

Ibadan Journal of Educational Studies (IJES)

Vol 21 Nos. 1 & 2,

JANUARY / JUNE, 2024

ISSN: 1596-5953

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**Ibadan Journal
of
Educational Studies
(IJES)**

*A Publication of Faculty of Education
University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria*

ISSN: 1596-5953

Vol. 21 No. 1, 2024

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Faith as a Correlate of Social Work Treatment Success among Women with Infertility in Public Hospitals in Ibadan

¹Abimbola Afolabi Ph.D and ²Benjamin Sunday

Department of Social Work, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Email Address: drafolabiabimbola@gmail.com; afolabi.abimbola@gmail.com

²Keneth Dike Library, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Email Address: sundaybenjamin65@gmail.com

Abstract

In recent times, there has been an increase acceptance of treatment of infertility's comprehensive nature. The study examined how faith correlates with the success of social work interventions among infertile women in public hospitals in Ibadan. Utilizing a mixed-method approach, data was gathered from 150 participants through structured surveys and interviews. Analysis of the data showed a significant association between faith and social work interventions ($r^2=0.621$; $n=100$; $P<01$), highlighting the pivotal role of faith in improving treatment outcomes. Furthermore, the study identified that faith has a substantial impact on social work intervention treatment outcomes ($F(99) = 3.697$; $P<01$). Recommendations stemming from the study encompass integrating faith into social work practices, raising awareness among social work professionals regarding the efficacy of faith-based approaches, and advocating for further research into the impact of faith on treatment outcomes.

Key word: Faith, Correlate, Social Work, Treatment Success, and Women Infertility

Introduction

Infertility poses a multifaceted challenge for women, encompassing various emotional, psychological, and social dimensions. It extends well beyond being solely a medical issue, permeating into every aspect of a woman's life, impacting her self-perception, relationships, and societal integration. Although medical interventions offer paths for treatment, the toll on a woman's emotional well-being often surpasses clinical boundaries (Adeyemo and Okanlawon 2017). In recent times, there has been a growing acknowledgment of infertility's holistic nature, sparking an interest in examining the role of faith as a potential determinant of treatment outcomes among women navigating this complex terrain. Faith, in this context, encompasses a wide range of beliefs, values, and rituals related to spirituality and religion. For many women, faith serves not only as a source of comfort but also as a guiding influence in their quest for parenthood (Afolayan and Onajide 2019).

Recognizing how faith intersects with the infertility experience is crucial for healthcare professionals, particularly social workers, who

play a central role in supporting women through this challenging journey. By delving into the intricate relationship between faith, infertility, and the myriad social factors at play, practitioners can offer more personalized and effective interventions tailored to each woman's unique circumstances (Akinsola and Salawu 2018). For some women, faith acts as a reservoir of strength, providing them with hope and resilience to navigate the tribulations of infertility. It provides a framework through which they can find meaning amidst their struggles. Additionally, faith communities often serve as invaluable sources of support, offering a sense of belonging and understanding that may be absent elsewhere (Ajibade and Ogunbameru 2016).

However, faith can also introduce its own set of hurdles in the context of infertility. For women whose religious doctrines prioritize procreation as a cornerstone of womanhood, the inability to conceive may trigger feelings of guilt, shame, and spiritual inadequacy. Managing these conflicting emotions within the context of one's faith can pose significant challenges and may compound the already

substantial psychological burden of infertility (Akintunde and Alabi 2017). The intersection of faith and infertility extends beyond individual experiences to encompass broader societal dynamics. Cultural and religious beliefs regarding fertility can shape societal perceptions of infertility, influencing how women are perceived and treated within their communities. Understanding these broader social contexts is imperative for social workers aiming to provide culturally sensitive care to women from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds (Ige and Oluwafemi 2019).

Social work plays a pivotal role in providing support to individuals and families grappling with infertility. Through a variety of interventions, social workers aim to tackle the myriad psychosocial challenges inherent in this journey, while also fostering coping mechanisms and promoting overall well-being. However, the efficacy of these interventions isn't uniform across all demographics, underscoring the necessity for a nuanced comprehension of the factors that shape treatment outcomes (Olaniyan and Oyewole 2016). Faith emerges as a significant yet relatively overlooked element within this framework. Its potential impact on coping strategies, resilience, and perceptions of support systems warrants deeper investigation. Despite its importance, the role of faith in navigating infertility remains inadequately studied, leaving a gap in our understanding of how it influences individuals' experiences and outcomes (Osagbemi 2018).

Within the realm of social work, recognizing and incorporating the influence of faith can enhance the effectiveness of interventions. Understanding how individuals draw upon their faith to navigate the challenges of infertility can inform the development of tailored support strategies that resonate with their beliefs and values (Salami and Lawal 2017). Moreover, acknowledging the role of faith can help social workers establish more meaningful connections with clients, fostering trust and facilitating open dialogue about sensitive topics. Moreover, the impact of faith on

coping mechanisms deserves attention. For many individuals, faith serves as a source of strength and resilience, providing them with comfort and guidance during times of adversity. Incorporating faith-based coping strategies into social work interventions can empower individuals to draw upon their spiritual resources to navigate the emotional complexities of infertility (Yusuf and Kafaru 2017).

Faith can influence perceptions of support systems. Religious communities often serve as crucial sources of social support for individuals experiencing infertility, offering a sense of belonging and understanding that may be lacking elsewhere. Recognizing the importance of these support networks and leveraging them within social work practice can enhance the effectiveness of interventions and promote holistic well-being. The intersection of faith and infertility raises compelling inquiries into how religious and spiritual beliefs impact individuals' experiences and responses to treatment (Yusuf and Kafaru 2017). Studies indicate that faith can offer solace, imparting meaning, hope, and a sense of purpose amid the uncertainties and disappointments of infertility. Additionally, faith communities often provide a supportive atmosphere where individuals can encounter understanding, empathy, and practical aid in navigating infertility's challenges.

Despite the potential significance of faith in shaping the infertility journey, empirical research in this domain remains sparse. Current studies primarily concentrate on the religious coping mechanisms employed by those facing infertility, neglecting the broader implications of faith for treatment outcomes within social work interventions. By examining the correlation between faith and treatment success among women with infertility, hence this study seeks to bridge this gap in the literature, advancing a more comprehensive understanding of the psychosocial factors influencing reproductive health outcomes. The study set out the following objectives:

- i. To determine the relationship between faith and social work treatment success among women with infertility.
- ii. To analyze the effect of faith on social work treatment success among women with infertility.

Literature Review

According to a research conducted by Adeleke and Adebayo (2020), infertility presents a multifaceted challenge for women globally, encompassing physiological, emotional, psychological, and social aspects. In Nigeria, where societal norms prioritize childbearing, infertility can be particularly distressing. Social work interventions are crucial in providing support, guidance, and advocacy for women facing infertility, although their effectiveness can vary based on cultural factors, social support, and individual coping strategies. Recent attention has focused on the role of faith in shaping responses to infertility. Faith, including spiritual and religious beliefs, is influential in Nigerian communities. For women dealing with infertility, faith can offer solace, strength, and resilience during fertility treatment. However, empirical research on faith's impact on infertility experiences and social work interventions in Nigeria is limited, highlighting a need for deeper understanding.

The study emphasizes the importance of holistic care that integrates spiritual and religious dimensions into social work interventions. Such approaches may resonate more with women experiencing infertility, providing validation and a sense of belonging within their religious communities. Collaboration with religious leaders and organizations can enhance the effectiveness of interventions by leveraging existing support networks and resources.

Ajala and Ayodeji (2018) conducted a study on the exploration of faith-based approaches to addressing infertility stigma, particularly within the context of Nigerian women's experiences, which is a vital area of inquiry that intersects various disciplines,

including social work, reproductive health, and religious studies. Infertility stigma, characterized by societal judgments, misconceptions, and discrimination against individuals experiencing fertility challenges, exerts a profound impact on the psychological well-being, social relationships, and healthcare-seeking behaviors of affected individuals. In Nigeria, where cultural norms and religious beliefs often shape perceptions of fertility and family life, the experience of infertility can be particularly fraught with stigma, adding layers of complexity to the coping process for women and couples.

Akinboro and Fasubaa (2016) also found out in their study that religious frameworks provide individuals with interpretive lenses through which they understand their fertility struggles, attributing meanings, causations, and coping strategies informed by their faith traditions. For many Nigerian women, faith serves as a source of comfort, hope, and resilience in the face of infertility-related challenges, offering narratives of divine purpose, providence, and eventual blessings. Studies have highlighted the role of prayer, religious rituals, and community support within religious settings as essential coping mechanisms for women navigating infertility stigma in Nigeria.

Despite the potential benefits of faith-based coping strategies, there is a need to critically examine the ways in which religious beliefs and practices intersect with broader social, cultural, and healthcare contexts in shaping women's experiences of infertility stigma. Akpabio and Asuquo (2017) cautioned against essentializing faith as a universally positive coping resource, noting instances where religious teachings and cultural norms may exacerbate stigma or perpetuate harmful beliefs about infertility. Certain religious doctrines or cultural practices may reinforce gender-based stereotypes, attributing infertility solely to women and placing undue burdens of shame and blame on them.

Moreover, the role of religious institutions and leaders in addressing infertility stigma and

providing support to affected individuals warrants further exploration. While religious communities can offer valuable sources of solidarity, empathy, and practical assistance to women experiencing infertility, they may also inadvertently contribute to stigma through the propagation of narrow definitions of womanhood and motherhood. Understanding the dynamics of power, authority, and gender within religious contexts is essential for social work practitioners seeking to collaborate with faith-based organizations and leaders in addressing infertility stigma effectively.

Exploring how infertile women in Nigeria use religious coping methods and how these impact their treatment outcomes is crucial within the broader context of addressing infertility stigma through faith-based approaches. Babatunde and Anietimfon (2019) also found out that infertility, which refers to the inability to conceive after a year of regular unprotected intercourse, is a widespread issue globally, impacting individuals and couples. In Nigeria, where societal norms prioritize parenthood, infertility brings significant social, emotional, and psychological challenges, worsened by prevalent stigma and misunderstandings about fertility.

Studies have delved into how religious beliefs and practices intersect with coping strategies among infertile Nigerian women. Daramola and Oladokun (2019), religious coping, which involves using religious beliefs, rituals, and community support to manage stress and find meaning in adversity, is a key coping mechanism. Research shows that prayer, spiritual beliefs, and involvement in religious communities play significant roles in how women cope with infertility, offering comfort, hope, and strength. Studies on the link between religious coping and treatment outcomes among infertile Nigerian women have produced varied results. While some show positive associations between religious coping and psychological well-being, treatment adherence, and perceptions of treatment effectiveness, others highlight the complex relationship between

faith, stigma, and access to healthcare. Religious beliefs can influence decisions about fertility treatments, including acceptance or rejection based on religious or cultural values.

Additionally, the role of religious coping in reducing infertility-related stigma and building social support networks among Nigerian women is noteworthy. Religious communities often provide spaces for sharing experiences, receiving validation, and accessing practical help, lessening the impact of stigma on mental health and self-esteem. However, the effectiveness of religious coping strategies in addressing infertility stigma may differ based on contextual factors, such as religious affiliation, teachings, and social norms. Recognizing Nigeria's religious diversity, with Christianity and Islam as the predominant faiths, is essential. Each has distinct theological interpretations, ethical frameworks, and practices regarding fertility and family life. Therefore, social workers and healthcare providers must tailor culturally sensitive approaches to support individuals dealing with infertility within various religious contexts.

Exploring how faith impacts coping strategies among infertile Nigerian women is crucial within discussions on addressing infertility stigma through faith-based methods. Ezeanolue and Ajuwon (2018) found that infertility, is a global reproductive health concern with significant psychosocial effects. In Nigeria, cultural norms and religious beliefs heavily influence views on fertility, parenthood, and gender roles, making infertility particularly challenging due to stigma and societal pressures. Research has revealed how faith shapes coping mechanisms among infertile Nigerian women. Faith, including religious beliefs, practices, and community support, is a vital coping resource for many facing fertility challenges.

Fadare and Akpor (2017) highlight the role of prayer, reliance on spiritual beliefs, and involvement in religious communities in providing comfort, hope, and resilience amid conception difficulties. Studies on faith's influence on coping among infertile Nigerian

women provide nuanced insights into the interplay of religious beliefs, cultural norms, and psychosocial well-being. While some show positive links between religious coping and adaptive strategies like problem-solving and seeking social support, others note potential negative impacts, such as increased distress or perpetuation of stigma. Certain religious teachings or cultural narratives may attribute infertility to divine punishment or moral failing, exacerbating feelings of shame and guilt.

Fakeye and Abegunde (2016) revealed that the role of faith-based coping in promoting resilience and fostering social support networks among infertile Nigerian women is noteworthy. Religious communities often offer spaces for sharing experiences, receiving validation, and accessing practical help, which can alleviate stigma's effects on mental well-being and relationships. However, the effectiveness of faith-based coping may vary depending on contextual factors like religious denomination, teachings, and social norms. While faith shows promise as a culturally relevant coping resource for infertile Nigerian women, it's crucial to acknowledge the diversity of religious beliefs and practices in Nigeria, mainly Christianity and Islam. Social work practitioners and healthcare providers must employ culturally sensitive approaches to support individuals dealing with infertility within diverse religious contexts.

According to a study conducted by Faturoti and Adeyemo (2017) on how social work interventions interact with religious beliefs concerning infertility in Nigeria is a crucial aspect of discussions on faith-based approaches to tackling infertility stigma. In Nigeria, where cultural norms and religious beliefs heavily influence views on fertility, parenthood, and family, infertility is laden with social, emotional, and psychological complexities, exacerbated by stigma and societal pressures. A growing body of literature delves into how social work interventions and religious beliefs intersect in addressing infertility in Nigeria. Social work, dedicated to promoting social justice, empowerment, and well-being, plays a central

role in supporting and advocating for individuals and families dealing with infertility. However, the effectiveness of these interventions may be affected by cultural beliefs, religious values, and individual coping strategies.

Studies by Fayemi and Evans (2019) show how religious beliefs shape the perceptions, attitudes, and actions of those affected by infertility in Nigeria. Religious frameworks provide interpretive frameworks through which individuals understand their fertility struggles, influencing their meanings, causes, and coping methods based on their faith traditions. For many Nigerian women, religious beliefs offer comfort, hope, and resilience amidst conception challenges, offering narratives of divine purpose, provision, and eventual blessings. Incorporating religious beliefs into social work interventions for infertility in Nigeria presents opportunities and challenges. Integrating religious and spiritual dimensions may enhance the relevance and cultural sensitivity of interventions. Social workers can use religious beliefs as coping resources, facilitating discussions on meaning-making, support-seeking, and coping within religious contexts.

According to Ibukun and Iro (2018), integrating religious beliefs into social work practice requires careful consideration of ethical, professional, and cultural boundaries. Social workers must navigate Nigeria's diverse religious landscape, acknowledging the variety of beliefs, practices, and denominations. Upholding principles of respect, non-discrimination, and client autonomy ensures that interventions are inclusive and sensitive to the varied needs of those affected by infertility. Collaboration between social work practitioners and religious leaders, organizations, and institutions is vital in addressing infertility in Nigeria. Religious communities often offer crucial support, counseling, and resources for individuals facing infertility, providing spaces for prayer, guidance, and community engagement. Through partnerships with religious stakeholders, social workers can enhance the effectiveness and reach of their

interventions by leveraging existing support networks and resources.

According to a study conducted by Ilupeju and Yakub (2017) which revealed how the role of faith-based organizations (FBOs) in providing support to women facing infertility challenges in Nigeria constitutes a significant area of inquiry within the broader discourse on faith-based approaches to addressing reproductive health issues. In Nigeria, where cultural norms, societal pressures, and religious beliefs intersect to shape perceptions of fertility, parenthood, and gender roles, the experience of infertility can be particularly distressing, compounded by pervasive stigma and misconceptions surrounding fertility challenges. This study revealed that a growing body of literature has documented the diverse ways in which faith-based organizations in Nigeria contribute to supporting women facing infertility challenges. Faith-based organizations, encompassing religious institutions, community-based groups, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) grounded in religious principles, play a vital role in providing a range of support services, resources, and advocacy efforts to individuals and couples grappling with infertility. These organizations often serve as trusted sources of guidance, compassion, and practical assistance, offering holistic care that addresses the spiritual, emotional, and social dimensions of infertility.

Studies by Nwadingwe and Ikechebelu (2016) have highlighted the unique strengths and contributions of FBOs in addressing the multifaceted needs of women facing infertility challenges in Nigeria. Religious communities provide spaces for individuals to share their experiences, seek solace, and access spiritual guidance and support. FBOs often offer counseling services, support groups, and educational initiatives aimed at dispelling myths, promoting awareness, and fostering a sense of solidarity among individuals affected by infertility. Moreover, FBOs may collaborate with healthcare providers, social workers, and policymakers to advocate for improved access to

reproductive health services, including infertility diagnosis, treatment, and support services.

According to Oyekunle and Oyekunle (2018) the integration of religious beliefs and practices into the support services offered by FBOs holds particular significance within the Nigerian context. Christianity and Islam are the predominant faith traditions in Nigeria, each with its unique theological interpretations, ethical frameworks, and ritualistic practices regarding fertility and family life. FBOs draw upon religious teachings, scriptures, and traditions to provide spiritual guidance, comfort, and hope to individuals navigating the challenges of infertility. Moreover, religious leaders within FBOs often play influential roles as trusted advisors, mentors, and sources of moral support for individuals and couples seeking assistance with infertility-related issues. While FBOs offer valuable support to women facing infertility challenges in Nigeria, it is essential to recognize the limitations and complexities associated with religiously grounded approaches to care. Some studies have noted instances where religious teachings and cultural norms may inadvertently contribute to stigma, blame, or misinformation surrounding infertility, particularly concerning gender roles and responsibilities. Moreover, the accessibility and inclusivity of support services provided by FBOs may vary depending on factors such as religious affiliation, doctrinal beliefs, and socioeconomic status, potentially excluding marginalized or underserved populations.

Salisu and Garba (2019) revealed how faith influences coping mechanisms and adherence to treatment among Nigerian women dealing with infertility is a significant aspect of research on reproductive health and well-being. In Nigeria, where cultural norms, religious beliefs, and societal pressures intersect to influence views on fertility and parenthood, infertility can be especially distressing due to stigma and misconceptions. A qualitative study in Nigeria aimed to understand how faith impacts coping and treatment adherence among

women with infertility. Using methods like in-depth interviews and focus group discussions, the study captured the experiences and perspectives of women undergoing infertility treatment within a religious and cultural context. It aimed to provide detailed insights into how religious beliefs, coping strategies, and healthcare-seeking behaviors interact among Nigerian women facing fertility issues.

The findings revealed that faith plays a significant role in how women experience infertility and respond to treatment. Religious beliefs, rituals, and practices were central coping mechanisms, offering comfort, hope, and resilience amidst the challenges of infertility. Prayer, reliance on spiritual beliefs, and involvement in religious communities were essential aspects of coping strategies for women undergoing fertility treatment in Nigeria. Additionally, the study highlighted how faith influences treatment adherence and healthcare-seeking behaviors. Participants described how religious beliefs shaped their decisions about fertility treatments, including whether to accept or reject medical interventions based on religious convictions. For some, adherence to treatment was linked to trust in God's plan and seeing treatment outcomes as reflections of their faith.

Ugwu (2017) also revealed how religious beliefs impact coping strategies among infertile women in Nigeria is a crucial area of study within reproductive health and psychosocial research. Infertility, the inability to conceive after a year of regular unprotected intercourse, poses significant challenges globally, affecting emotional, psychological, and social well-being. In Nigeria, where cultural norms, religious beliefs, and societal pressures influence views on fertility, parenthood, and gender roles, infertility can be especially impactful, compounded by stigma and misunderstandings about reproductive health. These beliefs, including theological doctrines, spiritual practices, and community affiliations, are vital resources for many facing infertility.

Studies by Umeora and Igberase (2016)

show prayer, trust in divine providence, and involvement in religious communities are key components of coping mechanisms for Nigerian women dealing with fertility challenges. This qualitative studies in Nigeria provide valuable insights into how religious beliefs affect women's experiences of infertility and their responses to psychosocial stressors. Through in-depth interviews, focus groups, and narrative analyses, the researchers have highlighted the significance of religious narratives, symbols, and rituals in providing comfort, meaning, and hope amidst infertility's challenges. Participants often draw strength from their faith traditions, viewing infertility as part of a larger divine plan and finding support in religious communities.

Moreover, research by Waziri and Bashir (2018) reveals the complex relationship between religious beliefs and coping strategies among infertile Nigerian women. While beliefs can offer resilience and support, they also present challenges in decision-making about fertility treatments, family planning, and disclosing infertility. Religious teachings and cultural norms may influence perceptions of stigma, shame, and guilt surrounding infertility, shaping individuals' coping responses and help-seeking behaviors. Recognizing the diversity of religious traditions, interpretations, and practices in Nigerian society is crucial for developing culturally sensitive interventions. Researchers and healthcare providers must respect and accommodate individuals' religious and spiritual beliefs while addressing their psychosocial needs. Collaboration between religious leaders, healthcare professionals, and community stakeholders is vital for creating supportive environments that promote resilience, empowerment, and inclusivity for individuals and couples affected by infertility.

Methodology

The research employed a descriptive methodology incorporating both quantitative and qualitative approaches (mixed method) to examine the impact of faith on treatment outcomes among women experiencing

infertility in Nigeria. The research focused on female patients seeking treatment at Adeoyo Maternity Teaching Hospital and Jericho Specialist Hospital in Ibadan, Nigeria, highlighting these facilities' emphasis on addressing reproductive health concerns. Random sampling methods were employed to ensure the selection of participants from the entire pool of women dealing with infertility, thereby guaranteeing a representative sample.

In assessing the influence of faith on treatment success, the study considered duration of marriage alongside measurements of faith and responses to social work interventions. These aspects were incorporated into a questionnaire titled "Faith as a correlate of Social Work treatment success among women with

infertility," which included Likert-scale questions to capture participants' viewpoints. Additionally, qualitative insights were gathered through unstructured interviews with specific patients opting for verbal responses. Rigorous measures were taken to ensure the ethical integrity and validity of the research instrument, including thorough review and amendments overseen by the project supervisor.

Findings

Hypothesis One

Hypothesis one states that there will be no significant relationship between Faith and Social work treatment success among Women in Ibadan.

Table 1: Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) Showing the relationship between faith and social work treatment success

	Social Work Treatment	Faith Treatment
Social Work Treatment: Pearson r	1	621**
Sig(2-tailed)		.000
N		100
Faith Treatment Pearson r	621**	1
Sig(2-tailed)	.000	
N	100	

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level(2-tailed)

The findings depicted in Table 1 indicated a noteworthy association between faith-based treatment and the efficacy of social work interventions for women ($r=0.621$; $n=100$; $P<01$). This implies that a decrease in faith-based treatment correlates with a reduction in the effectiveness of social work treatments, while an increase in faith-based treatment corresponds to an enhancement in the efficacy of social work interventions. These results align with the qualitative feedback provided by the respondents mentioned below.

The first respondent responded thus:

"Yes. At the end everything starts and finish with God. these words from the workers, do encourage me a lot. Especially one of their bosses at Gynae unit. I like to hear from her".
(Woman)

The second respondent responded thus:

"I can't move on with life, that is why I'm still finding solution (she started crying) positive thinking is the way the people of God said I should be thinking". (Woman)

Based on the feedback received, it is evident that women facing infertility exhibit a readiness to engage with social work interventions, buoyed by a steadfast belief in a higher power and a resolute determination to surmount their fertility challenges.

Table 2: One Way ANOVA Showing the effect of faith on social work treatment success Social work treatment

<i>Faith treatment</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>Df</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Sig</i>
<i>Between groups</i>	<i>5949.728</i>	<i>205.163</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>3.697</i>	<i>.000</i>
<i>Within groups</i>	<i>3884.512</i>	<i>55.493</i>	<i>70</i>		
<i>Total</i>	<i>9834.240</i>		<i>99</i>		

The data displayed in Table 4.1.3 indicated a substantial impact of faith-based treatment on the provision of social work interventions for women ($F(99) = 3.697; P < 0.01$). This suggests that a decrease in faith-based treatment is associated with a decline in the delivery of social work treatments, while an increase in faith-based treatment correlates with an augmentation in the implementation of social work interventions. These findings are consistent with the qualitative insights provided by the respondents mentioned below.

Respondent three stated thus:

"Yes. I'm not shaking. I just believe this is a time of trial Until I see the final result, I just joint them here for constant prayer and treatment against infertility". (Woman)

Respondent four remarked thus:

"It is very hard, but I'm trying to cope. Yet, faith helps me and gives me hope even when the difficulty of infertility rages my way" (Woman)

Respondent five remarked thus:

"My husband is a Pastor. My family is for God only. God forbid. I can't bear infertility I know God will give me my own child". (Woman)

From the feedback provided by these women, it becomes apparent that a strong belief in God served as the foundation for their

Hypothesis Two

Hypothesis two states that there will be no significant effect of faith treatment on social work treatment among women in Ibadan.

acceptance of social work interventions. Despite facing difficult circumstances in their lives, they felt compelled to maintain a connection with God through consistent prayer and submission to His will. Their faith in a higher power served as a source of comfort and prevented them from succumbing to frustration in the face of infertility. These women exhibited resilience in their situation, recognizing that faith was essential not only for receiving social work treatment but also for navigating the challenges associated with infertility. They made deliberate choices to avoid actions that could exacerbate their difficulties, prioritizing their relationship with God above all else. In essence, faith in God emerged as the primary solution to the infertility challenges encountered by these women of reproductive age.

Discussion of Findings

H01: The result of the findings of hypothesis one aligns with the discoveries of Shields and Kestnbaum (2017) which revealed that when addressing challenges like infertility, faith often emerges as a pivotal strategy for individuals undergoing treatment, offering resilience and coping mechanisms. The fusion of faith and social work interventions becomes apparent as professionals navigate the intricate terrain of religious beliefs, rituals, and community support networks. By adopting a culturally sensitive

approach, social workers can leverage faith to enhance treatment adherence, bolster psychological well-being, and empower their clients. Faith-based coping mechanisms play a crucial role in shaping how individuals respond to infertility treatment, providing solace, optimism, and significance amid the complexities of the process. Religious beliefs offer a framework through which individuals interpret their struggles with fertility, imbuing their experiences with meaning within the context of their faith traditions. Social work interventions that acknowledge and incorporate these faith-based coping strategies can effectively complement medical treatments by addressing the holistic needs of individuals undergoing infertility treatment.

H02: The finding aligns with the report of Agbaje (2018) which revealed that faith can act as a reservoir of strength, resilience, and optimism for individuals undergoing social work treatment, especially during challenging or uncertain times. Many clients find solace and purpose in their faith, using it as a lens to interpret and derive meaning from their experiences. By integrating clients' spiritual beliefs into treatment strategies, social workers can tap into these wellsprings of support and empowerment, ultimately enhancing clients' overall well-being and treatment progress. Faith communities often function as essential pillars of support for individuals participating in social work treatment, providing a network of emotional, practical, and spiritual assistance. Social workers who collaborate with religious leaders, organizations, and community resources can leverage these support systems to augment the impact and effectiveness of their interventions. Through partnerships with faith-based initiatives, social workers gain access to additional resources, referrals, and culturally sensitive services that resonate with clients' spiritual convictions and principles.

Conclusion

The examination of faith as a factor influencing the success of social work

interventions among women confronting infertility highlights the significant role that spiritual beliefs and practices play in their therapeutic experiences. Through their faith, women grappling with infertility discover inner strength, resilience, and optimism, essential for navigating the complexities of treatment. Incorporating clients' spiritual convictions into social work interventions not only improves their overall well-being but also instills a sense of empowerment and purpose throughout the therapeutic journey. Additionally, faith communities serve as invaluable sources of support, providing emotional, practical, and spiritual guidance to individuals undergoing treatment. By recognizing and leveraging the impact of faith, social workers can tailor their approaches to better address the diverse needs and circumstances of their clients, thereby enhancing the efficacy and success of social work interventions for women coping with infertility.

Implications for social work practice

- i. Social workers should recognize and integrate faith-based approaches into their treatment plans, acknowledging the significance of religious beliefs and practices in shaping clients' coping mechanisms and resilience.
- ii. Social workers must demonstrate cultural sensitivity and respect for clients' diverse religious beliefs and practices.
- iii. Social workers should actively collaborate with faith communities and religious leaders to provide comprehensive support to women facing infertility.
- iv. Social workers should pursue ongoing education and training in religious diversity and culturally competent practice.

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