



Fertility intention of married women in Nigeria: exploring the role of subjective wellbeing

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Abstract

The decision to give birth is a key life decision especially for women and it could be influenced by a myriad of factors. Recently, there has been strong intellectual interest in exploring the relationship between fertility intention and subjective wellbeing in developed countries but few such studies exist in less developed countries particularly Nigeria. Leveraging on data from one of the few surveys in the country that collects data on the life satisfaction and subjective wellbeing of individuals, this study explored the influence of family life satisfaction and other components of subjective wellbeing on fertility intention of currently married women in Nigeria. Data from the 5th round of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey was analyzed using Stata 14 (n=3414), it involved univariate analysis and multivariate analysis where binary logistic regression models were fitted. The result showed that satisfaction with family life and life satisfaction expectation one year from the time of the survey have a significant influence on fertility intention among married women, other factors that have a significant influence on fertility intention include work status, parity, and wealth Index. The study concluded that subjective wellbeing has an influence on the fertility intention of married women in Nigeria.

Keywords: Life satisfaction, subjective wellbeing, family life, fertility, Nigeria

Introduction

In many sub-Saharan Africa countries, fertility levels remain far above the replacement level¹ and this comes with a number of challenges for these countries. In Nigeria, the TFR hovers around 5.5 and the country is on its way to becoming the third most populous by the year 2050². However, this national TFR masks the lower sub-regional TFR figures e.g. national data shows that the TFR for South-West and South-East regions of the country is 4.1³, which raises the questions; what are the factors that drive the persistently high fertility in some regions of the country while fertility level is low in other regions. Several explanations have been put forward to explain the persistently high fertility rates. These explanations have been categorized into socio-economic, demographic, cultural, behavioral factors, the spread of innovations and ideas and they have been extensively studied. One of the most important of these factors that drive persistently high fertility is desired family size which motivates fertility intentions and desires. In Nigeria, data from the national survey has reported that the fertility desire of women shows that 33% of women in Nigeria want to have another child in the next two years³ and the desired family size has remained high over the years.

Looking at the fertility intention and desire of individuals, whether implicit or explicit, behind the emphasis on fertility intentions is the assumption that, at least in developed nations of the world where contraception are available and can be easily accessed and fertility is low in fact below replacement level in

many of these nations, the decision to have another child is well thought of among the couples⁴. Even in recent years, in developing countries where there are readily available contraceptive options, childbearing is as a result of reasoned decisions⁵⁻⁶. It has been stated that studying childbearing intentions can be useful and important for understanding of the fertility behavior in any population⁷⁻⁸, it could also come handy in understanding the determinants that could be acted upon in order to engender interventions than can facilitate the uptake of healthy behaviors, contraceptive and lead to reduced unintended pregnancies⁹. The study of fertility intention has received a considerable amount of intellectual attentions, but intention hasn't despite it being an important aspect of fertility helping to make provide a pedestal on which plans for the future of a society is made but human fertility and decision to give birth has been said to be a function of variety of factors¹⁰⁻¹¹.

The decision to have more children is motivated by a number of reasons and variables including satisfaction and happiness (subjective wellbeing). Subjective well-being is a psychological tool that helps people maintain a positive attitude in their daily lives. Although these two factors i.e. satisfaction and happiness, are not directly related, they are indicators of the willingness to assume additional responsibilities, including bearing and rearing children¹². At least in Europe, the concept of well-being has recently been an important issue on the research and policy agenda. Well-being is considered to have positive effects in different domains of life, including health and longevity, work, and partnership formation. It has been found, for instance, that

individuals marked by higher levels of well-being are more likely to have stable partnerships and more children¹³. When asked about childbearing intentions, people take into account their current life situation, including current economic and family situation and future aspirations as well as other institutional context and individual-level factors^{7,14}. The influence of subjective well-being on childbearing decisions made by individuals and/or couples have not received adequate intellectual attention that it so requires especially in developing societies, despite its potential to explain demographic behavior at a time when fertility is a matter of choice for most people in the world with much of the focus has been on the effect of fertility on subjective wellbeing^{6,15-16}.

As earlier stated, that fertility behavior of people has received considerable research attention, majority of these studies exploring the relationship between various factors and fertility behavior of people, few have focused on issues around the subjective wellbeing, happiness, and satisfaction of people. Except for a number of studies in developed countries where such questions have been explored. The literature on the relationship between fertility and an individual's categorical level of satisfaction with life or subjective wellbeing reveals that few studies have done so. For instance, some of the questions are; Are people who are more satisfied ("happier") with life more likely to have children? And are people who are happier with their partners more likely to have children? And these few studies have focused solely on developed countries but in less developed countries, few such studies exist, one of the few is the study in rural Ethiopia, where the relationship between fertility and life satisfaction, however, in that study, the idea was to examine the effect of having children on the level of satisfaction as much of the world is pervaded by strong cultural beliefs that children increase the wellbeing of parents, and especially women, and these beliefs have bolstered norms about the desirability of having children¹⁴ but this differs from the focus of this present study. In Nigeria, the importance and role of subjective wellbeing in the fertility behavior of individuals have been completely ignored. To the best of my knowledge, there is no study in Nigeria that has explored the influence of subjective wellbeing on fertility behavior of individuals, this present study thereby leverages on the fact that the fifth round of the UNICEF multiple indicators cluster survey (MICS) collected data on the subjective wellbeing of respondents to explore to understand the influence of subjective wellbeing of women on their decision to have one or more births. The aim of this paper is to understand the influence of subjective wellbeing on the fertility intention of currently married women in Nigeria. Specifically, the study aims to see whether satisfaction with family life, satisfaction with life overall, satisfaction with current income and Life expectation one year from now influence the decision to have an additional child among currently married women in Nigeria.

Literature review: Demographic and sociology literature are filled with studies on the level and factors associated with

fertility and child bearing. In recent years, however, attention of sociologists, demographers and psychologists have shifted to studying the fertility behavior of people beyond the known determinants to issues like subjective wellbeing in the face of socio-economic uncertainties and societal stress in many societies. On this basis, this study was set to explore the influence of subjective wellbeing (happiness) of individuals on their fertility intention. In this section, I delve into some of these factors with a significant focus on the interest of this study which is subjective wellbeing.

Subjective wellbeing: As stated earlier, not many studies have explored the relationship between life satisfaction or happiness and the fertility behavior of individuals. But among the few that have done so, one prominent study is Parr (2010), where it was found that a significant relationship exists between prior satisfaction with life and fertility two years later. In this sense, satisfaction with life or better to say happiness with life has a strong positive relationship with fertility. Also, in the study in Australia, it further expatiated that men's satisfaction with their partner and with their partner's relationship existing children are positively related to fertility¹⁷.

In another study that assessed the effect of marital satisfaction on the desire for more children, it was found that there exists a positive relationship between marital satisfaction and desire for more children especially for individuals who currently have 1 or no children⁴. In another study in Finland that explored the impact of relationship quality on childbearing, it was found that relationship quality can shape childless women's childbearing intention in two distinct ways including that strong relationship quality can strengthen women's intention to have a child and so impact positively on childbearing. Also, strong relationship quality can result in fewer births among childless women. Women with an earlier child in medium or high-quality relationships are most likely to have more children¹⁸. In Korea, a study among working women reported that that these group of women are more likely to want to have another child if they have higher spousal satisfaction i.e. if they are satisfied with their marital life/ marriage¹⁰.

In another study in Hong-Kong where the reasons for the discrepancy between ideal and actual parity among Hong-Kong married women was explored, it was reported that satisfaction with marital life is associated with the intention of married women at parity 0 to have their first child¹⁹. It has also been reported in another study that fertility within unions and the continuation of unions may also be related to satisfaction with the partner and with life more generally¹⁷.

In another study of the effect of marital satisfaction on fertility, it was stated that marital satisfaction is less important than demographic variables but more important than socioeconomic variables in explaining fertility variation in the study population, this means that in that population, demographic characteristics of the individuals or couples play a more important role than

marital satisfaction in couples decision to have children⁴. In another study exploring the influence of subjective wellbeing on the fertility behavior of individuals, it was found that subjective wellbeing positively predicts childbearing for both men and women⁸. In addition, a multi-country study exploring whether life satisfaction favors reproduction, the result showed that higher levels of subjective wellbeing are, certainly associated with a higher probability of having children in all the countries considered especially in the low income countries⁶. Marital satisfaction as one of the components of subjective wellbeing has been identified to play a significant role in women's desire as well as willingness to bear and raise children and build a family²⁰. In another study in Europe on the relationship between happiness and childbearing, it was found that there is a modest association between happiness and childbearing in the study area although it was also reported that significant country differences exist in the association between happiness and childbearing²¹. Looking at it from another angle, some studies have viewed the relationship between fertility and subjective wellbeing the other way around i.e. the effect of childbearing on the happiness and subjective wellbeing on individuals and couples, a notable one is a study in rural Ethiopia where the result suggested some mixed findings; older men benefit the most in terms of life satisfaction from having a large number of children, while the recent birth of a child is detrimental for the subjective well-being of women at reproductive ages¹.

Other determinants of fertility Intention: The influence of education on fertility cannot over emphasized as literature is replete with evidence to support that. In Nigeria, a very recent study that explored the factors associated with fertility intention. In Uganda, education has been established as an important determinant of fertility desire, it was reported that in a study among married or cohabiting individuals that higher levels of education have a relationship with increased fertility desire²². This finding comes as a great surprise because, in many other studies, education has been found to be associated with lower fertility desires and level in general. In a study of fertility intentions in Nigeria, a study established that the educational level of the woman is a significant predictor of the fertility intention of the women²³. In this study in Nigeria, it was reported that the number of children a woman desires or wants was significantly associated with the level of education of a woman and that of her husband.

Parity refers to the number of children born alive to a woman. Prominent among the studies that have examined the influence of parity on the fertility intention of women is a study in urban Nigeria, in this study in urban Nigeria, it was reported that one of the strongest predictors of achievement of fertility intention is the parity of the women, it was stated that the likelihood of achieving fertility intention is higher for women with higher education than women with lower education⁹. This study on fertility intention in urban Nigeria is one of the few of such studies using a longitudinal data in Nigeria, it has further expatiated that various other factors predict the achievement of

fertility intention in Nigeria but parity (number of children born to a woman) is a strong predictor of fertility intention achievement. In addition, a prominent study of fertility intention using longitudinal data found that one of the strongest predictors of achievement of fertility intention is the parity of the woman. Another key demographic characteristic that affects fertility level in any population is the age distribution of the women. A country with more women in the childbearing ages is more likely to have a higher birth rate than countries with more women in the older ages. Fertility studies have established a relationship between age and fertility levels, behaviors and intention, for instance, a study in Korea among working women found that age is a significant determinant the fertility intention of married women¹⁰, in the study, it expatiated that age was found to have a significant influence on future childbearing intentions of working women in Korea. In addition, a particular study of fertility intention in Nigeria has also found that has not yet attained desired family size could be another factor that determines the fertility intention of individuals in a population. In this sense, if a woman desires to give birth to three children and currently has less than that, it could give her a push to want to have more children²². In summary, previous studies have revealed some key factors influencing married women's fertility intentions: Individual subjective wellbeing, demographic and socio-economic factors. Using a set of variables retrieved from the literature, this study examines the influence of subjective wellbeing on fertility intention of currently married women, also, the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the women serve as a mediator between main independent variable which is subjective wellbeing and fertility intentions.

Methodology

Data: The present study utilized data from the 5th round of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey. This data is one of the few data in Nigeria that collects data on various health and social indicators. The survey was conducted between 2016 and 2017 across the 36 states in Nigeria.

The sample for the survey used the multistage cluster sampling technique to provide estimates for a myriad of indicators on the current status of children's, women and their health status as well as other socio-demographics, subjective wellbeing and household conditions in the country at the national, rural/urban, states as well as, the 6 geo-political zones/ regions of the country Nigeria. A detailed explanation of the sampling technique used for the survey shows that states within each zone were identified as the main sampling Strata while the Enumeration Areas (EAs) within each state were identified as the Primary Sampling Units (PSUs). The EAs for the survey were selected from the National Integrated Survey of Households round 2 (NISH2) master samples, based on a list of EAs prepared for the 2006 Population Census. Two stage sampling was conducted with the first stage is the selection of EAs within the strata while the second stage was the selection of households within each EAs. Out of 37,440 households

sampled, 35,747 households were visited, 34,289 were occupied and 33,901 were successfully interviewed, representing a household response rate of 98.9 percent. Of these, 34,376 women and 15,183 men age 15-49 years were successfully interviewed.

However, in this present study, a number of restrictions were made in the data including limiting the analysis to women who are currently married or living with a partner as though married and these restrictions led to a sample size of 3,714 women used in the study. In addition, permission to use the data for this study was obtained from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) which is the country's national statistical body.

Table-1: Operational Definition of variables in the study.

Variables	Operational Definition
Fertility Intention	Response to the question on whether women would like to have another child coded (1) Have (a/another child) (0) No more/ Can't get pregnant/ Undecided.
Satisfaction with family life	Self-reported level of satisfaction (1) Satisfied (2) Unsure (3) Unsatisfied
Satisfaction with life overall	Self-reported level of satisfaction with life overall (1) Satisfied (2) Unsure (3) Unsatisfied
Satisfaction with current Income	Self-reported level of satisfaction with current income (1) No Income (2) Satisfied (3) Unsure (4) Unsatisfied
Life expectation one year from now	Self-reported level of satisfaction (1) Better (2) More or less the same (3) Worse
Age	Self-reported age of the respondent at the time of the survey categorized as (1) 15-19 (2) 20-24, (3) 25-29 (4) 30+
Household Wealth Index	Composite Index of household items grouped into a quintile; (1) Poorest (2) Second (3) Middle (4) Fourth (5) Richest
Educational level	Highest Level of Education attained (1) None (2) Primary (3) Secondary/ Technical (4) Higher (5) Non-formal
Work status	Whether the respondent is currently in paid employment (1) Working (2) Not working
Parity	Number of Children ever born (1) None (2) Single Parity (3) Multiple parities

Data analysis: The data were analyzed using Stata 14. The univariate presents the frequency distribution of the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the respondents. In the multivariate level, binary logistic regression models were employed to understand the influence of subjective wellbeing on fertility intention of currently married women in Nigeria.

Specifically, two binary logistic regression models were developed, model 1 included the various components of subjective wellbeing subjective wellbeing being modelled on fertility intention without controlling for the effect of socio-economic and demographic characteristics as well as the birth history of the women. In model 2, the influence of subjective wellbeing on fertility intention of women was explored while controlling for the confounding effects of socio-economic and demographic characteristics as well as the birth history of the women in the study.

Model Specification: For the model specification, in an experiment with possible outcomes as either success or failure, coded 1 or 0 respectively representing a binary outcome, the rate of change in the outcome of interest with respect to explanatory variable(s) can be achieved by examining its log odds as shown in the binary logistic model below;

$$\ln \frac{p}{1-p} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \dots + \beta_n X_n$$

Where;

$\ln \frac{p}{1-p}$ represents the log odds of having non-marital birth, β_0 represents the risk of non-marital fertility without interplay with any explanatory variable, and $\beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \dots + \beta_n X_n$ represents the fraction by which the risk of fertility intention is altered by a unit change in the respective explanatory variables $X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots X_n$, which in this case includes the respondents' subjective wellbeing and socio-economic or demographic characteristics.

Results and discussion

The distribution of the respondents by the socio-demographics, subjective wellbeing and fertility intention showed that about 90% of the women in Nigeria intend to have one or more children in the nearest future, while the remaining 10% do not intend to have any more children. The percentage of women with higher education is the lowest at just 3% while those who have never attended school are 31% of the women. In the sample of women, women from the richest households represent the lowest percentage with less than 10%, a quarter of the respondents are from the poorest households. 84% of the women in the sample reported that they are not currently working. More than half of the sampled women were found to be multiparous (52%). 71% of the women claimed that their husbands do not have other wives. For the components of subjective wellbeing, it was found that 91% of the women stated that they were satisfied with family life. Also, the analysis showed that 89% of these women said they were satisfied with life overall. 26% of the respondents stated that they are satisfied with their current income even as 4% of the sampled women stated that they are not satisfied with their current income. 91% of the women stated that they expect their life to be better in the next year while a very low percentage of about 2% expect their life to be worse one year from now.

Table-2: Socio demographic Characteristics, Subjective Wellbeing, and Fertility Intention

Characteristics	Variables	Frequency (n=3714)	Percentage (100%)
Fertility Intention (Have another child)	No	408	10.9
	Yes	3306	89.1
Age	15-19	1027	27.7
	20-24	2687	72.3
Educational level	None	1131	30.5
	Primary	511	13.8
	Secondary/ Technical	1092	29.4
	Higher	97	2.6
	None Formal	883	23.8
Wealth Index	Poorest	940	25.3
	Second	1051	28.3
	Middle	813	21.9
	Fourth	550	14.8
	Richest	360	9.7
Work Status	Yes (Working)	609	16.4
	No (Not working)	3105	83.6
Parity	None	514	13.8
	Single Parity	1266	34.1
	Multiple Parity	1934	52.1
Husband has other wives	Yes	1072	28.9
	No	2642	71.1
Satisfied with family life	Satisfied	3368	90.7
	Unsure	253	6.8
	Not satisfied	93	2.5
Satisfied with life overall	Satisfied	3316	89.3
	Unsure	289	7.8
	Not satisfied	109	2.9
Satisfied with current income	No Income	2460	66.2
	Satisfied	972	26.2
	Unsure	129	3.5
	Unsatisfied	153	4.1
Life expectation one year from now	Better	3380	91.0
	More or less the same	279	7.5
	Worse	55	1.5

Table-3: Binary logistic regression of the influence of subjective wellbeing on fertility intention of currently married women in Nigeria.

	Intention	OR	CI [95%]	OR	CI [95%]
Satisfaction with family life	Satisfied	1	-	1	-
	Unsure	1.09	0.71-1.67	1.07	0.69-1.64
	Unsatisfied	0.79	0.43-1.47	0.79	0.42- 1.48
Life expectation one year from now	Better	1		1	
	More or less the same	0.43**	0.32-0.59	0.45**	0.32-0.61
	Worse	2.18	0.67-7.08	2.31	0.71-7.53
Satisfaction with current income	Not working	1		1	
	Satisfied	0.81	0.64-1.03	0.78	0.61-0.99
	Unsure	0.81	0.48-1.37	0.78	0.45-1.34
	Unsatisfied	1.04	0.61-1.76	0.87	0.50-1.52
Satisfaction with life overall	Satisfied	1		1	
	Unsure	0.79	0.54-1.16	0.80	0.54-1.18
	Unsatisfied	0.62	0.35-1.10	0.61	0.34-1.09
Age	15-19			1	
	20-24			0.87	0.66-1.15
Educational level	None			1	
	Primary			1.31	0.90-1.91
	Secondary / Technical			1.05	0.74-1.48
	Higher			1.34	0.63-2.84
	Non-formal			0.90	0.68-1.20
Wealth Quintile	Rich			1	
	Second			0.96	0.71-1.29
	Middle			0.98	0.70-1.37
	Fourth			0.62**	0.42-0.92
	Richest			0.50**	0.32-0.80
Work status	Yes (Working)			1	
	No (Not working)			0.59**	0.42-0.83
Parity	None			1	
	Single parity			1.89**	1.34-2.67
	Multiple parities			0.98	0.71-1.35
Husband has Other wives	Yes			1	
	No			1.06	0.83-1.34

**= p<0.05

In the multivariate analysis using the binary logistic regression, two models were presented, the first model included the subjective wellbeing variables and in the second model, the influence on subjective wellbeing on fertility intention of currently married women was moderated by other socio-economic, demographic, marital and fertility history of the women. It was found that women who claimed to be unsure about their satisfaction with family life are 9% more likely to have the intention of giving birth (OR=1.09, CI: 0.71-1.67) than those satisfied with family life, even as women who claimed to be unsatisfied with family life are 21% less likely to have the intention of giving birth to more children (OR=0.79, CI: 0.43-1.47) compared to women who are satisfied with family life. In comparison to women who expect their life to be better one year from now, women who expect their life to be more or less the same one year from now were found to be 56% less likely to intend to have more children (OR=0.44, CI: 0.32-0.59), while women who claimed that they expect their life to be worse in the next one year are more likely to intend to have more children (OR=2.18, CI: 0.67-7.08). For the influence of current income, women who said they are unsatisfied with their current income are 4% more likely to have the intention of having more children compared to women who with no income (OR=1.04, CI: 0.61-1.76). The women who stated that they are satisfied with their current income were found to be 19% less likely than those with no income to have the intention of having one or more children (OR=0.81, CI: 0.64-1.03). In addition, the study found that women who claimed to be unsatisfied with their life overall are 38% less likely to intend to have another child compared to women who are satisfied with life overall.

Furthermore, in the second model after moderating for the effect of socio-economic, demographic, marital and fertility history of the women. The analysis revealed that compared to women who expect a better life in the next one year, women who expect their life to be less the same in the next one year are significantly 55% less likely to have the intention of giving birth to anymore children (OR=0.45, CI: 0.32-0.61). In the analysis, it was also found that women who are women who are satisfied with their current income are 22% significantly less likely to have the intention of giving birth compared to women who have no income (OR=0.78, CI: 0.61-0.99). It was also found that after moderating of the influence of other variables, women who are unsure about their satisfaction with life overall are 20% less likely to have the intention of giving birth compared to women who are satisfied with their life overall (OR=0.80, CI: 0.54-1.18). Interestingly, the result also showed that there is a dose relationship between wealth quintile and fertility intention of the women i.e. the richer the women, the less likely they are to have the intention of giving birth and these findings were significant. It was also found that compared to women who are currently working, women who are not currently working are 41% significantly less likely to have the intention of giving birth to anymore children (OR=0.59, CI: 0.42-0.83). Single parity women are 89% significantly more likely to want more children compared to women with no children (OR=1.89, CI: 1.34-2.67),

however, multiparous women are 11% less likely to have the intention of having more children compared to women with none (OR=0.98, CI: 0.71-1.35). Finally, it was found that women who said that their husbands do not have other wives are 6% more likely to have the intention of having another child compared to women whose husbands have other wives (OR=1.06, CI: 0.83-1.34).

Discussion: This present study attempted to examine the influence of subjective wellbeing on the fertility intention of currently married women in Nigeria. In the study, the literature review highlighted some of the factors associated with fertility intention among individuals but few studies have actually examined the relationship between an individual's subjective wellbeing and the decision to have an additional child. And on this basis, this study was designed to examine the influence of subjective wellbeing on the fertility intention of currently married women in Nigeria. Parr is one of the most notable amongst the studies that have explored the relationship between an individual's happiness and fertility intention or fertility in general. In this study in Australia, a strong positive relationship was found between prior satisfaction with life and fertility two years later¹⁷. This present study does not particularly deviate from the findings of that study, as it was also found that individuals who are happy with life generally are significantly more likely to have the intention of giving birth to more children.

Furthermore, this study does not deviate from the findings of other studies that have also found an association between happiness and childbearing behaviors of people. As earlier stated that in Europe that was a modest association found between happiness and childbearing, this present study also found that women who are satisfied with their marital life are more likely to have the intention of giving birth more^{8-10,21}. Mencarini et al. in a multi-country study found that subjective wellbeing was indeed, associated with a higher probability of having children in all the countries considered¹. We, therefore, conclude that life satisfaction favors reproduction, at least in low fertility societies. Although Nigeria is not a low fertility country, these findings are somewhat similar although there might be the influence of other socio-economic and demographic factors. In addition, this study has been able to show that women who are unsatisfied with their current income i.e. economic security are less likely to want to have any more child. This finding is supported by what was found in another study on the impact of economic uncertainty on childbearing intentions in Europe, where it was found that perceived economic security is an important determinant of childbearing plans of people⁷.

Conclusion

With the astronomical growth of the population in Nigeria, understanding the fertility intention of people offers a chance to plan for ways to help people achieve their reproductive desires

through providing family planning methods and reducing unmet needs for contraception. While a number of factors that affect the fertility intention of individuals have been the focus quite a number of studies, attention has not been drawn to the role of an individual's subjective wellbeing. This study focused on examining the role of subjective wellbeing in the fertility intention of married women in Nigeria and it was found that the subjective wellbeing of individuals plays an important role in the fertility intention of married women in Nigeria. It is recommended that actions and strategies that would continue to boost the happiness and satisfaction of individuals in the population should be the priority of any government in order for people to achieve their desired fertility and eventually their reproductive goals.

Study Limitation: Several studies on the influence of subjective wellbeing in many developed countries of the world have analyzed longitudinal and panel data to examine the influence of subjective wellbeing on fertility. However, this present study is found wanting as the unavailability of such kind of data would limit the extent to which the findings of this current study can be generalized and conclusions made. In many developing countries of the world, including Nigeria, few or no data of such nature exists to be able to conduct such analysis and make such conclusions.

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