



Simple and Multiple Relationships between Relative Deprivations, Satisfaction of Needs and Lack of Patriarchal Power with Marital Satisfaction

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the present study was to examine the relationship between relative deprivations, satisfaction of needs, and lack of patriarchal power with marital satisfaction. The statistical population of this study consists of all the student couples in Abhar city (Zanjan Province in Iran) within the academic years of 2010-2011. The sample of this study included 75 couples who were selected using simple random method. Data were collected using the researcher-made questionnaire. The results of the simple correlation showed that the satisfaction of needs and lack of patriarchal power have a positive and significant relationship with marital satisfaction and the relative deprivations has a negative and significant relationship with the marital satisfaction. The results of regression analysis also showed that while predicting the marital satisfaction, the variables of relative deprivations, satisfaction of needs and lack of patriarchal power play a major role.

Key words: relative deprivations, satisfaction of needs, lack of patriarchal power, marital satisfaction

INTRODUCTION

A healthy society depends on the formation of stable, dynamic and happy families. One of the conditions of the safe environment is a strong and warm family with mutual respect, so that leads to spouses and family members comfort. The family is the first and possibly the most unique social institution so that the community success and health is known to be indebted to health and satisfaction of its members from each other. Because effect of none of the community individuals and none of the relationships (positive or negative) has the durability, depth and intensity like a family [1].

Marriage is part of the natural progression toward adulthood by which a person achieves independence and identity separate from their parents and relatives. Almost all are married, even though they often do not really know what will earn in marriage [2].

One of the most important aspects of a marital system is the satisfaction that spouses experience in marriage [3]. Marital satisfaction is one of the most important determinants of healthy performance for a family [4]. Marital satisfaction is a multidimensional concept that includes various factors such as personality characters, finances, parenting styles and sexual relations [5].

Marital satisfaction and Wives' adjustment as the centerpiece and focus of family foundation is influenced by several factors such as economic, social, psychological and cultural factors and so on. Most of the research in our country has been based on social science theories and with the emphasis on macroeconomic variables such as economic status, decrease in household income, social and cultural challenges. Psychological researches also have less considered main issues affecting marital satisfaction [6]. Research studies on the influential factors on marital satisfaction have been started around 1950 and reached its peak in the 1990's [5]. In recent decades, attention of many researchers and clinicians and Family Specialists have been attracted to the quality of the marital relationship, Couple satisfaction, and its impact on the family health and hygiene [7]. Studies on the divorce and its causes in our country confirm this fine point that the lack of understanding between couples is the most important factor in divorce, especially in the first 5 years of life. This lack of understanding, or in other words, marital discord arises from the mismatch and dissimilar personality characteristics. Nowadays, mate selection and family formation are usually based on criteria such as appearance, economic condition, education, family

status that are very superficial. Although these features are important in turn, but personality characteristics such as aptitudes and interests, needs and flexibility, tolerance, understanding and mutual exchanges and mutual respect have major influence both in the onset and lasting of a marriage. These factors have a vital role in positive and efficient life, provision of marital satisfaction and helping public health [8].

The main research question was whether there is a relationship between relative deprivations, satisfaction of needs, lack of patriarchal power with marital satisfaction. To answer this question, the following hypotheses are proposed:

Hypothesis 1: There is a relationship between relative deprivations and marital satisfaction in university students.

Hypothesis 2: There is a relationship between satisfaction of needs and marital satisfaction in university students.

Hypothesis 3: There is a relationship between lack of patriarchal power and marital satisfaction in university students.

Hypothesis 4: There is a multiple relationship between relative deprivations, satisfaction of needs and lack of patriarchal power with marital satisfaction in university students.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The method of the present research is descriptive (Causal-comparative research). Seventy-five student couples of Islamic Azad University, Abhar city (Zanjan Province in Iran) were chosen for this study. The subjects were selected and tested through simple random sampling. The measurement tool for this research is a researcher-made questionnaire. This questionnaire involves factors contributing in marital satisfaction (e.g. relative deprivations, satisfaction of needs and lack of patriarchal power). The validity of this questionnaire via content validity gained. The value of the reliability coefficient for the whole scale via Cronbach's alpha was reported 0.86 and for sub scales was reported between 0.68 and 0.77.

RESULTS

Table 1 shows the means, standard deviation and alpha indexes of the scales. Table 2 shows correlation coefficients of the predictive variables with criterion variable. As it can be seen in table 2, there is a negative and significant correlation between relative deprivations and marital satisfaction ($r = -0.66, P \leq 0.001$). There is a positive and significant correlation between satisfaction of needs and marital satisfaction ($r = 0.82, P \leq 0.001$). Also there is a positive and significant correlation between lack of patriarchal power and marital satisfaction ($r = 0.73, P \leq 0.001$). The results from multiple regression analysis (stepwise model) showed that the relative deprivations, satisfaction of needs and lack of patriarchal power with marital satisfaction had significant multiple correlation with critical thinking ($F = 228.60, P \leq 0.001$). These three variables are predictors of critical thinking (Table3).

Table 1. Mean and standard deviation of the predictive variables and criterion variable

Variable	M	SD	Alpha Index
relative deprivations	19.92	4.48	0.68
satisfaction of needs	13.35	4.25	0.77
lack of patriarchal power	17.44	3.99	0.72
marital satisfaction	56.34	15.86	0.86

Table 2. Correlation coefficients of the predictive variables and criterion variable

Criterion Variable	Predictive Variables	Correlation Coefficient (R)	Sig.
Marital Satisfaction	Relative Deprivations	-0.66	P≤0.000
	Satisfaction of Needs	0.82	P≤0.000
	Lack of Patriarchal Power	0.73	P≤0.000

Table 3. The results of multiple regression analysis with stepwise model

Dependant Variable	Pridictors	Mr	Rs	F P	Regression Coefficients		
					1	2	3
Critical Thinking	Satisfaction Of Needs	0.82	0.67	300.30 P≤0.000	β=0.82 T=17.33 P≤0.000	-	-
	Relative Deprivations	0.89	0.80	293.89 P≤0.000	β=0.66 T=16.29 P≤0.000	β=-0.39 T=-9.77 P≤0.000	-
	Lack Of Patriarchal Power	0.91	0.82	228.6 P≤0.000	β=0.53 T=10.99 P≤0.000	β=-0.35 T=-9.07 P≤0.000	β=0.22 T=4.52 P≤0.000

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study show that there is a relationship between relative deprivations and marital satisfaction in student couples. This finding can be explained through the resource theory. This theory was first developed by Wolfe [9] and extended by Blood and Wolfe [10]. This theory is based on three main assumptions: A - Every person is trying to meet his/her needs and achieve his/her goal. B - Dominant individual needs are satisfied through social interaction with other individuals or groups and C.- Through these interactions, there is a continuous exchange of resources and facilities that helps to obviate ones' needs and is effective in achieving the goals of the individual or group. Under the assumptions of this theory, if a person feel deprived, it has a great impact on the satisfaction of the wife.

Also, this study shows that there is a relationship between satisfaction of needs and marital satisfaction in student couples. Maslow [11, 12] believes that by the satisfaction of a need, higher needs emerge and deficit feeling with efforts to overcome it, becomes dominant on the human system. In fact, to meet all each other's needs can predict marital satisfaction. Finally, significant relationship between lack of patriarchal power and marital satisfaction found in current research. In a patriarchal society, and consequently the patriarchal family, the family man has the most authority. According to patriarchal theory, men have the most authority and many of the affairs are determined by men. And because the other side should do the requested affairs from men passively, then it will affect satisfaction of spouse [13].

The most important suggestion of this research is to hold premarital education workshops at universities. Besides, workshops on interpersonal relationships for couples can be effective on how to establish proper communication.

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