejected.

Table 7. Summary of T-test Result Showing Parent's Perception of the Indicators for Choice of Marriage Partners among Hearing-impaired Adults in Kwara State Based on Gender.

	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-cal	Df	F	Sig	Decision
Parents Indicators	Male	80	23.03	3.37	0.29	198.00	0.05	0.83	Not Sig
	Female	120	23.17	3.30					

3.7. H₀₃: There is no significant difference between the teachers' perception of the indicators for, the choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State based on gender.

Table 8 shows the summary of the t-test result showing teachers' perception of the indicators for the choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State based on gender. It was revealed that male teachers had a mean of 9.56 and a standard deviation of 9.18 while female teachers had a mean of 17.12 and a standard deviation of 10.50, the t-cal was 4.19, degree of freedom 198, F was 5.36 and the significant level of 0.04 ($P < 0.05$). This implies that there is a significant difference between the teachers' perceptions of the indicators for the choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State based on gender. Therefore, the null hypothesis that states that there is no significant difference between the teachers' perception of the indicators for choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State based on gender was rejected.

Table 8. Summary of t-test result showing teacher's perception of the indicators for choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State based on gender.

	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-cal	Df	F	Sig	Decision
Teachers Indicators	Male	90	9.56	9.18	4.19	198.00	5.36	0.04	Sig
	Female	110	17.12	10.50					

3.8. Discussion of findings

The findings of the study revealed that parents and teachers have a positive perception of the indicators of choice of marriage partner among hearing-impaired adults. The results of the findings confirmed the findings of [Faulkner and Schaninger \(2006\)](#) who revealed that parental involvement in the choice of marriage partner can have both positive and negative effects on the well-being and satisfaction of the couple. On the one hand, parental involvement may lead to more stable and harmonious marriages, as parents may be better equipped to assess the suitability of a potential partner and may be able to provide valuable guidance and support to the couple. On the other hand, parental pressure to marry a certain person can lead to feelings of resentment and dissatisfaction, especially if the individual feels that their desires and preferences are not being taken into account.

The finding of the study revealed that there is a significant difference in the perception of parents and teachers on the indicators of choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults. This finding is in line with the findings of [Gupta and Singh \(2019\)](#) in India, parents' involvement in their children's marriage is still high, especially in rural areas. The study found that parents considered factors such as caste, religion, socioeconomic status, family background, and education when choosing a marriage partner for their children. In contrast, a study by [Fan and Marquette \(2019\)](#) in China found that parents' involvement in their children's marriage decisions is declining. The study found that young people in urban areas tend to prioritize personal characteristics such as education, occupation, personality, and shared values over family background or socioeconomic status when choosing a partner. In Western cultures, such as the United States and Europe, parental involvement in choosing a marriage partner is typically minimal. Parental influence on partner choice has decreased significantly in the US over the past century, and individual preferences and romantic love have become the primary factors influencing partner choice. The significant difference cannot be stated as there was no finding to confirm or contrast teachers' perceptions as no research can be found on that.

Finally, the finding of the study revealed that there was a significant difference in teachers' perception of the indicators of choice of marriage partner among hearing-impaired adults based on gender and there was no significant difference in parents' perception of the indicators of choice of marriage partner among hearing-impaired adults based on gender this is in agreement with [Omondi et al. \(2020\)](#) who investigated the perceptions of Kenyan parents and found that mothers and fathers had similar views on the importance of factors such as compatibility, respect, and communication skills in choosing a spouse for their children.

The finding negated the research conducted by [Ongori and Agolla \(2010\)](#) who reported that parents' educational background and gender played a significant role in their children's choice of marriage partner. The study found that children of highly educated parents were more likely to choose partners with similar educational backgrounds. Additionally, the study found that parents' gender influenced their children's choice of partner, with fathers having a greater influence on sons' choice of partner, while mothers had a greater influence on daughters' choice of partner. In research carried out by [Chakraborty and Ray \(2015\)](#) on the influence of parents' education and gender on the choice of marriage partner, it was discovered that parents' gender had a significant influence on their children's choice of marriage partner, the study found that parents' gender influenced their children's choice of partner, with fathers having a greater influence on sons' choice of partner, while mothers had a greater influence on daughters' choice of partner.

4. CONCLUSION

This research examined parents' and teachers' perceptions of the indicators of choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults in Kwara State. Literature has shown the level at which research has been done on the perception of parents and teachers on the indicators of choice of marriage partner. Based on the findings of the study it can be concluded that parents and teachers have a positive perception of the indicators of choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults.

It can be established from the study that there was a significant difference between parents' and teachers' perception of the indicators of choice of marriage partners among hearing-impaired adults as there was no significant difference in the perception of parents based on gender and there was a significant difference in the perception of teachers based on their gender.

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

- (i) Parents and teachers should help their hearing-impaired adults to consider some indicators when want to choose a marriage partner.
- (ii) Parents and teachers should allow their hearing-impaired adults to choose their marriage partner on their own.
- (iii) Parents and teachers should always have a positive perception when their hearing-impaired adults want to choose a marriage partner regardless of who the person is.

5. AUTHORS' NOTE

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article. Authors confirmed that the paper was free of plagiarism.

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