The Relationship between Sensation Seeking and Marital Satisfaction among Women

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Abstract

This study tried to investigate the relationship between Sensation Seeking and Marital Satisfaction of women in Kuhdasht City in Iran, and from all of women, 50 women were randomly selected. The Marital Satisfaction Scale Olson et al (1987) and Zuckerman Sensation Seeking Scale (1978) were used as a research tool for collection of data. The research design was 'r' Correlation Pearson. For data analysis, descriptive statistics such as the Mean and Standard Deviation were used. The results showed that the first hypothesis which was there is a significant relationship between Sensation Seeking and Marital Satisfaction for women was confirmed. According to this finding, the second hypothesis, that there is relationship between Duration of Marriage and Marital Satisfaction at p<0/005 was rejected and the third hypothesis, that there is a relationship between Economic Situation and Marital Satisfaction at p<0/005 was also rejected. Finally the fourth hypothesis, that there is a relationship between Education Level and Marital Satisfaction at p<0/005 was rejected.

Keywords: Sensation Seeking, Marital Satisfaction, Women

Introduction

Sex drive (or sexual impulse) is one of the most powerful biological and self-existing phenomena, and as such, it is very difficult to be controlled by human's will. This is a good reason why every attempt has been made by different cultures to harness it. Belief systems of people regarding sex and sexual deviation and aberration have gone under constant change in the course of the past decades. Sexual activity, in its basic level, satisfies two important and dependent (but not equal) human needs: reproduction and physical- emotional pleasure (Nik Khoo, 2002).

In the present day marriages men and women are usually compared in areas such as religion, family, financial status, age, intelligence, social ranks, etc. Nevertheless, affection is a phenomenon that is independent from sexual tendency to the extent that it can be said they are related in only some aspects and can affect each other (Horney, 1990). Sexual variety seeking refers to a kind of sexual behavior that is done regardless of the commitment degree in a relationship or intimacy and it is only for emotional satisfaction. This behavior is goal-oriented and is toward sexual interaction (Aref Nazari, 2004). One of the personality traits of individuals which can be effective components in marital satisfaction are the construct of emotion and sensation seeking.

Sensation seeking are often biological and associative reactions which are transient and short-lived caused by external stimulus. According to Zuckerman (1994) sensation seeking is an adjective needing to variety, novelty, occasions and complicated experiences. In Reio's view (2006) sensation seeking is one of the Personality traits of individuals and have a biological basis, consequently the similarity or dissimilarity sensation seeking can be a factor in choosing spouse. The aim of this study is to investigate the relationship between Sensation Seeking and Marital Satisfaction of women in Kuhdasht City in Iran. In other words, the researcher tries to answer this question: Is there a significant relationship between sensation seeking and marital satisfaction of women?

Objectives of Research

The main objective

The overall objective of this study was to investigate the relationship between Sensation Seeking and Marital Satisfaction among women in Kuhdasht City.

The sub-objectives

1 - Investigate the relationship between Sensation

Seeking and Marital Satisfaction among women due to the Economic Situation in Kuhdasht City.

2 - Investigate the relationship between Sensation Seeking and Marital Satisfaction among women with regard to Duration of Marriage in Kuhdasht City.

3 - Investigate the relationship between Sensation Seeking and Marital Satisfaction among women with regard to Level of Education in Kuhdasht City.

Research Questions

Is there a significant relationship between Sensation Seeking and Marital Satisfaction among women?

Hypothesis

1 - There is a significant relationship between Sensation Seeking and Marital Satisfaction among women in Kuhdasht City.

2 - There is a significant relationship between Duration of Marriage and Marital Satisfaction among women in Kuhdasht City.

3 - There is a significant relationship between Economic Situation and Marital Satisfaction among women in Kuhdasht City.

4 - There is a significant relationship between Education Level and Marital Satisfaction among women in Kuhdasht City.

Research Methodology

The study aimed to investigate the relationship between Sensation Seeking and Marital Satisfaction among women in Kuhdasht City. The Descriptive and 'r' Correlation Pearson were used to investigate the relationship between Marital Satisfaction and Sensation Seeking among women. Questionnaires were distributed between women and were asked to respond to questions accurately and honestly and also respond to all questions.

Operational Definition

The marital satisfaction was individual scores were obtained from a form 47-item marital satisfaction questionnaire (Olson et al, 1987).

Sensation seeking was the desire to experience the excitement and variety, fresh, complex and intense desire for adventure, physical, social, legal and finance (Zuckerman, 1994).

Population, Sample and Sampling

The research population consisted of all women in Kuhdasht City of Iran and from all population 50 subjects were selected randomly as a sample.

Tools of Collection Data

The present study was designed to collect data from the Marital Satisfaction Scale Olson et al (1987) and Zuckerman Sensation Seeking scale (1978) which used as a research tool.

Statistical Methods

The statistical method used in this study was:

A) Descriptive statistics to analysis of data, including Mean, Standard Deviation, Minimum and Maximum Scores.

B) Inferential statistics was 'r' Correlation Pearson.

C) Cronbach's alpha reliability coefficient alpha for the survey questionnaire.

In this study, to analysis the data the software SPSS19 was used for hypothesis testing at the significance level of $p<0/005$.

Research Findings

(A): Descriptive Findings

(B) The Findings of the Research Hypotheses

(A): Descriptive Findings

Table 1 Descriptive Statistics of Age Frequency of the Sample

Age	Frequency	Percent
17 – 23	14	%28
24 – 30	19	%38
31 – 37	11	%22
38 – above	6	%12

As table 1 showed Frequency of age 24-30 years were the highest and the minimum frequency was related to the age frequency 38 years and above.

Table 2 Frequency and Percentage of the sample in terms of Education Level

Level of Education	Frequency	Percent
Elementary	9	%18
High School	14	%28
Diploma	22	%44
University	5	%10

Table 2 showed Frequency of level of education in diploma was the highest and the minimum frequency was related to the level of education in University.

Table 3 Frequency of the sample in terms of Economic Situation

Economic Situation	Frequency	Percent
Poor	14	%28
Middle	30	% 60
Rich	6	%12

As can be seen in table 3, the frequency of middle was the highest and lower economic situation was the rich.

The table 4 Frequency of the sample based on duration of marriage (years) was shown:

Table 4 Distribution of sample in terms of Duration of Marriage

Duration of Marriage	Frequency	Percent
until 3 years	9	%18
4 - 6	18	% 36
7 - 9	13	%26
10 - above	10	%20

As can be seen in table 4, the frequency of duration of married for 4-6 years was highest and the lowest frequency duration of marriage was until three years.

Table 5 Descriptive statistics including Mean, Standard Deviation, min. and max. Scores

Statistics Indicators / Variables		St. dev.	Min. Score	Max. Score
Marital satisfaction	127/60	33/60	65	166
Sensation seeking	19/74	7/72	5	37

As the results indicated in table 5 the mean and standard deviation of the Marital Satisfaction Scale scores, respectively, was 127/60 and 33/60, and sensation seeking scale, respectively, was 19/74 and 7/72.

(B) Findings of the Research Hypotheses

First hypothesis: There is a significant relationship between Sensation Seeking and Marital Satisfaction among women in Kuhdasht City.

Table 6 'r' Correlation coefficients between Sensation Seeking and Marital Satisfaction

Statistics Indicators / Variables	'r' Correlation Coefficients	Coefficient of Determination R^2	Level of Significance
Marital satisfaction and Sensation seeking	-0/44	0/19	0/001

As can be seen in table 6 'r' Correlation Coefficient between sensation seeking variables and marital satisfaction was ('r'= -0/44), so Significant relationship between these two variables was observed in the present study at (p<0/001). Thus, according to these findings, the first hypothesis, that there is a significant relationship between sensation seeking and marital satisfaction among women in Kuhdasht City at (p<0/001) was accepted. Sensation Seeking was about R^2= 0/19.

Second hypothesis: There is a significant relationship between duration of marriage and marital satisfaction among women in Kuhdasht City.

Table 7 'r' Correlation Coefficients between Duration of Marriage and Marital Satisfaction

Statistics Indicators / Variables	'r' Correlation Coefficients	Coefficient of Determination R^2	Level of Significance
duration of marriage and marital satisfaction	-0/12	0/014	0/28

As can be seen in table 7 'r' Correlation Coefficient between Duration of Marriage and Marital Satisfaction ('r'= -0/12), but this relationship was not significant (p = 0/28). So according to this finding, the second hypothesis, that there is a significant relationship between Duration of Marriage and Marital Satisfaction among women in Kuhdasht City at p<0/005 was rejected. It means that there is no significant relationship between Duration of Marriage and Marital Satisfaction.

Third hypothesis: There is a significant relationship between Economic Situation and Marital Satisfaction among women in Kuhdasht City.

Table 8 'r' Correlation Coefficients between Economic Situation and Marital Satisfaction

Statistics Indicators / Variables	'r' Correlation Coefficients	Coefficient of Determination R^2	Level of Significance
economic situation and marital satisfaction	0/20	0/19	0/08

As can be seen in table 8 'r' Correlation Pearson Coefficient between variables, Economic Situation and Marital Satisfaction was ('r' = 0/20). However, a weak positive correlation was seen between these two variables, but the relationship was not significant (p= 0/08). So according to this finding, the third hypothesis, that There is a significant relationship between Economic Situation and Marital Satisfaction among women in Kuhdasht City at p<0/005 was rejected. It means that there is no significant relationship between Economic Situation and Marital Satisfaction among women in Kuhdasht City.

Fourth hypothesis: There is a significant relationship between Education Level and Marital Satisfaction among women in Kuhdasht City.

Table 9 'r' Correlation Coefficients between Education Level and Marital Satisfaction

Statistics Indicators / Variables	'r' Correlation Coefficients	Coefficient of Determination R^2	Level of Significance
education level and marital satisfaction	-0/01	0/01	0/92

As can be seen in table 9 Pearson Correlation Coefficients between the variables Education Level and Marital Satisfaction was ('r'= - 0/01) but this relationship was not significant (p=0/92). So according to this finding, the fourth hypothesis, that there is a significant relationship between Education Level and Marital Satisfaction among women in Kuhdasht City at p<0/005 was rejected. It means that there is no significant relationship between Education Level and Marital Satisfaction.

Conclusion

As this study conducted a total of 50 women randomly were selected and according to the findings, the first hypothesis, that there is a significant relationship between Sensation Seeking and Marital Satisfaction among women in Kuhdasht City at p<0/001 was accepted and results show that 'r' Correlation Coefficient between Sensation Seeking and Marital Satisfaction variables was ('r'= -0/44) which it indicated that there is a significant relationship between Sensation Seeking and Marital Satisfaction among women. From other findings that there is a relationship between marital satisfaction and sensation seeking was aligned with previous findings (Heshmati et.al, 2010, Ficher, Zuckerman, & Neeb, 1981). The previous findings have shown that if there is a similarity between couples sensation seeking, their marital satisfaction is high and if there is no similarity is, the satisfaction will be low, too. (Heshmati et.al 2010, Ewing et.al 1985). Second hypothesis that noted there is a significant relationship between Duration of Marriage and Marital Satisfaction among women in Kuhdasht City at p<0/005 was rejected and according to frequency of Duration of Marriage which until three years was the lowest frequency (%18) among women, so there is no significant relationship between Duration of Marriage and Marital Satisfaction among women in Kuhdasht City.

The third and fourth hypothesis were also rejected because according to table of results, finding indicated that there is no significant relationship between Economic Situation and Marital Satisfaction according to 'r' correlation ('r' = 0/20) and level of significant and also between Education Level and Marital Satisfaction ('r'= - 0/01) among women in Kuhdasht City at p<0/005.

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