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THE ROLE OF CERTAIN DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES
AND MARITAL CONFLICT IN
MARITAL SATISFACTION OF HUSBANDS AND WIVES

A Master's Thesis

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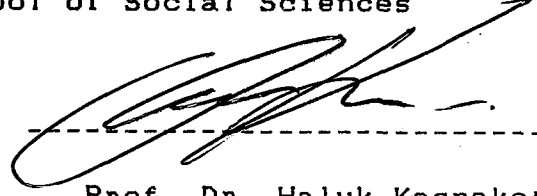
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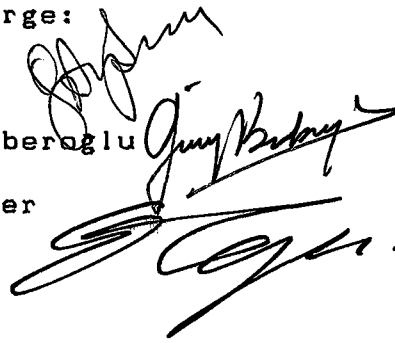
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ABSTRACT

THE ROLE OF CERTAIN DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES
AND MARITAL CONFLICT IN
MARITAL SATISFACTION OF HUSBANDS AND WIVES

HATIPOGLU, ZEYNEP

M.S. in Educational Sciences

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The purpose of the present study was to investigate the roles of certain demographic variables, expansion and frequency of marital conflict in marital satisfaction of husbands and wives.

The data were gathered by administering three instruments, namely Demographic Inventory (DI), Marital Conflict Questionnaire (MCQ) and Marital Life Scale (MLS) to 77 married couples (composing 154 individuals) in the province of Ankara.

Stepwise multiple regression analysis revealed that

different variables effect husbands' and wives' marital satisfaction. Expansion of marital conflict appeared as significant predictor of husbands marital satisfaction. On the other hand, expansion of marital conflict and educational level appeared as significant predictors of wives marital satisfaction.

Keywords: Expansion of marital conflict, Frequency of marital conflict, Marital satisfaction, Demographic variables.

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ÖZET

BAZI DEMOGRAFİK DEĞİŞKENLERİN VE EVLİLİK ÇATIŞMASININ EVLİ EŞLERİN EVLİLİK DOYUMUNDAKİ ROLÜ

HATİPOĞLU, ZEYNEP

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Bu çalışmanın amacı bazı demografik değişkenler ile, evlilik çatışmasının yaygınlığı ve sıklığının kadın ve erkek eşlerin evlilik doyumundaki rolünü araştırmaktır.

Veriler, Demografik Envanter, Evlilik Yaşamı Anketi ve Evlilik Yaşamı Ölçeğinin Ankara ili Merkez ilçesindeki 77 evli çiftte (154 kişi) uygulanmasıyla elde edilmiştir.

Çoklu regrasyon analizi sonuçları kadın ve erkek eşlerin evlilik doyumuna farklı değişkenlerin etki ettiğini göstermiştir. Evlilik çatışmasının yaygınlığı erkek eşlerin

evlilik doyumunu aıklayan deęiřken olarak grlmektedir. Buna karřılık, evlilik atıřmasının yaygınlığı ve eğitim dzeyi kadın eřlerin evlilik doyumunu aıklayan deęiřkenler olarak ortaya ıkmıřtır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Evlilik atıřmasının yaygınlığı, Evlilik atıřmasının sıklığı, Evlilik doyumunu, Demografik deęiřkenler.

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Zeynep Hatipoglu
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Understanding marital relationship is an issue long pursued by family researchers in various disciplines and today, this interest shows no sign of diminishing. Evaluation of marital relationships has taken many forms based on various criteria for determining relational effectiveness. Probably the most frequently used criterion for assessing the functionality of marital relationship is the construct of satisfaction.

Marital satisfaction can be defined as an overall subjective evaluation of marriage. It is the degree to which needs, expectations and desires are met in marriage. The most widely accepted definition of "marital satisfaction" focuses on the individuals' perception of marriage rather than the couples'. For instance, Hawkins (1968:648) defined marital satisfaction as "the subjective feelings of happiness and pleasure experienced by a spouse when considering all current aspects of his/her marriage.

The study of marital satisfaction has commanded great interest since the first study of Hamilton (1929). Formerly, marital satisfaction was studied mainly for its possible predictive usefulness in understanding marital relationship and stability of marriage, i.e., what happens when marital satisfaction is/is not achieved or marital satisfaction as an independent variable (Terman and Wallin, 1949; Locke and Wallace, 1951; Burgess and Wallin, 1953; Luckey, 1961). Recent concern, however, has been with marital satisfaction as a dependent variable, i.e., as a phenomena worthy of study and understanding in and itself (Miller, 1976; Rhyne, 1981; deTurck et. al., 1986; Macewen, 1988; Suitor, 1991). In this line of research, there has been a considerable amount of study aimed at determining the variables which are related to marital satisfaction (Barnett and Nietzel, 1979; Schram, 1979; Argyle and Furnham, 1983; Maneker and Rankin, 1985; Voydanoff et. al., 1988). These variables can be grouped under the two main headings: demographic variables and variables related to different aspects of marital conflict.

Within demographic variables, sex is considered as a distinguished variable. Schumm et. al., (1985) mentioned that "contemporary marriage has different meanings for

husbands and wives. Therefore his marital satisfaction is quite different from her marital satisfaction".

Studies in 1970's on marital satisfaction in different fields also implicitly support this idea. Especially Jessie Bernard's (1972) provocative thesis that marriage is better for men than it is for women has generated a good deal of study and discussion. Bernard cited a number of studies indicating that men seem to obtain greater mental health benefits from marriage than do women. These differences in mental health outcomes are produced at the level of marital interaction that favour husbands in some way.

In traditional families, gender based role ascriptions plays an important part in family role assignments. Men often perform the instrumental role of provider and occupy a position of greater authority and influence as compared to the women who are entrusted with the expressive roles of housekeeping and child care. However, this division of task and the source of satisfaction may vary depending upon stages in the life cycle and the resources of marriage partners (Comvel and Olson, 1975; Sconzoni and Polonko, 1980; Shukla and Kapoor, 1990).

The adoption of a developmental perspective for studying the marital satisfaction has focused attention on the stages in the family life cycle. The span of the time from the beginning of a family with the marriage of a young couple, the bearing, rearing and launching of their children, through the time when they are again alone together, until the retirement and inevitable death of one of them is referred to as the family life cycle (Schram, 1979). Research on the relationship between marital satisfaction and family life cycle stage produced inconsistent or conflicting results. Some scholars cite data indicating a decline in satisfaction with succeeding later stages; others predict an upswing toward the retirement stage to levels as high or higher than the early stages (Blood and Wolfe, 1960; Pineo, 1961; Lucky, 1966; Burr, 1970; Rollins and Feldman, 1970; Rollins and Cannon, 1974; Spanier et al., 1975; Schram, 1979).

With respect to gender differences over the family life cycle, research results suggest that women are more strongly affected by the age and presence of children than are men (Miller, 1976; Rollins and Galligan, 1978; Rhyne, 1981). Other research results, however, indicate no significant gender differences over the family life cycle

(Rollins and Feldman, 1970; Rollins and Cannon, 1974).

Related to the above, Laws (1971) reviewed several studies which suggest the hypothesis that children reduce marital satisfaction. Several reasons for this relationship are suggested including the feelings of being tied down, the extra household work children create and the diversion of attention from the spouse to the child or children. On the other hand, White et. al., (1986) found that the presence of children is associated with differences in marital structure such as lower interaction and more dissatisfaction with finances.

Among the most widely discussed various resources marriage partners have and effects of them to the marital satisfaction are the ones related to employment statuses that is occupational residence, education and income.

Wives' entry into the formal economic structure is the most important of all changes that are taking place in women's role. There is a growing literature documenting the impact of both a husband and wife working outside the home on life within the family. Increasing attention is being paid to the amount and scheduling of work time and their

relation to marital satisfaction (White, 1983; Voydanoff, 1988; White and Keith, 1990). Generally, these studies found that excessive involvement in work reduces marital quality by reducing the amount of time spouses spend together and limits the extent to which spouses are physically available for family activities that associated with more conflict and less marital satisfaction.

Education and income are the other resources that mostly associated with employment statuses and marital satisfaction. The correlation between educational level and marital satisfaction, thus, seems well established in the literature. Results of many studies show that relatively high education enhances the relationship and increases the marital satisfaction (e.g., Levinger, 1965; Renne, 1970; Rho, 1989; Harrell, 1990). Likewise, relatively high income correlated more with the marital satisfaction (Renne, 1970; Voydanoff et. al., 1988; Rho, 1989; Vijayanthimala, 1991).

Second group of variables namely, variables related to marital conflict have often been cited as the primary predictor of marital satisfaction (Barry,1970; Glick and Gross, 1975; Gottman et. al.,1977; Kelley et. al., 1983; Markman, 1991).

Kelley (1983) has assigned to conflict the central role in understanding the development and dissolution of marriage relationship. Furthermore, he mentioned that conflict is seen as the "window through which we can observe marriage relationship function".

Conflict occurs when solutions are reached that are not satisfying for the partners. Marital relationship provides a natural base for conflict since spouses are interdependent and experience problems due to their interdependency. Interactions in this relationship occur over many different kind of issues, involve many different kinds of goals and interests.

Kelley et. al., (1979) and Gottman (1979) and his colleagues have interviewed young heterosexual couples to determine the range of problems they report. Results of the studies are consistent in showing extremely wide varieties of issues over which conflict may arise. Gottman distinguished 85 kinds of conflict situations that include how to spend time together, how to manage money, how to deal with in-laws, who did which chores, frequency and mode of sexual intercourse, insufficient expressions of affect, exaggerated expressions of affect, personal habits,

political views, religious beliefs, jealousies toward other men and women, relatives and the couples' own children.

Although married partners can come into conflict over practically any kind of issue that might engage them, not all of them do experience conflict in the same areas and at the same levels of intensity. In addition, couples may involve rarely an intense conflict over a single issue or involve frequent but less intense conflict over many issues (Peterson, 1983).

From theoretical point of view, Deutsch (1969) mentioned that it is often useful to distinguish between the "manifest" conflict and the "underlying" conflict. Each of these manifest conflicts may be symptomatic of underlying conflict. Manifest conflict often can not be resolved more than temporarily unless the underlying conflict is dealt with or unless it can be disconnected and separated from the underlying conflict so that it can be treated in isolation. He also added that the other factors may make a conflict move in one direction to other. For instance, destructive conflict is characterized by a tendency to expand the area of conflict. As a result, such conflict often becomes independent of its initiating causes

and is likely to continue after these have become irrelevant or have been forgotten. Expansion occurs along the various dimensions of conflict, for example, the size and number of immediate issues. Constructive conflict, on the other hand, is characterized by a mutual recognition of each other's interests, open and honest communication of information and a trusting and friendly attitude which allow both parties the flexibility to find creative solutions to the conflict that decrease its expansion and frequency.

The current empirical findings support this distinction. Generally, the findings indicated that distressed couples tended to engage in destructive conflict by losing focus on the topic and blaming one another, while nondistressed couples engaged in more constructive conflict (Sayers et. al., 1991; Markman, 1991).

Based on these discussions, in the present study, the predictive values of the demographic variables which have been long recognized by the literature, namely age, education, marital length, number of children, family life cycle, income, occupational residence, and the effects of expansion and frequency of conflict on marital satisfaction

were investigated.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

What are the effects of certain demographic variables namely, age, education, family type, marital length, number of children, family life cycle, income, occupational residence, and expansion and frequency of marital conflict on husbands'-wives' marital satisfaction?

1.2 Statement of the Subproblems

What are the effects of certain demographic variables (age, education, family type, marital length, number of children, family life cycle, income, occupational residence) and expansion and frequency of marital conflict on husbands' marital satisfaction?

What are the effects of certain demographic variables (age, education, family type, marital length, number of children, family life cycle, income, occupational residence) and expansion and frequency of marital conflict on wives' marital satisfaction?

1.3 Assumptions of the Study

The assumptions of the present study are:

1. Conflict is inevitable in marriage.
2. Decrease in marital satisfaction does not lead to dissolution of marriage.
3. The answers given to the instruments by the spouses reflect their own ideas.

1.4 Limitations of the Study

The limitations of the present study are:

1. This study was carried out with at least secondary school graduates, one year married couples in the province of Ankara.
2. Couples who had been married more than once were not included in the present study.
3. Since the present study conducted in the province

of Ankara, the results can not be generalized to Turkish population.

1.5 Definitions of the Terms

The terms that are commonly used in this study can be defined as follows:

Marital Satisfaction: It is defined as an overall subjective evaluation of marriage. It is the degree to which needs, expectations and desires are met in marriage.

Marital Conflict: It is an interpersonal process that occurs whenever the concern of one spouse interfere with the concern of another.

Expansion of Conflict: It covers the number of conflict issues that a spouse perceives in his/her relationship with the other spouse.

Frequency of Conflict: It implies how often a spouse has conflict in his/her marriage.

Family Life Cycle: It is the name given to the stages a family goes through in its developmental history.

Family Type: It includes nuclear and extended family.

Nuclear Family: is a family, consisting only of two parents and their offspring.

Extended Family: which consisted of parents, children and other close relatives, all living together in the same household.

Occupational Residence: It covers the place that a spouse works which determines his/her work schedule.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The role of conflict in maintenance of marital and family problems has long been recognized. Using a variety of methodologies, researchers have consistently demonstrated an empirical link between marital conflict and marital satisfaction.

Expansion and frequency are the two characteristics of

conflict. Through analyzing these characteristics of conflict, inferences can be made about the quality of marital relationship. Therefore, the present study is of interest because it tries to find out the relationship between marital conflict and marital satisfaction. Besides, research carried out in relation to the satisfaction of married couples in different countries was generally addressed to the difference between husbands' and wives' in the level of satisfaction (Ball,1991). The present study is of interest because it takes the current state of the literature by linking husbands' and wives' marital satisfaction with different demographic variables and marital conflict.

Additionally, in Turkey, little has been done to identify possible factors that contribute to marital satisfaction. The present study aims to contribute to filling in of this gap and to provide an initial step for further studies related to marital satisfaction.

Through the findings of this study there may be important implications for counseling setting. If the findings of the present study support the role of conflict in marital satisfaction, a counselor will be able to help

clients to find constructive ways of dealing with conflicts without expanding the issues. Also, results of the study may provide insight to the counselors about the nature of marital satisfaction with reference to Turkish husbands' and wives'.



CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This chapter contains three sections. The first one deals with the studies about marital satisfaction and demographic variables. The second one includes studies related to marital conflict and satisfaction. The third section covers studies related to marriage in Turkey.

2.1 Demographic Variables and Marital Satisfaction

The relationship between demographic variables and marital satisfaction were presented with research findings. Demographic variables included family life cycle, age, marital length, number of children, income, occupational residence and education.

There is much diversity within the field of marriage and family counseling, though almost all theorists and practitioners view the life cycle of the family as crucial variable influencing their work. The family life cycle is the name given to the stages a family goes through in its

developmental history.

Two of the more prominent models of the family life cycle are the eight-stage concept outlined by Duvall (1977) in which each stage is defined by the age of the oldest child, and the six-stage model outlined by Mc Goldrick and Carter (1982), which focuses primarily on necessary tasks of adults in families. The stages and tasks described by Duvall and Mc Goldrick- Carter overlap in many ways. Mc Goldrick and Carter start the family life cycle by focusing on the unattached young adult. The major task at this time is accepting parent-offspring separation by differentiating oneself from the family of origin, developing intimate peer relationships and becoming established in a work environment. The young adult then proceeds to other life challenges connected with the family, which is where Duvall's model begins:

1. *Married couple (without children)* The important tasks to accomplish at this stage include breaking away from the family of origin, establishing an identity as a couple. Defining roles and making rules within the marriage is begun at this point.
2. *Childbearing family (oldest child up to 30 months old)* A realignment of family roles and duties occurs at this

time. Couples become parents, as well as husbands and wives. Spouses may become jealous of the time each spends nurturing and taking care of the infant, and in the process the two may grow apart and become more distant. They are forced at this stage to deal differently with their own families, especially their parents.

3. *Preschool-age family (oldest child 30 months to 6 years old)* The challenge at this stage involves developing effective parenting skills to help the child learn how to interact productively with others.
4. *School-age family (oldest child 6 to 13 years old)* At this stage family members must learn to renegotiate boundaries and assigned roles. The family becomes more vulnerable to outside feedback due to the child's involvement with school and community activities.
5. *Teenage family (oldest child 13 to 20 years old)* The family's attention at this period is usually focused on outside activities. Adolescents in the family challenge the rules and boundaries of the family system as they seek to establish their own identities. At the same time, parents confront their own mortality in the form of mid-life crises, such as dealing with their own aging parents. This is a turbulent time for many families

because couples are required to deal with individual, marital and work issues along with the developmental crises of their children and parents.

6. *Launching-center family (oldest child is over 20)* The primary task of the family at this point is letting go. Parents and children must separate physically and emotionally from one another.
7. *Middle-aged parents family* This stage of family life is sometimes known as the empty-nest syndrome. Many couples during this stage feel a sense of relief in having children leave the family. The couple is left with more time to themselves and the period may be one of great happiness.
8. *Aging family members family* This last stage begins at retirement and ends with the death of one of the spouses. Many couples enjoy their greater freedom at this time, but economic matters and illnesses are major concerns.

Studies of marital satisfaction over the marital career have demonstrated a linear decline in satisfaction over the first 10 years of marriage for husbands or wives or both, variously locating the lowest level of satisfaction at the stage of the family life cycle

associated with the presence of teenagers (Luckey, 1966), with child-launching (Paris and Luckey, 1966), with empty nest (Gurin et al., 1960) or with retirement (Blood and Wolfe, 1960).

Rollins and Feldman (1970) conducted a research on marital satisfaction with using Duvall's eight-stage categorization of family life cycle. Data were obtained from both husbands and wives in 799 middle class families. The results suggest that husbands and wives are influenced in very different ways by stage of family life cycle experiences. In general, family life cycle experiences were more associated with marital satisfaction for wives than husbands. The majority of wives in the early stages were very satisfied. Then there was a gradual but extensive decline to the "teenage" stage, a levelling off to the "empty nest" stage and an extensive increase during the "retirement" stage. However, the husbands indicated a relatively high satisfaction from the "beginning" through the "teenage" stage. Then there was an extensive decline to the "launching" stage and an increase to the "empty nest" and "retirement" stages.

In the research of Boyd and Cannon (1974), 489 married

Mormons at each stage of Duvall's eight-stages of the family life cycle, were administered a questionnaire. The questionnaire contained the items from the Rollins and Feldman (1970) study on general marital satisfaction. In addition, the questionnaire contained the questions in the Locke-Wallace Scale in original content and format (Locke-Wallace, 1958). The questionnaire also contained the questions on marital satisfaction from the Blood and Wolfe (1960) interview schedule in initial content but modified in form for questionnaire presentation. It was found that, on all three measures of marital satisfaction there were significant stage differences on average marital satisfaction scores. This indicates that some pattern of change exists across stages of the family life cycle. However, they found no differences in the scores for females and males on any of the three measures of marital satisfaction. Therefore, it appears that husbands and wives are influenced in a similar way by events occurring concurrently with life cycle stages as far as marital satisfaction is concerned. Also, they found that, Locke-Wallace and the Rollins-Feldman measure indicate an inverted U-shaped curvilinear relationship as found in Rollins-Feldman study while the data from the Blood-Wolfe measure indicate an L-shaped relationship closer to the

continual decline found in the Blood-Wolfe study. They concluded that the discrepancy from the two earlier studies is due to the problems with the Blood-Wolfe measurement technique.

Burr (1970) gathered data from 116 middle class couples and divided sample to the seven family life cycle categories namely, pre-child; young children; school age; teen-age; launching; post-parental and retired to find out the effect of different experiences in these stages on marital satisfaction. Results suggested that the school-age stage was found to be the most difficult. Satisfaction in relationships with children remains low through adolescent years, but in most of the areas the adolescent years in this sample are the beginning of a rising trend that usually lasts until retirement.

196 married women were participated to the study of Anderson et al., (1983). The results showed that family life cycle and the total number of children were significant predictors of marital quality; but the proportion of variance accounted for was slight. Furthermore, marital quality was shown to be accounted for best by a statistically significant curvilinear U-shaped

trend over the family life cycle.

Schumm and Bugaighis (1986) by using the same data of Anderson et al., was reanalysed from the perspective of integrating the combined effects of preschool children, employment, social class and marital social desirability. Results indicated that much of the observed decline in marital satisfaction during the middle stages of the life cycle can be explained as a result of the impact of preschool children on a specific group of low-income mothers, who were employed full time and were finding too little time to discuss daily matters with their husbands, even though they perceived their husbands as just as caring and understanding as did other, less-stressed wives.

Nock (1979) carried out a research with 1746 married individuals to find out the relationship between family life cycle stages (Duvall's classification) and number of issues related to individual and family life. These issues are marital length, presence of children, instrumental elements like occupation, income group, education, hours worked, having health problems; expressive elements such as marital satisfaction, companionship from spouse, understanding spouse, frequency of disagreement over money,

satisfaction with family and friends; and attitudinal elements like religious belief, groups they belong to, satisfaction with job and feeling free. Results showed that the three issues- the degree of satisfaction derived from the family, the degree of importance the individual places on a good family life, and the attitude individuals hold concerning the quality of life in the United States- were not affected by stages in the family life cycle. Individuals in later stages of the family life cycle reported more health problems and smaller family incomes but in general, individuals in later stages of the family life cycle can be characterized as satisfied, relatively happy individuals. Similarly, such individuals are unlikely to disagree frequently on financial matters. A number of instrumental factors were strongly related to the presence of children. And the absence of children was significantly related to the degree of satisfaction individuals report they derive from their marriages. Length of marriage, also, was found to be weaker than the presence of children in its predictive power.

Spanier et.al., (1975) however, have expressed a lack of faith in the traditional life cycle stage framework proposed by Duvall, for use in predicting perceived marital

satisfaction. Other variables such as age or length of marriage may have more theoretical utility. For example, couples who wait five years before having their first child may differ from those who have children directly after marriage in such factors as level of maturity or income, and yet be grouped in the same life cycle stage.

In a later study, Spanier et al., (1979) contrasted the traditional stratification scheme based on Duvall's stages with two other stratification schemes based upon age of married individuals and length of marriage. They found that no one stratification scheme was clearly superior to the others. Although the age stratification method showed somewhat greater utility, it was concluded that different stratification method seemed preferable for different research questions. For example, the age-stratification scheme accounted best for family income and the husbands' socioeconomic level, while the family life cycle scheme accounted best for wives' socioeconomic level. They also found that, for criterion variables such as family income, husbands' socioeconomic level and wives' socioeconomic level, two stratification schemes together always accounted for more variance than a single scheme. They concluded that, although the stratification of life cycle by stage

should not be discarded, other stratification schemes in combination may be more relevant, depending on the research variables of interest.

White et al., (1990) conducted a research to investigate the effects of children leaving home on parental well-being based on a national sample interviewed in 1980 and again in 1983 and 1988. 1331 individuals were interviewed and they found that empty nest has a significant positive effect on marital happiness; the lower the age of youngest child, the greater the improvement in marital happiness following the empty nest (i.e., when there were young teens in the household). These findings suggest that while parents experience a modest post-launch honeymoon, the parental role remains important to parental well-being.

A number of researchers have found that childless individuals report a higher level of marital adjustment/satisfaction than do people with children. For example, Renne (1970) noted that parents were definitely less likely to be satisfied with their marriages than childless persons. Feldman (1971), too, found that the level of marital satisfaction was significantly lower for those with

one or more children in the home compared to a control group of those who were childless.

Ryder (1973) provided additional support for the notion that children have a negative effect on marriages. His data revealed that women who have a child become more likely than women without children to report that their husbands are not paying enough attention to them.

Juang and Tucker (1991) assessed important factors in marital adjustment of 56 Taiwanese couples in America and of Caucasian American 62 couples. Results indicated that the presence of children was negatively related to marital adjustment for both groups.

There is, of course, a counterexplanation of the child-marital happiness relationship. Widely suggested in the research literature is the possibility that the relationship is simply spurious, a statistical artifact created by the failure to introduce relevant controls. As individual choice is often a factor in whether adults are parents, it is possible that the same factors that lead them to their decision regarding children also affect their marital satisfaction. Housenecht (1979), for example,

concludes, "it is not inconceivable that the differences which earlier investigators found in marital adjustment/satisfaction could have been the result of differences in educational level, employment statuses, religious identification and not the presence or absence of children" ((1979:260).

Glenn and Mc Lanahan (1982) have argued that the relationship between presence of children and marital unhappiness may arise because "the presence of a child or children deters many unhappily married persons from divorcing-at least for a time" (1982:69). That is, a sample of marriages with children includes a larger proportion of those who are considering divorce than does a sample of childless marriages which move more quickly from thinking about divorce to divorcing in actuality.

White et. al., (1986) examines the causal processes that lead to the widely observed negative association between presence of children and marital happiness. They used a nationwide panel of 1535 married individuals. They found that the presence of children is associated with differences in marital structure (lower interaction, more dissatisfaction with finances and the division of labor and

more traditionalism of the division of labor) that are, in turn, associated with lower marital happiness. Also, they found that the relationship between marital happiness and children is partially spurious. The presence of preschoolers and especially the birth of a first child serve to produce the likelihood that unhappily married people will divorce within a three-year period.

The review of research in the sixties, higher occupational statuses, incomes and educational levels for husbands; husband-wife similarities in socioeconomic status had all been delineated as variables correlated positively with marital happiness (c.f., Hicks and Platt, 1970).

5163 adult respondents who were currently married and living with spouse participated Renne's (1970) study. Their responses to six survey questions about their marriages were analyzed with race, sex and age controlled. Black people were more likely than white to be dissatisfied with their marriages, as were people with low income or little education. People of higher status- better educated, in higher- prestige occupations, or with higher incomes, were less likely than others to express dissatisfaction with their marriages.

Rho (1989) examined the multiple factors contributing to marital satisfaction of Korean- American marriages and found that the significant predictors for the American husbands' marital satisfaction were military rank, income, cultural differences, affection, sexual relationship and marital status, while for the Korean wives were, military rank, income, education, self-esteem, social prejudices, sexual relationship and communication. The results indicated that both husbands' and wives' marital satisfactions were strongly influenced by socioeconomic, affective and cultural adjustment factors.

Voydanoff, et. al., (1988) examined relationships between economic distress and family satisfaction and the effects of social integration on these relationships. The sample includes 1561 married respondents between the ages of 18 and 65 who were interviewed as part of the 1983 and 1986 General Social Surveys. Result indicated that the income components of economic distressed were related to family satisfaction while the employment components, unemployment and employment uncertainty were not. Economic distress explains more variance in family satisfaction among blue-collar urban workers than among rural workers and white-collar urban workers. Family income was more

strongly related to family satisfaction for blue-collar urban workers than for the other two groups. Family income was relatively more important in relation to family satisfaction for women than men.

Vijayanthimala (1991) collected data from 150 women working in hospitals, colleges and schools in India. Regression analysis results showed that the husbands' income and the total family income correlated more with marital satisfaction than the wives' income. Results also indicated that the greater the agreement over financial spending, the more the marital satisfaction.

Patricia and Bernadette (1991) examined effects of several socioeconomic variables on global marital satisfaction, reciprocity and evaluation of spouse's role performance in 150 black spouses. On the whole, subjective indices such as perceived economic adequacy were more closely related to all aspects of marital quality than were objective measures of income, education or occupation.

One of the current study, Tynes (1990) examined the effects of educational heterogamy on marital satisfaction. She found that when husbands had more education than their

wives, both partners reported less happy marriages with more disagreement and less positive feedback. Conversely, when the wife had more education, both partners reported more satisfaction with the marriage.

189 husband and wife pairs participated to the study of Burke et al., (1976). Their study examined the relationship of wives employment status to husband, wife and pair satisfaction and performance. The results showed that, working wives were more satisfied and performed more effectively than nonworking wives; conversely, husbands of working wives were less satisfied and performed less effectively than husbands of nonworking wives.

Most of the early studies found small differences favouring unemployed wives over employed wives on measures of marital happiness, satisfaction and adjustment. These differences were more evident between wives of lower class families than between wives of middle class families.

One early exception to this point is Nye's (1963) study of the differences in "personal satisfaction" between employed and non-employed women. Nye investigated satisfactions with seven major areas of life: income,

housing, recreation, children, marriage, community and one's daily work. The study based on interviews with about 2300 mothers residing in three small towns in the state of Washington, showed that women employed full-time find more satisfaction in their work than non-employed women find in housework, that housewives were also relatively less satisfied with their communities, but that housewives' marriages were better adjusted than those of working women. In the remaining four areas investigated, no significant differences were found. Housewives were about 10 percentage points more likely to be at the low end of this scale than were working women. Thus, these data suggest some slight tendency for greater overall satisfaction among women with jobs outside the home.

Wright (1978), using six national surveys evidence between 1971 and 1976, concluded that both work outside the home and full-time housewifery have benefits and costs attached to them; the net result was that there was no consistent or significant differences in patterns of life satisfaction between the two groups.

Sweet (1973) has shown that "the increase has been most pronounced in the case of married women, especially

those with children", suggesting at least the possibility of serious role conflicts between the demands of home and job for many working women. Even the most successful instances, the "demands of the mother role and of the worker role may interfere with one another. A large part of this conflict involves the allocation of a scarce resource, time". Few working women, especially if they are married with children are entirely free from domestic housekeeping and childbearing chores. Working women typically carry the double burden of work and household commitments; in this regard, it can be expected that their lives are more pressured, more hectic, more conflict-ridden and in consequence less satisfying than the lives of full time housewives.

Not all housewives feel miserable and worthless but, just as obviously, a large proportion do, and work outside the home, even petty and demanding work, represents a source of independence and self-esteem largely unavailable to "confused", "bored", "lonely" and "socially isolated" fulltime housewives.

Voydanoff (1988) mentioned that work-family conflict is a form of interrole conflict in which the demands of

work and family roles are incompatible in some respect so that participation in either the work or family role is more difficult because of participation in the other role. Her study examined relationships between work role characteristics, family structure demands and work-family conflict. The analyses use data from 757 married men and 270 married women interviewed in the 1977 Quality of Employment Survey. The findings indicated that the amount and scheduling of work-time, job demands and the presence of children in the home were related to work-family conflict among men and women. Work role characteristics and family structure demands contribute additively to work-family conflict.

Ball (1991) investigated the relationships between the employment statuses of African American husbands and wives and their marital happiness. Data for 234 husbands and 292 wives were obtained from the 1980-86 General Social Surveys. The data corroborated earlier findings that African American husbands indicated greater marital happiness than did wives. The findings coincide with findings for whites, and support the general idea that husbands benefit more from marriage than wives. Full-time employment for husbands was associated with intermediate

levels of happiness for both spouses. The work statuses for husbands that was associated with the lowest marital happiness for both husbands and wives was unemployment. If the husband perceived himself, or was perceived by his wife, to be productively occupied, marital happiness appeared to be enhanced. Households in which wives worked full-time did not have the highest levels of marital happiness. Wives who worked full-time evidenced the lowest levels of marital happiness and husbands whose wives worked full-time showed the second lowest level of marital happiness.

2.1 Marital Conflict and Marital Satisfaction

Studies presented in this section mostly dealt with finding out the source of conflict between spouses and their relation to marital satisfaction.

Greene (1962), by using Biographical Marital Questionnaire, collected data from 136 married couples about their most common complaints in marriage. They were listed in the following order of frequency: Spouse does not fulfil emotional needs; constant arguments; sexual dissatisfaction; financial disagreements; infidelity; in-

law trouble; lack of communication; alcoholism; conflicts about the children; suspicious spouse.

Greene (1970) revised the BMQ and collected data from 750 couples. Results showed that the most frequent complaint was lack of communication. Others were, constant arguments; unfulfilled emotional needs; sexual dissatisfaction; financial disagreements; in-law trouble; infidelity; conflicts about children; domineering spouse; alcoholism; physical attack.

Levinger (1966) corroborated the presence of social class differences in a study of the complaints divorcing couples with minor children gave to marriage counselors during court required pre-divorce interviews. He found that lower class respondents were more likely to mention failure to perform instrumental family tasks because of inadequate financial resources, excessive drinking and physical abuse. In the middle class, the problems mentioned focused less on tasks and more on affective relationships such as complaints of lack of love, infidelity and excessive demands. He also found that women made more complain of mental cruelty. Men, while also mentioning lack of love and neglect, were more likely to complain about in-law

problems or sexual incompatibility.

Sternberg and Beier (1972) found that newlywed husbands rated politics, religion and money as the most significant areas of conflict in marriage. After a year of marriage, husbands rated the most significant areas of conflict in marriage as money, politics and sex. Wives originally reported that friends, politics and money were the most significant areas of marital conflict. After a year of marriage, the most important areas of conflict for wives were money, friends and sex.

Irving's (1972) investigation was on the area of conflict between 54 married couples and their parents and parents-in-law and how these conflicts affected the marital relationship. The responded couples were asked a series of questions about four major areas of family living usually associated with some conflict. These areas were husband's job, child rearing, money and visiting in-laws. Results revealed that of the four areas, child rearing presented the most points of disagreement between the couples and their parents and parents in-law. The husband's job and how often to visit in-laws were the next most frequent. The results also showed that the greatest amount of marital

discord was in the area of how often to visit in-laws. The most significant finding was that those married five years or less had more conflict leading to marital discord with parents and/or parents-in-law than those married five years or more. It is also interesting that this same group also had more interaction with their parents and received a greater amount of help from them.

DeLissovoy (1973) asked married high school students to rate certain issues in marriage in terms of satisfaction and adjustment. Husbands initially rated money, sex and in-laws as causing the most trouble in marital adjustment. After 30 months of marriage the greatest problem areas seen by husbands were money, sex and child rearing. Wives rated money, social activities and friends as causing the most problems in marital adjustment both initially and after 30 months of marriage.

Storaasli and Markman (1990), conducted a longitudinal study with 131 couples on relationship problems and relationship satisfaction at pre-marriage, early marriage and early parenting period. Relationship problems cover the areas of money, sex, communication, relatives, recreation, children, friends, jealousy and alcohol/drugs. Results

showed that there is a moderate to strong association between overall problem intensity and relationship satisfaction at each stage for both men and women. An examination of the relationship between individual problem areas and relationship satisfaction, shows that communication and sex consistently have the strongest associations. The most notable sex difference was that jealousy was much more strongly related to females' marital satisfaction, but was only weakly correlated with males' marital satisfaction at every stage. In addition, problem intensity in the areas of communication, sex, religion and jealousy significantly changed between stages. Two problem areas, religion and jealousy, significantly decreased in intensity between pre-marriage and early marriage and one area, sex, significantly increased. Money showed a trend toward a significant decrease. Between early marriage and early parenting, two problem areas, communication and sex, significantly increased in intensity.

A survey of 104 husbands married and living with a working spouse identified a number of predictors of marital conflict by Harrell (1990). Relative high income for a wife increased marital conflict by decreasing a husband's job and family satisfaction. In contrast, relatively high

education in a wife enhanced communication and, thereby, reduced conflict.

Argyle and Furnham (1983), in regard to nine relationships (sibling, parent, spouse, same sex friend, opposite sex friend, neighbour, work associate, adolescent, work superior) of 52 subjects, 15 sources of satisfaction and 15 sources of conflict were rated. Three satisfaction factors emerged (instrumental reward, emotional support, shared interests) and there were two conflict factors (emotional conflict and criticism). The results showed that there was some evidence for universal sources of satisfaction - especially shared interest; spouse was by far the greatest source of both satisfaction and conflict; and there were distinctive patterns of satisfaction and conflict for each relationship. The study confirms that marriage is a uniquely intense relationship, which can not be grouped with any of the other relationships studied. Also, it was found a high level of conflict is normal in marriage and that satisfaction in marriage was greater for males and for older subjects.

The behavioral view sees marital satisfaction as ultimately based on the actual interactions of the marriage partners. One important issue raised by the behavioral

perspective involves the relative contributions of pleasurable and displeasurable aspects of the marital relationship to overall satisfaction. Hawkins (1968) administered a questionnaire to 22 distressed and 45 non-distressed couples. Spouses were asked to estimate the frequency of companionship and hostility events during the previous 4 weeks of their marriage. Results indicated that the frequency of overt hostility related more closely to marital dissatisfaction than did companionship.

Chadwick et al., (1976) collected data from 775 couples from the state of Utah in order to find the association among social background factors, husband-wife similarity in social background, adequacy of performance of family roles, husband-wife consensus about family expectations and performance, conformity of spouse's behavior to expectations and marital satisfaction. The measures of husband-wife disagreement about marital roles and the performance of these roles were the most significant correlates of marital satisfaction. Adequacy of role performance of both self and spouse and spouses' conformity to expectations emerged as the strongest predictors of satisfaction derived from playing family roles.

Barnett and Nietzel (1979) examined the relationship of instrumental and affectional behavioral events to short and long-term marital satisfaction. Eleven distressed and 11 non-distressed couples made daily observations of their spouses' pleasurable and displeasurable behavior over a 14-day period. Results showed a significant negative relationship between the frequency of displeasurable instrumental events and both overall and daily ratings of marital satisfaction. Affectional events were not significantly related to long-term satisfaction. Rates of displeasurable affectional events correlated negatively with daily ratings of satisfaction at a significant level. The most important finding of the study was the degree to which wives' self-esteem correlated with couple-rated marital satisfaction.

2.3 Studies Related to Marriage in Turkey

Little has been done to identify relationship between marital conflict and marital satisfaction in Turkey. Few studies related to marriage were mentioned in this section.

Tezer (1986) examined the relationship between wives' and husbands' general marital satisfaction and (a) the

expansion of the marital conflict issues, (b) the frequency of marital conflict, (c) the tension experienced by them as a result of conflict and (d) the sense of self responsibility each spouse has as being the source of conflict. Data from 104 married couples in province of Ankara, showed that there were differences between husbands and wives, that is, wives were more tense than husbands and wives perceived that their husbands responsible for the conflict whereas husbands perceived themselves responsible. Analysis also revealed that the perception of those wives who defined the relationship as conflicting in terms of expansion and tension were related with their own satisfaction. Marital satisfaction of wives increased as long as they perceived less frequent conflict in their relationship. Furthermore, analysis for the husbands indicated that, husbands' satisfaction increased when both spouses perceived that their relationship was relatively free from conflict, that is, the conflicts were less expanded, less frequent and created less tension for them and their wives. Husbands' marital satisfaction also increased as long as they themselves took the responsibility of being the source of conflict.

Bulut (1990) adapted McMaster Family Assesment Device

to Turkish culture. McMaster Family Assessment Device consists of seven subscales namely problem solving, communication, roles, affective responsiveness, affective involvement, behavior control and general functions. For the construct validity, FAD was applied to 25 married and 25 divorcing couple. It was also administered to 190 psychiatry patients and 170 healthy individuals. The findings of the FAD validity and reliability studies support the findings resulting from the studies of the original scale in almost in all areas.

Arikan (1992) investigated the psychosocial problems which divorced women face during their marriage at the stage of divorce and after divorce. The sample of the study includes 161 divorced women from low socioeconomic level who receive financial help from all branches of the Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation. Results showed that half of the interviewed women had never chat with their husbands and agreed on familial and sexual issues. Two-thirds of women declared that they had not had support from their husbands during difficult periods such as illness. More than half of the women indicated that they were often ridiculed and threatened by their husbands. According to the result, disagreement most often starts soon after

marriage. There are five major reasons of disagreement on average: beating comes first, followed by drink addict and gambling, financial hardship, illegitimate relations of husband (love affair) and relations with relatives.

The personal and marital satisfaction of 37 involuntarily childless women were investigated using a number of demographic and psychological independent variables in a path analytic model by Canakcı (1992). The model suggested that: the woman's feeling of social pressure influenced personal satisfaction negatively, but decreased with increasing education and increased with treatment duration, with the residence of relatives with the couple and the woman's employment also negatively affected the woman's statuses in the family, which in turn affected her marital satisfaction and consequently her psychological satisfaction. The residence of relatives with the couple and availability of brothers to continue the family name positively affected the feelings of social pressure on the part of the husband of the involuntarily childless woman.

CHAPTER III

METHOD OF STUDY

In this chapter methodological procedures are presented. The major topics are the sampling, the instrumentation, the procedure and the data analysis techniques, respectively. The sampling section deals with the selection procedures and the demographic characteristics of the sample. The instrument section explains the demographic inventory, the questionnaire, and the scale utilized in the collection of data. The procedure section deals with the way in which the inventory, the questionnaire and the scale were administered. Finally, the last section of this chapter, data analysis techniques, includes statistical tests used to analyze the data.

3.1 The Sample

The sample of the present study composed of 77 married couples (154 individuals) who volunteered to participate to the study. In the selection of the couples no systematic procedure was followed since the research should be carried

out with couples. In the literature, it is frequently mentioned that couple data permit the researchers to compare husbands and wives on a couple by couple basis to see if there really are drastically different "his" or "her" marriages in terms of marital satisfaction (e.g. Huston and Robins, 1982; Schumm et.al.,1985). Based on this view, spouses mutual agreement to participate to the study was a necessity. The other reason, although related to the first one, is that the topic of the research, marriage is considered as a private affair, is believed as one of the most confidential aspect of one's life in our society. One of the spouse, with the fear of violation of privacy, might hesitate to participate to the study. Thus, it was believed that the confidentiality would only be reassured by the voluntary participation and more reliable data would be provided accordingly.

In order to determine the sample, following procedure was used. At the initial stage, couples were contacted through the acquaintances of the researcher. The purpose of the research was explained to each couple by the researcher and then those who volunteered to participate were asked to make the researcher contact with other couples. The

procedure lasted where there were no referred couples volunteered to participate to the study.

The characteristics of the sample participated to the present study were as follows:

The sample consisted of 77 couples who had been married for one to thirty six years. Sixty three couples had a child or children. Among those, the number of children in a household ranged from 1 to 4. Twenty eight couples have one, 32 couples have two, and three couples have three-four child/ren. Fourteen couples did not have a child. Monthly family income ranged from 1 million to 10 million and over. Sixty seven of the sample were nuclear family and ten of them were extended.

Husbands' age ranged from 23 to 68 years with the mean age of 40.4 years. Wives ranged in age from 18 to 63 with the mean age of 36.1 years.

All husbands and wives had at least a secondary school education; 2 husbands were graduated from secondary school, 16 were high school graduates and 59 held undergraduate and graduate degrees. Nine wives were

secondary school graduates, 30 were high school and 38 held undergraduate and graduate degrees. The sample of this study is somewhat skewed toward highly educated husbands.

Their occupations covered numerous areas such as technical sciences, social and administrative sciences, medicine, arts and sports, owners and housewives. Twenty eight of the husbands were employed in government sector, 19 were in private, 11 were in public and 15 were owners. Four of the husbands were retired from government sector. Twenty five of the wives were employed in government sector, 16 were in private, 7 were in public sectors, 5 were owners and 22 were housewives. Two of the wives were retired from government sector.

3.2 The Instruments

In the present study, the data were gathered by administering three instruments, namely Demographic Inventory (DI), Marital Conflict Questionnaire (MCQ), and Marital Life Scale (MLS) to the married couples (Appendices A, B, C, respectively).

Demographic Inventory (DI)

DI was developed to provide basic demographic information about couples. The variables selected were those thought to affect either directly or indirectly the level of marital satisfaction experienced by each spouse. Specifically, data were collected on the following variables: sex, date of birth (measured in years), level of education (categorized as secondary school, high school, university and over), family type (categorized as nuclear and extended family), number of children, total income (categorized as less than 1 million, 1-5 million, 5-10 million, and 10 million and over). Information about age of the oldest child was collected to determine the family life cycle stages that a family goes through in its developmental history. Two of the more prominent models of the family life cycle are the eight-stage concept outlined by Duvall (1977) in which each stage is defined by the age of the oldest child and the six-stage model outlined by the Mc Goldrick and Carter (1982), which focuses primarily on the necessary tasks of adults in families. It was originally intended that the life cycle categories developed by Duvall (1977) would be used, but when the sample was actually divided according to her system, it was

noted that several categories were very small. Because of this, it was decided to alter her system by collapsing the childbearing with the preschool stage and retired with post-parental and launching stage. It was categorized as married without children, childbearing-preschool age (up to 6 years), school-age (7 to 12 years), teenage (13 to 19 years) and launching center family (20 to over). The place that a spouse works determines his/her amount of and schedule of work time and his/her physical availability for family activities. In the present study, occupational residence categorized as housewife-retired, government-public and private-owners. i.e, as a continuum running from more physical availability to less availability for family activities. In addition, two kinds of information were collected namely occupation and position. The large number of missing data on these items due to the confusion of the concepts among the participants forced the researcher to exclude them from the analysis.

Marital Conflict Questionnaire (MCQ)

MCQ was developed by the researcher to measure the expansion and frequency of marital conflict between spouses. The development of this questionnaire was guided

by literature and conversation with some of married couples. In the literature, the results of the studies suggested that, although not highly distinctive, there are typical conflict areas faced by most couples in the course of marriage, including such areas as money, relatives, communication, sex and affection, children, recreation and leisure, friends and jealousy (e.g., Blood and Wolfe, 1960; Cleek and Pearson, 1985; Goode, 1956; Grych and Fincham, 1990; Storaasli and Markman, 1990).

MCQ includes 70 marital conflict issues that cover some areas of marital conflict such as behaviors-manners, communication, in-laws-friends, children, job, finance and sexual life. Examples of items that cover these areas are "forgetting special days", "controlling spouses' behavior", "criticizing spouse in front of other", "not being honest", "conflict in politics and religious belief", "disagreements over child rearing", "spending too much time at the office", "excessive money spending" and "using contraceptive methods".

In the MCQ, for each conflict issue, firstly, spouses were asked to indicate whether or not the issue exists in their relationship. If it exists, it was coded as 1, if not

it was coded as 0. In the case of existence, they were instructed to indicate the frequency of conflict issue by choosing one of the alternatives of "once or twice a year", "once or twice a month", "once or twice a week", and "once or twice a day", weighted as 1,2,3,4 respectively.

Two scores were calculated for expansion and frequency of marital conflict issues:

Conflict Expansion Score (CES): It was calculated by summing up the conflicting issues reported by each spouse. CES ranged from 0 to 70.

Frequency of Marital Conflict Score (FMCS): It was calculated as a mean score by summing up the ratings to each conflict issue that responded by spouse and then, the obtained result was divided by Conflict Expansion Score (CES) of each spouse. FMCS ranged from 1 to 4.

3.2.1 Reliability Study of the MCQ

MCQ was administered to 52 spouses composing 26 couples in the province of Ankara. The Cronbach- alpha reliability coefficient determined from the data was .91.

3.2.2 Validity Studies of the MCQ

As to the face validity, MCQ was given to the specialists in the field and couples from different ages, occupations and educational levels. Then, they were asked to decide on clarity of the items and how well the items fit the concept of marital conflict. After having obtained the recommendations, the necessary changes were made.

As an evidence for construct validity, discriminating known-group was used in the present study. The MCQ was administered to 10 divorced and 35 married subjects. Divorced subjects were instructed to indicate expansion and frequency of conflict that they experienced during their marriages. The data obtained from the divorced and married sample were compared by using t-test.

t-test results of two groups for Conflict Expansion Score (CES) were presented in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1. t-test Results for CES

Subjects	N	M	SD	t
Married	35	16.06	10.15	*
Divorced	10	28.00	10.75	3.14

* $p < .05$

As shown in Table 3.1, the mean score of the married subject were 16.06 whereas 28.00 for the divorced and standard deviations were 10.15 and 10.75 respectively. The difference between the mean scores of married and divorced subjects for expansion of conflict (CES) was at the significant level ($t=3.14, p<.05$).

t-test results of two groups for Frequency of Conflict Score (FMCS) were presented in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2. t-test Results for FMCS

Subjects	N	M	SD	t
Married	35	1.20	.97	*
Divorced	10	2.01	.67	3.03

* $p<.05$

As shown in Table 3.2, the mean score of the married subjects were 1.20 whereas 2.01 for the divorced and standard deviations were .97 and .67 respectively. The difference between the mean score of married and divorced subjects for frequency of marital conflict (FMCS) was at the significant level ($t=3.03, p<.05$).

Different measures of marital relationship are subject

to the bias of a socially desirable response set (Anderson, Russell and Schumm, 1983; Schumm and Bugaighis, 1986).

In the present study, Marlowe-Crowne Social Desirability Scale (MC-SD) which was adapted to Turkish culture by Berberoglu and Martin (1991) was used to examine the influence of social desirability on responses to Marital Conflict Questionnaire (MCQ). MC-SD was administered to 35 married subjects together with MCQ.

Two scores namely CES and FMCS obtained from MCQ were correlated with MC-SD scores of the respondents. The correlation results were presented in Table 3.3.

Table 3.3. Correlation Results of MC-SD

Scores	N	M	SD	MC-SD r
CES	35	16.06	10.15	.16
FMCS	35	1.20	.97	.12

As shown in Table 3.3, the results indicated that the correlation between CES and MC-SD ($r=.16$) and correlation between FMCS and MC-SD ($r=.12$) were not at the significant level. This result showed that the instrument was

relatively free from social desirability and this can be used as an evidence for validity of the instrument.

The reliability and validity obtained for the MCQ indicated that the instrument can be used as a measure of marital conflict of married couples.

Marital Life Scale (MLS)

MLS was developed to measure overall marital satisfaction (Tezer, 1986). It consists of 10 items such as "Most of the things that I expect from marriage was realized", and "I think our marriage is very meaningful". Respondents indicated the degree of satisfaction of their present marriage on a five point Likert-type scale. The alternatives ranged from "completely disagree" through the middle point of "undecided" to "completely agree", weighted as 1,2,3,4,5 respectively. Score obtained from MLS ranged from 10 to 50. A higher score indicating greater marital satisfaction.

The internal consistency of the scale was .91 as estimated by Cronbach's coefficient alpha. Test re-test reliability with three months interval was .85. The

difference between the mean scores of married and divorced was at the significant level ($t=6.23$, $p<.01$) and evidence was obtained the scale was relatively free from social desirability ($r=.21$).

3.3 Procedure

Demographic Inventory (DI), Marital Conflict Questionnaire (MCQ) and Marital Life Scale (MLS) were administered to 77 married couples in their home settings in the province of Ankara. During this process, the following procedure was used by the researcher.

Firstly, couples were contacted by the researcher. A brief explanation of what the study would entail was given to each couple and those volunteered to participate were asked to grant approximately 30 minutes response time to be conducted in their homes by the researcher. Then, each participant was given a questionnaire packet with two envelopes inside, one for husband and one for wife. Each spouse was instructed to answer his/her questionnaire individually. Interactions between the spouses were prevented. Couples, after completing the questionnaires were asked to place their envelopes into the packet and

seal it. Finally, subjects' anonymity and the confidentiality were guaranteed.

3.4 Analysis of Data

The statistical tests used to analyze the data was stepwise multiple regression analysis.

As it is known, multiple regression analysis is a method for studying the effects and the magnitudes of the effects of more than one independent variable on one dependent variable (Kerlinger, 1979).

In this study, the dependent variable was marital satisfaction which was measured by summing up the responses of each spouse to 10 items in Marital Life Scale (MLS). Moreover, demographic variables obtained from Demographic Inventory (DI), and Conflict Expansion Score (CES) and Frequency of Marital Conflict Score (FMCS) that obtained from responses to Marital Conflict Questionnaire (MCQ) were used as independent variables in the present study.

All the analysis were carried out by using SPSS/PC+ (Norusis, 1986) stepwise multiple regression analysis subprogram.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS OF THE STUDY

This chapter presents the results of the study which were obtained by analyzing the data through some statistical techniques described in the preceding chapter.

Firstly, the mean and standard deviations of the independent and dependent variables were mentioned. Secondly, stepwise multiple regression analysis predicting marital satisfaction for husbands and wives were presented, separately.

The level of significance for this study was set at $\alpha = .05$.

4.1 Descriptive Statistics for Total Sample

Table 4.1 presents means and standard deviations of the variables.

Table 4.1 Means and Standard Deviations for Independent and Dependent Variables

Variables	Husbands(N=77)		Wives(N=77)	
	M	SD	M	SD
AGE(*)	40.39	9.91	36.06	9.15
EDUCATION	2.74	.49	2.38	.69
FAMILY TYPE	1.13	.34	1.13	.34
MARITAL LENGTH	12.02	7.79	12.02	7.79
N.CHILDREN	2.42	1.79	2.42	1.79
FAMILY LIFE CYCLE	2.92	1.29	2.92	1.29
INCOME	2.53	.64	2.53	.64
OCCUPATIONAL RES.	2.39	.59	1.96	.77
EXPANSION OF MAR. CONFLICT	15.42	8.83	16.03	9.43
FREQUENCY OF MAR. CONFLICT	1.15	.92	1.39	.79
MARITAL SATISFA.	39.69	7.85	38.58	7.81

* Due to missing cases N is 73 for husbands, 75 for wives

As shown in Table 4.1, average age of husbands is 40.39 years with the standard deviation of 9.91. While the average age of wives is 36.06 years with the standard deviation of 9.15. Educational level of husbands is 2.74 with the standard deviation of .49, 2.38 for wives with the standard deviation of .69.

Since the data collected from couples, family type, marital length, number of children, family life cycle and total monthly income are the same for husbands and for wives. As can be seen from the table, couples are nuclear

families with the mean of 1.13 and standard deviation of .34. The average number of years married is 12.02 years with the standard deviation of 7.79 and the average number of children is 2.42 (SD=1.79). The mean for family life cycle is 2.92 with the standard deviation of 1.29 that corresponding the " school-age" family in which the oldest child is 7 to 12 years old. Monthly family income is 2.53 with the standard deviation of .64 that corresponding the 5-10 million category.

Occupational residence for husbands is 2.39 with the standard deviation of .59 and for wives, the average is 1.96 with the standard deviation of .77 which correspond to almost government-public sector. Furthermore, Table 4.1 illustrates that expansion of marital conflict for husbands is 15.42 with the standard deviation of 8.83, whereas, for wives the average is 16.03 with the standard deviation of 9.43. In addition, the mean for frequency of marital conflict, which ranges between 1 and 4, is 1.15 for husbands with the standard deviation of .92 and 1.39 for wives with the standard deviation of .79. Marital satisfaction for husbands is 39.69 with the standard deviation of 7.85; for wives, marital satisfaction is 38.58 with the standard deviation of 7.81.

Family type was the only dichotomous variable in the data. Therefore, it was analyzed separately by using t-test in order to determine whether any statistically significant difference between the means of nuclear and extended families in terms of husbands' and wives' marital satisfaction.

Table 4.2 presents the t-test results related to nuclear and extended families' marital satisfaction level for husbands.

Table 4.2. t-test Results of Husbands for Family Type

Family Type	N	M	SD	t	DF	p
Nuclear	67	39.86	7.67	.51	75	.61
Extended	10	38.50	9.32			

As shown in Table 4.2, there is no significant difference between nuclear and extended families in terms of marital satisfaction level for husbands.

Table 4.3 presents the t-test results related to nuclear and extended families' marital satisfaction level for wives.

Table 4.3. t-test Results of Wives for Family Type

Family Type	N	M	SD	t	DF	p
Nuclear	67	38.83	7.86	.73	75	.46
Extended	10	36.90	7.56			

As indicated in Table 4.3, there is no significant difference between nuclear and extended families' in terms of marital satisfaction level for wives.

4.2 Results Concerning Multiple Regression Analysis

The effects of the demographic variables, and expansion and frequency of marital conflict as predictors of the marital satisfaction was determined by using stepwise multiple regression analysis. Separate equations were computed for husbands and wives.

4.2.1 Intercorrelation Matrix of Variables

The intercorrelation of independent and dependent variables used in this study are presented, for husbands (upper triangle) and for wives (lower triangle) respectively in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4 Correlations Among Variables for Husbands
(Upper Triangle) and Wives (Lower Triangle)

VARIABLES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. AGE (t)	1.00	.28**	.84**	-.21	.75**	.08	-.40**	-.10*	-.06	-.15
2. EDUCATION	-.01**	1.00	.15	.18**	.07**	.19	-.09**	-.22	-.10	.07
3. MARITAL LENGTH	.84**	-.30**	1.00	-.31**	.91**	-.02	-.36**	-.11	-.10	-.11
4. NUMBER OF CHILD.	-.15**	.20**	-.31**	1.00	-.54**	.14	.14**	-.05	-.11	.14
5. FAMILY LIFE CYCLE	.74**	-.35**	.91**	-.54**	1.00	-.04	-.30**	-.07	-.04	-.17
6. INCOME	.06	.28**	-.02	.14	-.04*	1.00	.31	-.08	-.13	.05
7. OCCUPATIONAL RESIDENCE	-.19	.35**	-.17	.08*	-.23	.09	1.00	.01	.07**	.03**
8. EXPANSION OF CONF.	.01	-.03	.08	-.25	.15	-.08	-.01	1.00	.53**	-.56**
9. FREQUENCY OF CONF.	-.03	-.01*	.08	-.15	.13	.00	.02	.46**	1.00	-.30**
10. MARITAL SATISFACTION	-.09	.23	-.09	.18	-.12	.16	.11	-.64	-.34	1.00

t Note: Pairwise missing data results in N's ranging from 73 to 77 for husbands and 75 to 77 for wives

*P < .05

**p < .01

As indicated in Table 4.4, considering the significant correlations among demographic, independent and dependent variables, age was found to correlate positively with educational level ($r=.28$, $p<.01$), marital length ($r=.84$, $p<.01$), family life cycle ($r=.75$, $p<.01$) and correlated negatively with occupational residence ($r=-.40$, $p<.01$) for husbands. Furthermore, for husbands, educational level correlated negatively with the expansion of marital conflict ($r=-.22$, $p<.05$). As can be seen in upper triangle of the table, marital length correlated negatively with number of children ($r=-.31$, $p<.01$) and occupational residence ($r=-.36$, $p<.01$). In addition, marital length correlated positively with family life cycle ($r=.91$, $p<.01$) and family life cycle correlated negatively with number of children ($r=-.54$, $p<.01$). Further, occupational residence correlated negatively with family life cycle ($r=-.30$, $p<.01$) and correlated positively with income ($r=.31$, $p<.01$).

Furthermore, expansion of marital conflict and frequency of marital conflict correlated positively ($r=.53$, $p<.01$).

As expected, expansion of marital conflict and frequency of marital conflict were found to correlate

negatively with the marital satisfaction for husbands ($r=-.56, p<.01$; $r=-.30, p<.01$ respectively).

Regarding the significant correlations among demographic, independent and dependent variables for wives, age was found to correlate positively with marital length ($r=.84, p<.01$) and family life cycle ($r=.74, p<.01$). Also, educational level correlated negatively with marital length ($r=-.30, p<.01$) and family life cycle ($r=-.35, p<.01$). In addition, educational level correlated positively with income ($r=.28, p<.01$), occupational residence ($r=.35, p<.01$) and with marital satisfaction ($r=.23, p<.05$). For wives, number of children and marital length correlated negatively ($r=-.31, p<.01$). Further, marital length correlated positively with family life cycle ($r=.91, p<.01$). Family life cycle was found to correlate negatively with the number of children ($r=-.54, p<.01$) and number of children correlated negatively with the expansion of marital conflict ($r=-.25, p<.05$). In addition, occupational residence correlated negatively with family life cycle ($r=-.23, p<.05$).

As indicated in lower triangle of the table, for wives, expansion of marital conflict and frequency of

marital conflict correlated positively ($r=.46$, $p<.01$).

As expected, expansion of marital conflict and frequency of marital conflict were found to correlate negatively with the marital satisfaction for wives ($r=-.64$, $p<.01$ and $r=-.34$, $p<.01$ respectively).

The correlation matrix presented in Table 4.4 indicates that most of the correlations among predictors are low. However, there is extreme collinearity between the variables of age and marital length, age and family life cycle and between marital length and family life cycle. Thus, marital length was included, whereas, two of the variables (age and family life cycle) were excluded in the multiple regression analysis.

4.2.2 Stepwise Multiple Regression Analysis for Husbands

Stepwise multiple regression analysis results predicting marital satisfaction for husbands were presented in Table 4.5.

Table 4.5 Summary Table of Multiple Regression Analysis Predicting Marital Satisfaction for Husbands

Variable (N=77)	Multiple R	R Square	b	Standard Error of b	Beta	F
EMC	.5675	.3221	-.50432	.08447	-.56758	35.643**
(Constant)			47.4628	1.4984		

**p<.01

Note: In the table, EMC is used to represent expansion of marital conflict.

As can be seen in Table 4.5 expansion of marital conflict appeared as significant predictor, explaining approximately 32 % of the total variance in marital satisfaction scores of husbands.

As Table 4.5 shows the result of regression coefficient indicated a negative correlation between expansion of marital conflict and marital satisfaction (Beta=-.567, p<.01). Furthermore, its unique explanation of the total variance produced on marital satisfaction was significant, F (1,75)=35.643, p<.01.

4.2.3 Stepwise Multiple Regression Analysis for Wives

Multiple regression analysis results predicting marital satisfaction for wives were presented in Table 4.6.

Table 4.6 Summary Table of Multiple Regression Analysis Predicting Marital Satisfaction for Wives

Variable (N=77)	Multiple R	R Square	b	Standard Error of b	Beta	F
EMC	.6469	.4185	-.52928	.07060	-.63940	53.981**
EL	.6799	.4623	2.37418	.96673	.20947	31.816**
(Constant)			41.4241	2.68016		

**p < .01

Note: In the table, the abbreviations are used to represent the variables in the following way: EMC=Expansion of marital conflict, EL=Educational level

As can be seen in Table 4.6, expansion of marital conflict and educational level appeared as significant predictors, explaining approximately 46 % of the total variance in marital satisfaction scores of wives.

Table 4.6 illustrates that the first variable entered in the equation was expansion of marital conflict and its unique explanation of the total variance produced on marital satisfaction was significant, $F(1,75)=53.981$, $p<.01$. Expansion of marital conflict accounted for a large proportion of the variance (41 %) on marital satisfaction.

Furthermore, second variable entered in the equation was educational level and its unique contribution of the total variance produced on marital satisfaction was significant, $F(2,74)=31.816$, $p<.01$. This variable accounted for an additional approximately 5 % of the variance on marital satisfaction.

As indicated in the table, regression coefficient results showed that there is a negative correlation between expansion of marital conflict and marital satisfaction ($Beta=-.639$, $p<.01$). On the other hand, educational level and marital satisfaction correlated positively ($Beta=.209$, $p<.05$).

In sum, expansion of marital conflict appeared as a significant predictor for both husbands' and wives marital satisfaction. In addition, educational level predicts only wives' marital satisfaction.

CHAPTER V

DISCUSSION, IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter is devoted to the discussion of the results that were reported in the previous chapter, their implications and recommendations for future studies.

5.1 Discussion of the Findings

Multiple regression analysis revealed that expansion of marital conflict appeared as the significant predictor of both husbands' and wives' marital satisfaction. Regression coefficient result showed that there was a negative correlation between expansion of marital conflict and marital satisfaction of husbands and wives (Beta=-.567, $p < .01$ and Beta=-.639, $p < .01$ respectively). In other words, husbands' and wives' marital satisfaction decrease when they perceive their conflict issues expanded.

This finding seems to be supported both theoretically and empirically. From theoretical point of view, expansion is one of the characteristics of destructive conflict that

might effect marital satisfaction. Furthermore, couples may come into conflict over many different kind of issues but these issues might be symptomatic of underlying conflict that leads to expansion of issues and decrease in satisfaction (Deutch, 1969; Petersen, 1983).

Similar conclusion was reached by Tezer (1986) regarding the role of conflict in marital satisfaction. Tezer found that husbands' and wives' satisfaction increased when both spouses perceived that their relationship were relatively free from conflict, i.e., the conflicts were less expanded.

Other research findings seem to be consistent with the result of the present study. For example, Barnett and Nietzel (1979) found significant negative relationship between the frequency of displeasurable events and marital satisfaction. Sayers et. al., (1991) also, found that distressed couples tended to engage in destructive conflict by losing focus on the topic while nondistressed couples engaged in more constructive conflict.

Educational level was another predictor variable for marital satisfaction of wives. Regression coefficient

result indicated that educational level and marital satisfaction correlated positively (Beta=.209, $p < .05$). Therefore, it implies that the more educated the woman, the more satisfaction derived from her marriage.

This finding seems to be consistent with and confirming previous findings that educational level correlated positively with marital satisfaction (Hicks and Platt, 1970; Renne, 1970; Rho, 1989; Tynes, 1990). For instance, Harrell (1990), pointed out the importance of high educational level for wives' marital satisfaction and mentioned that the relatively high education for a wife clearly enhanced the relationship, decreased conflict and increased family life satisfaction.

Moore and Waite (1981) studied teen marriages, and found that higher educational attainment by the wife increased the probability of remaining married. Tynes (1990), similarly, mentioned that the educated women can more translate their educational benefits into greater couple happiness.

On the contrary, a study was done in Turkey indicated that educational level had no effect on wives' marital

satisfaction (Tezer, 1986). This finding, however, might result from the sample that included highly educated couples.

One could speculate from the result of the present study that high education provides a better basis for spouses to interact and to have common interests. High education in a wife leads to a willingness in a husband to discuss problems in depth, thereby avoiding disruptive forms of marital conflict and lead to increase in marital satisfaction.

Although previous research findings indicated that educational level might effect husbands' marital satisfaction, result of the present study did not reveal this trend. In this respect, present finding is consistent with the results of the research that were carried out in Turkey (Tezer, 1986). This may be attributed to the fact that the sample composed of highly educated husbands. The homogeneity in this sense may cause such a result.

The result of the study showed that frequency of marital conflict had no significant effect on marital satisfaction of husbands and wives.

This result seems to be contradictory to the findings of Tezer (1986) and Hawkins (1968). Tezer found a relationship between frequency of conflict and marital satisfaction. Moreover, Hawkins mentioned that the frequency of overt hostility related more closely to marital dissatisfaction.

The result of the present study also indicated that despite educational level, other demographic variables did not predict marital satisfaction of husbands and wives.

In the literature, although the predictive power of marital length was strongly emphasized by Spanier et. al., (1975), the present finding did not support the same results.

In this study, number of children was not found to be a significant predictor of marital satisfaction.

Studies related to other demographic variables and marital satisfaction have contradictory results. Especially the effect of number of children on marital satisfaction is questionable.

Some researchers cited data indicating that number of children was a significant predictor of marital satisfaction (Anderson et. al., 1983). Some others, for example, Nock (1979) found that absence of children was significantly related to the degree of satisfaction that individual derive from their marriages. Another researcher, Feldman (1971) mentioned that the level of marital satisfaction was significantly lower for couples with one or more children. Ryder (1973), also, support these findings that children have negative effect on marriages. In addition, one of the current finding indicated that the presence of children was negatively related to marital adjustment (Juang and Tucker, 1991). On the contrary, most of the researchers mentioned that the relationship between marital satisfaction and children was partially spurious (Housenecht, 1979; Glenn and Mc Lanahan, 1982).

Furthermore, White et. al., (1986) concluded that dissatisfaction or negative effect could have been the result of differences in educational level or income. In other words, number of children might have different effects on marital satisfaction depending on the educational level of the spouses and financial sources. In this sense, the expected effect of number of children on

marital satisfaction might be hindered as a result of previously mentioned sample characteristics of the present study.

In this study, income was also not found to be a significant predictor of marital satisfaction.

In the literature, findings of the studies generally revealed that husbands' and wives' marital satisfaction were influenced by income (Hicks and Platt, 1970; Renne, 1970; Rho, 1989). For instance, Voydanoff et. al., (1988), indicated that family income was more strongly related to family satisfaction for blue-collar urban workers and family income was relatively more important in relation to family satisfaction for women than men. On the other hand, Patricia and Bernadette (1991) mentioned that subjective indices such as perceived economic adequacy were more closely related to marital satisfaction than were objective measures of income. An important shortcoming of the present study might have interfered with this result. In the present study, information about total family income was collected by using objective measure and spouses perception of economic adequacy were not taken into consideration. Instead of objective evaluation, perceived adequacy of

income might provide more valuable data for predicting marital satisfaction.

Analysis also showed that occupational residence was not a predictor of marital satisfaction.

Since the occupational residence of spouses were implicitly defined as work schedule, spouses' perception about degree of involvement in his work and family were not gathered through direct question. This might be considered as another shortcoming in the data collection stage of this study that interfered with the result.

Although it was not stated as one of the problem of the present study, husbands' and wives' differences on the level of marital satisfaction were also investigated by using t-test. Result showed that there was no significant difference between husbands' and wives' marital satisfaction level ($t=-.87$). It indicated that they had similar perception about marital satisfaction level.

This finding seems to be consistent with most of the studies in this field (Schumm et. al., 1985; Tezer, 1986; Buunk and Van Yperen, 1991).

In conclusion, results of the study indicated that expansion of marital conflict appeared to predict both husbands' and wives' marital satisfaction. On the other hand, educational level appeared to predict merely wives' marital satisfaction. It may be reasonable to assume that although husbands and wives may have similar satisfaction level, sources of their satisfaction might be different.

The findings of the studies in the field of marriage still have certain contradictory results, indicating that the field is merit to study by taking into account several variables carefully defined from different vantage points.

5.2 Implications

In the light of the results of this study several implications can be mentioned for the field of counseling.

The findings of the present study reveal that the primary factor explaining marital satisfaction is expansion of marital conflict. An important counseling implication of this finding is that greater efforts should be made to identify underlying conflict that may resulting in the expansion of conflict issues.

Furthermore, since the expansion of marital conflict might be the indication of destructive form of conflict, there is growing interest in methods of changing the destructive conflict to more productive one. For example, Sayers et. al., (1991) refer to problem solving behaviors as constructive engagement. They mention that constructive engagement is a process that potentially enhances couples' future satisfaction by increasing the likelihood the spouses will discuss and solve conflicts in their relationships.

In order to enhance couples' relationship various training programs should be offered. These might include communication skill training, conflict management training and relationship enrichment programs (Kelley and Burgoom, 1991).

5.3 Recommendations

On the basis of the findings from the present study the followings can be recommended for future studies.

1. A replication of the present study with a larger sample from different regions of Turkey is needed.

2. Further studies can be made by including conflict handling behaviors of couples in determining the relationship between marital satisfaction and expansion of conflict.



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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A
(In Turkish)

DEMOGRAFİK ENVANTER

Lütfen aşağıdaki soruları eksiksiz cevaplayınız

CİNSİYET : Kadın () Erkek ()

DOĞUM TARİHİ :---/---/19--

EN SON BİTİRDİĞİNİZ OKUL : ORTA OKUL ()

LİSE ()

ÜNİVERSİTE ()

ÜNİVERSİTE ÜSTÜ ()

EVDE ANNE VE BABA DIŞINDAKİ KİŞİLER:-----

EVLİLİK SÜRESİ :-----

ÇOCUK SAYISI :-----

İLK ÇOCUĞUN YAŞI :-----

EVE GİREN TOPLAM AYLIK GELİR (Kira ve benzeri her türlü gelir dahil)

1.000.000'dan Az ()

1.000.000- 5.000.000 ()

5.000.000- 10.000.000 ()

10.000.000- ve üstü ()

ÇALIŞTIĞINIZ KURUM :

ÜNVAN :

MESLEK :



APPENDIX B
(In Turkish)

EVLİLİK YAŞAMI ANKETİ

Açıklama: Bu anket evli eşler arasındaki anlaşmazlık konularını saptamak amacıyla hazırlanmıştır. Sizden istenen, ankette yer alan konuların her biri için eşinizle aranızda bu konuda bir anlaşmazlık olup olmadığına karar vermeniz ve eşinizle aranızda böyle bir durum yok ise "böyle bir durum yok" seçeneğini, var ama bu durum aranızda bir gerginlik yaratmıyor ise "var ama hiç gerginlik yaratmıyor" seçeneğini, var ve bu durum eşinizle aranızda bir gerginlik yaratıyor ise, ne sıklıkta gerginlik yarattığını "Yılda 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor", "Ayda 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor", "Haftada 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor" ve "Günde 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor" seçeneklerinden sizin için en uygun olanına çarpı işareti (X) koyarak belirtmenizdir.

Sizden isminizi yazmanız istenmemektedir. Sonuçlar yalnız araştırma amacıyla kullanılacak ve kesinlikle gizli tutulacaktır. İçtenlikle vereceğinize inandığım cevaplar için şimdiden teşekkür ederim.

Zeynep HATİPOĞLU
ODTÜ, Eğitim Fakültesi
Eğitim Bilimleri Bölümü

KONULAR	Böyle bir durum yok	Var ama hiç gerginlik yaratmıyor	Yılda 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor	Ayda 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor	Haftada 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor	Günde 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor
1) Bir yere giderken geç hazırlanma						
2) Buluşma saatlerine geç kalma.						
3) Özel günleri (doğum günü, evlilik yıl dönümü vb.) unutmama.						
4) Giyim biçimine ve saç şekline karışma.						
5) Verdiği sözü tutmama.						
6) Yapılan bir işi veya davranışı beğendiğini söylememe.						
7) İsteklere ve ihtiyaçlara karşı duysuz olma ve aldırma.						
8) Sürekli olarak alaycı bir tonda konuşma ve alay etme.						
9) Davranışları yönetmeye ve düzenlemeye çalışma.						
10) Eşe hükmetmeye çalışma.						
11) Kendi isteklerini hep ön plana çıkarma.						

KONULAR	Böyle bir durum yok	Var ama hiç gerginlik yaratmıyor	Yılda 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor	Ayda 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor	Haftada 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor	Günde 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor
2) Tartışmalarda davranışlarını ve söylediklerini kontrol edememe.						
3)Dövme, tartaklama, küfretme vb. girişimlerde bulunma.						
4)Yakın ve sıcak davranmama.						
5) Zor anlarda duygusal destek sağlamama.						
6) Sigara içme.						
7) Alkol kullanma.						
8) Uyuşturucu kullanma.						
9) Kumar oynama.						
0)Farklı politik görüşü benimseme.						
1) Dinsel inanç konularında anlaşamama.						
2) Sadakatinden şüphe etme.						
3) Birlikte sinema,tiyatro veya arkadaş toplantısı gibi yerlere gitmeyi reddetme.						

KONULAR	Böyle bir durum yok	Var ama hiç gerginlik yaratmıyor	Yılda 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor	Ayda 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor	Haftada 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor	Günde 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor
4) Temiz ve düzenli olmama.						
5) Evde üstüne düşen görevleri yerine getirmeme.						
6) Ufak tefek konuları bile abartarak sürekli olarak tartışma çıkarmaya çalışma.						
7) Boş zamanları tek başına değerlendirmeyi isteme.						
8) Evde başka birşeyle ilgilenmeyip sürekli kitap, gazete vb. okuma, televizyon seyretme veya uyuma.						
9) Anlatılan konuya ilgisiz kalma ve dinlememe.						
10) Evlilik ilişkisinin aksayan yönlerini konuşmama.						
11) Evlilik ilişkisinde yeterince açık ve dürüst olmama.						
12) Sürekli olarak eşini olumsuz yönde eleştirme.						
13) Aile mahremiyetinde kalması gereken olayları başkalarına anlatma.						

KONULAR	Böyle bir durum yok	Var ama hiç gerginlik yaratmıyor	Yılda 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor	Ayda 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor	Haftada 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor	Günde 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor
4) Toplantılarda, davetlerde vb. yerlerde karşı cinsten kişilerle fazla ilgilenme, sohbet etme.						
5) Diğer kişilere daha ilgili ve sıcak davranma.						
6) Kayınvalide-kayınpeder vb. yakınlar ile sık görüşmeyi isteme.						
7) Başka bir kişiyle eş aldatma.						
8) Çocuk sahibi olmayı istememe.						
9) Çocukların okul hayatı ile ilgilenmeme.						
10) Çocukların ihtiyaçlarıyla ilgilenmeme.						
11) Çok sayıda çocuk sahibi olmayı isteme.						
12) Çocuklarla herhangi bir konuyu tartışmama.						
13) Çocuklara sevgi ve şefkat göstermeme.						

KONULAR	Böyle bir durum yok	Var ama hiç gerginlik yaratmıyor	Yılda 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor	Ayda 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor	Haftada 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor	Günde 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor
44) Çocukları şımartma.						
45) Çocuklara gerçekleştirilemeyecek sözler verme.						
46) Kız veya erkek çocuk isteme.						
47) Çocuklardan birini kayırma						
48) Çocukları dövme, tartaklama vb. girişimlerde bulunma.						
49) İş hayatında eşinin kazandığı başarıyı kıskanma.						
50) Eşinin işinde terfi edememesi.						
51) İşe daha çok zaman ayırma						
52) Çok sık iş seyahatlerine çıkma.						
53) İş problemlerini eve taşıma.						
54) İş saatlerinin belirli olmaması.						

KONULAR	Böyle bir durum yok	Var ama hiç gerginlik yaratmıyor	Yılda 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor	Ayda 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor	Haftada 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor	Günde 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor
5) Paranın kullanımını elde tutma ve eşe para vermeme.						
6) Fazla ya da gereksiz harcama yapmayı isteme.						
7) Aşırı cimri olma.						
8) Sürekli parasal sorunları dile getirme.						
9) Düzenli bir gelire sahip olmama.						
10) Kayınvalide-kayınpeder vb. akrabalarından maddi destek alma veya verme.						
11) Cinsel bilgisizlik ve yanlış bilgi sahibi olma.						
12) Cinsel soğukluk iktidarsızlık						
13) Cinsel ilişkiden zevk alamama.						
14) Çok sık cinsel ilişki isteği.						
15) Çok az cinsel ilişki isteği.						
16) Farklı cinsel isteklerde bulunma.						

KONULAR	Böyle bir durum yok	Var ama hiç gerginlik yaratmıyor	Yılda 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor	Ayda 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor	Haftada 1-2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor	Günlük 2 kez gerginlik yaratıyor
67) Doğum kontrolü yöntemi konusunda anlaşamama.						
68) Doğum kontrolü yöntemine dikkat etmeme.						
69) Kısırlılık						
70) Cinsel konularda konuşmadan kaçınma.						

APPENDIX C

(In Turkish)

EVLİLİK YAŞAMI ÖLÇEĞİ

Aşağıda evlilik yaşamına ilişkin 10 cümle bulunmaktadır. Bu cümlelerden her birinin altında da "kesinlikle katılmıyorum", "katılmıyorum", "kararsızım", "katılıyorum" ve kesinlikle katılıyorum" seçenekleri yer almaktadır. Her cümleyi dikkatle okuyunuz ve sizin evlilik yaşamınıza uyan seçeneği çarpı (X) koyarak işaretleyiniz.

Sizden isminizi yazmanız istenmemektedir. Sonuçlar yalnızca araştırma amacıyla kullanılacak ve kesinlikle gizli tutulacaktır. İçtenlikle vereceğinize inandığımız cevaplar için şimdiden teşekkür ederiz.

1. Evlilikten beklediklerimin çoğu gerçekleşti.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kesinlikle Katılmıyorum	Katılmıyorum	Kararsızım	Katılıyorum	Kesinlikle Katılıyorum
2. Evliliğimizdeki engellerin aşılamaz olduğunu düşünüyorum.				

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kesinlikle Katılmıyorum	Katılmıyorum	Kararsızım	Katılıyorum	Kesinlikle Katılıyorum

3. Evliliğimizi çok anlamlı buluyorum.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kesinlikle Katılmıyorum	Katılmıyorum	Kararsızım	Katılıyorum	Kesinlikle Katılıyorum

4. Evliliğimizde giderek eksilen heyecan beni rahatsız ediyor

() () () () ()
Kesinlikle Kesinlikle
Katılmıyorum Katılmıyorum Kararsızım Katılıyorum Katılıyorum

5. Evliliğimiz zaman zaman bana bir yük gibi geliyor.

() () () () ()
Kesinlikle Kesinlikle
Katılmıyorum Katılmıyorum Kararsızım Katılıyorum Katılıyorum

6. Huzurlu bir ev yaşamım var.

() () () () ()
Kesinlikle Kesinlikle
Katılmıyorum Katılmıyorum Kararsızım Katılıyorum Katılıyorum

7. Evliliğimiz her geçen gün daha iyiye doğru gitti.

() () () () ()
Kesinlikle Kesinlikle
Katılmıyorum Katılmıyorum Kararsızım Katılıyorum Katılıyorum

8. Bizim ilişkimiz ideal bir karı-koca ilişkisidir.

() () () () ()
Kesinlikle Kesinlikle
Katılmıyorum Katılmıyorum Kararsızım Katılıyorum Katılıyorum

9. Eşim benim için aynı zamanda iyi bir arkadaştır.

() () () () ()
Kesinlikle Kesinlikle
Katılmıyorum Katılmıyorum Kararsızım Katılıyorum Katılıyorum

10. Başbaşa kaldığımız zaman benim canım hiç sıkılmaz.

() () () () ()
Kesinlikle Kesinlikle
Katılmıyorum Katılmıyorum Kararsızım Katılıyorum Katılıyorum