

The effect of gender and length of marriage on marital adjustment

Dr. Karuna Anand

Assistant Professor (Dept. Psychology), Gokul Das Hindu Girls Degree College, Moradabad

ABSTRACT

The present study is an attempt to investigate the effect of gender and length of marriage on marital adjustment. 60 males, whose length of marriage is approximately 10 years, 20 years & 30 years were selected. The result shows that there is a significant effect of gender on marital adjustment and there also exists a significant effect of length of marriage on marital adjustment. But the interaction effect between gender and length of marriage didn't found significant at any level of confidence.

INTRODUCTION

The relationship which a man has with a woman in marriage is perhaps the highest form of relationship, because it involves physical, emotional, spiritual and social aspects of life. Marital adjustment is an adjustment of two personalities which had different socio-cultural backgrounds. The success of family life largely depends upon the success in marital adjustment of the husband and wife.

According to Burgess & Locks (1950) "The basic factors in marital adjustment are personality characteristics, cultural backgrounds, social participation, economic status, response patterns and sex desires".

Marital adjustment can be defined as that state of relationship in marriage in which there is an overall feeling in husband and wife of happiness and satisfaction with their marriage with each other. (Kapoor p. 1970)

Many attempts have been made to assess the quality of relationships, using such concepts as adjustment, success, satisfaction stability, happiness, well being, consensus, cohesions, adaptation and the like. Sometimes these terms are also used interchangeably at other times each denotes something different. All the concepts emphasize a dimension that contrasts with maladjustment, dissatisfaction instability and unhappiness.

There are many factors that affects marital adjustment such as: type of family of the spouses, type of marriage, age at marriage, dowry, sexual life spouses and their early days of marriage, occupation of the spouses, money concerning matters, marital violence length of marriage, expectations in marriage.

Recent research supports that there are still many gender differences in married life. The study of Rosen-Garden, Jane R; Mgers, Jane E., F. Hattie. A (2004) found in their results that gender of the participant had statistically significant influence on marital satisfaction. The same results was also found by Faulkner, Rhonda A; Davey, Maireen & Davey, Adam (2005). Further, Schumm, Walter R; Webb, Farrel J. & Bollman, Stephan R. (1988) investigated the relationship of marital satisfaction with gender through the data from the national survey of families and households. Results indicate that wives were less satisfied with their marriages. The study of Schumm, Walter R; Bollman, Stephan R & Jurich, Anthony P. (1977) also studied 97 married men and 54 married women on marital satisfaction with gender and found the same results. But on the other hand, Kumar Pramod (1994) explores the relationship between gender differences and adjustment in marriage. A sample of 60 married Hindu couples (aged – 24-25 years) with 2-3 children, completed the marital adjustment questionnaire. Results revealed that there is no interaction effects were found to be significant.

When one looks at marital happiness over the family existence. One might speculate that it would be higher in the aging years. Length of marriage is a factor which affects the marital happiness of the spouses. Kirchler, Erich (1999)

examined the effect of length of marriage on marital adjustment on 286 couples. Results indicate that neither length of marriage nor spouse's age is correlated with marital happiness. But on the contrary, Demir, Ayhan & Fisilogic Hurol (1999) investigated the relationship between length of marriage and marital satisfaction in 54 heterosexual Turkish couples (mean age 30 years, mean length of marriage 11.7 years). Results reveal that length of marriage was significantly correlated with marital adjustment. The same results were also found by Rosen-Garden, Jane, R; Mgers, Jane E.F. Hattie, A. (2004). Further Kumar Pramod (1994) explore the relationship between marital duration and adjustment in marriage. A sample of 60 married Hindu couples (ages 24-25) were used. Results revealed that couples who had been married for 10 years or longer, scored significantly higher on marital adjustment than couples who had been married for a shorter period. The same results were also found by Orbuch, Terri L. House, James S. Mero, Richard P & Wester, Pamela S (1996). They investigated a factor which is related to the relationship between duration of marriage and marital satisfaction. Results reveal that marital adjustment increases in the later life.

Objective:

The aim of the present study is to find out the effect of gender and length of marriage on marital adjustment.

Hypotheses:

1. There is no significant effect of gender on marital adjustment.
2. There is no significant effect of length of marriage on marital adjustment.
3. There is no significant interaction effect between gender and length of marriage on marital adjustment.

METHOD

Sample:

Total 120 subjects were used in the research. The subjects of both the gender (60 males & 60 females) were selected randomly, whose length of marriage is approximately larger than 10 years, 20 years and 30 years. The education level and socio-economic status were kept constant for the entire group.

Tool Used:

In order to measure the marital adjustment of these subjects, marital adjustment inventory constructed by Dr. Pramod Kumar and Kanchan Rohtagi was administered.

Research Design:

The study proceeds with 2 x 3 factorial design. The two independent variables and their levels of the study are as follows:

- (A) Gender
 - A₁ = Male
 - A₂ = Female

- (B) Length of Marriage
 - B₁ = approximately 10 years
 - B₂ = approximately 20 years
 - B₃ = approximately 30 years

There were 20 subjects in each cell of the 2 x 3 paradigm. The 2 x 3 paradigm is given in Table. 1

Table: 1
2 x 3 Factorial design

Length of Marriage	Gender	
	Male	Female
Approximately 10 years	20	20
Approximately 20 years	20	20
Approximately 30 years	20	20

Procedure:

Marital adjustment inventory was administered on 120 subjects individually according to the instructions given in the test manual. There was no time limit to complete the questionnaire but maximum 15-20 minutes were taken by each subjects.

Statistical Analysis:

Analysis of the data was carried out by employing the statistical method of two way ANOVA. Mean table and result table of ANOVA are given in Table 2 and 3.

Table: 2: Showing the total & mean of the subjects

Length of Marriage	Gender			
	Male		Female	
	Total	Mean	Total	Mean
Approximately 10 years	373	18.65	331	16.55
Approximately 10 years	393	19.65	348	17.40
Approximately 10 years	414	21.00	385	19.20

Table: 3: Showing the summary table of analysis of variances

Source of Variance	SS	df	MS	f-value
Gender (A)	112	1	112	21.78**
Length of Marriage (B)	114	2	57	11.08**
Gender x Length of Marriage (AxB)	04	2	2	38
Within group error	587	114	5.14	

**denotes the significance at .01 level of confidence.

RESULTS

The results yielded by ANOVA (Table- 3) can be enumerated as under :-

1. The simple effect of gender is found significant at 0.01 level of confidence.
2. The simple effect of length of marriage is also found significant at 0.01 level of confidence.
3. But on the other hand, the interaction effect between gender and length of marriage is not found significant at any level of confidence.

Discussion and interpretation:

The present study aimed to see the marital adjustment among male and female (Gender) and did any effect of length of marriage, also be see on marital-adjustment. On the basis of ANOVA table, we can say that the three hypothesis formulated only one is proved right. Our first null hypothesis. "There is no significant effect of gender on marital adjustment." Proved wrong because the obtained F-value (21.78) is larger than the critical value (6.84) at .01 level of confidence. On the basis of obtained F-value (21.78) we can prove that there is a significant difference between male and female on marital adjustment. The following studies proved our results. Rosen-Gradon (2004) investigated the relationship between male & female on marital adjustment. They found that the gender of the participant has statistically significant influence on marital satisfaction. The same results was also found by Faulkner, Rhonda A; Davey, Mairenn & Davey, Adam (2005). On the basis of mean table we can say that in comparison to males, Females are found less satisfied with their marital relations because the mean value of males (1180) is larger than the mean value of females (1064). These findings are also supported our findings. Schumm, walter R; webb, Farrel J. & Baleman, Stephan R. (1998) investigated the relationship of marital satisfaction with gender throught the data from the national survey of families and households. Results indicate that wives were less satisfied with their marriages. The study of Schumm, Walter R; Bollman, Stephan R. & Jurich, Anthony P. (1997) also found the same results.

Our second Hypothesis "There is no significant effect of Length of marriage on marital adjustment." Also proved wrong because the obtained F-value (11.08) is larger than the critical value (4.78) at .01 level of confidence. On the basis of obtained difference between the length of marriage of the subjects. The study of Demir, Ayhna & Fisilogic Hurol (1999) also support our results. In their study, the results revealed that the length of marriage was significantly correlated with marital adjustment. The same results were also found by Rosen-Gradon (2004) and Kumar Pramod (1994). They explores the relationship between marital duration and adjustment in marriage. Results revealed that couples who had been married for 10 years or longer, Scored Significantly higher on marital adjustment than couples who had been married for a shorter period. Further the study of Orbuch, Terri L. House, James S. Mero, Richard P. & Webster, Paermels S. (1996) also found in three results that marital adjustment increase in later life.

Last but not the least our third hypothesis, "There is o significant interaction between gender and length of marriage is proved right because the obtained F-value (.38) is less than the critical F-value (4.78) at 0.01 level of confidence.

To conclude, the effect of gender and length of marriage can be seen on marital adjustment.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Burgess and Locks (1950). The family pp. 464-467.
- [2]. Demir Ayhan & Fisiloglu, Hurol (1999), Loneliness and marital adjustment of Turkish couples. *Journal of Pshychology*, 133(2), 230-240.
- [3]. Faulkner, Rhonda A; Davey, Mareen and Davey, Adam (2005). Gender related predicators of change in marital satisfaction and marital conflict. *American Journal of family therapy*, 33(1), 61-83.
- [4]. Kapur, Promilla, (1970). *Marriage and the working women in India*, New Delhi: Vikas Publication.
- [5]. Kirchler, Erich, (1999). Unbelievable similarity accuracy in spouses, reports on their partners tactics to influence joint economic decisions. *Applied Psychology: An International Review*, 48(30), 329-348.
- [6]. Kumar Pramod (1994). Gender differences and adjustment in marriage. *Indian Journal of clinical psychology*. 2, 23-26.
- [7]. Orbuch, Terri L: House, James S; Mero Richard P. and Webster, Pamela S (1996). Marital quality over the life course, *social psychology quarterly* 59(2), 162-171.
- [8]. Rosen-Gradon, Jane R; Mgers, Jane E.F. Hattic A. (2004). The relationship between marital characteristics, marital interaction process and marital satisfaction. *Journal of counselling and development*, 82(1), 58-68.
- [9]. Rosen-Gradon, Jane R; Mgers, Jane E.F. Hattic A. (2004). The relationship between marital characteristics, marital interaction proves and marital satisfaction. *Journal of counselling and development*, 82(1), 58-68.
- [10]. Schumm, Walter R; Bollman, Stephan R. and Jurick, Anthony (1997). Gender and marital satisfaction. *Psychological report*, 81, 1004-1006.
- [11]. Schumm, Walter R; Webb, Farrell J. and Boolman, Stephan R. (1998). Gender and marital satisfaction: Data from the national survey of families and households. *Psychological reports*, 83(1), 319-327.