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Female Students' Dependency on Horoscope Prediction for Intimate Relationships and the Problem of Friendship Compatibility Management in Nigeria

Urien James^{1*}

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ABSTRACT

The study examined female students' dependency on horoscope prediction for intimate relationships and the problem of friendship compatibility management in Nigeria. Two research questions were raised in the study. The study adopted a quantitative and qualitative survey. The target population comprised students enrolled in public universities across Nigeria. A sample of 600 undergraduate female participants was drawn from three selected institutions: University of Benin, Benin-Edo State; Delta State University, Abraka-Delta State; and University of Port-Harcourt, Rivers State. A purposive sampling technique was employed to select participants from various institutions. Data were collected using a self-structured questionnaire titled the "Dependency on Horoscope Prediction for Intimate Relationships Questionnaire (DHPIRQ)." All questionnaires distributed were successfully retrieved and utilized for subsequent data analysis. Mean scores and standard deviation were used to provide answers to the research questions while Pearson Product-Moment Correlation was used to test the hypotheses at a 0.05 level of significance. The finding shows that for female students in Nigeria, horoscope predictions serve as a tool for decision-making in intimate relationships and managing friendship compatibility. In conclusion, Female university students in Nigeria rely on horoscope predictions to guide their intimate relationships, which can lead to unrealistic expectations, miscommunication and relationship dissatisfaction. Nevertheless, problems arise when managing friendships due to differences in values, interests, personality and communication leading to conflict, misunderstanding and strained relationships. The study therefore recommended that educational stakeholders such as government, policy-makers, educational institutions, counsellors, teachers and parents should educate female students about the potential pitfalls of relying on horoscope predictions.

INTRODUCTION

In modern Nigerian society, the interaction between traditional beliefs and contemporary influences has resulted in a distinctive cultural environment where young people, especially female students, navigate their social and romantic relationships. Astrology and horoscopes have become increasingly popular, particularly with the growth of digital media that provides personalized horoscopes (Ugo, 2020). For many Nigerian female students, horoscopes whether from Western astrology (like zodiac signs) or local interpretations serve as a means to make decisions about intimate relationships and assess friendship compatibility. In the context of online dating, horoscope predictions are viewed as a reliable source of quick guidance. Additionally, female Christians may turn to 'prophetic horoscopes' offered by ministers. This trend mirrors a global inclination towards metaphysical guidance but possesses unique features in Nigeria due to its diverse socio-cultural and religious landscape, educational dynamics, and gender norms (Iredia, 2021). Nigeria is a culturally diverse nation with over 250 ethnic groups, each contributing to a rich variety of beliefs and practices. Traditional divination systems, such as Ifa among the Yoruba, have historically influenced personal and communal decision-making related to love and

social connections. However, with globalization and the influence of Western media, these traditions have been complemented or occasionally replaced by astrology-based horoscope predictions (e.g., Aries, Taurus). Female students, often exploring their identities and social dynamics, are particularly interested in these resources for clarity in their romantic and friendship relationships (Chukwuma, 2022).

The tendency to rely on horoscopes is heightened by Nigeria's youthful demographic, with a median age around 18 years, and the widespread prevalence of smartphones and social media. Platforms like Instagram, Twitter (now X), and TikTok prominently feature astrology content aimed at young users, merging entertainment with perceived insights. For female university students, balancing academic demands with social expectations, horoscopes present an easy and affordable method for understanding compatibility with potential romantic partners and friends. A complex blend of cultural norms, peer pressures, and individual goals influences relationships among these students. In many communities, these relationships are linked to familial and societal approval, especially for women. The intense pressure to find a "compatible" partner defined by financial stability, moral values, or social standing can

¹ Department of Psychology, Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria

* Corresponding author's e-mail: jourien@delsu.edu.ng

be substantial (Igwe, 2019).

Horoscopes offer a framework for evaluating compatibility, providing insights into personality traits, emotional tendencies, and future outcomes based on astrological alignments. For example, a female student might consult her horoscope to see if a potential partner identified as a “Leo” aligns well with her “Pisces” nature, helping her gauge whether their signs predict a harmonious or challenging relationship. This reliance likely arises from a wish to minimize uncertainty in romantic choices, particularly in a culture where dating often leads to marriage and missteps can have significant social repercussions. Additionally, the influence of mainstream culture, including Nollywood films and celebrity endorsements of astrology, reinforces the notion that horoscopes are a valid resource for navigating love (Ukpe, 2022).

There is a lack of empirical research examining the prevalence, motivations, and consequences of horoscope dependency among female students in Nigeria. Furthermore, the cultural and societal factors affecting this dependency and friendship compatibility management are not well understood. Studies on these topics frequently overlook the cultural contexts in which they arise. However, there is a recognized need for research into effective interventions to address issues related to horoscope dependency and enhance friendship compatibility management among Nigerian female students (Chukwuma, 2022).

Statement of the Problem

Horoscope predictions may provide emotional reassurance or a sense of agency, but uncritical use raises concerns about their impact on female students' autonomy, critical thinking, and relational outcomes. Over-reliance on astrology could lead to decisions that overlook practical compatibility factors such as communication, potentials, mutual respect, or shared goals in favor of mystical forecasts. In intimate relationships, this might result in prolonged incompatible partnerships or the premature dismissal of viable ones. Friendships could foster superficial judgments or strained interactions based on perceived astrological mismatches rather than genuine engagement. Moreover, the commercialization of horoscopes in digital spaces introduces questions of credibility and exploitation. Many female students, with limited financial resources, may invest time and money in paid astrological services, potentially exacerbating their vulnerability. The lack of empirical research on this phenomenon in Nigeria underscores the need to explore its prevalence, drivers, and consequences among female students.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised in the study:

1. What factors influence female students' dependency on horoscope prediction for intimate relationships in Nigeria?
2. What are the problems associated with intimate

relationships and friendship compatibility management of female students as a result of dependency on horoscope prediction in Nigeria?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Factors Influence Female Students' Dependency on Horoscope Prediction

Walton (2020) identified several factors that affect female students' reliance on horoscope predictions. Societal pressure to be in a relationship may lead them to seek guidance from horoscopes. Encouragement from family or friends who believe in horoscopes can also influence their dependence. Additionally, psychological factors play a role; young women may be more emotionally vulnerable during adolescence and young adulthood, prompting them to turn to horoscopes for direction. Horoscope predictions can offer a sense of control and certainty in uncertain circumstances, such as romantic relationships. Younger female students aged 18-24 may be more inclined to trust these predictions due to their developmental stage.

Glick and Snyder (2018) noted that female students with higher levels of neuroticism, characterized by anxiety and emotional instability, are more likely to depend on horoscopes. Similarly, those with greater extraversion, associated with sociability and a desire for excitement, may be more inclined to seek guidance from them. Social media platforms often reinforce the notion that horoscopes are sound advice for relationships (Bauman, 2019). The easy access to horoscope predictions online and through various media channels can enhance their appeal. Female students with past negative or traumatic relationship experiences might lean more on horoscopes for comfort. Those who strongly wish for romantic relationships could also be more likely to consult horoscopes. Lastly, spiritual and philosophical beliefs can play a role; female students who believe in fate or destiny may find themselves turning to horoscope predictions, as might those with an interest in spirituality and mysticism (Igwe, 2019).

Problems Associated with Intimate Relationships and Friendship Compatibility Management

Research by Sloan (2018), Harte (2018), and Bauman (2019) identified issues related to the management of compatibility in intimate relationships and friendships that arise from reliance on horoscopes. Such dependency can lead to unrealistic expectations, as individuals may anticipate specific behaviors or outcomes based on their friends' astrological signs, resulting in frustration when reality does not align. Additionally, misinterpretations of horoscope predictions can cause misunderstandings, leading to conflicts as friends might attribute actions or events to astrological influences instead of considering other underlying factors.

According to Igwe (2019), relying on horoscopes can diminish personal accountability in friendships,

as individuals may blame astrological forces for their behaviors rather than taking responsibility. He also emphasized that this reliance might foster superficial connections, with friendships being based on astrological compatibility rather than genuine bonds formed through shared values, interests, and experiences. Furthermore, the constant pursuit of horoscope predictions can generate anxiety and stress in friendships, as individuals may become preoccupied with astrological influences, creating unnecessary worry and tension.

Bauman (2019) noted that such dependency can narrow one's understanding of friendships, causing important aspects like communication, empathy, and mutual respect to be overlooked in favor of astrology. Moreover, horoscopes can foster unrealistic expectations regarding friendship compatibility, as individuals may mistakenly believe that certain astrological signs are inherently suited for each other. Sloan (2018) argued that an overemphasis on sun signs detracts from recognizing the complexity of individual personalities and unique birth charts, leading to divergent priorities, goals, and moral values.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Design

The study adopted a quantitative and qualitative survey.

Table 1: Pearson “r” on factors that influence female students’ dependency on horoscope prediction for intimate relationships

Variables	N	X	STD	r-Cal.	r-Crit.	Level of Sign	Decision
Factors	600	2.75	2.36	1.63	2.76	0.05	Not Significant
Intimate relationships		2.82	2.87				

standard deviation of 2.36 and 2.87 respectively. The calculated r - value was 1.63 while the critical r-table value was 2.76 at 0.05 level of significance. Since the calculated

Participants

The target population comprised students enrolled in public universities across Nigeria. A sample of 600 undergraduate female participants was drawn from three selected institutions: University of Benin, Benin-Edo State; Delta State University, Abraka-Delta State; and University of Port-Harcourt, Rivers State. Purposive sampling technique was employed to select participants from various institutions.

Instrument

Data were collected using a self-structured questionnaire titled the “Dependency on Horoscope Prediction for Intimate Relationships Questionnaire (DHPIRQ).” All questionnaires distributed were successfully retrieved and utilized for subsequent data analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Mean scores and standard deviation were used to provide answers to the research questions while Pearson Product Moment Statistics was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

Data in table 1 revealed Pearson product moment correlation coefficient analysis on factors that influence female students’ dependency on horoscope prediction for intimate relationships. The mean was 2.75 and 2.82,

r - value was lesser than the critical r-table value, the null hypothesis is retained.

Table 2: Pearson “r” on problems associated with intimate relationships and friendship compatibility management of female students as a result of dependency on horoscope prediction

Variables	N	X	STD	r-Cal.	r-Crit.	Level of Sign	Decision
Problems	600	2.86	0.97	2.90	2.94	0.05	Not Significant
Intimate relationships and friendship compatibility management		2.84	0.86				

Data in table 2 revealed Pearson product moment correlation coefficient analysis on problems associated with intimate relationships and friendship compatibility management of female students as a result of dependency on horoscope prediction. The mean was 2.86 and 2.84, standard deviation of 0.97 and 0.86 respectively. The calculated r - value was 2.90 while the critical r-table value was 2.94 at 0.05 level of significance. Since the calculated r - value was lesser than the critical r-table value, the null hypothesis is retained.

Discussion of Findings

This study investigated female students’ dependency

on horoscope prediction for intimate relationships and the problem of friendship compatibility management in Nigeria. It delves into factors that influence female students’ dependency on horoscope prediction for intimate relationships in Nigeria. The finding shows that for female students in Nigeria, horoscopes whether derived from Western astrology (e.g, zodiac signs) or localized interpretations serve as a tool for decision-making in intimate relationships and managing friendship compatibility. This is in line with Ugo (2020) who posited that young people, particularly female students, navigate their social and intimate relationships. Among these influences, astrology and horoscope predictions have

gained significant traction, especially with the rise of digital media and access to online platforms that offer personalized horoscopes.

The study also revealed problems associated with intimate relationships and friendship compatibility management of female students as a result of dependency on horoscope prediction in Nigeria. This is in line with Sloan (2018); Harte (2018) and Bauman (2019) revealed problems associated with intimate relationships and friendship compatibility management as a result of horoscope dependency such as unrealistic expectations (relying on horoscope predictions may create unrealistic expectations about friendships. Friends may expect certain behaviors or outcomes based on astrological signs, leading to disappointment or frustration when reality doesn't match). Misinterpretation and misunderstandings, horoscope predictions can be misinterpreted or misunderstood, leading to miscommunications and conflicts in friendships. Friends may attribute behaviors or events to astrological influences rather than considering other factors.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the dependency of female university students on horoscope predictions for intimate relationships and the problems of friendship compatibility management in Nigeria are complex issues that require attention. Female university students in Nigeria rely on horoscope predictions to guide their intimate relationships, which can lead to unrealistic expectations, miscommunication and relationship dissatisfaction. Nevertheless, problems arise when managing friendships due to differences in values, interest, personality and communication leading to conflict, misunderstanding and strained relationships. Continuous use of horoscopes could affect the future marriage relationships instead of deliberate study of their partners.

RECOMMENDATION

The study therefore recommended that educational stakeholders such as government, policy-makers, educational institutions, teachers and parents should educate female students about the potential pitfalls

of relying on horoscope predictions. Pre-relationship counselling could be helpful to give female university students useful insights into romantic relationships. Design and evaluate interventions aimed at promoting healthy relationships and reducing reliance on horoscope predictions.

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