

ABSTRACT OF PUBLISHED PAPER

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ABSTRACT

Cohabitation is emerging as an important factor in mate selection in many societies in Kenya. This study focused on cohabitation among university students in Nairobi, Kenya. The objectives included: determining the prevalence of cohabitation; establishing the relationship between students' attributes and, family background, social factors and cohabitation. Methodology was guided by Bronfenbrenner's ecological model of human development. A survey of 176 students from a selected public university in Kenya was conducted. Results showed that the prevalence of cohabitation was 27.4%. The significant factors that influenced cohabitation included fathers' occupation ($p=0.016$), Mothers' occupation ($p=0.029$), parents' residence ($p=0.000$), family income ($p=0.000$), and peer influence ($p=0.000$). However the factors of students age and sex were not significantly related to cohabitation. Implications for family life education, reproductive health and strengthening of students' guidance and counseling services were included.

Key words: Cohabitation, premarital relationships, mate selection, dating, courtship, come-we-stay marriages, Kenya.

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