

MARITAL SATISFACTION IN TURKISH REMARRIED FAMILIES:
COMPARISON AMONG MARITAL STATUS, EFFECT OF STEPCHILDREN,
AND CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
OF
MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

BY

ESRA BİR AKTÜRK

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE
IN
THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

JUNE 2006

Approval of the Graduate School of Social Sciences

Prof. Dr. Sencer Ayata
Director

I certify that this thesis satisfies all the requirements as a thesis for the degree of Master of Science/Arts / Doctor of Philosophy.

Prof. Dr. Nebi Sümer
Head of Department

This is to certify that we have read this thesis and that in our opinion it is fully adequate, in scope and quality, as a thesis for the degree of Master of Science/Arts/Doctor of Philosophy.

Prof. Dr. Hürol Fıfılođlu
Supervisor

Examining Committee Members

Prof. Dr. Hürol Fıfılođlu (METU,PSY) _____

Assoc. Prof. Belgin Ayvařık (METU,PSY) _____

Prof. Dr. Ferhunde Öktem (HÜ, Child Psychiatry) _____

I hereby declare that all information in this document has been obtained and presented in accordance with academic rules and ethical conduct. I also declare that, as required by these rules and conduct, I have fully cited and referenced all material and results that are not original to this work.

Name, Last name: Esra Bir Aktürk

Signature :

ABSTRACT**MARITAL SATISFACTION IN TURKISH REMARRIED FAMILIES:
COMPARISON AMONG MARITAL STATUS, EFFECT OF STEPCHILDREN,
AND CONTRIBUTING FACTORS**

Bir Aktürk, Esra

M.S., Department of Psychology

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Hürol Fişiloğlu

June 2006, 117 pages

The main purpose of the present study was to compare marital satisfaction among marital status (first married, post-divorce remarried and post-bereavement remarried) and gender. In addition, the current study aimed to investigate the effect of stepchildren on marital satisfaction of remarried individuals. Besides, it was also aimed to investigate the predictive power of demographic and contextual variables on marital satisfaction of first married families, of post-divorce remarried families, of post bereavement remarried families, and of those who had stepchildren. Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS) and Demographic Information Form were administered 116 first married and 223 remarried individuals. To test the hypotheses of the study ANOVA, ANCOVA, and Stepwise Multiple Regression Analyses were performed. Results revealed that men had higher level of marital satisfaction than women. However, there was no significant difference between the marital satisfaction of first married individuals, post-divorce remarried individuals, and post-bereavement remarried individuals. It was also found that remarried individuals with residential stepchildren had lower marital satisfaction than remarried individuals with non-residential stepchildren and those without stepchildren. In addition, results yielded that for first married individuals length of marriage and income; for post-divorce remarried

individuals gender and presence of mutual children; for post-bereavement remarried individuals length of current marriage and income; and for those with stepchildren only residence of stepchildren significantly predicted marital satisfaction. The findings of the study were discussed in the light of relevant literature

Keywords: Marital Satisfaction, First Married Families, Post-divorce Remarried Families, Post-bereavement Remarried Families, Stepchildren

ÖZ

YENİDEN EVLENEN TÜRK AİLELERDE EVLİLİK DOYUMU: MEDENİ DURUMA GÖRE KARŞILAŞTIRMA, ÜVEY ÇOCUKLARIN ETKİSİ, VE YORDAYAN FAKTÖRLER

Bir Aktürk, Esra

Yüksek Lisans, Psikoloji Bölümü

Tez Yöneticisi: Prof. Dr. Hürol Fışıloğlu

Haziran 2006, 117 sayfa

Araştırmanın temel amacı medeni durum (ilk evli, boşandıktan sonra yeniden evlenmiş, eşi vefat ettikten sonra yeniden evlenmiş) ve cinsiyete göre evlilik doyumunun karşılaştırılmasıdır. Ayrıca çalışma üvey çocukların, yeniden evlenenlerin evlilik doyumu üzerindeki etkisini araştırmayı amaçlamaktadır. Bunlara ek olarak, cinsiyet, yaş, eşin yaşı, gelir düzeyi, yeni evliliğin süresi, önceki evliliğin süresi, ilk evliliğin bitimiyle ikinci evliliğin başlangıcı arasındaki süre, üvey çocukların varlığı, sayısı, yaşı, cinsiyeti ve birlikte ikamet etmeleri ve ortak çocuğun varlığının ilk evlilerde, boşandıktan sonra yeniden evlenenlerde, eşi vefat ettikten sonra yeniden evlenenlerde ve üvey çocuğu olan yeniden evlenen ailelerde evlilik doyumunu yordamadaki gücünü araştırmak amaçlanmıştır. 116 ilk evli ve 223 yeniden evlenmiş kişiye Çiftler Uyum Ölçeği (ÇUÖ) ve Bilgi Formu uygulanmıştır. Hipotezleri test etmek için ANOVA, ANCOVA ve regresyon analizleri kullanılmıştır. Sonuçlar, erkeklerin kadınlardan daha yüksek evlilik doyumuna sahip olduğunu göstermiştir. Ancak, ilk evlilerin, boşandıktan sonra yeniden evlenenlerin ve eşi vefat ettikten sonra yeniden evlenenlerin evlilik doyumu arasında anlamlı fark bulunmamıştır. Ayrıca, üvey çocukla birlikte ikamet eden yeniden evlenmiş kişilerin, üvey çocuğu olmayanlardan ve üvey çocukla birlikte

ikamet etmeyenlerden daha düşük evlilik doyumuna sahip oldukları bulunmuştur. Bunlara ek olarak, bulgular, ilk evlilerde evliliğin süresi ve gelir düzeyinin; boşandıktan sonra yeniden evlenenlerde cinsiyet ve ortak çocuğun varlığının; eşi vefat ettikten sonra yeniden evlenenlerde yeni evliliğin süresi ve gelir düzeyinin; ve üvey çocuğu olan yeniden evlenmişlerde yalnızca üvey çocuğun birlikte ikamet etmesinin evlilik doyumunu anlamlı olarak yordadığını göstermiştir. Araştırmadan elde edilen sonuçlar ilgili literatür ışığında tartışılmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Evlilik Doyumu, İlk Evli Aileler, Boşandıktan Sonra Yeniden Evlenmiş Aileler, Eşi Vefat Ettikten Sonra Yeniden Evlenmiş Aileler, Üvey Çocuklar

To My Family...

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would initially like to express sincere appreciation to my supervisor Prof. Dr. **Hürol Fıfılođlu** for his valuable support, insight and encouragement. His suggestions guided me at each stage of this thesis. I learned so many from him that I cannot express all, thanks...

I would express my gratitude to my committee members Prof. Dr. **Ferhunde Öktem** and Assoc. Prof. **Belgin Ayvaşık** for their interest and valuable contributions.

I would like to thank all participants for their interest in the study, and contribution. I would also like to thank all acquaintances who helped me with the data collection process, especially to my father and to my grandfathers **Ali Altun** who believed in the value of this endeavor and helped me with the hard task of data collection. Their sincere support made this study possible.

I owe special thanks to my friends who shared the difficulties and have been given me encouragement and spiritual companionship. Especially I want to thank **Özge Karakaş, Aslı Soyer, Neslihan Tuđral, Suzi Amado,** and **Şafak Çakmak** for their valuable friendship, motivation and support. I also want to thank **Zeynep Özdemirbaş** for her continuous moral support and encouragement.

I also want to thank all my relatives, especially to my grandfather **Hamit Pirođlu,** for their spiritual support, encouragement, and sharing and reducing my anxiety.

Last but not least, I want to thank my family for their unconditional love and trust throughout my life. I feel so lucky to have them. I offer sincere thanks to my husband, **Ali Aktürk** for his love, emotional support, understanding, and technical assistance. I am grateful to my dear parents, **Şevkinaz Bir** and **Ali Rıza Bir** who continuously showed their endless love, patience, and encouragement. Their trust on my work and me, their emotional and financial support, and their providing very appropriate working environment in which I have been able to complete my thesis made my life

easy and my study possible. I also owe special thanks to my brothers, **Enes Bir** and **Mustafa Emre Bir** for their unending love, commitment, encouragement, and support. **Enes** always made my life meaningful by believing in me, always being with me in all of the good and bad times, and by being my best friend as well as my brother. My little brother **Emre** has always been the stress reliever, source of joy and happiness in my life.

The completion of this thesis would have not been possible without help, assistance and support from all of these people.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PLAGIARISIM.....	iii
ABSTRACT.....	iv
ÖZ.....	vi
DEDICATION.....	viii
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	ix
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	xi
LIST OF TABLES.....	xv
CHAPTER	
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1. Background of the Study.....	1
1.2. Purposes of the Study.....	8
1.3. Hypotheses of the Study.....	10
1.4. Significance of the Study.....	11
1.5. Implication of the Study.....	12
2. LITERATURE REVIEW.....	14
2.1. Remarriage.....	14
2.1.1. Definition and Types of Remarried Families.....	14
2.1.2. Differences between Post-divorce Remarriage and Post-bereavement Remarriage.....	16
2.1.3. Life Cycle and Stressors of Remarried Families.....	19
2.2. Marital Satisfaction.....	21
2.2.1. Definition and Measurement.....	21
2.2.2. Marital Satisfaction in First Married Families.....	24
2.2.2.1. Individual Factors Related to Marital Satisfaction of First Married Families.....	24
2.2.2.2. Relationship Factors Related to Marital Satisfaction of First Married Families.....	25

2.2.2.3. Demographic and Contextual Factors Related to Marital Satisfaction of First Married Families.....	26
2.2.3. Marital Satisfaction in Remarried Families.....	29
2.2.3.1. Comparison Studies on Remarriage Satisfaction....	29
2.2.3.2. Contributing Factors of Remarriage Satisfaction.....	33
2.2.3.2.1. Individual Factors Related to Marital Satisfaction of Remarried Families.....	33
2.2.3.2.2. Relationship Factors Related to Marital Satisfaction of Remarried Families.....	34
2.2.3.2.3. Demographic and Contextual Factors Related to Marital Satisfaction of Remarried Families.....	35
2.3. Connection between the Literature Review and Hypotheses of the Study.....	40
3. METHOD.....	42
3.1. Participants.....	42
3.2. Instruments.....	43
3.2.1. Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS).....	43
3.2.2. Information Form.....	44
3.3. Procedure.....	44
3.4. Data Analysis.....	45
4. RESULTS.....	47
4.1. Data Cleaning.....	47
4.2. Descriptive Analysis of the Sample.....	47
4.3. Effect of Marital Status and Gender on Marital Satisfaction.....	51
4.4. Effect of Stepchildren on Marital Satisfaction of Remarried Families.....	52
4.5. Factors Associated with Marital Satisfaction.....	54
4.5.1. Regression Analysis for First Married Families.....	55

4.5.2. Regression Analysis for Post-divorce Remarried Families.....	58
4.5.3. Regression Analysis for Post-bereavement Remarried Families.....	62
4.5.4. Regression Analysis for Remarried Families with Stepchildren.....	65
4.6. Differences In Terms of Demographic Characteristics of Remarried Families.....	67
4.6.1. Effect of Marriage Type on Marital Satisfaction of Remarried Families.....	68
4.6.2. Effect of Decision of Divorce on Marital Satisfaction of Post-divorce Remarried Families.....	69
4.6.3. Effect of Type of Death on Marital Satisfaction of Post-bereavement Remarried Families.....	70
5. DISCUSSION.....	71
5.1. Evaluation of the Results.....	71
5.1.1. Effect of Marital Status and Gender on Marital Satisfaction.....	71
5.1.2. Effect of Stepchildren on Marital Satisfaction of Remarried Families.....	74
5.1.3. Factors Associated with Marital Satisfaction of First Married Families.....	75
5.1.4. Factors Associated with Marital Satisfaction of Remarried Families.....	76
5.1.4.1. Factors Associated with Marital Satisfaction of Post-divorce Remarried Families.....	78
5.1.4.2. Factors Associated with Marital Satisfaction of Post-bereavement Remarried Families.....	79

5.1.4.3. Factors Associated with Marital Satisfaction of Remarried Families with Stepchildren.....	80
5.1.5. Differences In Terms of Demographic Characteristics of Remarried Families.....	81
5.2. Implications for Practice.....	83
5.3. Strengths and Limitations of the Study.....	85
5.4. Suggestions for Future Research.....	86
5.5. Conclusion.....	86
REFERENCES.....	88
APPENDICES	
A. DYADIC ADJUSTMENT SCALE(ÇİFTLER UYUM ÖLÇEĞİ).....	97
B. DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FORM (DEMOGRAFİK BİLGİ FORMU).....	98

LIST OF TABLES

TABLES

1. Means and Standard Deviations of the Continuous Variables.....	48
2. Frequencies and Percentiles of Categorical Variables.....	49
3. Means and Standard Deviations of the Marital Satisfaction Scores of the Participants Grouped by Marital Status and Gender.....	51
4. Results of the Factorial Between-Subjects ANCOVA.....	52
5. Means and Standard Deviations of the Marital Satisfaction Scores of the Participants Grouped by Stepchildren.....	53
6. Results of One Way Between-Subjects ANOVA.....	53
7. Correlation Matrix for the Variables in the First Regression Analysis.....	56
8. Stepwise Regression Results for First Married Families.....	58
9. Correlation Matrix for the Variables in the Second Regression Analysis.....	60
10. Stepwise Regression Results for Post-divorce Remarried Families.....	61
11. Correlation Matrix for the Variables in the Third Regression Analysis.....	63
12. Stepwise Regression Results for Post-bereavement Remarried Families.....	64
13. Correlation Matrix for the Variables in the Forth Regression Analysis.....	66
14. Stepwise Regression Results for Remarried Families with Stepchildren.....	67
15. Means and Standard Deviations of the Marital Satisfaction Scores of the Remarried Participants Grouped by Marriage Type.....	68

16. Results of One Way Between-Subjects ANOVA for the effect of marriage type	68
17. Means and Standard Deviations of the Marital Satisfaction Scores of the Post-divorce Remarried Participants Grouped by Decision of Divorce.....	69
18. Results of One-Way Between-Subjects ANOVA for the effect of decision of divorce.....	69
19. Means and Standard Deviations of the Marital Satisfaction Scores of the Post-bereavement Remarried Participants Grouped by Type of Death.....	70
20. Results of One-Way Between-Subjects ANOVA for the effect of type of death.....	70

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of the study, purposes of the study, hypotheses of the study, significance of the study and implications of the study.

1.1. Background of the Study

Marital satisfaction refers to “how content a person is with his/her marital interaction” (Pill, 1990, p.188). A satisfying marriage may result in competent parenting practices, efficient problem-solving and satisfying family relations by providing a stable basis for family functioning; while an unsatisfying marriage may result in stress that weakens the family members’ ability to adapt and function effectively. Therefore, marital relationship can either help overcoming stress or be an additional source of stress. Thus, researchers and clinicians considered marital relationship as most important relationship in the family (Vemer, Coleman, Ganong, & Cooper, 1989). As a result, marital satisfaction has been one of the widely studied variables in family research.

Most of the marital satisfaction studies were conducted with intact families. Considerable attention has been devoted to factors contributing to marital satisfaction of first married families. Marital satisfaction has been found to be influenced by demographic factors such as gender and age, and by contextual factors such as length of marriage and presence of children (Kurdek, 1991; Bradbury, Fincham & Beach, 2000). Although contradictory results appear, researchers (Glass & Wright, 1977; Bradbury et al., 2000) found that men tend to be more satisfied with their marriages than women.

They stated that women are more strongly affected by the age and presence of children than are men. Rosen-Grandon, Myers and Hattie (2004) argued that presence of children seems to be positively related to marital satisfaction by providing an important source of social support; however it is found that marital satisfaction decrease during the child-rearing years. In fact, Rhyne (1981) found that people with no children were more satisfied with their marriages than those with children, and noted that people with youngsters were the least satisfied with their marriages. Besides, the literature (Glass & Wright, 1977; Bradbury et al., 2000) on contribution of length of marriage is consistent in reporting that there is drop in marital satisfaction of first married families with increasing length of marriage. Marital satisfaction is lowest for people in old marriages than young marriages. In addition to marital satisfaction of first married families, there is growing body of research on marital satisfaction of remarried families.

Remarriage is defined as “a marriage formed when a person, whose previous marriage ended in death, divorce, or abandonment, marries with either another previously married person or someone who has never been married” (Gladding, 1998, p.311). When compared with first married families, remarried families are more complex than other types of families because they are new combination of two different family cultures with different histories, issues, and interactions (Gladding, 1998; Bray, 1994). Remarried family structures are of several types. The general classification is as follows: post-bereavement remarriage vs. post-divorce remarriage (based on the reason for previous marriage dissolution); stepmother families vs. stepfather families; remarried families with residential children (whose children and stepchildren lives with them) vs. with nonresidential children; simple (whether only one partner is remarried and it is the first marriage of the other partner) vs. complex (both partners have at least one prior marriage); and second (i.e., first remarriage) vs. multiple (the partner remarried second time or more) (Vemer et al., 1989). Remarriages have become relatively common in societies (Orleans, Palisi, & Caddell, 1989; Vemer et al., 1989; Wilson & Clarke, 1992).

Remarriage has been a widely interested phenomenon in empirical investigations (Vemer et al., 1989; Coleman & Ganong, 1990). In Turkey, the remarriage numbers has been also increased gradually. The remarriage numbers in 1991 was 53834, it was 61591 in 2000 (Marriage statistics, 2000), and 138735 in 2004 ("Evllenme İstatistikleri", 2004). However, in Turkish literature, there is lack of research on remarried families. As remarriage has been of interest of professionals, one of the important points of interest to understand remarriage experience has been marital satisfaction (Vemer et al., 1989). As discussed earlier, the structure of remarried families is more complex which makes them more prone to stress (Gladding, 1998; Bray, 1994). According to Crosbie- Burnett (1989) because the family structure, roles and boundaries change, remarriage is a stressor event. Indeed, Kheshgi-Genovese & Genovese (1997) found that remarried families report higher levels of stress than first-married families. In short, as O'Connor & Insabella (1999) stated spouses in remarried families must cope with stress resulted from changes in residential arrangements and household membership, economic circumstances, and family roles and relationships while trying to build a satisfying marital relationship. Therefore, remarriage satisfaction is an important focus of research in scientific field.

The body of literature on remarriage satisfaction is relatively large. Most of this research consists of simple comparisons of the marital quality of remarried couples to that of first-married couples (Vemer et al., 1989; Ganong & Coleman, 1994) with the first married families being considered as the norm (Truncale, 1996; Ganong, Coleman, & Mapes, 1990). Because, much more is known about the marital satisfaction of first married individuals than those of remarried (Hamel, 1997). A review of family literature (Vemer et al., 1989) shows that conflicting results appear when the marital satisfaction levels of remarried and first married families compared. However, people in first marriages have slightly higher marital satisfaction than people in remarriages (Demaris, 1984; Coleman & Ganong, 1990; White & Booth, 1985; Vemer et al., 1989). There are also gender differences in first marriage and remarriage satisfaction. White (1979) found that remarried men had

higher marital satisfaction than first-married men, while first-married women were more satisfied with their marriage than remarried women. Also, there are studies comparing marital satisfaction between types of remarriage households like simple vs. complex, with vs. without residential children, second vs. multiple (Vemer et al., 1989). However, a literature review demonstrates that there is lack of research that investigates the effects of reason for previous marriage dissolution (death vs. divorce) on marital satisfaction.

Post-divorce remarriage is quite different from post-bereavement remarriage in the family members' experiences, demographic and personality characteristics, histories, and emotions (Bernard, 1971; Ganong & Coleman, 1994). For example, one of the important differences in their experiences is impact of previous spouse. As Bernard (1971) stated, unlike the case of post-bereavement remarriage, in post-divorce remarriage since the former spouse is still living, he or she may continue to interfere in new relationship. Furthermore, if there are children from previous marriage, as Ganong & Coleman (1994) stated because both parents continue to be involved in raising the children and there are more relationships, post-divorce remarried families are more complex. Indeed, unlike the case of post-bereavement, the stepparents in post-divorce remarried families were additional rather than substitute; which may influence stepparent-stepchild relationship in negative ways (Wald, 1981). Indeed, Crosbie- Brunett and McClintic (2000) stated that stepparent-stepchild relationship is believed to be the most important relationship in predicting overall stepfamily happiness. Therefore, since histories, structures and experiences of post-divorce and post-bereavement families differ, which affects their remarriage in some ways (Bernard, 1971; Ganong & Coleman, 1994), their remarriage satisfaction may also be different.

Whether the divorced remarried individual decides to divorce or s/he obeys the decision of divorce in prior marriage may affect the remarriage satisfaction. Also, whether the death of spouse is sudden or expected may affect the remarriage satisfaction. As Ganong and Coleman (1994) stated

there is no research on how remarriage is affected by these issues. However, for the death situation, Parkes (1975) found that people give more severe grief reactions and complete grief slower in sudden death than expected death. Also, for the divorce situation, Gurman & Jacobson (2002) stated that the partner who wants to end the relationship may feel relief, guilt, and ambivalence, while partner who wants the relationship to continue may feel shocked, hurt, and anger. In addition, research has been conducted on the differential effect of wanting/ not wanting divorce on the individual's adaptation to divorce. Ganong and Coleman (1994) reported that the person who initiates the separation and divorce may be farther along in psychologically adjusting to divorce than is either the partner or children, and consequently the initiator may be psychologically ready to enter another relationship earlier. Similarly, Yilmaz (2002) found that being the person who raised the idea of divorce first was related to higher levels of emotional/ social adjustment, and to lower levels of psychological distress. From these perspectives, it is thought that since there may be differences in both groups in individual's dissolution from ex-marriage and individual's expectation from new marriage, their remarriage satisfaction may differ. In addition to comparing marital satisfaction between remarried and first married families and between different types of remarriage households, researchers interested in factors associated with marital satisfaction in these households (Kurdek & Fine, 1991).

There are number of factors associated with marital satisfaction of remarried families. Some demographic variables (age, gender, income), length of marriage, presence of stepchildren, gender and age of stepchildren, and presence of mutual children have been found as important factors associated to marital satisfaction in remarriage (Bernard, 1971; Kurdek & Fine, 1991; Ganong & Coleman, 1994; Gladding, 1998). One important demographic factor affecting remarriage satisfaction is age. Albrecht (1979) found that the younger remarriages were happier than the older ages. The age of spouse is also important, because as Wilson & Clarke (1992) stated age difference between spouses might affect the family dynamics. For

example, a middle-age man who marries a young single woman may have children already and may be feeling a little old to cope with the new babies that his wife might want. This aspect of age differences may constitute an unavoidable source of strain on the marriage (Wilson & Clarke, 1992). Income is another important demographic factor that is associated with marital satisfaction in remarried families. Coleman & Ganong (1989) stated that lack of money adds additional stress to family members and the family as a whole, which affects marital happiness. Indeed, research (Booth & Edwards, 1992) indicates that economic distress adversely affects marital quality.

Length of previous and present marriages is expected to be important factors associated with remarriage satisfaction. Length of first marriage is expected to have an effect on remarriage satisfaction because, individuals with long first marriages may be more marriage oriented, have had most of their adult experience in married life, and this may influence their capacity to adapt remarriage (Bumpass, Sweet, & Martin, 1990). Length of present marriage is also an important factor because, it shows whether the remarried family had time to work out their problems and establish a constructive marital relationship (i.e. whether they are in initial adjustment or adaptation phase) (Crosbie- Burnett, 1989). Indeed, Albrecht (1979) found that length of present marriage is positively related marital satisfaction of remarried people. However, generally researchers (Kurdek, 1991; Johnson & Booth, 1998) found that remarriage satisfaction declined over time.

Presence of stepchildren is another important factor associated to marital satisfaction. Bernard (1971) stated that remarriages that involve children of previous marriage are qualitatively different from those that do not involve children. According to Crosbie-Burnett and McClintic (2000) presence of stepchildren is a stressor variable for remarried families because of adjustment to new family members and role-ambiguity. Therefore, because of being a stressor, it may affect the marital satisfaction of couples. The relationship between stepparent and stepchild is an important factor in marital quality (Fine & Kurdek, 1995). In their study White & Booth (1985)

found that the marital satisfaction of participants with stepchildren was less than that of participants without stepchildren.

Another aspect of stepchildren's effect in remarried family is based on resolving the past, which is an important concern that arises in remarried families. If there are children it may be more difficult to resolve the past, for example the parent might have to contact the ex-spouse. Since all members of the family can be affected by one individual's unresolved personal issues related to loss, stepchildren who could not resolve the past would affect remarriage satisfaction (Gladding, 1998).

The number, residence, gender, and age of stepchildren also influence the remarriage functioning (Bernard, 1971; Ganong & Coleman, 1994). Since the relationship between stepparent and child affects marital quality, gender and age of stepchildren are important factors of marital satisfaction. Indeed, age and gender of child are found to be important factors that affect the stepparent- stepchild relationship (Adler-Baeder & Higginbotham, 2004). Although conflicting results appear in the literature in effect of residence of stepchildren on remarriage satisfaction (Vemer et al., 1989), whether stepchildren live with remarried family may affect the marital satisfaction of couples. Booth and Edwards (1992) also stated that the presence of stepchildren within remarried households is a destabilizing influence and a major contributor to the somewhat greater rate of divorce among couples with stepchildren relative to those without stepchildren.

Like presence of stepchildren, presence of mutual children is important factor associated with marital satisfaction of remarried families, because as Ganong and Coleman (1988) argued changing a family system by adding a child affects all members of the family as well as total family functioning. Remarried couples that bear children add further complexity to an already complicated system. However, Albrecht (1979) found that remarried individuals who had mutual children perceived their present marriage to be much satisfactory. Thus, although conflicting results appear in the literature, there is evidence of the connection between the presence of mutual children and the quality of marital relationship.

In addition to contributing factors mentioned above that have been founded to affect remarriage satisfaction (Bernard, 1971; Kurdek & Fine, 1991; Ganong & Coleman, 1994; Gladding, 1998), interval between dissolution of first marriage and remarriage is thought to be as an important factor associated to marital satisfaction. As Gladding (1998) stated, adults and children of former unions should join a new family after resolving their mourning emotionally which requires time. In fact, Pill (1990) stated that the extent to which loss is resolved or hope fulfilled determines the adjustment to remarriage. In other words when members of newly formed family are still mourning loss of a previous relationship they may have problem to adapt changes. A literature review shows that there is lack of research investigating the relationship between marital satisfaction and length of time between dissolution and remarriage.

1.2. Purposes of the Study

It seems apparent from the studies mentioned in previous section that post-bereavement remarriage and post-divorce remarriage differ in their histories, complexities and functioning. Family dynamics may be affected by such differences (Bernard, 1971; Ganong & Coleman, 1994). So, the remarriage satisfaction in these two households may be different. Also, as Ganong et al. (1990) stated the first married families are the standard by which other family forms are evaluated. Thus, comparing the marital satisfaction of remarried families and first married families may help to understand the dynamics of remarried families. Therefore, the present study aims to compare marital satisfaction in three households (first marriage, post-bereavement remarriage, and post-divorce remarriage) by controlling length of current marriage. Because length of current marriage has been found to affect marital satisfaction of both remarried families (Crosbie- Burnett, 1989; Albrecht, 1979) and first married families (Glass & Wright, 1977; Donohue & Ryder, 1982).

As discussed earlier, the presence and residence of stepchildren within remarried households may affect the remarriage satisfaction. Therefore, the current study aims to compare the marital satisfaction level of remarried families without stepchildren, those with residential stepchildren, and those without residential stepchildren.

It is clear that there are number of contributing factors of marital satisfaction of remarried families as well as first married families. One of them is length of marriage. Length of previous marriage is taught to be an important factor associated with remarriage satisfaction because it may affect the adjustment of the partner to remarriage (Bumpass et al., 1990). Length of present marriage is also expected to be an important contributor because it determines whether the couple had time to work on problems and to adapt to marriage or remarriage (Crosbie- Burnett, 1989). Also, presence, number, gender, age, and residence of stepchildren are taught to be important factors associated with marital satisfaction of remarried families because, these variables may influence the remarriage functioning, relationship between stepparent and stepchild, adaptation of the parent to remarriage, and therefore remarriage satisfaction. Similarly, presence of mutual children is thought to be an important contributor for both first married and remarried families. Lastly, interval between dissolution and remarriage is thought to be as an important factor associated to marital satisfaction of remarried families, considering the need for time for resolution of attachment to spouse and for mourning loss of intact family (Pill, 1990; Gladding, 1998). Therefore, the current study aims to investigate the contribution of some demographic variables (age, spouse age, gender, income) and contextual variables (length of marriage, and presence of children) to marital satisfaction of first married families. In addition, in the present study it is aimed to investigate the contribution of some demographic variables (age, spouse age, gender, income) and contextual variables (length of previous and current marriage, interval between dissolution of first marriage and remarriage, presence of stepchildren, and presence of mutual children) to marital satisfaction of post-divorce remarried families and that of post-bereavement remarried families.

Also, this study aims to investigate the contribution of demographic variables (age, spouse age, gender, income) and contextual variables (length of previous and current marriage; interval between dissolution of first marriage and remarriage; number, gender, age, and residence of stepchildren; and presence of mutual children) to marital satisfaction in remarried families with stepchildren.

In addition to main aims, the other goal of the study is to find out differences in terms of demographic characteristics (namely: marriage type, decision of divorce, and type of death) in marital satisfaction of remarried individuals.

In the current study the number of remarriages was kept constant, that is only second marriages are included. Vemer et al. (1989) argued that marital satisfaction may differ for second or multiple marries, because as Brody, Neubaum and Forehand (1988) found multiple marriers are different in personality and behavior from those who remarry only once. Indeed, Blood (1969) asserted that the success of remarriage rates decline when second marriages are compared with multiple marriages.

1.3. Hypotheses of the Study

In the present study, it is hypothesized that

1. When the effect of length of current marriage is controlled, marital status (first marriage, post-bereavement remarriage, and post-divorce remarriage) and gender will differentiate the groups on marital satisfaction.
2. Stepchildren (no stepchildren, residential stepchildren, non-residential stepchildren) will differentiate the groups on marital satisfaction of remarried families.
3. Demographic variables (gender, age, spouse age, income) and contextual variables (length of marriage, and presence of children) will predict marital satisfaction of first married families.

4. Demographic variables (gender, age, spouse age, income) and contextual variables (length previous and current of marriage, interval between dissolution of first marriage and remarriage, presence of stepchildren, and presence of mutual children) will predict marital satisfaction of post-divorce remarried families.
5. Demographic variables (gender, age, spouse age, income) and contextual variables (length of previous and current marriage, interval between dissolution of first marriage and remarriage, presence of stepchildren, and presence of mutual children) will predict marital satisfaction of post-bereavement remarried families.
6. Demographic variables (gender, age, spouse age, income) and contextual variables (length of previous and current marriage; interval between dissolution of first marriage and remarriage; number, gender, age and residence of stepchildren; and presence of mutual children) will predict marital satisfaction of remarried families with stepchildren.

1.4. Significance of the Study

The present study is important because this is the first study to compare marital satisfaction in remarried couples according to reason for previous marriage dissolution (i.e. post-bereavement remarriage and post-divorce remarriage). Therefore, the current study is hoped to provide significant contribution to the family literature, as well as to Turkish literature.

A literature review demonstrates that there is no study about remarried families in Turkey. Therefore this study will be the first that give information about the dynamics of remarried family in Turkish culture. Turkish culture supports the continuation of marriages (Tezcan, 1990). In Turkey divorce rate is low compared to other countries, because of strong religious and family ties, and traditional nature of Turkish society (Divorce statistics, 2000). However it gradually increases. It was found that divorce statistics in 1980 was 0.036%, it was 0.046% in 1990, 0.053% in 2000 (Divorce statistics, 2000), and 0.073% in 2002 ("Aileye ilişkin genel istatistik verileri", 2002).

Based on the assumption that as divorce rates increase remarriages increase, it is important to study remarriage in Turkey to see the dynamics of remarried families in Turkish culture.

As Bradbury et al. (2000) stated without considering the broader context that behavioral interactions occur, the meaning and implications of those interactions cannot be fully understood. Since remarriages exist in complex environments (Gladding, 1998; Bray, 1994), a full understanding of how these environments influence marriage is important. Therefore, another significance of the current study is that it clarifies the influence of remarried family context on remarriage satisfaction.

The current study was conducted on a non-clinical group of individuals from different cities of Turkey, and from different income levels. Therefore, information gathered from this group gives a general idea about the influence of demographic and contextual factors on marital satisfaction of Turkish remarried families.

1.5. Implication of the Study

The present study may have important implications for the professionals in their theoretical and practical studies. Professionals should have the ability to recognize and understand the underlying dynamics in a given marriage (Rosen-Grandon et al., 2004). As remarriages increase, practitioners require background information to understand the difficulties of remarried families in working with them. As discussed earlier, there is no information about the underlying dynamics of remarriage in Turkish culture. As Hünler & Gençöz (2003) stated all marriages are affected by the culture in which they are experienced. Therefore, an important implication of this study is that theoretically the present study will help to fill the research gap exist in remarriage field in Turkey. Furthermore, the current study may be useful in helping clinicians to conceptualize underlying dynamics of remarriage in Turkish remarried families.

Rhyme (1981) stated that marriage has the function of providing a critical socio-psychological support system for people. Many family researchers (Vemer et al., 1989) argue that satisfying marriage help the family solve problems efficiently and have effective family relations. In contrast, marital dissatisfaction has many negative affects on the effective functioning of whole family members. Based on the assumption that marital happiness is the key to family happiness (Crosbie- Burnett, 1984) marital satisfaction of couple is an important target in interventions. In addition to its centrality in individual and family well being, studying marital satisfaction is important also to develop defensible interventions for couples that prevent marital distress and divorce. In other words, assuming satisfactory marriages and preventing unsatisfactory ones is very important, and if the elements of successful and satisfied marriages are realized, it can be possible to alter unsatisfactory ones (Bradbury et al., 2000). Therefore, assessing the demographic and contextual variables in this study may be helpful to understand the marital relationship, and to determine the stressors and adaptation level of family. In other words, this study may help to clarify how the contributing factors in this study influence marital satisfaction of Turkish remarried families. As a result, professionals may benefit from this information in order to develop treatment strategies that identify approaches for prevention, assessment and intervention for remarried individuals.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter consists of three sections. The first section includes definition, types, life cycle and stressors of remarriage, and differences among reason for previous marriage dissolution. The second section includes definition and measurement of marital satisfaction, marital satisfaction of first married families, and marital satisfaction of remarried families. The last section includes connection between literature review and hypothesis of the study.

2.1. Remarriage

Remarriages have become representing a substantial proportion of marriages in societies. Especially, along with increases in divorce rates remarriages have become a widespread phenomenon in empirical investigations (Orleans et al., 1989; Coleman & Ganong, 1990). In this section, definition and types of remarried families, differences between post-bereavement remarriage and post-divorce remarriage, and life cycle and stressors of remarried studies were presented.

2.1.1. Definition and Types of Remarried Families

Remarried families are the families with no widely agreed on name. Many terms are used to describe remarried families including stepfamilies, reconstituted families, recoupled families, merged families, blended families, reconstructed families, reorganized families, reformed families, recycled families, combined families, and second-time around families. From those

labels, “remarried families” and “stepfamilies” are more widely used (Ganong & Coleman, 1994).

Pearson (1993, p.51) stated that remarried families “consist of two adults and step, adoptive, or foster children”. However, as Ganong and Coleman (1994) stated, obviously all remarriages do not involve children. Remarried families share unique and universal qualities with other types of families. When compared with first-marriage families, the structure of remarried families is more complex. Gladding (1998, p.311) stated that remarriage is formed “when a person, whose previous marriage ended in death, divorce, or abandonment, marries with either another previously married person or someone who has never been married”. The result is a new combination of people, histories, issues, and interactions that are more complex and unique to that particular relationship. Piercy & Sprenkle (1986) defined remarried families as binuclear, which is two interrelated family households that comprise one family system. These families have multiple subsystems that include adults, children, and legally related persons such as step-grandparents, and quasi kin such as ex-spouse, ex-spouse’s new husband or wife. In other words, remarried family membership is more complicated than those in nuclear families.

It is important to define the members of remarried family to understand the close relationships in these families. A stepparent is an adult whose partner has at least one child from a previous relationship. A stepchild is a person whose parent is partnered with someone who is not the child’s biological or adoptive parent. The stepchild and stepparent should not have to reside in same household (Ganong & Coleman, 1994).

Remarriage is not a simple sociological phenomenon, and remarried persons are not easily classifiable (Bernard, 1971). Vemer et al. (1989) mentioned six types of remarried families in their study. These are: post-bereavement remarriage vs. post-divorce remarriage (based on the reason for previous marriage dissolution); stepmother families vs. stepfather families; remarried families with residential children whose children and stepchildren lives with them vs. nonresidential children; simple (whether only one partner is remarried and it is the first marriage of the other partner) vs. complex (both

partners have at least one prior marriage); and second (i.e., first remarriage) vs. multiple (the partner remarried second time or over). Some other researchers identified more broad typologies based on the variables that Vemer et al. (1989) mentioned by combining some of these variables.

Clingempeel, Brand, and Segal (1987) identified nine types of remarried families based on two variables that are the presence or absence of children from previous marriages and the residence of those children. These are: remarried family with no children; nonresidential stepmother family; residential stepmother family; residential stepfather family; nonresidential stepfather family; nonresidential stepparent family in which both adults have children from previous marriage, none of whom live in the remarriage household; residential stepparent family in which both adults have children from previous marriage, all of whom live in the remarriage household; and mixed stepparent family in which both adults have children from previous marriage, only one set of whom live in the remarriage household.

Passley and Ihinger-Tallman (1982; cited in Ganong & Coleman, 1994) also identified nine-category typology based on presence or absence of children from either prior marriage or the present marriage, age of the children (adult vs. minor), and residence of children from prior marriage. These are: remarried family with no children; remarried family with mutual children only; residential children from previous marriage only; nonresidential children from previous marriage only; adult children only; residential children from previous marriage and mutual children; nonresidential children from previous marriage and mutual children; nonresidential and residential children from previous marriage; and nonresidential and residential children from previous marriage and mutual children.

2.1.2. Differences between Post-divorce Remarriage and Post-bereavement Remarriage

The first and most significant distinction among remarriages is based upon the previous marital status of the spouses that is whether the

remarriage is after divorce or death of spouse. Postbereavement remarried families have quite different experiences from those of the previously divorced (Ganong & Coleman, 1994; Wilson & Clarke, 1992). Bernard (1971) stated that the two types of remarriage differ especially in four respects: First aspect is kinds of people involved that is, each group has different demographic and personality characteristics. The second one is the impact of the previous spouse that is, in post-divorce remarriage the former spouse is still living and may continue to intervene in new relationship. In the remarriage of widowed person, also the first spouse may be rival to new partner but with advantage of being no longer present. The third one is the community evaluation of the manner in which the first marriage was terminated. Finally the amount of guilt feeling, which may be present, may differ for both groups. For example, partners in post-bereavement remarriage may feel guilty if they had ever wished for the death of their first spouse. However the guilt feeling in the post-divorce remarriage is more severe, if the partner initiated divorce and the ex-spouse is unhappy, and if the children have severe problems. Along with supportiveness, Ganong & Coleman (1994) asserted that post-divorce remarried families are typically the most complex because they are more likely than other remarried families to have both parents continue to be involved in raising the children. There are more relationships, and potentially a greater variety of personal relationships than in stepfamilies with other histories.

Remarriages following widowhood were quite different from those following divorce not only in the functioning of the family but also in demographic characteristics. The demographic context (including gender, age, income, interval to marriage) of divorced people is as follows: Remarriage rates of divorced men are higher than those of divorced women (Ganong & Coleman, 1994; Wilson & Clarke, 1992). Men remarry at a higher rate than women in Turkey, too. According to marriage statistics in Turkey, the remarriage rate of divorced men was 2.30% in 1991, 5.92% in 2000 (Marriage statistic, 2000), and 9.86% in 2004 (Evlence istatistikleri, 2004); while those of divorced women was 1.16% in 1991, 4.84% in 2000 (Marriage statistic, 2000), and 7.65% in 2004 (Evlence istatistikleri, 2004). There was

an increase in remarriage rates of divorced people. Wilson and Clarke (1992) found that remarriage rates varied with age. That is, it generally fell with advancing age. For divorced men remarriage rates were higher than for divorced women in every age group. Day and Bahr (1986) stated that divorced people often report economic problems; and remarriage is financially more advantageous for females than for males. The median interval to remarriage of divorced people is 2.7. The interval to remarriage lengthened with advancing age for men from 1.3 years for those of 20 to 24 years of age to 7.1 years for those of 65 years of age and over. Also, for women, interval to remarriage lengthened with age, from 1.5 years for those of 20 to 24 years of age to 11.2 years for those ages 65 and over. In each age group interval between marriages was higher for women than men. (Wilson & Clarke, 1992)

The demographic context (including gender, age, income, interval to marriage) of widowed people is as follows: The remarriage rate after widowhood was almost 5 times higher for men than for women (Wilson & Clarke, 1992). In Turkey, likewise the divorced men and women, men are far more likely to remarry than women. According to marriage statistics in Turkey, the remarriage rate of widowed men was 4.50% in 1991, 1.81% in 2000 (Marriage statistics, 2000), and 2.33% in 2004 (Evlenme istatistikleri, 2004); while this of widowed women was 3.76% in 1991, 0.78% in 2000 (Marriage statistics, 2000), and 0.76% in 2004 (Evlenme istatistikleri, 2004). There was a decrease in remarriage of widowed people. Like in divorced men and women age-specific remarriage rates for widowed people dropped with advancing age (Wilson & Clarke, 1992). Zick & Smith (1988) stated that the death of a spouse translates into a substantial economic loss especially for widowed women and especially when the death of the spouse is because of a serious illness; and remarriage substantially improves economic well being for both men and women, although women benefit more. Interval to remarriage of widowed people is similar to that of divorced people. Median interval to remarriage for widowed people is 3.5 years. The increase in interval by age was less for widowed than for divorced men, it is, increasing only from 2.1 years for those 20 to 24 years of age to 4.1 years for those 65

years and over. For widowed women, the interval was increasing from 2.3 years for those 20 to 24 years of age to 8.4 years for those 65 years and over (Wilson & Clarke, 1992).

When the demographic characteristics of the two groups combined, the divorced tend to remarry more than do the widowed (Bernard, 1971; Wilson & Clarke, 1992). According to Blood (1969) the cause of this may be that divorced people are motivated to remarry. Widowed have pleasant memories about their previous marriages while divorced people have unpleasant memories and hopefully to be erased by remarriage. However, Wilson & Clarke (1992) found that remarriage rates for each group are lower for both men and women with children. Widowed men actually remarry more rapidly than divorced men. According to Ganong and Coleman (1994), widowed remarry sooner because of the taboo on hasty post-bereavement remarriage out of respect for the memory of the loved one. However, divorced person has nothing to respect. Also their marriages generally ended many months before the divorce.

2.1.3. Life Cycle and Stressors of Remarried Families

Creating a remarried family is more complicated than creating a first-married family. Remarried families' situational and developmental tasks are quite different from other family lifestyles (Gladding, 1998). Carter and McGoldrick (1989, p.24) formulated the developmental issues in formation of a remarried family system.

The initial stage, entering the new relationship, includes recovery from loss of first marriage and deciding to form a family with readiness to deal with the complexity and ambiguity. That is, the first developmental task is resolving the family losses and openness to a new family type. The second stage, conceptualizing and planning new marriage and family, includes accepting one's own fears and those of the whole new members about remarriage. This stage also includes accepting need for time and patience for adjustment to complexity and ambiguity of multiple new roles, boundaries, and emotional issues such as guilt, loyalty and conflicts. The third stage, remarriage and reconstitution of family, includes the final resolution of attachment to prior spouse and ideal of intact family. The first developmental issue in this stage (i.e. in new remarried family) is integrating two family

cultures into one new culture. This requires negotiation and creating new family rituals and traditions, and realignment of family boundaries for inclusion of new spouse (stepparent). Since remarried families have ambiguous and complex structure, they face with many stressors in this stage that affect their adjustment to new family.

As Crosbie-Burnett and McClintic (2000) stated, the challenges that new family may face with in this stage are: redistribution of resources, boundary ambiguity, stepparent role ambiguity, and conflicting life cycle stages. Resources like money, space, time, and affection must be distributed among family members and that is a source of stress especially for stepchildren. Boundary ambiguities between the households of divorced coparents and within the new family is a second source of stress in remarried families. For example, the non-residential parent may influence the functioning of new family with his decision making power on child; and this may create an ambiguity in stepfamily members on who is part of their family. Within the family the couple may have problems in negotiating on division of labor of household tasks, childcare and decision-making. This causes stepparent role ambiguity, which is also a major source of stress. Especially when the nonresidential parent is active in child's life, the role of stepparent is ambiguous. Family members have different expectations for stepparent role. Fine, Coleman, and Ganong (1998) found that the difference in expectations of stepparent role has been between the stepchild (who expects stepparent behave as a friend) and stepparent and parent (who believe the stepparent should play a parental role).

Another source of stress in remarried families is faced with if individuals who are in different life cycle stages come together; and this causes conflict. For example a stepfather whose children are grown-up and who wants to be free from parenting responsibilities may have to be a parent of a baby. For healthy stepfamily development, couples must negotiate on role and boundary ambiguities. Family members' adjustment to new complex family and coping with these stressors affects their well-being (i.e., satisfaction with life, happiness, self-esteem, physical health, substance abuse and other symptoms of stress) (Coleman & Ganong, 1990)

2.2. Marital Satisfaction

Assuming the centrality of marital relationship in healthy family functioning, considerable attention has been devoted to marital satisfaction in family research (Crosbie-Burnett, 1984; Johnson & Booth, 1998). In this section, definition and measurement of marital satisfaction, marital satisfaction in first married families and marital satisfaction in remarried families were presented.

2.2.1. Definition and Measurement

Marriage is one of the most important experiences an individual can live, and described as the most fundamental human relationship; because it provides the primary structure for establishing a family relationship and rearing the next generation (Rosen-Grandon et al., 2004). Rhyne (1981) stated that marriage has the function of providing a socio-psychological support system for people. According to Rosen-Grandon et al. (2004), a good marriage makes valuable contributions to individuals' life with a sense of meaning and identity in their lives. They asserted that people are generally happier and healthier when they are married. Similarly, Sweeney and Replogle (2002) noted that positive marital relationship, in other words a stable and satisfying marriage, is an important source of emotional and instrumental support throughout adulthood; and is associated with increased economic well being, mental health and physical health. Thus, people devote much effort to striving for a happy and satisfying marriage. Furthermore, as Crosbie-Burnett (1984) stated marital relationship is the central and primary relationship of other family relationships, and marital happiness is the key for family happiness. Therefore, marital satisfaction, which is the core component of marital relationship, has been widely interested by researchers and professionals.

Marital satisfaction was defined in various ways. Gilford & Bengtson (1979) defined marital satisfaction as spouses' evaluation of their relationship

on two general dimensions: positive interaction and negative feeling. Similarly, Burr, Leigh, Day and Constantine (1979, p.67) defined satisfaction as “the amount of congruence between the expectations a person has and the rewards the person actually receives”. However, Kamo (2001) criticized this definition as being narrower by stating that marital satisfaction is influenced not only by the congruence between expectations and rewards but also by other factors such as love, interest, agreement and affection. Along with supportiveness, Roach, Frazier and Bowden (1981) defined marital satisfaction more broadly by stating that it refers to “satisfaction with any domain of life experience which is applicable to marriage is produced by the difference between an individual’s perceived reality of current situation and his or her aspirations concerning the domain” (p.539). More broadly, Hawkins (1968) defined marital satisfaction as subjective feelings of happiness, satisfaction, pleasure and fulfillment experienced within the marital relationship between spouses considering all aspects of marriage. In other words, as Pill (1990) stated marital satisfaction refers to “how content a person is with his/her marital interaction” (p.188).

There is a conceptual confusion in the term “marital satisfaction”. Several terms such as marital happiness, marital adjustment and marital quality are used instead of marital satisfaction in the literature (Kamo, 2001; Vemer et al., 1989; White, 2003). White (2003) stated that although these terms are related, they differ in their meaning in some aspects. Marital happiness is based on emotional evaluation that is, it is affected by mood swing of the individual. On the other hand, marital satisfaction implies a more cognitive basis that is; it involves a relation of one’s circumstances to external standards. Marital quality and marital adjustment includes happiness and satisfaction in such a way that marital satisfaction and marital happiness are subjective properties of people, while marital adjustment and marital quality can be either an individual or a dyadic property. However, as White (2003) and Kamo (2001) argued since marital satisfaction, marital happiness, marital adjustment and marital quality are highly correlated, and generally have been found to have similar relationships to other variables; using these terms interchangeably is relatively common, and not a very serious error.

Without agreeing on either which term to use or on the definition of such a term, in order to measure marital adjustment, quality, or satisfaction many scales were constructed. Burgess and Cottrell (1939) created one of the first measures of marital adjustment from 27 questions pertaining to agreement, common interests and joint activities, affection, complaints, and feelings of being lonely and irritable (cited in Kamo, 2001). By modifying Burgess and Cottrell's measure, Locke and Wallace (1959), developed the Marital Adjustment Test (MAT) consisting of 15 questions ranging from the respondent's overall happiness in the marriage, the degree of agreement between the spouses in various matters, resolving conflict, and the number of shared activities, to the fulfillment of their expectations about the marriage. Then, Spanier (1976) proposed the Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS) which measures agreement between partners on important issues, satisfaction with demonstrated levels of affection and sexual relations, degree of harmony in the relationship, and the amount of activity shared by partners, consisting of 32 questions and four subscales which are dyadic satisfaction, dyadic cohesion, dyadic consensus and affectional expression. Also, Sabatelli (1984) developed the Marital Comparison Level Index (MCLI) which is a 32 item scale pertaining to affection, commitment, fairness and agreement; and which measures marital satisfaction by the degree of respondents feelings from their marriage compared with their expectations.

Heyman, Sayers and Bellack (1994) noted that there are lots of global measures, but most of them appear in validation studies and are never used again (like the Quality of Marriage Index, QMI; Norton, 1983), or used by a few studies but gain little acceptance (like the Kansas Marital Satisfaction Scale, KMSS; Schumm et al, 1986). Among those measures the most popular ones are DAS and MAT, which consist of different types of items including evaluative judgments about marital quality (Bradbury et al., 2000). As Heyman et al. (1994) stated researchers have used these two measures as global measures of marital satisfaction in the belief that adjustment and satisfaction are synonymous. They also reported that DAS resulted in notable psychometric improvements with excellent test-retest reliability, high internal

consistency and nonskewed indices; and has proved to be a useful, reliable and valid measure of marital satisfaction in literature.

2.2.2. Marital Satisfaction in First Married Families

In the literature several studies tried to identify the factors that affect marital satisfaction of first married families. According to Rosen-Grandon et al. (2004) in much of the existing research marital satisfaction thought to be influenced by three types of independent variables: antecedent personality dynamics (i.e. individual factors), interpersonal dynamics that evolve within the relationship (i.e. marital interaction process), and contextual factors (i.e. family of origin variables, socio-cultural factors and current context)

2.2.2.1. Individual Factors Related to Marital Satisfaction of First Married Families

As an individual factor, the role of attachment style on marital satisfaction is examined by some researchers. Kobak & Hazan (1991) investigated the relationship between attachment styles and marital satisfaction. They found that securely attached spouses showed more positive emotions and reported better marital adjustment than their insecurely attached counterparts. In other words, they found that attachment security is associated with greater marital satisfaction. Similarly Ertan (2002) compared marital adjustment of secure couples, insecure couples and preoccupied couples. He found that couples with two securely attached spouses have highest dyadic adjustment.

Beyond attachment styles, personality variables such as self-esteem and temperament are studied in terms of marital satisfaction by some researchers. Lee (1999) studied the marital satisfaction of Korean-Americans and found that self-esteem was significantly related to marital satisfaction. That is, individuals with higher self-esteem reported higher marital satisfaction. In relevance to temperament, Blum & Mehrabian (1999) investigated the affect of the pleasantness of temperament on marital

satisfaction, and found that individuals with more pleasant and dominant temperaments tended to be happier in their marriages. They stated that better adjusted persons and those with better-adjusted mates were more satisfied with their marriage.

As individual factors, cognitive variables such as marital attributions, expectancies and assumptions are also investigated in terms of marital satisfaction. Fincham and Bradbury (1987) studied the role of attributions for marital difficulties and for spouse behaviors on marital satisfaction of married couples. They found that unrealistic relationship expectations, responsibility attributions (evaluative judgments regarding responsibility), and causal attributions (evaluative judgments regarding blame) were strongly and negatively related with marital satisfaction especially for women. That is the more the individual had unrealistic expectations, saw behavior of spouse as intentional and selfish, and located the cause of event in the spouse; the less he or she was satisfied with the marriage.

2.2.2.2. Relationship Factors Related to Marital Satisfaction of First Married Families

As a relationship factor, the role of intimacy on marital satisfaction is investigated by some researchers. Robinson and Blanton (1993) stated that happy couples described their marriages by closeness to their spouse, which involved shared interests, thoughts, feelings, activities, joys, and pains. They identified intimacy as a key characteristic of happy marriage and stated that intimacy and marital satisfaction was positively correlated. Similarly, Volsky (1998) supported the relationship between intimacy and marital satisfaction reporting that sexual and emotional intimacy predicted marital satisfaction of men while recreational and emotional intimacy predicted marital satisfaction of women. That is, for men as sexual and emotional intimacy increases, their marital satisfaction increases. On the other hand, for women the greater the recreational and emotional intimacy with their husband, the greater the satisfaction with marriage.

The role of communication and problem solving in marriage is also emphasized by researchers. Malkoç (2001) reported that communication patterns and marital adjustment are related, and found that couples with more destructive communication patterns exhibit lower marital adjustment. Along with supportiveness, Levenson, Carstensen, and Gottman (1993) stated that communication skills and problem solving skills were positively associated with marital satisfaction. They asserted that one of the most important determinants of marital satisfaction is the couple's ability to resolve conflict, which may result from disagreement. They found that marital satisfaction was strongly related to the amount of disagreement couples reported, and dissatisfied couples reported greater disagreement. Similarly, Hünler (2002) asserted that problem solving abilities of the couples predict their level of marital satisfaction. That is, as the individuals' ability to solve marital problems increases, they have greater marital satisfaction.

Beyond communication and conflict resolution affection, trust, love, loyalty and sexual relations are also found to be the most important characteristics of a satisfying marriage (Rosen-Grandon et al., 2004). Rhyne (1981) stated that the more satisfied people are with such issues as love and affection, friendship, interest and sexual gratification, the more satisfied they are with their marriages as a whole. In addition, Kamo (2001) stated that as a relationship factor rewards obtained from spousal interaction such as value consensus, positive evaluation of oneself by the spouse, sexual attractiveness of the spouse, affection, respect and love is major factors in predicting marital satisfaction.

2.2.2.3. Demographic and Contextual Factors Related to Marital Satisfaction of First Married Families

As a demographic factor, gender is investigated in terms of marital satisfaction. Studies generally indicated that men are more likely to report higher marital satisfaction than are women (Bernard, 1972). Along with supportiveness, studying with Canadians Rhyne (1981) found that marital quality of men was higher than that of women. Similar findings were reported

by Basat (2004) indicating that Turkish men were more satisfied with their marriage than their women counterparts. Bernard (1972) stated that since gender difference makes a difference in subjective evaluation of the marriage there are two kinds of marital satisfaction in a marriage; the husband's and the wife's. According to Rhyne (1981) the male female differences in the level of marital satisfaction may be due to gender role difference. That is, the responsibilities specific to the women due to the family life cycle stages such as responsibility for childrearing affects evaluations of overall marital quality. Therefore, male female differences in marital satisfaction have been linked to objective conditions specific to the marriage such as the length of marriage, age at marriage, number and age of children, and wives' employment status.

In addition to gender, different stages of family life cycle affect marital satisfaction. Marital satisfaction follows a U-shaped pattern over the life course, declining in the early years of marriage and then rising again at midlife (Levenson et al., 1993; Bradbury et al., 2000). This was thought to result from the changes in marital relationship like shifting demands of childrearing and other social roles over the life course. For example, transition to parenthood as a specific period is founded to result in a decline in positive feelings about marital relationship (Bradbury et al., 2000). However, some researchers (Vaillant & Vaillant, 1993) reported that marital quality declines early in marriage, but remains relatively stable during the later years of marriage.

These findings regarding the role of life cycle also support the role of age and length of marriage in marital satisfaction. In relevance to age, reviewing the literature Gagnon, Hersen, Kabacoff and Hasselt (1999) argued that as couples reach mid-life, high levels of stress associated with multiple role obligations and familial changes may impact on marital satisfaction. They also stated that although many older couples describe their marriages as marriages of affection and supportiveness, older marriages can also be a source of stress due to changes related to relocation, retirement and declining health. Indeed, in their study with three-generation (young, middle-age, and old) married individuals Gilford and Bengtson (1979) reported that age predict marital satisfaction in such a way that younger

couples had higher marital satisfaction. In relevance to length of marriage, early cross-sectional surveys (Dentler & Pieno, 1960) suggested that marital satisfaction declines steadily during the first ten years of marriage; but recent studies (Levenson et al., 1993; Bradbury et al., 2000) suggested that marital satisfaction fluctuates across life cycle following u-shaped pattern. Some researchers found most long-term marriages to be happy (Stinnett, Collins, & Montgomery, 1972), however others note evidence of wide spread dissatisfaction in long marriages especially for wives (Peterson, 1973). Indeed, reviewing the literature Karney and Bradbury (1995) noted that longitudinal examination of marital duration shows that marriages tend to become stable but less satisfying with time. Although contradictory results appear, it is clear that marital satisfaction of spouses will be different at different times.

Beyond age and length of marriage, Kamo (2001) stated that satisfaction with life style is also a major factor predicting marital satisfaction which includes some contextual variables like education and children. Karney and Bradbury (1995) reported that individuals who are better educated, who attend religious services frequently, and who report more satisfaction with their division of household labor had higher marital satisfaction. Indeed, Basat (2004) reported that there is a positive relationship between marital satisfaction and level of education, and she found that individuals with higher education levels reported higher marital satisfaction. In addition, having children has been found to play an important role in determining marital satisfaction. Kurdek (1996) argued that there is much debate in the literature concerning whether the presence of children strengthens marital relationship or makes it less satisfying to the couples. Generally, it is founded that spouses who had children had lower marital satisfaction especially when many children born soon after marriage at short intervals (Rhyne, 1981; Kamo, 2001). Kamo (2001) argues that this may be due to role strain, in other words, having children at home imposes the demand of being a parent in addition to being a husband or wife which results in poor marital adjustment. Also, Erel and Burman (1995) reported that troubled marital relationships are likely to coexist with troubled parent-child relationship.

In addition to contextual variables discussed above, the role of social support and parent's marital behavior was also investigated in terms of marital satisfaction. Rosen-Grandon et al. (2004) found that perceptions of social support in marriage associated with both partner's marital satisfaction. That is, the more social resources individuals have, the better they are adjusted to marriage. Similar findings were reported by Kamo (2001) that emotional and physical health, socioeconomic resources such as income and education, and social support associated with marital satisfaction. In relevance to parents' marital behavior, parents' perceived marital behaviors and marital satisfaction by their children may affect the marital satisfaction of their children when they become married adults. Indeed, marital quality is found to be transmitted from parents to the offspring (Amato & Booth, 2001).

2.2.3. Marital Satisfaction in Remarried Families

There is a growing interest in understanding marital satisfaction of remarried families. Most of the research on remarriage satisfaction includes comparison with first-married families and within remarried households (Vemer et al., 1989; Ganong & Coleman, 1994). Also, researchers interested in the factors contributing to remarriage satisfaction (Kurdek & Fine, 1991). In the following sections comparison studies on remarriage satisfaction and contributing factors of remarriage satisfaction are presented.

2.2.3.1. Comparison Studies on Remarriage Satisfaction

Much of remarriage satisfaction literature consists of comparison studies. Researchers investigated the differences between people in first marriages and remarriages (White, 1979; Demaris, 1984; White & Booth, 1985; Booth & Edwards, 1992; O'Connor & Insabella, 1999), differences between the people's perceived marital satisfaction of their former marriage and current marriage (Albrecht, 1979; Buunk & Mutsaers, 1999), and differences between different types of remarried families (Kurdek, 1989; Vemer et al., 1989; Schultz, Schultz & Olson, 1991)

Several studies have compared the marital satisfaction of remarried families to that of first married families. Despite the wealth of research on differences in marital satisfaction between first marriage and remarriage, the results have been inconclusive and contradictory. Some researchers (Demaris, 1984; White & Booth, 1985; O' Connor & Insabella, 1999) reported no significant difference in marital satisfaction of remarriages and first marriages among either men or women. When differences are found, most studies showed a relatively lower satisfaction in remarriages especially among women and when there are stepchildren (White, 1979). Along with supportiveness, Booth and Edwards (1992) and Kheshgi-Genovese & Genovese (1997) found that divorce rate in remarriages were slightly higher compared to first marriages. Reviewing the literature Vemer et al. (1989) found in their meta-analysis that remarried families had lower marital satisfaction than first married families; but they stated that the magnitudes of differences between two groups were generally small and of little practical meaning. However, Kheshgi-Genovese & Genovese (1997) argued that although the differences were small, marital satisfaction between remarried and first married couples were comparable reporting the lower satisfaction in remarriages.

The causes of differences in relationship satisfaction between first married and remarried couples were emphasized by researchers. Coleman et al. (2000) suggested that different processes may be involved in determining the quality of remarriage and first marriage. For example, Kurdek (1991) and Booth and Edwards (1992) found that marital satisfaction declined more rapidly over time in remarriages than in first marriages. O'Connor and Insabella (1999) stated that the causes of differences are likely to result from complex family context such as remarried couples' problems stemming from parenting roles (if there are children) rather than from marital relationship. Similarly, White and Booth (1985) asserted that people in remarriages have to negotiate new relationships that are not found in first marriages like stepparent-stepchild relationship, and they argued that renegotiated and new relationships may disturb the patterns of expectations and control, which undermine marital happiness. Furthermore, researchers

found that the complex nature of remarried family context affects the emotional characteristics of remarried individuals, which were thought to explain the differences between two groups. Hetherington (1993) reported that remarried spouses more openly express criticism, anger and irritation than do spouses in first marriages. Also, Hobart (1991) found that remarried individuals generally report higher levels of tension and disagreement than their counterparts in first marriages. Beyond these findings, reviewing the literature Coleman et al., (2000) mentioned three hypotheses that were proposed for the reasons of lower remarriage satisfaction. The first one was the predisposition hypothesis, which suggests that remarriages are more unstable because they contain people who are predisposed to see divorce as a solution to marital unhappiness (Booth & Edwards, 1992). The second hypothesis was the incomplete institution hypothesis, which suggests that remarriages are less satisfying because of complex family situations in which greater stress and fewer norms appear (White & Booth, 1985). The last one is psychopathology hypothesis, which proposes that divorced and remarried persons are more likely to have psychological and behavioral problems that reduce the quality of remarriages (Brody et al., 1988).

In addition to studies comparing marital satisfaction of remarried families to first married families, there are studies investigating the differences between the marital satisfaction of remarried individuals in their current marriage and that in their previous marriage. That is, researchers studied the perceived marital satisfaction of the same group of individuals (those who have remarried) in their second marriage as compared with their first marriage. Buunk and Mutsaers (1999) compared the perceived marital satisfaction of remarried individuals in their present marriage to that in their former marriage, and found that the current marriage was perceived as more satisfying than the former marriage. Similarly, studying with post-divorce remarried individuals Albrecht (1979) found that remarried individuals perceived their new marriages more satisfactory than the previous one that ended in divorce.

Beyond comparing individuals' current and previous marriages, researchers investigated the differences between different remarriage

households such as simple and complex remarried families, stepmother and stepfather families, and families with and without residential stepchildren. In relevance to simple and complex remarried families, studies (Vemer et al., 1989; Schultz et al., 1991; Crosbie-Burnett & McClintic, 2003) generally reported that remarried families in which both spouses were remarried (complex) experienced lower marital quality, and greater dissatisfaction and stress in the relationship than remarried families in which only one spouse was remarried (simple). Indeed, Schultz et al. (1991) argued that the spouses in complex stepfamilies must deal with more complexities in discipline and external relationships because of having more extensive remarriage network, thus they are at great risk for marital disruption. However, surprisingly Kurdek (1989) found that complex stepfamilies reported higher marital satisfaction and stronger intrinsic motivation to be in the relationship compared to simple stepfamilies and first married families. In relevance to stepmother and stepfather families, the results were contradictory. Higher marital satisfaction was found for stepfathers in some studies (Hafkin, 1981; Skyles, 1983), but generally no differences have been found between marital satisfaction of stepmother and stepfather families (Vemer et al., 1989; Crosbie-Burnett & McClintic, 2003). Similarly, inconsistent findings appeared when remarried families with and without residential stepchildren compared. Some found remarried couples living with stepchildren had higher marital satisfaction (Vemer et al., 1989), some found that remarried couples without residential children were happier (Booth & Edwards, 1992), and others reported no difference between remarriage satisfaction of two groups (Crosbie-Burnett & McClintic, 2003). However, although the results were contradictory, generally residing with stepchildren was reported to decrease the marital satisfaction of remarried couple due to issues like role ambiguity, conflict over the division of labor and boundary problems (Booth & Edwards, 1992).

2.2.3.2. Contributing Factors of Remarriage Satisfaction

Despite the less information on correlates and determinants of remarriage satisfaction when compared to that of first marriage satisfaction

(Albrecht, 1979; Hamel, 1997), there is a growing interest in understanding the factors contributing the remarriage satisfaction (Coleman et al., 2000). In this section the contributing factors of remarriage satisfaction are presented in three groups: individual factors, relationship factors, and demographic and contextual factors.

2.2.3.2.1. Individual Factors Related to Marital Satisfaction of Remarried Families

As individual factors, cognitive variables are found to be related to remarriage satisfaction. Kurdek (1989) stated that remarriage satisfaction was related to cognitive variables including beliefs, values, attribution styles and self-appraisals regarding relationship functioning. Specifically, he investigated the role of perception of oneself as being expressive in terms of remarriage satisfaction, and found that positive marital satisfaction was predicted by high expressiveness, which may be associated with the negotiating and compromising skills. In another study on relationship between cognitions relevant to stepfamily living and remarriage satisfaction, Kurdek and Fine (1991) found that low role ambiguity, high optimism regarding stepfamily life, and having only a few myths out of seven myths regarding life in stepfamilies (e.g. "A stepfamily can never be as good as a family in which children live with both natural parents") were related to high satisfaction for remarried individuals.

Beyond cognitive variables, the role of self-esteem was investigated in terms of remarriage satisfaction. Guisinger, Cowan and Schulberg (1989) argued that marital satisfaction emerges from self-esteem and stated that sense of self-esteem affected the remarriage satisfaction. They found that self-esteem was positively associated with remarriage satisfaction. That is, remarried individuals with lower self-esteem exhibit lower marital satisfaction.

In addition, as an individual factor religious identification and activity was found to be related to the degree of satisfaction in remarriage. Those who report religious membership and those who regularly attend religious services reported higher remarriage satisfaction (Albrecht, 1979). Indeed,

Robinson and Blanton (1993) stated that religious faith encouraged marital satisfaction through the value that was placed on the marriage bond through spiritual support in times of difficulty and conflict.

2.2.3.2.2. Relationship Factors Related to Marital Satisfaction of Remarried Families

As a relationship factor, the role of sexual problems is investigated in terms of remarriage satisfaction. Albrecht (1979) stated that when asked to rank the major problems couples are experiencing in their remarriages, sexual problems took greater significance. In other words, one of the major problems remarried couples experience that affected their marital satisfaction was sexual problems. The researcher argued that this may be due to expectations about sexual life developed from earlier marriage.

The role of division of household work on remarriage satisfaction was also emphasized by researchers. O'Connor and Insabella (1999) found that the overall satisfaction with the division of household work and division of childrearing tasks predicted positive remarriage satisfaction. Similarly, Guisinger et al. (1989) found that husband's remarriage satisfaction was associated with wife's satisfaction with division of labors and their own satisfaction with decision-making. They concluded that partners whose perceptions of role divisions in their family were more discrepant tended to be less happy with their marriages. Similar findings were reported by Buunk and Mutsaers (1999) that the more equitable the relationship was and the more advantaged one felt, the more satisfied he/she was with the remarriage. In other words, those who perceived equity in role divisions were happier than those who perceived inequity.

Beyond division of household works, a related topic, decision-making was also found to be related to remarriage satisfaction. Orleans et al. (1989) argued that individuals who perceive their marital decision making power to be in accord with societal norms of the gender role have positive feelings about their marriages. They found that the husband's self-perceived significance in decision-making and decision agreement between wife and

husband predicted higher marital satisfaction in stepfather families. Similarly, Guisinger et al. (1989) reported that discrepancy between husband's and wife's views of decision-making was negatively correlated with remarriage satisfaction. As Pasley (1993) reported especially the agreement between partners on child related matters was positively associated with the marital satisfaction of remarried couples. Similarly, O'Connor and Insabella (1999) stated that remarriage satisfaction was better predicted from factors reflecting the nature of the marital relationship like disagreements regarding child rearing. All these findings about the role of decision making also demonstrate the importance of ambiguity in remarriage role expectations on remarriage satisfaction.

The role of problem solving skills and resolving conflict is also investigated in terms of remarriage satisfaction. Pasley (1993) stated that remarried families had poor problem solving skills and that poorer problem solving skills were associated with lower marital satisfaction. Similarly, she noted that lower conflict resolution was associated with lower marital happiness in remarried families.

2.2.3.2.3. Demographic and Contextual Factors Related to Marital Satisfaction of Remarried Families

As a demographic factor gender is investigated in terms of remarriage satisfaction. Parallel findings regarding first marriages were found. Reviewing the literature Vemer et al. (1989) found that remarried men were more satisfied with their marriage than remarried women. They argue that the reasons for lower satisfaction of women in remarriage may differ from the reasons in first marriages due to the effects of stepchildren and being stepmother. Indeed, O'Connor and Insabella (1999) found that regardless of the parent-child relationship was biological versus step, women adopted greater responsibility for childrearing.

Beyond gender, age was found to be an important demographic factor affecting remarriage satisfaction. Albrecht, (1979) found that positive marital satisfaction was inversely related to age. Similarly, Kurdek (1989) reported

that younger individuals were more satisfied with their remarriage than older individuals. Also, age of spouse was found to be an important demographic variable that affects the marital satisfaction of remarried families in terms of age differences between spouses. Indeed, Booth and Edwards (1992) studied the effect of age heterogeneity (i.e. remarried people whose spouses are different from themselves in age) on remarriage satisfaction. They classified an individual's marriage as heterogamous if the husband was 2 or more years younger, or 6 or more years older than his wife. They found that age heterogeneity leads to decline in marital quality. Wilson and Clarke (1992) support the idea by stating that age difference may cause decline in marital quality for remarried couples because of the differences in couples' life styles regarding expectancies and children.

Income is found to be another demographic factor that is associated with remarriage satisfaction. Financial difficulties were one of the major problems of remarried families, which cause stress and affect marital happiness (Albrecht, 1979). Similarly, Booth and Edwards (1992) found that remarried individuals with low skill jobs, limited education, unstable employment and low income were more likely to divorce. They also stated that low socioeconomic status and economic distress leads to decline in marital quality of remarried families.

In addition to demographic factors mentioned above, length of remarriage was found to be associated with remarriage satisfaction as a contextual variable. Parallel with the findings regarding first marriage satisfaction, researchers (Kurdek, 1991; Johnson & Booth, 1998) found that remarriage satisfaction declined significantly over time. Kurdek (1991) stated that marital satisfaction declined more rapidly over time in remarried households than in first marriages. However, contradictory evidence was obtained in Albrecht's (1979) study that length of marriage is positively related to perceived marital satisfaction in remarried families. That is, as the length of remarriage increases the marital satisfaction increases. Crosbie-Burnett and McClintic (2000) supported the Albrecht's (1979) finding by arguing that length of remarriage shows the couple's having time to work out

their problems unique to remarriage households and to establish a constructive marital relationship.

Most of the studies about the contributing factors of remarriage satisfaction investigated the role of stepchildren. As Bernard (1971) stated the quality of remarriages that involve stepchildren was different from those of without stepchildren. Indeed, Kurdek (1989) found that remarried adults with stepchildren had lower marital satisfaction. He stated that the primary concern of the impact of stepchildren on remarriage satisfaction is problems related to the ambiguity of the stepparent role. Similarly, Schultz et al. (1991) studied the role of stepchildren on marital satisfaction in complex and simple stepfamilies in Australia. They found that the presence of stepchildren lowers marital satisfaction for both simple and complex remarried families. According to Crosbie-Burnett and McClintic (2000) presence of stepchildren is a stressor variable in remarried families. They argued that difficulties in building a satisfying relationship might be exacerbated by the presence of children. In fact, White and Booth (1985) asserted that children reduce marital interaction, result in more conflicts over the division of labor, increase nervousness and tension, and decrease remarriage satisfaction. Similarly, Kheshgi-Genovese & Genovese (1997) reported that stepchildren lower remarriage satisfaction because of role ambiguity, stepchildren's handicapping a remarried couple's ability to strengthen the intimacy, boundary problems, impact of previous spouse, and stepchildren's resistance to become a member of the new family.

Another aspect of stepchildren's effect in remarried families is based on stepparent-stepchild relationship. It is generally considered to be the most problematic and stressful relationship (Ganong & Coleman, 1994), and the quality of the stepparent- stepchild relationship is found to be a strong indicator of marital quality (Orleans et al., 1989; Pink & Wampler, 1985). That is, the higher the quality of relationship between stepparent and stepchild the higher the marital satisfaction of the couple.

Beyond presence of stepchildren, gender of stepchildren was also investigated in terms of remarriage satisfaction. O'Connor & Insabella (1999) stated that children's gender is associated with the interaction patterns of

parents; and they found that parents of girls tend to report less remarriage satisfaction than do parents of boys, especially for husbands. Bernard (1971) supported the idea by stating that sons accept their parents' second marriage more easily, while daughters show more complex reactions. Conversely, Guisinger et al. (1989) found that especially women tended to feel better when they had stepdaughters.

In addition, the relationship between remarriage satisfaction and age of stepchildren was investigated by researchers. Bernard (1971) stated that young children, especially those below age 9, accept a stepparent more readily than do older children. The researcher also noted that especially adolescent children were found to have a greater negative impact on remarriage due to their complicating bonding of the new couple because of the needs to establish identities through interactions that are often in disruption form. However, studying with newlywed stepfather families Kurdek (1990) found that child's age was not associated with remarriage satisfaction of neither mothers nor stepfathers.

Beyond age of stepchildren, researchers also emphasized the role of residence of stepchildren on marital satisfaction. However, the results were contradictory. Booth and Edwards (1992) stated that having a stepchild in the home has an important role in the divorce and the declines in marital happiness. They found that rate of divorce were greater for stepfamilies with residential stepchildren. Conversely, in their meta-analysis Vemer et al. (1979) found that couples whose children and stepchildren lived with them had higher marital satisfaction. Similarly Guisinger et al. (1989) found that residence of stepchildren was positively related to marital satisfaction of parents. That is, parents who had custody were more satisfied with their remarriage.

In addition to impact of stepchildren, researchers emphasized the role of mutual children on remarriage satisfaction. Although Ganong and Coleman (1988) found that the presence of mutual children has no effect on marital satisfaction of remarried couples, generally it is found to be associated with remarriage satisfaction. J. Rosenbaum and V. Rosenbaum (1977) stated that having a child by the remarriage was reported to have a positive effect on

remarried couples (cited in Ganong & Coleman, 1988). Indeed Albrecht (1979) found that remarried individuals who had children from present marriage reported their remarriage as being much better, and concluded that the effect of children either from present or former marriage was positively related to the remarriage satisfaction. In other words, having children from a first or second union contributed to the happiness of couples.

The role of former spouse was also investigated in terms of remarriage satisfaction. In relevance to the role of former spouse on remarriage satisfaction, Gladding (1998) stated that when there are children parents might have to contact with the former spouse, which may encumber resolving the past for both parents and children, and which may have an affect on the new marriage. Indeed, Guisinger et al. (1989) found that relations with former spouse were associated with remarriage satisfaction. That is, former spouses who maintain moderate contact with each other exhibit better marital quality in their remarriage than either high or low contact parents.

In addition to contextual variables discussed above, the relationship between remarriage satisfaction and social support was also investigated by researchers. Kurdek (1989) found that high satisfaction with available emotional social support received from spousal and familial relationships was related to positive marital satisfaction of remarried couples for both husbands and wives. He argued that having a responsive social support system might help the individual to cope with the stresses associated with marital relationships. Similarly, reviewing the literature Coleman and Ganong (1990) found that social support was associated with positive remarriage satisfaction. That is, the more social resources remarried individuals have and the more they are satisfied with their social support system, the greater their marital satisfaction.

2.3. Connection between the Literature Review and Hypotheses of the Study

It seems apparent from the review of literature that post-bereavement remarried families and post-divorce remarried families differ in their histories,

complexities, experiences and functioning, and such differences affect the dynamics of remarriage and the relationship between family members. While the comparison of marital satisfaction in different types of remarried families has been investigated in the field of family psychology, relatively no study has been conducted to assess differences in marital satisfaction of post-bereavement remarried families and post-divorce remarried families. Likewise, it can be seen from the literature that remarriage is quite different from first marriage in family complexity, family experiences, and demographic and personality characteristics of family members; which causes differences in marital satisfaction of first married and remarried families. In the light of this knowledge, the main goal of the present study was to compare the marital satisfaction of first married families, post-bereavement remarried families and post-divorce remarried families.

One of the most important factors influencing marital satisfaction of remarried families appears to be the presence and residence of stepchildren. Stepchildren add complexity to remarried families and may be a handicap in the couples' ability to strengthen marital interaction. Especially stepchildren who reside with the remarried couple may have more impact on the remarriage due to issues like role ambiguity, conflict over the decision-making, and boundary problems. Therefore, in the current study it was aimed to compare the marital satisfaction of remarried families without stepchildren, those with residential stepchildren, and those with non-residential stepchildren.

The studies reviewed in the previous section reveal that there is an association between remarriage satisfaction and demographic and contextual factors. The general trend emerging in the literature is the importance of contribution of age, gender, income, length of marriage, and presence of stepchildren and mutual children to remarriage satisfaction. In addition to these demographic and contextual variables, in the current study the role of interval between dissolution of previous marriage and remarriage was investigated in terms of remarriage satisfaction considering the need for time for resolution of attachment to spouse and for mourning loss of intact family.

More specifically, the following questions were examined in the present study:

1. Is there any difference in marital satisfaction of first married families, post-bereavement remarried families and post-divorce remarried families among men and women, when the effect of length of current marriage is controlled?
2. Is there any difference in marital satisfaction of remarried families without stepchildren, with residential stepchildren and without residential stepchildren?
3. Is there a relationship between demographic and contextual variables namely age, spouse age, gender, income, length marriage, and presence of mutual children; and marital satisfaction of first married families?
4. Is there a relationship between demographic and contextual variables namely age, spouse age, gender, income, length of previous and current marriage, interval between dissolution of first marriage and remarriage, presence of stepchildren, and presence of mutual children; and marital satisfaction of post-bereavement remarried families?
5. Is there a relationship between demographic and contextual variables namely age, spouse age, gender, income, length of previous and current marriage, interval between dissolution of first marriage and remarriage, presence of stepchildren, and presence of mutual children; and marital satisfaction of post-divorce remarried families?
6. Is there a relationship between demographic and contextual variables namely age; spouse age; gender; income; length of previous and current marriage; interval between dissolution of first marriage and remarriage; number, gender, age and residence of stepchildren; and presence of mutual children; and marital satisfaction of remarried families with stepchildren?

CHAPTER III

METHOD

3.1. Participants

The participants of the study were 339 married individuals (169 female, 170 male) from different cities in Turkey, consisting of 116 first-married and 223 remarried individuals. The 118 out of 223 remarried individuals were remarried after divorce (56 female, 62 male) and 105 of them were remarried after death of spouse (52 female, 53 male). The 61 out of 116 first married individuals were female and 55 of them were male. Participants were between the ages of 20 and 75, and the mean age was 44.6 ($SD = 12.3$). The income level of the sample ranged from very low to very high [very low (income per month < 300YTL): 8.6%, low (income per month = 300-800YTL): 37.2%, middle (income per month = 800-1500YTL): 27.1%, high (income per month = 1500-3000YTL): 21.2%, very high (income per month > 3000YTL): 5.9%]. Participants had been married an average of 11.9 years ($SD = 9.6$). Sixty five percent of the participants had mutual children ($n = 223$). The average number of children was 1.84 ($SD = .86$). Of the total sample, 188 individuals stated that their marriages were family-initiated (55.5%), and 151 stated that their marriages were couple-initiated (44.5%).

All remarried individuals were in their second marriage. Most of the participants who remarried after divorce decided to divorce themselves (54.2%). Almost fourteen percent of them obeyed the decision of divorce and 32.2% decided divorce together with their ex-spouse. For the participants who remarried after death of spouse, spouses' death was expected for 47.6% and that was sudden for 52.4%. Participants had been married an average of 11.6 years ($SD = 10.9$) in their previous marriage. The mean interval between dissolution of first marriage and remarriage was 3.04 years

(SD = 2.7) for all remarried individuals. Specifically, the mean interval was 3.6 years for post-divorce remarried individuals (SD = 2.95) and 2.4 years for post-bereavement remarriage (SD = 2.26). Participants were the biological parents of stepchildren. Almost thirty four percent of remarried individuals had no children from previous marriage, 40.4% of them had non-residential children, and 26% of them had residential children. The average number of children from previous marriage was 2.2 (SD = 1.2).

3.2. Instruments

The Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS; Spanier, 1976; see Appendix A) was administered to assess participants' perceived marital satisfaction. In addition, an Information Form (see Appendix B) is used to assess the various demographic and contextual characteristics of the participants such as gender, length of marriage, presence of children and interval between dissolution of first marriage and remarriage.

3.2.1. Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS)

DAS is a 32- item scale developed by Spanier (1976) to assess married or cohabiting individual's subjective evaluation of his or her relationship quality. It measures agreement between partners on important issues, satisfaction with demonstrated levels of affection and sexual relations, degree of harmony in the relationship, and the amount of activity shared by partners.

DAS is Likert-type questionnaire with 5, 6 and 7- point response options. The answers range from "always agree" to "always disagree" or "all the time" to "never". It also involves two items which are answered as "yes" or "no". The scale includes four factors; that is, it measures four aspects of a relationship, which are dyadic satisfaction, dyadic cohesion (degree of connection to marital relationship, emotional bonding), dyadic consensus (agreement on important issues) and affectional expression (demonstrations of affection and sexual relationship). Possible total score range from 0 to 151.

Higher scores indicate greater marital satisfaction. Subscale scores can be also used for specific questions (Spanier, 1976). In the present study, the total score was used to assess overall marriage satisfaction.

Cronbach's alpha for full scale was reported to be .96, and ranged from .73 to .94 for subscales. DAS has been found to have good content validity. In terms of criterion validity, DAS was found to be correlated with Locke-Wallace Marital Adjustment Test among married couples ($r = .86$) (Spanier, 1976). Test-retest reliability of the scale was reported to be .87 (Carey, Spector, Lantinga & Krauss, 1993).

DAS was standardized into Turkish by Fıfılođlu and Demir (2000). Cronbach's alpha was found to be .92 for the entire scale, and ranged from .75 to .83 for subscales. Also, split-half reliability coefficient was found to be .86. With respect to construct validity, results confirmed the original four factors. In terms of criterion validity, Turkish DAS was also found to be correlated with Locke-Wallace Marital Adjustment Test ($r = .82$).

3.2.2. Information Form

Information Form aims to gather information on gender, age, spouse's age, income, number of marriages (first, second, third or over), reason for previous marriage dissolution (divorce, death), length of previous and current marriage, interval between dissolution of first marriage and remarriage, presence, number, gender, and age of step- and mutual children, and marriage type (couple initiated, family initiated). Information form also includes specific questions about divorce (decision of divorce: participant, spouse, together) and death (type of death: expected, sudden). The questions in the form are open-ended, forced-choice and multiple-choice.

3.3. Procedure

Snowball sampling technique (Kumar, 1996) was used to reach target sample. Participants were recruited through announcing to personal acquaintances that volunteer first married and remarried subjects are needed

for a study on marital life. Although some of the instruments were given to the subjects by the investigator, some of them were sent to the subjects in different cities with the help of acquaintances of the researcher. The instruments were given to the participants in envelopes with stamp and requested to return in closed envelopes to the address of the researcher.

Nearly 500 questionnaires were distributed, and 400 of them returned. Those participants who stated that they were in their third or over marriages, and those scales that were entirely empty were excluded, and 355 of 400 cases were examined. Sixteen cases out of 355 were excluded due to large amount of missing data and being outlier. Thus, 339 cases were appropriate for the analyses. Data were collected over an 11-month period between the dates of February 2005 and January 2006.

Written instructions and information about the researcher, aim of the study, and important points in filling the scales were attached at the beginning of the instruments; and participants were assured about their confidentiality in these instructions. Additionally, each instrument had its own instructions. It took participants about 30 minutes to complete the instruments.

3.4. Data Analysis

Prior to the analysis, demographic characteristics of the sample were defined through descriptive statistics. In order to investigate whether marital status (first marriage, post-bereavement remarriage, and post-divorce remarriage) and gender have effect on marital satisfaction when the effect of length of current marriage is controlled, 3 (Marital Status) \times 2 (Gender) between subjects factorial ANCOVA was conducted. Also, in order to investigate if there is a significant difference in marital satisfaction of remarried participants without stepchildren, with residential stepchildren and without residential stepchildren, one way between subjects ANOVA was conducted. Additionally, the Pearson correlation coefficients of the variables were examined. Stepwise Multiple Regression analysis was performed to investigate whether demographic variables (gender, age, spouse age,

income), length of marriage, and presence of children predict marital satisfaction in first married families. In addition, separate Stepwise Multiple Regression analyses were carried out to investigate predictive power of demographic variables (gender, age, spouse age, income), length of previous marriage, length of current marriage, interval to remarriage, presence of stepchildren and presence of mutual children on marital satisfaction of post-divorce remarried families and post-bereavement remarried families. Furthermore, to investigate predictive power of demographic variables (gender, age, spouse age, income), length of previous marriage, length of current marriage, interval to remarriage number of stepchildren, residence of stepchildren, age of stepchildren, gender of stepchildren, and presence of mutual children on marital satisfaction in remarried families with stepchildren, Stepwise Multiple Regression analysis was performed. Additionally to see the effect of marriage type, decision of divorce, and type of death on marital satisfaction of remarried individuals, separate one way ANOVAs were run. All statistical analyses were conducted through different functions of SPSS program (Nie, Bent, & Hull, 1970).

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS

4.1. Data Cleaning

Prior to the data analysis, all data were examined through various SPSS programs for accuracy of data entry, missing values, fit between their distributions, and the assumptions of multivariate statistics. Out of the 355 participants 10 cases were not included due to large amounts of missing data. To improve pair wise linearity and to reduce the extreme skewness and kurtosis the z score for all variables was computed, and 4 cases with extremely low z scores were found to be univariate outliers therefore these cases were deleted. Additionally, 2 multivariate outliers identified through Mahalanobis distance ($p < .001$) were excluded. After extracting all of these cases, the final data analysis included 339 cases (116 first married and 223 remarried).

4.2. Descriptive Analysis of the Sample

Before the main analysis descriptive characteristics of the sample were investigated. Descriptive statistics for the 339 participants in the final data analysis are given in Table 1 and Table 2. Table 1 presents means and standard deviations of the continuous variables; and Table 2 presents frequencies and percentiles of categorical variables.

Table 1 . Means and Standard Deviations of the Continuous Variables

Variables	First Marriage (N=116)			Post-divorce remarriage (N=118)			Post-bereavement remarriage (N=105)			Total (N=339)		
	M	SD	Range	M	SD	Range	M	SD	Range	M	SD	Range
Age	41,20	9,40	23-72	42,08	10,14	23-73	51,09	14,81	20-75	44,57	12,34	20-75
Spouse Age	41,27	9,44	23-73	41,80	12,15	23-71	48,26	11,87	22-73	43,62	11,60	22-73
Length of illness in expected death							3,84	4,78	1-20	3,84	4,78	1-20
Length of previous marriage				8,42	7,74	3-32	15,14	12,66	2-50	11,62	10,86	2-50
Length of current marriage	18,50	9,22	1,2-45	7,55	7,14	2-39	10,50	9,50	5-45	11,93	9,65	2-45
Interval to remarriage				3,62	2,95	3-15	2,40	2,26	1-11	3,05	2,71	1-15
Age of stepchildren				17,58	8,72	4-46	26,26	12,66	4-50	22,21	11,79	4-50
Number of stepchildren				1,88	1,01	1-5	2,41	1,31	1-5	2,16	1,20	1-5
Age of mutual children	14,39	8,09	2,7-42	7,64	7,20	0-33	11,89	10,51	8-41	11,77	8,87	0-42
Number of mutual children	2,17	0,92	1-5	1,46	0,64	1-4	1,65	0,73	1-3	1,84	0,86	1-5

Table 2. Frequencies and Percentiles of Categorical Variables

Variables	First Marriage (N=116)		Post-divorce Remarriage(N=118)		Post-bereavement Remarriage(N=105)		Total (N=339)	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Gender								
Female	61	52,6	56	47,5	52	49,5	169	49,9
Male	55	47,4	62	52,5	53	50,5	170	50,1
Income Level								
Very Low(<300 YTL)	5	4,3	11	9,3	13	12,4	29	8,6
Low(300-800 YTL)	36	31	44	37,3	46	43,8	126	37,2
Middle(800-1500 YTL)	33	28,4	32	27,1	27	25,7	92	27,1
High(1500-3000 YTL)	35	30,2	26	22	11	10,5	72	21,2
Very high(>3000 YTL)	7	6	5	4,2	8	7,6	20	5,9
Decision of Divorce								
Participant Decided			64	54,2			64	54,2
Spouse Decided			16	13,6			16	13,6
Together Decided			38	32,2			38	32,2
Type of Death of Spouse								
Expected					50	47,6	50	47,6
Sudden					55	52,4	55	52,4
Presence of Stepchildren								
Present			69	58,5	79	75,2	148	66,4
Not Present			49	41,5	26	24,8	75	33,6

Table 2 continued

Variables	First Marriage (N=116)		Post-divorce Remarriage(N=118)		Post-bereavement Remarriage(N=105)		Total (N=339)	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Residence of Stepchildren								
Residential			27	39,1	31	39,2	58	39,2
Not residential			42	60,9	48	60,8	90	60,8
Gender of Stepchildren								
All girl			20	29	18	22,8	38	25,7
Girl Dominant			5	7,2	15	19	20	13,5
Girl Boy Equal			17	24,6	17	21,5	34	23
Boy Dominant			6	8,7	8	10,1	14	9,5
All Boy			21	30,4	21	26,6	42	28,4
Presence of Mutual Children								
Present	107	92,2	67	56,8	48	45,7	222	65,5
Not present	9	7,8	51	43,2	57	54,3	117	34,5
Gender of Mutual Children								
All girl	22	20,6	26	38,8	17	35,4	65	29,3
Girl Dominant	11	10,3	1	1,5	1	2,1	13	5,9
Girl Boy Equal	36	33,6	11	16,4	9	18,8	56	25,2
Boy Dominant	8	7,5	1	1,5	3	6,3	12	5,4
All Boy	30	28	28	41,8	18	37,5	76	34,2
Marriage Type								
Family-initiated	65	56	49	41,5	74	70,5	188	55,5
Couple-initiated	51	44	69	58,5	31	29,5	151	44,5

4.3. Effect of Marital Status and Gender on Marital Satisfaction

Before the analysis the assumption of homogeneity of variance was examined through Levene's Test for equality of variances and it was satisfactory ($F= 1.314, p>.05$). Additionally, the assumption of homogeneity of regression was also satisfactory. Means and standard deviations of the marital satisfaction scores of the participants by marital status and gender were presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Means and Standard Deviations of the Marital Satisfaction Scores of the Participants Grouped by Marital Status and Gender

Gender	Marital Status	M	SD
Female	First Married	106.02	26.62
	Post-Divorce	103.66	19.55
	Remarried		
	Post-bereavement remarried	109.38	19.09
	Total	106.27	22.23
Male	First Married	113.82	19.18
	Post-Divorce	113.68	21.57
	Remarried		
	Post-bereavement remarried	113.70	18.25
	Total	113.73	19.70
Total	First Married	109.72	23.62
	Post-Divorce	108.92	21.15
	Remarried		
	Post-bereavement remarried	111.56	18.71
	Total	110.01	21.30

In order to assess if there is a significant difference in marital satisfaction of first married families, post-bereavement remarried families and

post-divorce remarried families among men and women, 3 (marital status: first married, post-divorce remarried, post-bereavement remarried) × 2 (gender: male, female) between subjects factorial analysis of covariance was performed. Covariate was length of current marriage. The results showed that length of current marriage adjusted the marital satisfaction. In other words, the main effect of length of marriage on marital satisfaction was significant [$F(1,332) = 11.85, p < .01$]. After adjustment of the covariate, the results revealed that gender had a significant main effect on marital satisfaction [$F(1,332) = 9.76, p < .01$]. As Table 3 presents, men's level of marital satisfaction ($M = 113.73$) was significantly higher than women's level of marital satisfaction ($M = 106.27$). The results also yielded that the main effect of marital status on marital satisfaction was not significant [$F(2,332) = 1.38, p > .05$]. It was also found that there was not a significant interaction effect of marital status and gender on marital satisfaction [$F(2,332) = .67, p > .05$]. Results of the analysis were also presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Results of the Factorial Between-Subjects ANCOVA
Dependent Variable: Marital Satisfaction

Source	SS	df	MS	F
Length of				
Current	5090,935	1	5090,935	11,854**
Marriage				
Gender	4192,957	1	4192,957	9,763**
Marital Status	1188,729	2	594,365	1,384
Gender ×	573,826	2	286,913	0,668
Marital Status				
Error	142583,000	332	429,469	

** $p < .01$

4.4. Effect of Stepchildren on Marital Satisfaction of Remarried Families

Before the analysis the assumption of homogeneity of variance was examined through Levene's Test for equality of variances and it was

satisfactory ($F= 2.77, p>.05$). Means and standard deviations of the marital satisfaction scores of the remarried participants by stepchildren were presented in Table 5.

Table 5. Means and Standard Deviations of the Marital Satisfaction Scores of the Participants Grouped by Stepchildren

Stepchildren	M	SD
No	111,17	20,45
Not		
Residential	114,26	18,16
Residential ^{a, b}	102,52	20,47
Total	110,17	20,04

- a. Significant mean difference between marital satisfaction of participants with no stepchildren and with residential stepchildren = 8.66, $p< .05$
- b. Significant mean difference between marital satisfaction of participants with non-residential stepchildren and with residential stepchildren = 11.74, $p< .05$

In order to assess if there is a significant difference in marital satisfaction of remarried participants without stepchildren, with residential stepchildren and without residential stepchildren, one way between subjects analysis of variance was conducted. The results revealed that stepchildren had a significant effect on marital satisfaction of remarried families [$F (2,220) = 6.50, p<.01$]. Results of the analysis were also presented in Table 6.

Table 6. Results of One-Way Between-Subjects ANOVA

Dependent Variable: Marital Satisfaction

Source	SS	df	MS	F
Stepchildren	4974,509	2	2487,255	6,503**
Error	84150,352	220	382,502	

** $p<.01$

According to the post-hoc analysis conducted by Least Significant Difference (LSD), the remarried participants with residential stepchildren had significantly lower marital satisfaction scores than the remarried participants without stepchildren and those with non-residential stepchildren. Marital satisfaction scores of participants without stepchildren did not differ from the marital satisfaction scores of participants with non-residential stepchildren. For the mean differences, see Table 5.

4.5. Factors Associated with Marital Satisfaction

Stepwise regression analysis was conducted in order to investigate the predictive power of demographic variables (gender, age, spouse age, income), and contextual variables (length of marriage and presence of mutual children) on marital satisfaction of first married families. Additionally, two separate stepwise regression analysis were run to find out to what extent demographic variables (gender, age, spouse age, income) and contextual variables (length of previous marriage, length of current marriage, interval between dissolution of first marriage and remarriage, presence of stepchildren, and presence of mutual children) associated with marital satisfaction in post-divorce remarried families and in post-bereavement remarried families. In addition, in order to investigate how well demographic variables (gender, age, spouse age, income) and contextual variables (length of previous marriage; length of current marriage; interval to remarriage; number, gender, age, and residence of stepchildren; and presence of mutual children) predicted marital satisfaction of remarried families with stepchildren.

Prior to regression analyses, the discrete independent variables namely income and gender of stepchildren were dummy coded. Four new dummy coded variables were created instead of income: income group 1 (very low: <300YTL), income group 2 (low: 300-800YTL), income group 3 (middle: 800-1500YTL), and income group 4 (high: 1500-300YTL). Also four new dummy coded variables were created instead of gender of stepchildren: gender of stepchildren group 1 (all children are girl), gender of stepchildren

group 2 (most children are girl), gender of stepchildren group 3 (girls boys equal), gender of stepchildren group 4 (all children are boy).

4.5.1. Regression Analysis for First Married Families

Prior to regression analysis the Pearson correlation coefficients of the variables (marital satisfaction, gender, age, spouse age, income group 1, income group 2, income group 3, income group 4, length of marriage, and presence of children) that were included in the regression analysis were computed for first married participants. Results revealed that marital satisfaction level of first married participants was significantly and positively correlated with age ($r = .26$, $p < .01$), spouse age ($r = .20$, $p < .05$), and length of marriage ($r = .26$, $p < .01$). Also, marital satisfaction was significantly and negatively correlated with income group 1 ($r = -.21$, $p < .05$) meaning that marital satisfaction decreased when the participants' income level was very low. Similarly, marital satisfaction was significantly correlated with income group 3 ($r = -.20$, $p < .05$) meaning that participants with middle-income level had lower marital satisfaction. On the other hand, marital satisfaction was not related to gender ($r = .17$, $p > .05$), income group 2 ($r = .12$, $p > .05$), income group 4 ($r = .10$, $p > .05$), and presence of children ($r = .11$, $p > .05$). For the detailed information see Table 7.

Table 7. Correlation Matrix for the Variables in the First Regression Analysis
 Group: First Married Participants (N=116)

Variables	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. Marital Satisfaction		.17	.26**	.20*	-.21*	.12	-.20*	.10	.26**	.11
2. Gender			.23**	-.21*	-.20*	.11	.01	-.06	.06	.08
3. Age				.85**	-.20*	-.04	.03	.05	.88**	.26**
4. Spouse Age					-.12	-.09	.01	.09	.88**	.24**
5. Income Group 1						-.14	-.13	-.14	-.08	.06
6. Income Group 2							-.42**	-.44**	-.05	.12
7. Income Group 3								-.41**	-.00	-.32**
8. Income Group 4									.07	.12
9. Length of Current Marriage										.31**
10. Presence of Children										

*p<.05 **p<.01

A stepwise regression analysis was run to find out to what extent demographic variables [gender, age, spouse age, income group1 (very low: <300YTL), income group 2 (low: 300-800YTL), income group 3 (middle: 800-1500YTL), income group 4 (high: 1500-300YTL)] and contextual variables (length of marriage and presence of children) associated with marital satisfaction of first married families. The regression analysis results revealed that from nine independent variables three variables entered the regression equation as significant predictors resulting in three models. First, length of marriage had entered the model, then income group 1 had entered the model, and then income group 3 had entered the model. In the first step, 7% of the variability in marital satisfaction was predicted by length of marriage [$R^2 = .07$, $F(1,114) = 8.41$, $p < .01$]. In the second step, length of marriage and very low-income level were accounted for 10% of variance in marital satisfaction scores [$R^2 = .10$, $F(2,113) = 6.54$, $p < .01$]. In the third step, 14% of variance in marital satisfaction was explained by length of marriage, very low-income level, and middle-income level [$R^2 = .14$, $F(3,112) = 5.85$, $p < .001$]. Length of marriage uniquely explained 7% of the variance ($\beta = .24$, $t = 2.77$, $p < .01$, $sri^2 = .07$). Very low-income level uniquely explained 4% of the variance ($\beta = -.21$, $t = -2.39$, $p < .01$, $sri^2 = .04$). Middle-income level uniquely explained 3% of the variance ($\beta = -.18$, $t = -2.02$, $p < .05$, $sri^2 = .03$). Table 8 displays the unstandardized regression coefficients (B), standardized regression coefficients (β), the squared semipartial correlations (sri^2), t, F change, R, and R^2 for each model.

Table 8. Stepwise Regression Results for First Married Families

Variables	B	Beta	t	sri²	F change
Step 1					
Length of marriage	.06	.26	2.90**	.07	8.41**
R=.26** R ² =.07					
Step 2					
Length of marriage	.05	.25	2.76**	.07	
Income group 1	-21.76	-.19	-2.10*	.04	4.42*
R=.32** R ² =.10					
Step 3					
Length of marriage	.05	.24	2.77**	.07	
Income group 1	-24.57	-.21	-2.39**	.04	
Income group 3	-9.35	-.18	-2.02*	.03	4.10*
R=.37*** R ² =.14					
*p<.05 **p<.01 ***p<.001					

4.5.2. Regression Analysis for Post-divorce Remarried Families

Prior to regression analysis the Pearson correlation coefficients of the variables (marital satisfaction, gender, age, spouse age, income group 1, income group 2, income group 3, income group 4, length of previous marriage, interval to remarriage, length of current marriage, presence of stepchildren, and presence of mutual children) that were included in the regression analysis were computed for post-divorce remarried participants. Results revealed that marital satisfaction of post-divorce remarried participants was significantly correlated with gender ($r = .24$, $p < .01$) meaning that men reported higher levels of marital satisfaction. Also, marital satisfaction was found to be significantly and negatively correlated with presence of mutual children ($r = -.18$, $p < .05$) meaning that post-divorced remarried participants with mutual children had lower levels of marital satisfaction. In addition, marital satisfaction was significantly and positively correlated with age ($r = .23$, $p < .05$), and length of previous marriage ($r = .18$, $p < .05$). On the other hand, marital satisfaction of post-divorce remarried participants was not significantly correlated with spouse age ($r = -.01$, $p > .05$), income group 1 ($r = .07$, $p > .05$), income group 2 ($r = -.01$, $p > .05$), income group 3 ($r = -.12$, $p > .05$), income group 4 ($r = .05$, $p > .05$), interval to

remarriage ($r = -.01$, $p > .05$), length of current marriage ($r = .01$, $p > .05$), and presence of stepchildren ($r = -.04$, $p > .05$). For the detailed information see Table 9.

Table 9. Correlation Matrix for the Variables in the Second Regression Analysis
 Group: Post-divorce Remarried Participants (N=118)

Variables	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1. Marital Satisfaction		.24**	.23**	-.01	.07	-.01	-.12	.05	.18*	-.01	.01	-.04	-.18*
2. Gender			.28**	-.47**	-.10	-.14	.08	.14	.22*	-.10	-.02	.09	.13
3. Age				.56**	.20*	.02	-.12	-.06	.59**	.16	.52**	.12	.02
4. Spouse Age					.33**	.15	-.22*	-.15	.24**	.24**	.48**	.02	-.06
5. Income Group 1						-.25**	-.20*	-.17	.12	.03	.21*	-.08	.04
6. Income Group 2							-.47**	-.41**	-.08	.08	.15	.01	.01
7. Income Group 3								-.32**	-.06	.04	-.16	-.03	-.01
8. Income Group 4									.05	-.16	-.14	-.01	-.03
9. Length of Previous Marriage										-.10	-.13	.40**	-.29**
10. Interval to Remarriage											-.09	.09	-.01
11. Length of Current Marriage												-.25**	.45**
12. Presence of Stepchildren													-.25**
13. Presence of Mutual Children													-.25**

*p<.05 **p<.01

A stepwise regression analysis was run to find out to what extent demographic variables [gender, age, spouse age, income group1 (very low: <300YTL), income group 2 (low: 300-800YTL), income group 3 (middle: 800-1500YTL), income group 4 (high: 1500-300YTL)] and contextual variables (length of previous marriage, length of current marriage, interval between dissolution of first marriage and remarriage, presence of stepchildren, and presence of mutual children) associated with marital satisfaction of post-divorce families. The regression analysis results revealed that from twelve independent variables two variables entered the regression equation as significant predictors resulting in two models. First, gender had entered the model, and then presence of mutual children had entered the model. In the first step, 6% of the variability in marital satisfaction was predicted by gender [$R^2 = .06$, $F(1,116) = 6.93$, $p < .01$]. In the second step, gender and presence of mutual children were accounted for 10% of variance in marital satisfaction scores [$R^2 = .10$, $F(2,115) = 6.51$, $p < .01$]. Gender uniquely explained 6% of the variance ($\beta = .27$, $t = 2.98$, $p < .01$, $sri^2 = .06$). Presence of mutual children uniquely explained 5% of the variance ($\beta = -.22$, $t = -2.41$, $p < .01$, $sri^2 = .05$). Table 10 displays B, β , sri^2 , t, F change, R, and R^2 for each model.

Table 10. Stepwise Regression Results for Post-divorce Remarried Families

Variables	B	Beta	t	sri ²	F change
Step 1					
Gender	10.02	.24	2.63**	.06	6.93**
R=.24** R ² =.06					
Step 2					
Gender	11.20	.27	2.98**	.06	
Presence of mutual children	-9.13	-.22	-2.41**	.05	5.80**
R=.32** R ² =.10					

**p<.01

4.5.3. Regression Analysis for Post-bereavement Remarried Families

Prior to regression analysis the Pearson correlation coefficients of the variables (marital satisfaction, gender, age, spouse age, income group 1, income group 2, income group 3, income group 4, length of previous marriage, interval to remarriage, length of current marriage, presence of stepchildren, and presence of mutual children) that were included in the regression analysis were computed for post-bereavement remarried participants. Results showed that marital satisfaction of post-bereavement remarried participants was significantly and positively correlated with age ($r = .22, p < .05$), spouse age ($r = .23, p < .05$), and length of current marriage ($r = .26, p < .01$). In addition, marital satisfaction was significantly and negatively correlated with income group 1 ($r = -.22, p < .05$) meaning that marital satisfaction decreased when the participants' income level was very low. On the other hand, marital satisfaction was not significantly correlated with gender ($r = .12, p > .05$), income group 2 ($r = .03, p > .05$), income group 3 ($r = -.14, p > .05$), income group 4 ($r = -.02, p > .05$), length of previous marriage ($r = .09, p > .05$), interval to remarriage ($r = .07, p > .05$), presence of stepchildren ($r = -.06, p > .05$), and presence of mutual children ($r = -.04, p > .05$). For the detailed information see Table 11.

Table 11. Correlation Matrix for the Variables in the Third Regression Analysis
 Group: Post-bereavement Remarried Participants (N=105)

Variables	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1. Marital Satisfaction		.12	.22*	.23*	-.22*	.03	-.14	-.02	.09	.07	.26**	-.06	-.04
2. Gender			.66**	.08	.14	.07.	-.03	-.22*	.57**	-.20*	.07	.31**	-.24**
3. Age				.70**	.30**	.01	-.13	-.15	.69**	-.13	.45**	.37**	-.20*
4. Spouse Age					.35**	-.11	-.06	-.10	.38**	-.06	.50**	.25**	-.12
5. Income Group 1						-.33**	-.22*	-.13	.27**	-.15	.12	.15	-.17
6. Income Group 2							-.52**	-.30**	-.02	-.03	.10	-.12	.19
7. Income Group 3								-.20*	-.13	.10	-.13	.08	-.01
8. Income Group 4									-.18	.14	.04	-.09	-.01
9. Length of Previous Marriage										-.28**	-.18	.46**	-.46**
10. Interval to Remarriage											-.02	-.05	.20*
11. Length of Current Marriage												-.11	.36**
12. Presence of Stepchildren													-.18
13. Presence of Mutual Children													

*p<.05 **p<.01

A stepwise regression analysis was run to find out to what extent demographic variables [gender, age, spouse age, income group1 (very low: <300YTL), income group 2 (low: 300-800YTL), income group 3 (middle: 800-1500YTL), income group 4 (high: 1500-300YTL)] and contextual variables (length of previous marriage, length of current marriage, interval between dissolution of first marriage and remarriage, presence of stepchildren, and presence of mutual children) associated with marital satisfaction of post-bereavement families. The regression analysis results revealed that from twelve independent variables two variables entered the regression equation as significant predictors resulting in two models. First, length of current marriage had entered the model, and then income group 1 had entered the model. In the first step, 7% of the variability in marital satisfaction was predicted by length of current marriage [$R^2 = .07$, $F(1,103) = 7.75$, $p < .01$]. In the second step, length of current marriage and very low-income level were accounted for 11% of variance in marital satisfaction scores [$R^2 = .11$, $F(2,102) = 6.17$, $p < .01$]. Length of current marriage uniquely explained 7% of the variance ($\beta = .24$, $t = 2.56$, $p < .01$, $sri^2 = .07$). Very low-income level uniquely explained 4% of the variance ($\beta = -.20$, $t = -2.08$, $p < .05$, $sri^2 = .04$). Table 12 displays B, β , sri^2 , t, F change, R, and R^2 for each model.

Table 12. Stepwise Regression Results for Post-bereavement Remarried Families

Variables	B	Beta	t	sri ²	F change
Step 1					
Length of current marriage	.04	.26	2.78**	.07	7.75**
R=.26**		R ² =.07			
Step 2					
Length of current marriage	.04	.24	2.56**	.07	
Income group 1	-11.09	-.20	-2.08*	.04	4.34*
R=.33**		R ² =.11			
*p<.05		**p<.01			

4.5.4. Regression Analysis for Remarried Families with Stepchildren

Prior to regression analysis the Pearson correlation coefficients of the variables (marital satisfaction, gender, age, spouse age, income group 1, income group 2, income group 3, income group 4, length of previous marriage, interval to remarriage, length of current marriage, number of stepchildren, age of stepchildren, gender of stepchildren group 1, gender of stepchildren group 2, gender of stepchildren group 3, gender of stepchildren group 4, residence of stepchildren, and presence of mutual children) that were included in the regression analysis were computed for remarried participants with stepchildren. Results revealed that marital satisfaction of remarried families with stepchildren was significantly correlated with gender ($r = .17$, $p < .05$) meaning that marital satisfaction increased when the participants were male. Also, marital satisfaction was significantly correlated with residence of stepchildren ($r = -.29$, $p < .01$) meaning that participants who had residential stepchildren had lower levels of marital satisfaction. In addition, marital satisfaction was found to be significantly and positively correlated with age ($r = .25$, $p < .01$), length of previous marriage ($r = .16$, $p < .05$), and age of stepchildren ($r = .24$, $p < .01$). On the other hand, marital satisfaction of remarried participants who had stepchildren was not significantly correlated with spouse age ($r = .15$, $p > .05$), income group 1 ($r = -.13$, $p > .05$), income group 2 ($r = -.03$, $p > .05$), income group 3 ($r = -.13$, $p > .05$), income group 4 ($r = .03$, $p > .05$), interval to remarriage ($r = .04$, $p > .05$), length of current marriage ($r = .08$, $p > .05$), number of stepchildren ($r = .03$, $p > .05$), gender of stepchildren group 1 (all children are girl) ($r = -.10$, $p > .05$), gender of stepchildren group 2 (most children are girl) ($r = .03$, $p > .05$), gender of stepchildren group 3 (girls boys equal) ($r = .01$, $p > .05$), gender of stepchildren group 4 (all children are boy) ($r = .05$, $p > .05$), and presence of mutual children ($r = -.15$, $p > .05$). For the detailed information see Table 13.

Table 13. Correlation Matrix for the Variables in the Fourth Regression Analysis

Group: Remarried Participants with Stepchildren (N=148)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1		.17*																	
2			.25**	.15	.13	.03	.13	.03	.16*	.04	.08	.03	.24**	.10	.03	.01	.05	.29**	.15
3				.24**	.01	.02	.02	.01	.41**	.21**	.07	.30**	.34**	.01	.17*	.09	.07	.36**	.01
4					.26**	.02	.08	.17*	.72**	.19*	.50**	.47**	.91**	.13	.35**	.08	.20*	.49**	.17*
5						.36**	.04	.24**	.37**	.02	.46**	.26**	.65**	.11	.18*	.04	.15	.21**	.19*
6							.29**	.15	.19*	.06	.21**	.34**	.28**	.16*	.17*	.20*	.04	.12	.06
7								.49**	.03	.03	.09	.03	.10	.01	.05	.01	.04	.02	.08
8									.25**	.10	.14	.18*	.14	.20*	.11	.04	.02	.07	.07
9										.13	.09	.12	.18*	.16*	.11	.27**	.07	.02	.02
10											.32**	.54**	.67**	.21**	.32**	.03	.14	.36**	.34**
11												.36**	.12	.27**	.25**	.07	.06	.02	.07
12													.57**	.13	.13	.01	.09	.28**	.28**
13														.43**	.57**	.03	.25**	.26**	.14
14															.15	.05	.18*	.51**	.11
15																.23**	.37**	.10	.02
16																	.22**	.25**	.15
17																		.34	.01
18																			.14
19																			

*p<.05 **p<.01 1. Marital Satisfaction; 2. Gender; 3. Age; 4. Spouse Age; 5. Income Group 2; 6. Income Group 1; 7. Income Group 3; 8. Income Group 4; 9. Length of Previous Marriage; 10. Interval to Remarriage; 11. Length of Current Marriage; 12. Number of Stepchildren; 13. Age of Stepchildren; 14. Gender of Stepchildren: All girl; 15. Gender of Stepchildren: Most girl; 16. Gender of Stepchildren: Girl boy equal; 17. Gender of Stepchildren: All boy; 18. Residence of Stepchildren; 19. Presence of Mutual Children

A stepwise regression analysis was run to find out to what extent demographic variables [gender, age, spouse age, income group1 (very low: <300YTL), income group 2 (low: 300-800YTL), income group 3 (middle: 800-1500YTL), income group 4 (high: 1500-300YTL)] and contextual variables (length of previous marriage; length of current marriage; interval between dissolution of first marriage and remarriage; number, age, and residence of stepchildren; gender of stepchildren group 1 (all children are girl); gender of stepchildren group 2 (most children are girl); gender of stepchildren group 3 (girls boys equal); gender of stepchildren group 4 (all children are boy); and presence of mutual children) associated with marital satisfaction of remarried families with stepchildren. The regression analysis results revealed that from eighteen independent variables only one variable namely residence of stepchildren had entered the regression equation as significant predictor. Residence of stepchildren was accounted for 8% of variance in marital satisfaction scores [$R^2=.08$, $F(1,146) = 13.33$, $p<.001$]. Table 14 displays B, β , sri^2 , t, F change, R, and R^2 for the model.

Table 14. Stepwise Regression Results for Remarried Families with Stepchildren

Variables	B	Beta	t	sri²	F change
Residence of stepchildren	-11.74	-.29	-3.65***	.08	13.33***
R=.29***		R ² =.08			

*** $p<.001$

4.6. Differences In Terms of Demographic Characteristics of Remarried Families

In addition to testing the hypotheses of the study, the differences in marital satisfaction of remarried families in terms of their demographic characteristics were examined. In order to investigate the effect of marriage type, decision of divorce, and type of death on marital satisfaction of remarried families separate one way between subjects ANOVAs were conducted.

4.6.1. Effect of Marriage Type on Marital Satisfaction of Remarried Families

Before the analysis the assumption of homogeneity of variance was examined through Levene's Test for equality of variances and it was satisfactory ($F = .454, p > .05$). Means and standard deviations of the marital satisfaction scores of the participants by marriage type were presented in Table 15.

Table 15. Means and Standard Deviations of the Marital Satisfaction Scores of the Remarried Participants Grouped by Marriage Type

Marriage Type	M	SD
Family initiated	111,80	20,61
Couple initiated	108,15	19,22
Total	110,17	20,04

In order to assess if there is a significant difference in marital satisfaction of remarried participants who had family initiated marriage and those who had couple initiated marriage, one way between subjects analysis of variance was conducted. The results revealed that marriage type did not have a significant effect on marital satisfaction of remarried families [$F(1, 221) = 1.842, p > .05$]. Results of the analysis were also presented in Table 16.

Table 16. Results of One-Way Between-Subjects ANOVA for the effect of marriage type

Dependent Variable: Marital Satisfaction

Source	SS	df	MS	F
Marriage Type	736,794	1	736,794	1,842
Error	88388,067	221	399,946	

4.6.2. Effect of Decision of Divorce on Marital Satisfaction of Post-divorce Remarried Families

Before the analysis the assumption of homogeneity of variance was examined through Levene's Test for equality of variances and it was satisfactory ($F = .142, p > .05$). Means and standard deviations of the marital satisfaction scores of the participants by decision of divorce were presented in Table 17.

Table 17. Means and Standard Deviations of the Marital Satisfaction Scores of the Post-divorce Remarried Participants Grouped by Decision of Divorce

Decision of Divorce	M	SD
Participant decided	107,38	22,49
Spouse decided	108,25	20,35
Together decided	111,82	19,31
Total	108,92	21,15

In order to assess if there is a significant difference in marital satisfaction of post-divorce remarried participants who decided to divorce themselves, those whose ex-spouse decided to divorce, and those who decided to divorce together with their ex-spouse, one way between subjects analysis of variance was conducted. The results revealed that decision of divorce did not have a significant effect on marital satisfaction of remarried families [$F(2, 115) = .531, p > .05$]. Results of the analysis were also presented in Table 18.

Table 18. Results of One-Way Between-Subjects ANOVA for the effect of decision of divorce

Dependent Variable: Marital Satisfaction

Source	SS	df	MS	F
Decision of divorce	478,603	2	239,302	0,531
Error	51869,711	115	451,041	

4.6.3. Effect of Type of Death on Marital Satisfaction of Post-bereavement Remarried Families

Before the analysis the assumption of homogeneity of variance was examined through Levene's Test for equality of variances and it was satisfactory ($F = 3.9, p > .05$). Means and standard deviations of the marital satisfaction scores of the participants by type of death were presented in Table 19.

Table 19. Means and Standard Deviations of the Marital Satisfaction Scores of the Post-bereavement Remarried Participants Grouped by Type of Death

Type of Death	M	SD
Sudden	114,44	15,61
Expected	108,95	20,93
Total	111,56	18,71

In order to assess if there is a significant difference in marital satisfaction of post-bereavement remarried participants whose ex-spouses' death was sudden and those whose ex-spouses' death was expected, one way between subjects analysis of variance was conducted. The results revealed that type of death did not have a significant effect on marital satisfaction of post-bereavement remarried families [$F(1, 103) = 2.288, p > .05$]. Results of the analysis were also presented in Table 20.

Table 20. Results of One-Way Between-Subjects ANOVA for the effect of type of death

Dependent Variable: Marital Satisfaction

Source	SS	df	MS	F
Type of death	790,691	1	790,691	2,288
Error	35599,156	103	345,623	

CHAPTER V

DISCUSSION

In this chapter, first the findings of the study are discussed. Then implications for practice, strengths and limitations of the study, suggestions for future research, and finally conclusion of the study are presented.

5.1. Evaluation of the Results

5.1.1. Effect of Marital Status and Gender on Marital Satisfaction

The present study hypothesized that there would be significant differences in the marital satisfaction level of first married, post-divorce remarried and post-bereavement remarried participants as well as of male and female participants. Significant differences were only obtained between the marital satisfaction level of males and females. This finding is in line with previous research indicating that males had higher levels of marital satisfaction than their female counterparts (Bernard, 1972; Rhyne 1981; Vemer et al., 1989, Basat, 2004). As White (1979) argued marriage may be more beneficial for men than for women because women face with unequal returns in a sexist society. Indeed, Rhyne (1981) stated that women are traditionally more involved and concerned with the housework and rearing of children than men are. In other words, even when they work outside women have the responsibility of housework and care of dependents such as children and elderly parents. These issues confronted by women may bear more heavily on women's assessments of their marriages. In addition, the reasons for lower satisfaction of women in remarriage may differ from the reasons in first marriage because of the complexities of remarried

households. As Levenson et al. (1993) stated women are more likely than men to focus on their emotions. The complex nature of the remarried households (e.g. impact of previous spouse, the resistance of children from prior marriage to become a member of the new family etc.) may cause women to experience negative emotions, which may affect their perception of marital satisfaction. From these findings, it can be concluded that the lower marital satisfaction level of women may be the universal characteristics of females, since the same results appear in Turkey as well as in other cultures. That is, women's evaluation of their marriage is more negative than that of men.

No significant difference was observed between the marital satisfaction level of first married and remarried participants (Further analyses were run to find out the effect of marital status on subscales of DAS. Results revealed that no significant difference existed between two groups in dyadic consensus, dyadic satisfaction, dyadic cohesion, and affectional expression). This finding was parallel those regarding no difference (Gilford & Bengtson, 1979; Demaris, 1984; White & Booth, 1985; O' Connor & Insabella, 1999); however, contradicts with those regarding that first married families had higher marital satisfaction levels when compared to remarried families (White, 1979; Vemer et al., 1989; Booth & Edwards, 1992; Kheshgi-Genovese & Genovese, 1997; Buunk & Mutsaers, 1999). Data presented in the current study suggest that marital satisfaction level of remarried families does not differ from that of first-married families. There are several probable explanations for this finding. First, as Gladding (1998) stated since most adults and children who form remarried family union have experienced a divorce, an abandonment or a death, they wish and expect the remarried family to be a different and better experience. In other words, remarried participants might have believed family life and marriage can be good, and this positive cognition may affect their perception of marital satisfaction. Second, it is not clear whether remarried participants may be biased in their report, for example, participants may report high satisfaction because they compare their current marriage to a previously broken marriage. Indeed,

Buunk and Mutsaers (1999) found that the remarried individuals perceive their current marriage as more satisfying than their former marriage. Third, as Ganong and Coleman (1994) stated because the couples who remain remarried are those who are still relatively satisfied, the marital quality of remarried families is not different from their first married counterparts. In other words, it must be considered that many of those whose second marriages were bad may have already terminated these remarriages. Fourth, results might be affected by “socially desirable” responses. For example, for the post-divorce remarried participants, since their previous marriages have failed there may be probably social pressures not to report that the present marriage is a failure. Crosbie-Burnett and McClintic (2003) stated that in Asian countries remarried families experience more stigma than in western cultures. Therefore, it may be speculated that since Turkey is an Asian country, the remarried participants might feel the social pressure due to the stigma they experience. For example, post-bereavement remarried individuals may have underestimated their satisfaction with remarriage because of their feelings of guilt due to cultural pressure. Indeed, remarrying after death of spouse is often perceived as disrespectfulness to the ex-spouse. Also, post-divorce remarried individuals may experience social pressure due to terminating their prior marriage in a culture (Turkish culture) that supports the continuation of marriages. Thus, remarried families have fewer extra-familial supports due to the stigma they experience, which may cause them not to report dissatisfaction with their remarriage.

There did not appear to be any significant difference in marital satisfaction between post-divorce remarried and post-bereavement remarried participants (Further analyses also showed that no significant differences exist in subscales of DAS). However, post-bereavement remarried participants ($M = 111.56$) had slightly but not significantly higher marital satisfaction than post-divorce remarried participants ($M = 108.92$). This may be because of the post-divorce remarried individuals' proneness to leave an unhappy marriage. Indeed, Booth and Edwards (1992) stated that post-divorce remarried individuals might be predisposed to see divorce as a

solution to marital unhappiness. They found that willingness to leave increases the probability of decline in marital quality. Thus, because the post-divorce remarried individuals' willingness to leave marriage, their marital satisfaction might be lower.

5.1.2. Effect of Stepchildren on Marital Satisfaction of Remarried Families

Results of the current study revealed that remarried participants without stepchildren and remarried participants with non-residential stepchildren had significantly higher marital satisfaction level than remarried participants with residential stepchildren (Further analyses with the subscales of DAS yielded same results). This finding was consistent with related literature indicating that those with stepchildren in the home reported significantly less marital satisfaction. Ihinger and Tallman (1982) found in their study that couples with custody of children from a prior marriage were the least satisfied of remarried couples, and influence of stepchildren in remarried households leads couples to experience stress in their second marriages (cited in Shultz et al., 1991). The reason for lower marital satisfaction of remarried participants with residential stepchildren may also stem from the role ambiguity in these households. When stepchildren live in the remarried household, couples may experience problems in negotiating on roles and disagreements on child rearing, which may disturb the pattern of interaction (Booth & Edwards, 1992). The direct influence of the stepchildren on the couple relationship is evidence of the weakness of the marital dyad compared with parent-child dyad that has a prior history. Indeed, in Turkish culture parent-child dyad is given priority in family ties (Kağıtçıbaşı, 1998) and the importance of marriage is attributed to the value of children (Atalay, Konaş, Beyazıt, & Madenoğlu, 1993).

No significant difference was observed between marital satisfaction of participants without stepchildren and those with non-residential stepchildren. No data have been reported comparing the marital satisfaction level in terms of both presence and residence of stepchildren. Therefore there is no study

to compare this result. One possible explanation for this finding might be that since the stepchildren did not reside with the remarried family, they had no direct influence on interaction of couples. In addition, negative effect of stepchildren when they are nonresidential may not appear because participant was the biological parent rather than stepparent. From these findings, it can be concluded that having residential stepchildren in remarriage household causes tension even for biological parents.

5.1.3. Factors Associated with Marital Satisfaction of First Married Families

Results of the current study revealed that length of marriage significantly predicts marital satisfaction of first married families. That is, as the length of marriage increases, the level of marital satisfaction increases. This finding contradicts with the literature. In the literature, length of marriage had been found either following a U-shaped pattern or declining over the time (Glass & Wright, 1977; Levenson et al., 1993; Vaillant & Vaillant, 1993; Bradbury et al., 2000). However, positive relationship between length of marriage and marital satisfaction is not so surprising, because there is evidence that the early years of a marriage is a high-risk period for separation (Clarke & Wilson, 1994). This may be because younger couples face with elaborating new roles and responsibilities for themselves. Therefore, individuals in young marriages have lower marital satisfaction. Furthermore, families are more involved in Turkish marriages than they are in Western marriages and since in the earlier years spouses have little time spent alone they may have problems in establishing intimacy (Hortaçsu & Oral, 1993). In other words, in Turkey because of strong family ties and the effect of extended families the new couple requires time to adapt marriage. That is, the couple needs time to resolve the attachment problems with their parents and to establish a constructive marital relationship.

The current study also highlights the importance of income in marital satisfaction of first married families. Marital satisfaction was negatively correlated with very low-income level (income per month < 300YTL), and very

low-income level contributed to the prediction of marital satisfaction. That is, individuals with very low-income level reported lower levels of marital satisfaction. This finding was consistent with the literature (Vaydanoff, 1990) indicating that lower levels of income are associated with lower marital satisfaction. Indeed Vaydanoff (1990) stated that a minimum level of income is necessary for family stability and cohesion. Additionally, in the current study middle income level (income per month=800-1500YTL) also contributed to the prediction of marital satisfaction, meaning that individuals with middle-income level had lower marital satisfaction. Ninety percent of the first married participants who had middle income in the present study had adolescent children. These participants may have financial problems because of their children's need. Indeed, Vaydanoff (1990) found that low income-to-needs ratio was negatively associated with marital satisfaction.

Results showed that age did not contribute the prediction of marital satisfaction. However, although it did not predict marital satisfaction, age was positively and significantly correlated with marital satisfaction of first married families. That is, the older the individuals, the greater their marital satisfaction. This finding contradicts with the literature (Karney & Bradbury, 1995; Gagnon et al., 1999) indicating that the marital satisfaction declines with increasing age. The explanation for this contradiction may be that with increasing age people gain maturity and experience (Levenson et al., 1993). Also, as Gilford and Bengtson (1979) stated marriages in old age have the potential for providing emotional support and increasing affective positivity.

5.1.4. Factors Associated with Marital Satisfaction of Remarried Families

In this section first, the factors those were included in regression analyses for three remarried groups (post-divorce, post-bereavement, and those with stepchildren) and not found to be associated with the marital satisfaction of those groups will be discussed. Then, the factors that are found to be associated with marital satisfaction of post-divorce remarried

individuals, post-bereavement remarried individuals and that of remarried individuals with stepchildren will be discussed separately.

The present study indicates that interval between dissolution of first marriage and remarriage was not associated with marital satisfaction of any remarried family households. No data have been reported investigating the relationship between marital satisfaction and interval to remarriage. Therefore there is no study to compare this result. As Gladding (1998) stated the normal grief period for loss is from 6 to 36 months. The mean interval to remarriage in the current study was 36.57 months. Therefore, interval to remarriage may not be associated with marital satisfaction because the remarried participants had enough time for grief resolution. Another explanation for this result may be that participants in the current sample of remarried families have had on the average 9 years to work out their problems related to resolving the past issues and to establish a constructive marital relationship in their new marriage. Similarly, there was no relationship between length of previous marriage and marital satisfaction of any remarried family households. This finding contradicts with Bumpass et al. (1990)'s assumption that individuals with long previous marriages may be more marriage-oriented, which may affect their capacity to adapt their new marriage and their marital satisfaction.

There was also no relationship between presence of stepchildren and marital satisfaction of remarried families. This finding contradicts with the literature. In the literature, remarried families with stepchildren were found to have lower marital satisfaction (White & Booth, 1985; Kurdek, 1989; Schultz, N.C., Schultz, C.L., & Olson, 1991; Coleman et al., 2000). The possible explanation for this finding is that the participants were biological parent rather than stepparent. Therefore, negative effect of stepchildren may not appear due to ownness (O'Connor & Insabella, 1999). From this point of view, individuals' own feelings of life satisfaction and happiness may be strengthened by the close relationships with their offspring even though these offspring may not be from their current marriage.

The results of current study showed that age did not contribute the prediction of marital satisfaction of any remarried households. However, although it did not predict marital satisfaction, age was positively and significantly correlated with marital satisfaction of three remarried groups (i.e. post-bereavement remarried participants and remarried participants with stepchildren). That is, the older the remarried individuals, the higher their satisfaction with marriage. This finding contradicts with the literature. In the literature (Albrecht, 1979; Kurdek, 1989; Bumpass et al., 1990) younger remarried individuals were found to be more satisfied with their marriage. Like it was discussed for first married individuals, this finding may be explained by the maturity and experience of older participants. Since older participants experienced and mature they may cope with more easily with the complex nature of remarriage. Also, as Gagnon et al. (1999) stated older couples describe their marriages as marriages of affection and supportiveness. Furthermore, since their children have grown up and left home, and stepchildren do not reside with them, they may have less conflict regarding children. Instead of conflict, children may become a source of pleasure. Indeed, Levenson et al. (1993) found that the interactions with children were most rewarding for older couples.

5.1.4.1. Factors Associated with Marital Satisfaction of Post-divorce Remarried Families

Results of the current study revealed that gender significantly predicted marital satisfaction of post-divorce remarried families, meaning that men reported significantly higher levels of marital satisfaction. As discussed in section 5.1.1, this result was consistent with the literature (Rhyne 1981; Levenson et al., 1993; Sweeney & Replegle, 2002; Vemer et al., 1989).

Presence of mutual children was only associated with marital satisfaction of post-divorce remarried families, meaning that post-divorce remarried families with mutual children had lower marital satisfaction. This finding contradicts with the literature (J. Rosenbaum & V. Rosenbaum, 1977;

Albrecht, 1979) that mutual children contributed to happiness of remarried couples. Results showed that presence of mutual children and marital satisfaction was not associated in other types of remarried households (i.e. post-bereavement remarried participants and remarried participants with stepchildren). Since the data were not longitudinal making judgments regarding marital satisfaction prior to the birth of mutual children in these households was impossible. However, the possible explanation for this finding may be that as Ganong and Coleman (1988) stated post-divorce remarriage is more complex than other types of remarried families; because children are members of more than one family household and they have multiple sets of extended, biological or step subsystems. Therefore having a child by the remarriage adds further complexity to an already complicated system, which causes additional stress to the couple.

5.1.4.2. Factors Associated with Marital Satisfaction of Post-bereavement Remarried Families

Like it was in first married families, very low-income level contributed to the prediction of marital satisfaction in post-bereavement families. That is, post-bereavement remarried individuals with very low income level reported lower levels of marital satisfaction. This finding was consistent with the literature (White, 1979; Coleman & Ganong, 1990; Albrecht, 1979; Booth & Edwards, 1992) indicating that lack of money adds additional stress to remarried family members and leads to decline in marital satisfaction. Indeed, income level lower than 300YTL is inadequate, since by the year 2006 the minimum amount of income needed to attain an adequate standard of living in Turkey is 531YTL (“Asgari Ücret Miktarları”, 2006). Especially those with children would have financial difficulties with this level of income due to their children’s needs. In fact Day and Bahr (1986) reported that one of the important reasons of financial difficulties experienced by remarried families was children’s needs. From this point of view, the reason for income level’s not associating with marital satisfaction of post-divorce families may

be explained by that the needs of stepchildren may be also met by previous spouse in post-divorce remarried families.

The results also showed that length of current marriage contributed to prediction of marital satisfaction in post-bereavement families. That is, as the length of remarriage increases, marital satisfaction of post-bereavement individuals increases. Although this finding contradicts with most of the researcher's (Guisinger et al., 1989; Kurdek, 1989; Coleman & Ganong, 1990; Johnson & Booth, 1998; O'Connor & Insabella, 1999) findings that remarriage satisfaction declined over time, it was consistent with Albrecht's (1979) finding that remarriage satisfaction increased over time. As it was discussed for first married participants, couples with long marriages may have time to work out their problems related to responsibilities and new roles, and to adapt remarriage (Crosbie-Burnett, 1989). In other words, as Levenson et al. (1993, p.312) stated in old marriages "old wars are diminished and marital bonds are strengthened". The reason for length of current marriage's associating with marital satisfaction of post-bereavement families but not with marital satisfaction of post-divorce families may be explained by the effect of their different histories. As Blood (1969) stated widowed people have pleasant memories about their previous marriages while divorced people have unpleasant memories and hopefully to be erased by remarriage. Therefore, post-bereavement remarried participants may adjust their new marriage and resolve their mourning as well as their children's over the time, unlike their post-divorced remarried counterparts who adapt the new marriage in shorter time.

5.1.4.3. Factors Associated with Marital Satisfaction of Remarried Families with Stepchildren

Residence of stepchildren strongly associated with marital satisfaction, and it was the only variable that predicted the marital satisfaction in remarried families with stepchildren. This finding was consistent with the literature (Shultz et al., 1991; Booth & Edwards, 1992) indicating that participants with

residential stepchildren had lower levels of marital satisfaction. As discussed in section 5.1.2, the reason for lower marital satisfaction of remarried participants with residential stepchildren may be the direct influence of the residential stepchildren on couple's interaction by reducing marital interaction, resulting in more conflicts over the division of labor, increasing nervousness and tension, and decreasing remarriage satisfaction (White and Booth, 1985).

In the current study, it was found that there was no correlation between gender of stepchildren and marital satisfaction of remarried families with stepchildren. This finding contradicts with the literature (Bernard, 1971; Guisinger et al., 1989; O'Connor & Insabella, 1999). One explanation for this finding may be that in the current study many families had more other children who are the opposite sex. Another possible explanation may be that as discussed earlier the participants were the natural parents of the stepchildren and due to ownness the gender of the stepchildren may not associated with their marital satisfaction. Similarly, age of stepchildren did not predict marital satisfaction of remarried families with stepchildren. This finding contradicts with literature (Vishers, 1978 cited in Pill, 1990; Bernard, 1971; Gladding, 1998) indicating couples with younger children had higher marital satisfaction.

5.1.5. Differences In Terms of Demographic Characteristics of Remarried Families

No significant difference was observed between the marital satisfaction level of remarried participants who had family initiated marriage and those who had couple initiated marriage. This finding contradicts with the literature (Xiaohe & Whyte, 1990; Hortaçsu & Oral, 1993; Demir & Fışıloğlu, 1999) indicating lower marital satisfaction for family-initiated marriages. One of the important differences between family initiated and couple initiated marriages is the nature of interactions between spouses. In other words, since spouses in couple initiated marriages know each other before

marriage, they may not have problems in adjusting the marriage and their spouse when compared with their family initiated married counterparts. However, as Hortaçsu & Oral (1993) stated family initiated marriages often occur between families that know each other through relatives or friendship network ties. Furthermore, Demir & Fıfılođlu (1999) found that the degree of acquaintance before marriage had a positive effect on marital adjustment for family-initiated marriages. Thus, it may be speculated that the family initiated married couple may not have problem to adapt marriage, since they have similar family cultures and few problems appear between prospective in-laws. Therefore, their marital satisfaction may not differ from individuals whose marriages were couple initiated. Another explanation may be that since remarried individuals are experienced and mature about the marriage, they may be more tolerant and cope with more easily with marital problems related to adaptation to their spouse.

In the current study, it was found that there was no significant difference between marital satisfaction of post-divorce remarried individuals who decided to divorce themselves, those whose ex-spouse decided to divorce, and those who decided to divorce together with their ex-spouse. No data have been reported comparing the marital satisfaction level of post-divorce remarried individuals in terms of decision of divorce. Therefore there is no study to compare this result. As stated earlier, individuals who initiate the divorce were found to be reported higher levels of adjustment to divorce than individuals who obeyed the decision of divorce (Ganong & Coleman, 1994; Yılmaz, 2002). Also, since decision of divorce may cause individuals to have different feelings (Gurman & Jacobson, 2002) their mood may differ before entering a new marriage. From this finding of the present study, it can be concluded that remarriage satisfaction is affected by the feelings that are related to new relationship rather than the feelings related to ex-relationship. Thus, marital satisfaction of post-divorce remarried individuals may not differ in terms of decision of divorce.

Results also showed that, no significant difference exist between the marital satisfaction of post-bereavement remarried participants whose ex-

spouses' death was sudden and whose ex-spouses' death was expected. No data have been reported investigating the difference in marital satisfaction of post-bereavement remarried individuals in terms of type of death of ex-spouse. Therefore there is no study to compare this result. The possible explanation may be that like in the decision of divorce situation, because of the effects of feelings experienced in new relationship, negative effect of feelings related to ex-relationship may disappear. That is, marital satisfaction of post-bereavement remarried individuals may be affected by the factors and feelings experienced in remarriage, therefore type of death of ex-spouse did not differentiate the remarriage satisfaction.

5.2. Implications for Practice

Results of the present study have some implications for professionals in developing effective prevention and intervention strategies. In order to develop effective treatment strategies professionals should have knowledge about the information available in the literature. Since there is no information on Turkish remarried families in the literature, the most important implication of the present study is that professionals may benefit from the study by being knowledgeable about remarried families in Turkish culture. Furthermore, knowing associations between demographic and contextual characteristics and marital satisfaction would have baseline information about remarried families, which may help clinicians to understand the marital relationship more broadly.

In addition to its theoretical implications, the present study has some implications for professionals working with remarried families. No difference was found between marital satisfaction of first married and remarried families in the current study. This is evidence for remarried individuals' ability to adapt and respect differences in people and ways of living, which is strength of remarried families. Clinicians should consider and utilize this strength, and inform the family about the strength, which may prevent relational distress

and help remarried families grow stronger in their relationships and functioning.

In the current study, women reported lower marital satisfaction when compared to men. This implies that couples may tend to hold different evaluations of their relationships. In other words the meaning of marriage may be influenced by different sets of events for husbands and wives. Clinicians should take this difference into consideration during the therapy. Also, clinicians must help couple to realize their differences in evaluation of events in order to prevent the misinterpretations about each other's behaviors.

The present study also indicates that remarried families with residential stepchildren had lower levels of marital satisfaction. Clinicians should assess the meaning of residing with children for couples, and be aware of the impact of relationship between stepparent and stepchildren as well as between natural parent and the children on the couples' ability to function and on their perceived marital satisfaction. Taking these issues into consideration clinicians may help their clients to construct healthy interactions by teaching them effective communication skills and conflict management. Furthermore, giving priority to the marital relationship rather than parent-child dyad may help to reduce marital stress.

In the current study, post-divorce remarried families with mutual children had lower marital satisfaction. This implies that having a mutual child is not likely to strengthen the bonds in remarried families. In other words, remarried families cannot count on a new baby to improve family relations. Therefore, professionals should inform the remarried families about this issue.

This study also indicates that level of marital satisfaction increases over time. It is clear that couples experience distress in the early years of remarriage as well as first marriage. If the possible factors for decrease in marital satisfaction of younger marriages can be identified, prevention strategies can be determined in the therapy. In addition, professionals should reassure the couple that such problems are commonly experienced to help

them to recognize that the kinds of problems are not unique to them, which in turn may reduce and prevent marital difficulties.

An important function that professionals can provide is to inform the people about realities of remarried family life and characteristics of the remarried family system. Education may help remarried individuals to adapt and adjust the new family, and to give up myths and unrealistic expectations regarding remarriage.

5.3. Strengths and Limitations of the Study

Some strengths of the present study as compared the previous research include the fact that it included broader contextual variables like gender and age of stepchildren. Similarly, the data included the remarried couples who had no stepchildren as well as the residence of stepchildren for those who had stepchildren. This enabled to test for differences more comprehensively. Another strength of this study is that it considered the effect of different remarriage households by controlling the number of remarriages, by comparing marital satisfaction of post-bereavement remarriage and post-divorce remarriage, and by examining the contextual and demographic variables related to remarriage satisfaction in different remarried households.

There are obviously some limitations of the present study. First, the sample was not randomly selected. The sample was generated through the snowball sampling technique, which may cause the participants present more socially desirable responses, although they were assured about confidentiality.

Second, the present study examined individuals, instead of couples. It would be likely that more confidence can be invested in the validity of conclusions drawn from the perceptions of both spouses in marital relationship. A similar limitation of the current study is that data were collected from the individuals who were the biological parents of stepchildren.

Examining the stepparent's response to stepchildren's effect would give extra knowledge.

A final limitation of the present study is that it is cross-sectional rather than longitudinal. The study only measured present levels of marital satisfaction. Thus it is not possible to know whether individuals who are currently high or low in satisfaction were always so. A longitudinal analysis would provide information about the effects of the study variables on marital satisfaction over time.

5.4. Suggestions for Future Research

Future research in this field would benefit from longitudinal studies which would provide information on how the remarried family members' experiences, perceptions, interactions and satisfaction change over time. In addition, including multiple family members as respondents would add richness. Additionally, assessing the quality of stepparent-stepchild relationship would add valuable information on the effect of stepchildren in marital satisfaction. Also, comparing perceived marital satisfaction of Turkish remarried individuals in their current marriage to that in the previous marriage would give an extra knowledge on remarriage satisfaction. This would also make clear whether the remarried individuals are biased in their reports by comparing their current marriage to the previous marriage. Finally, assessing the differences in marital satisfaction of simple (only one partner is remarried and it is the first marriage of the other partner) and complex (both partners have at least one prior marriage) Turkish remarried families, and examining the contributors of marital satisfaction in these households would contribute to the literature.

5.5. Conclusion

The present study is the first attempt to investigate the dynamics of remarried families in Turkish literature as well as the differences in marital

satisfaction of post-divorce and post-bereavement remarried individuals in the literature. The study attempted to gain a perspective on the effect of marital status and gender on marital satisfaction, the effect of stepchildren on remarriage satisfaction, and the relationship between marital satisfaction and demographic and contextual variables in different households. Despite the greater potential complexity of marital roles and problems that remarriage implies, remarried individuals report levels of satisfaction which are close to those reported by their first married counterparts. It was also found that there was no significant difference between the marital satisfaction level of post-divorce remarried individuals and post-bereavement remarried individuals. Consistent with related literature, remarried individuals with residential stepchildren had lower levels of marital satisfaction. The present study provides support for the notion that remarried families are complex and need to be investigated with an awareness of this complexity. Furthermore, having identified demographic and contextual issues that predict and associated with marital satisfaction of remarried families, the present study contributed to an understanding of the Turkish remarriage dynamics in its framework.

REFERENCES

Adler-Baeder, F., & Higginbotham, B. (2004). Implications of remarriage and stepfamily formation for marriage education. Family Relations, 53, 448-458

Aileye ilişkin genel istatistik verileri (2002). Retrieved September 28, 2005 from: <http://www.aile.gov.tr/aileist.htm>

Albrecht, S.L. (1979) Correlates of marital happiness among the remarried. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 41,857-867

Amato, P.R., & Booth, A. (2001). The legacy of parents' marital discord: Consequences for children's marital quality. Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 81, 627-638

Asgari ücret miktarları (2006). Retrieved April 26, 2006 from: <http://www.ivdb.gov.tr/pratik/oranlar/uc.htm>

Atalay, B., Konaş, Y.M., Beyazıt, S.,& Madenoğlu, K. (1993). Türk Aile Yapısı Araştırması. Ankara: TC. Başbakanlık Devlet Planlama Teşkilatı.

Balkwell, C. (1981). Transition to widowhood: A review of the literature. Family Relations, 30, 117-127

Basat, Ç. (2004). An exploration of marital satisfaction, locus of control, and self-esteem as predictors of sexual satisfaction. Unpublished masters thesis, Middle East Technical University.

Bernard, J. (1971). Remarriage. New York: Russell & Russell

Blood, R.O. (1969). Marriage. New York: The Free Press

Blum, J.S., & Mehrabian, A. (1999). Personality and temperament correlates of marital satisfaction. Journal of Personality, 67, 93-125.

Booth, A., & Edwards, J.N. (1992). Starting over: Why remarriages are more unstable. Journal of Family Issues, 13, 179-194

Bradbury, T.N., Fincham, F.D., & Beach, S.R.H. (2000). Research on the nature and determinants of marital satisfaction: A decade in review. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 62, 964-980

Bray, J.H. (1994). What does a stepfamily look like? Family Journal, 2, 66-70

Brody, G., Neubaum, E., & Forehand, R. (1988). Serial marriage: A heuristic analysis of an emerging family form. Psychological Bulletin, 103, 211-222

Bumpass, L., Sweet, J., & Martin, T.C. (1990). Changing patterns of remarriage. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 52, 747-756

Burr, W.R., Leigh, G.K., Day, R.D., & Constantine, J. (1979). Symbolic Interactions and the Family. In W. Burr, R. Hill, F.I. Nye, & I. Reiss, eds. Contemporary Theories about the Family. New York: Free Press

Buunk, B.P., & Mutsaers, W. (1999). Equity perceptions and marital satisfaction in former and current marriage: A study among the remarried. Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, 16, 123-132

Carey, M.P., Spector, I.P., Lantinga, L.J., & Krauss, D.J. (1993). Reliability of the Dyadic Adjustment Scale. Psychological Assessment, 5, 238-240

Carter, E., & McGoldrick, M. (1989). The Changing Family Life Cycle: A Framework for Family Therapy. New York: Gardner

Clarke, S.C., & Wilson, B.F. (1994). The relative stability of remarriages: A cohort approach using vital statistics. Family Relations, 43, 305-310

Clingempeel, W.G., Brand, E., & Segal, S. (1987). A multilevel-multivariate developmental perspective for future research on stepfamilies. In Pasley, K. & Ihinger-Tallman, M. (Eds). Remarriage and Step-parenting Today: Current Research and Theory. New York: Guilford, pp. 65-93

Coleman, M., & Ganong, L.H. (1990) Remarriage and stepfamily research in the 1980s: Increased interest in an old family form. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 52, 925-940

Coleman, M., Ganong, L., & Fine, M. (2000). Reinvestigating remarriage: Another decade of progress. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 62, 1288-1307

Crosbie- Burnett, M. (1984) The centrality of step relationship: A challenge to family theory and practice. Family Relations, 33, 459-463

Crosbie- Burnett, M. (1989) Application of family stress theory to remarriage: A model for assessing and helping stepfamilies. Family Relations, 38, 323-331

Crosbie- Burnett, M., & McClintic, K. (2000). Remarriage and Recoupling. In P. McKenry & S. Price (Eds.), Families and change: Coping with stressful life events (2nd ed.). Newbury Park, CA: Sage. pp. 219-241

Crosbie- Burnett, M., & McClintic, K. (2003). Remarriage. Retrieved February 10, 2006 from the World Wide Web: <http://issues.families.com/remarriage-1323-1325-iemf>

Day, R.D., & Bahr, S.J. (1986). Income changes following divorce and remarriage. Journal of Divorce, 9, 75-88

Demaris, A. (1984) A comparison of remarriages with first marriages on satisfaction in marriage and its relationship to prior cohabitation. Family Relations, 33, 443-449

Demir, A., & Fıfılođlu, H. (1999). Loneliness and marital adjustment of Turkish couples. Journal of Psychology, 133, 230-240

Dentler, R.A., & Pieno, P.C. (1960). Sexual adjustment, marital adjustment and personal growth of husbands: A panel analysis. Marriage and Family Living, 22, 45-48

Donohue, K.C., & Ryder, R.G. (1982). A methodological note on marital satisfaction and social variables. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 44, 743-747

Evlenme İstatistikleri (2004). Retrieved September 28, 2005 from the World Wide Web: http://www.nvi.gov.tr/11,Evlenme2004_Istatikleri.html

Erel, O., & Burman, B. (1995). Interrelatedness of marital relations and parent-child relations: A meta analytic review. Psychological Bulletin, 118, 108-132

Ertan, Ö. (2002). The role of attachment styles in partner pairing and satisfaction within marriage in critical and non-critical stages. Unpublished masters thesis. Middle East Technical University.

Fıfılođlu, H., & Demir, A. (2000). Applicability of the Dyadic Adjustment Scale for measurement of marital quality with Turkish couples. European Journal of Psychological Assessment, 16, 214-218

Fincham, F.D., & Bradbury, T.N. (1987). The impact of attributions in marriage: A longitudinal analysis. Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 53, 510-517

Fine, M.A., & Kurdek, L.A. (1995) Relation between marital quality and (step) parent-child relationship quality for parents and stepparents in stepfamilies. Journal of Family Psychology, 9, 216-223

Fine, M.A., Coleman, M., & Ganong, L.H. (1998). Consistency in perceptions of the stepparent role among stepparents, parents and children. Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, 15, 810-828

Gagnon, M.D., Hersen, M., Kabacoff, R.I., & Hasselt, V.B. (1999). Interpersonal and psychological correlates of marital dissatisfaction in late life: A review. Clinical Psychology Review, 19, 359-378

Ganong, L.H., & Coleman, M. (1988). Do mutual children cement bonds in stepfamilies? Journal of Marriage and the Family, 50, 687-698

Ganong, L.H., & Coleman, M. (1994). Remarried Family Relationships. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Ganong, L.H., Coleman, M., & Mapes, D. (1990). A meta-analytic review of family structure stereotypes. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 52, 287-297

Giguère, J., Fortin, C., & Sabourin, S. (1999). Determinants of relationship satisfaction for people living in a first or second conjugal union. International Journal of Psychology, 3, 119-132.

Gilford, R., & Bengtson, V. (1979). Measuring marital satisfaction in three generations: Positive and negative dimensions. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 41, 387-398

Gladding, S.T. (1998). Family Therapy: History, Theory and Practice. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall

Glass, S.P., & Wright, T.L. (1977). The relationship of extramarital sex, length of marriage, and sex differences on marital satisfaction and romanticism: Athanasiou's data reanalyzed. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 39, 691-703

Guisinger, S., Cowan, P.A., & Schulberg, D. (1989). Changing parent and spouse relations in the first years of remarriage of divorced fathers. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 51, 445-456

Gurman, A.S., & Jacobson, N.S. (2002). Clinical Handbook of Couple Therapy. New York: The Guilford Press. (p.519)

Hafkin, N. (1981). Factors affecting satisfaction in the remarried couple. Dissertation Abstracts International 42: 1960A (Order No. ADG81-24269).

Hamel, L.A. (1997). An assessment of marital satisfaction in stepfamilies toward an integration of three conceptual models of relationship satisfaction. Dissertation abstracts International, 58 (5-A), p. 1601.

Hawkins, J.L. (1968). Associations between companionship, hostility and marital satisfaction. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 30, 647-650

Hetherington, E.M. (1993). An overview of the Virginia longitudinal study of divorce and remarriage with a focus on early adolescence. Journal of Family Psychology, 7, 39-56

Heyman, R.E., Sayers, S.L., & Bellack, A.S. (1994). Global marital satisfaction versus marital adjustment: An empirical comparison of three measures. Journal of Family Psychology, 8, 432-446

Hobart, C. (1991). Conflict in remarriages. Journal of Divorce and Remarriage, 15, 69-86

Hortaçsu, N., & Oral, A. (1993). Comparison of couple- and family-initiated marriages in Turkey. The Journal of Social Psychology, 134, 229-239

Hünler, O.S. (2002). The effects of religiousness on marital satisfaction and the mediator role of perceived marital problem solving abilities between religiousness and marital satisfaction relationship. Unpublished masters thesis, Middle East Technical University.

Hünler, O.S., & Gençöz, T. (2003). Boyun eğici davranışlar ve evlilik doyumu ilişkisi: Algılanan evlilik problemleri çözümünün rolü. Türk Psikoloji Dergisi, 18, 99-110

Johnson, D.R., & Booth, A. (1998). Marital quality: A product of the dyadic environment or individual factors? Social Forces, 76, 883-904

Juni, S., & Grimm, D.W. (1993). Marital satisfaction and sex-roles in a New York metropolitan sample. Psychological Reports, 73, 307-314

Kağıtçıbaşı, Ç. (1998). Kültürel Psikoloji: Kültür Bağlamında İnsan ve Aile. İstanbul: Yapı Kredi Kültür Sanat Yayıncılık

Kamo, Y. (2001). Marital Adjustment. Retrieved February 10, 2006 from the World Wide Web: <http://culture.families.com/marital-adjustment-eos>

Karney, B.R., & Bradbury, T.N. (1995). The longitudinal course of marital quality and stability: A review of theory, method and research. Psychological Bulletin, 118, 3-34

Kheshgi-Genovese, K., & Genovese, T.A. (1997). Developing the spousal relationship within stepfamilies. The Journal of Contemporary Human Services, May-June, 255-264

Kobak, R.R., & Hazan, C. (1991). Attachment in marriage: Effects of security and accuracy of working models. Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 60, 861-869

Kurdek, L.A. (1989). Relationship quality for newly married husbands and wives: Marital history, stepchildren, and individual-difference predictors. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 51, 1053-1064

Kurdek, L.A. (1990). Effects of child age on the marital quality and psychological distress of newly married mothers and stepfathers. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 52, 81-85

Kurdek, L.A. (1991). Marital stability and changes in marital quality in newly couples: A test of the contextual model. Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, 8, 27-48

Kurdek, L.A., & Fine, M.A. (1991). Cognitive correlates of satisfaction for mothers and stepfathers in stepfather families. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 53, 565-572

Kurdek, L.A. (1996). Parenting satisfaction and marital satisfaction in mothers and fathers with young children. Journal of Family Psychology, 10, 331-342

Lee, S.C. (1999). Marital Satisfaction Factors for Korean-Americans. Dissertation Abstract Internationals, 60 (7-B), p. 3619.

Levenson, R.W., Carstensen, L.L., & Gottman, J.M. (1993). Long-term marriage: Age, gender, and satisfaction. Psychology and Aging, 8, 301-313

Locke, H.J., & Wallace, K.M. (1959). Short marital-adjustment and prediction tests: Their reliability and validity. Marriage and Family Living, 21, 251-255

Malkoç, B. (2001). The relationship between communication patterns and marital adjustment. Unpublished masters thesis, Middle East Technical University.

O'Connor, T.G., & Insabella, G.M. (1999). Marital satisfaction, relationships, and roles. Monographs of the Society for Research in Child Development, 64, 50-78

Orleans, M., Palisi, B.J., & Caddell, D. (1989). Marriage adjustment and satisfaction of stepfathers: Their feelings and perceptions of decision making and stepchildren relations. Family Relations, 38, 371-377

Parkes, C.M. (1975). Determinants of outcome following bereavement. Omega: The Journal of Death and Dying, 6, 303-323.

Pasley, K. (1993). What Do We Know about the Marital Relationship for Stepfamilies? Retrieved February 10, 2006 from: <http://www.saafamilies.org/education/articles/research/pasley-1-93.htm> - 15k

Pearson, J.C. (1993). Communication in the Family. (2nd Ed.) New York: Harper Collins

Peterson, J. (1973). Marital and family therapy involving the aged. The Gerontologist, 13, 27-31

Piercy, F.P., & Sprenkle, D.H. (1986). Family Therapy Source Book. New York: Guilford

Pill, C.J. (1990). Stepfamilies: Redefining the family. Family Relations, 39, 186-193

Pink, J.E.T., & Wampler, K.S. (1985). Problem areas in stepfamilies: Cohesion, adaptability, and the stepfather-adolescent relationship. Family Relations, 34, 327-335

Rhyme, D. (1981). Bases of marital satisfaction among men and women. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 43, 941-955

Roach, J.A., Frazier, P.L., & Bowden, R.S. (1981). The marital satisfaction scale: Development of a measure for intervention research. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 43,

Robinson, L.C., & Blanton, P.W. (1993). Marital strengths in enduring marriages. Family Relations, 42, 38-45

Rosen-Grandon, J.R., Myers, J.E., & Hattie, J.A. (2004). The relationship between marital characteristics, marital interaction processes, and marital satisfaction. Journal of Counseling and Development, 82, 58-68

Sabatelli, R.M. (1984). The marital comparison level index: A measure for assessing outcomes relative to expectations. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 46, 651-662

Schultz, N.C., Schultz, C.L., & Olson, D.H. (1991). Couple strengths and stressors in complex and simple stepfamilies in Australia. Journal of marriage and the Family, 53, 555-564

Skyles, A. (1983). Selected variables affecting stepparent perception of dyadic adjustment in remarriage. Dissertation Abstracts International, 44 (2890A).

Spainer, G.B. (1976). Measuring dyadic adjustment: A new scale for assessing the quality of marriage and similar dyads. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 38, 15-28

State Institute of Statistics Prime Ministry Republic of Turkey (2004). Divorce Statistics. Ankara

State Institute of Statistics Prime Ministry Republic of Turkey (2004). Marriage statistics. Ankara

Stinnett, N., Collins, J., & Montgomery, J.E. (1972). Marital need satisfaction of older husbands and wives. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 32, 428-434

Sweeney, M.M., & Replogle, E.E. (2002). Marital Relationship. Retrieved February 10, 2006 from the World Wide Web: <http://health.families.com/marital-relationships-869-872-eoa>

Tezcan, M. (1990). Ailenin sosyal- kültürel raporu: Toplumsal değişme ve aile. Türkiye Aile Yıllığı içinde (63-74). Ankara: TC Başbakanlık Aile Araştırma Kurumu Başkanlığı.

Truncale, P.K. (1996). The relationship between stepfamily configuration, marital adjustment and the familial environment. Dissertation Abstracts International, 56 (12-B), p. 7100.

Vaillant, C.O., & Vaillant, G.E. (1993). Is the u-curve of marital satisfaction an illusion? A 40-year study of marriage. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 55, 230-239

Vemer, E., Coleman, M., Ganong, L.H., & Cooper, H. (1989). Marital satisfaction in remarriage: A meta-analysis. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 51, 713-725

Volsky, J.A. (1998). Intimacy, marital satisfaction, and sexuality in mature couples. Dissertation Abstract, MAI 37/06, p. 1972.

Voydanoff, P. (1990). Economic Distress and family relations: A review of the eighties. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 52, 1099-1115

Wald, E. (1981). The Remarried Family: Challenges and Promise. New York: Family Service Association of America.

White, L.K. (1979). Sex differentials in the effect of remarriage on global happiness. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 41, 869-876

White, J.M. (2003). Marital Quality. Retrieved February 10, 2006 from the World Wide Web: <http://issues.families.com/marital-quality-1070-1078-iemf>

White, L.K., & Booth, A. (1985) The quality and stability of remarriages: The role of stepchildren. American Sociological Review, 50, 689-698

Wilson, B.F., & Clarke, S.C. (1992). Remarriages: A demographic profile. Journal of Family Issues, 13, 123-141

Xiaohe, X., & Whyte, M.K. (1990). Love matches and arranged marriages: A Chinese replication. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 52, 709-722

Yılmaz, A.E. (2002). The prediction of divorced parents' emotional/social adjustment and psychological distress from perceived power/control over child-related concerns, perceived social support, and demographic characteristics. Unpublished masters thesis, Middle East Technical University, Ankara.

Zick, C.D., & Smith, K.R. (1988). Recent widowhood, remarriage, and changes in economic well-being. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 50, 233-244

APPENDICES**APPENDIX A****DYADIC ADJUSTMENT SCALE
(ÇİFTLER UYUM ÖLÇEĞİ)**

Sample items:

- Eşinizi öper misiniz?

Her gün	Hemen hemen her gün	Ara sıra	Nadiren	Hiçbir zaman

- Siz ve eşiniz ev dışı etkinliklerinizin ne kadarına birlikte katılırsınız?

Hepsine	Çoğuna	Bazılarına	Çok azına	Hiçbirine

Yazışma Adresi:

Prof. Dr. Hürol Fışiloğlu, ODTÜ Psikoloji Bölümü, Ankara

APPENDIX B**INFORMATION FORM
(BİLGİ FORMU)**

Sayın Katılımcı;

Bu araştırma Orta Doğu Teknik Üniversitesi, Psikoloji Bölümü Klinik Psikoloji Yüksek Lisans programı kapsamında yürütülen bir tez çalışmasıdır. Çalışma evlilik yaşantısının özelliklerini incelemeyi amaçlamaktadır. Bu amaçla sunulan ölçekleri cevaplandırmanız, bu konuda yapılan çalışmaya yardımcı olacaktır. Elde edilen bilgiler bilimsel araştırma dışında hiçbir amaçla kullanılmayacak, ve verdiğiniz cevaplar kesinlikle gizli tutulacaktır.

Çalışmaya katkıda bulunmayı kabul ederseniz size gönderilen bilgi formu ve ölçeği doldururken;

- Kimlik belirleyici bilgilere ihtiyaç olmadığı için kimliğiniz ile ilgili hiç bir bilgi vermenize gerek yoktur. (İsim, Adres, ..vs)
- Soruların doğru ya da yanlış cevapları yoktur. Araştırmanın sağlıklı sonuç vermesi için sizden beklenen, hiçbir maddeyi atlamadan, soruları içten ve sizin için en geçerli durumu düşünerek işaretlemenizdir.
- Soruları rahatsız edilmeden, başkalarının fikirlerini değil sadece kendi fikirlerinizi dikkate alarak, tek başınıza cevaplamanızı rica ederim.

Her ölçeğin başında ölçeğin amacını belirten ve cevaplayabilmeniz için ihtiyaç duyacağınız bilgileri içeren açıklamalar yer almaktadır. Lütfen bu açıklamaları dikkatlice okuyunuz.

Ölçekleri cevaplandırdıktan sonra zarfın içine koyup elime ulaşana kadar açılmaması için zarfın ağzını yapıştırmanızı rica ederim.

Gösterdiğiniz ilgi, yardım ve işbirliği için şimdiden teşekkür ederim.

Psikolog Esra Bir
ODTÜ Psikoloji Bölümü
Yüksek Lisans Öğrencisi

Yaşınız:

Cinsiyetiniz:

Eşinizin Yaşı:

1. Aylık ortalama geliriniz nedir?

- 300 YTL den az 300 - 800 YTL 800 - 1500 YTL
 1500 - 3000 YTL 3000 YTL den fazla

2. Kaçınıcı evliliğiniz?

- İlk evliliğim
 İkinci evliliğim
 Üçüncü yada daha sonraki evliliğim (kaçınıcı olduğunu belirtiniz)

(Eğer şu anki evliliğiniz ilk evliliğinizse 9. soruya geçiniz)

3. Eğer şü anki evliliğiniz ilk evliliğiniz değilse, bir önceki evliliğinizin bitme nedeni nedir?

- Boşandım Eşim vefat etti

4. Eğer boşandıysanız, aşağıdaki ifadelerden size uygun olanını işaretleyiniz

- Boşanmaya ben karar verdim
 Boşanmaya eski eşim karar verdi
 Boşanmaya beraber karar verdik

5. Eğer eski eşiniz vefat ettiyse, aşağıdaki ifadelerden size uygun olanını işaretleyiniz

- Eski eşim bir süredir ağır hastaydı ve bu hastalık döneminin sonunda vefat etti
 Eski eşim aniden vefat etti

6. Bir önceki evliliğiniz ne kadar sürdü? (Yıl ve ay olarak belirtiniz)

Yıl Ay
.....

7. Bir önceki evliliğinizin bitimiyle şü anki evliliğinizin başlangıcı arasında ne kadar süre geçti? (Yıl ve ay olarak belirtiniz)

Yıl Ay
.....

8. Eski evliliğinizden çocuklarınız var mı?

- Evet Hayır

Cevabınız “Evet” se,

Eski evliliğinizden olan çocuklarınızın cinsiyetlerini ve yaşlarını belirtiniz

	Cinsiyet	Yaş
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Eski evliliğinizden olan çocuklarınız sizinle birlikte mi oturuyorlar?

- Evet Hayır

9. Şu anki evliliğinizden çocuklarınız var mı?

- Evet Hayır

Cevabınız “Evet” se,

Şu anki evliliğinizden olan çocuklarınızın cinsiyetlerini ve yaşlarını belirtiniz

	Cinsiyet	Yaş
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

10.Şu anki evliliğiniz ne kadar süredir devam ediyor? (Yıl ve ay olarak belirtiniz)

Yıl Ay
.....

11.Şu anki evliliğinizi düşünerek aşağıdaki ifadelerden size uygun olanını işaretleyiniz

- Görücü usulüyle evlendik
- Görücü usulüyle tanıştırlıp kendi kararımızla evlendik
- Kendimiz tanışarak ya da arkadaşlar/dostlar vasıtasıyla tanıştırlıp bir süre duygusal ilişki yaşadıkdan sonra evlendik