



## Surveying of the affecting factors on couples conflict in Guilan-e-Gharb city

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### ABSTRACT

Family is an institution on one hand with the larger community and interact directly with other person in the relationship. It is important to the extent that some experts are considered to suppose it as a fundamental pillar of society and the realization of a healthy society depends on achieving a healthy family feel. Marital satisfaction is one of the essential factors in family stability and of the mental health of spouses and children as well as society. Several factors caused spouse to be satisfied in a marital relationship. Marital adjustment influences on many aspects of human life, individual and social. Regarding to the importance of this field of research methods, techniques and survey questionnaire sought answers to this question "what are the social factors influencing the conflict of spouses in Guilan-e-Gharb? Study sample are the married in Guilan-e-Gharb which number of 378 samples were analyzed. In order to answer the main question, this study is to analyze the relationship between variables such as fatalism, psychological well-being, family income, age of spouses during marriage as independent variables and conflict of spouses as the dependent variable. The results suggest that, there is significant relationship between psychological well-being variables, family income, and the age difference between spouses marriage duration with spouse conflict. There is no relationship between fatalism and conflicts between spouses.

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### Introduction

Marital satisfaction is one of the final factors in family stability and of the mental health of spouses and children as well as society. Several factors caused the spouse to be satisfied in a marital relationship. Marital adjustment influences on many aspects of human life, individual and social. It is the foundation stone of family and parental role to facilitate parent performance role, increases couple's long-life (Coombs, 1991), increases health (Demo, Allyn, 1996), and helps economic development, greater satisfaction with life (Knock, 1995), reduction of psychological problems, better management of conflict (Abraham and Bryan, 2000), communication skills and problem solving (Johnson et al, 2005) and conflict resolution skills are better (from, Hosseini-Nasab et al, 1388: 58).

But if there is no consistency, these positive aspects are destroyed, causing many problems in the field of personal and social well-being. Note that inconsistency issues, even in many cases leading to divorce, have both individual and social needs and with a combination of sociological and psychological perspectives should explore it and study the factors affecting it.

Family is an institution on one hand with the larger community and interact directly with other person in the relationship. It is important to the extent that some experts are considered to suppose it as a fundamental pillar of society and the realization of a healthy society depends on achieving a healthy family feel (Mehrabi Zadeh Honarmand et al, 2010: 126)

One of the most important factors that affect the survival and sustainable growth affects families, healthy relationships

based on compatibility and understanding between members of the couple. Marital adjustment as one of the most important factors affects the performance of the family (Sinha and Mackerjee, 1999: 634). Parental marital quality performance, longevity, health levels, life satisfaction, feelings of loneliness, development and education of children, and social trends is the impact of social deviance (born artist Mehrabi et al, 2010: 126).

But if the marriage partners create conditions unfavorable to satisfy various needs, not only positive aspects of marriage cannot be firmed, but it would have a negative effect and sometimes irreparable. The negative effects are not only for wives but also provide a wide range of disorders in their children such as isolation, depression, poor social competence, poor school performance and communicative problems (Lornsyv, 2009, taken from Danesh, 2010).

#### The importance and necessity of research

According to the findings of early marriage, almost all couples report high marital satisfaction (Broman, 2000), but many unhappy marriages symptoms occur in the first few years of life (Halford, and Bhms Saunders, 2001) and lower marital satisfaction is associated with higher risk of divorce. So that in the recent years a large proportion of marriages in the early years (Vrvf, Young & Kahn, 2000), especially the first seven years of marriage leads to divorce (Lonson and Guttman, 2002).

Our Islamic nation is not an exception over other countries. The latest census figures show that divorce rate in the past five years has increased 37 per cent and most of that couples are more than 30 years old. According to the statistics released by the Census Organization, divorce cases were 84 thousands in

1384 which in 2010, 137 thousands and 200 cases were recorded. The statistics show that divorce rate during five years has increased more than 53 thousands because of different reasons that experts are saying. The simplest form of divorce statistics shows that 84 thousands in 1384 and 94 thousands in 1998 have been divorced. Also, these figures become 99 thousands and 852 cases in 1386 and 110 thousands and 510 events in 2008, it shows an increase of 11 percent. Increasing rate of divorce has increased in 2010 to 137 thousands and 200 cases. The records will be rather strange. The divorce rate has developed 59/37 per cent during these five years, positively. (Registration office site in Iran, 19 July 2011). On the other hand, regardless of all marriages ending in divorce, there are many unhappy marriages which for various reasons couples are not willing to break. (The Registration Office Site, July 19, 2011).

However, whether the differences and disagreements lead to divorce or not, can effect on not only your physical health and mental health, distress, lower levels of overall happiness, less life satisfaction (Knock, 1995), depression, stress, obsessive compulsive disorder in physical health and mental health (Horvitz, Helen and Sandra, 1997) but also can be associated with loneliness, emptiness, low self-esteem, mental confusion and difficulty in parental duties and impaired social functioning and relationships (Nilon, 2000, taken from Danesh, 2010).

Thus, the essential issue is conflict of spouses as a matter of scientific debate and should be surveyed from new angles and to be addressed with the combination of psychological and sociological issues and the factors affecting it should be studied.

#### **Theoretical Research Basics**

Obviously, the phenomenon of "marital inconsistency" and its related factors cannot be studied by merely relying on one theory. So here we are benefiting of a combination of the approaches of sociological-psychological. Many sociological theory analysts believe that some known issues effecting marital inconsistency can be like this: Money, sex, relationships, family, friends, children, sexual infidelity, emotional problems, relationship problems (dialogue), job involvement, and so on (Sanaei and zaker, 2008: 132).

The functionalist view of family has different functions. According to Parson's, to the roles of men and women (each according to his ability), a distinction was to maintain equilibrium and avoid disrupting factors of life. Family is a cultural organ which its survival depends on marriage between a man and a woman. Since people have different ideas, value, beliefs and customs, they are adapting themselves to social norms and conflicts and they try to reduce grievances to minimum. This statement can be raised generally which is the model of one of the variables in Parson's Act System and places against the specialization. This function is required to maintain the integrity of family system in terms of survival. This function is responsible for the governing rules of social systems actors (male and female) and coordination with each other on the proper function of the system. Another functional issue of Parson is a latency containing two requirements: Stress Control (stresses and internal pressures actors) and template maintaining (showing good behavior). In the social system of family, male and female members should be able to minimize psychological pressures by using solutions and moral mechanisms. (Dillini, 2008: 386). In the symbolic interaction perspective, the main purpose of marriage is to form marriage rights and recognize

instinctive stimulants that is its foundation. (Tavassoli, 1382: 279).

Since life is composed of community members interacting with each other symbolically, interactionism is based on the fundamental principle that another interpretation is that actors attribute their response based on the semantic, that is the meaning of marriage in society has responded to the needs of people and has a meaning that is a response to instinctive needs in public life. The sixth research hypothesis is based on the amount of the flexibility of men and women in family associated with the level of marital conflict. Men and women as actors in family should have principles of flexibility to thoughts or beliefs of each other and have adaptability to reduce level of conflict. Relying on the theory of interactive symbolic action, by increasing levels of flexibility, human can surmount "objective I" that is their judgment and control aspect over "subjective I" that is aspects of creative and imaginative "self". "Mead" says: Actors with regard to effort and creative thinking about the circle of moral values in society are to moralize the efforts. Feeling underlies attitudes and behaviors which are associated with cardiac commitment and commitment comes after choice. In other words, when men and women attempt to resolve their ethical issues and conflicts with an attitude of tolerance and generosity, and with exploitation of intelligence trying to control their behavior, in this case, it can accelerate evolutionary process in order to achieve better social- family condition.

Communication theory, refers to rational behavior in meaning of maximizing rewards and minimizing costs and values and standards of society. Since marriage is a credit to both men and women, as well as it can be a credit in mate selection (reward) which is resulted in exchange of marriage between men and women. It can be credit for women to marry a man who have money, house, education, and so on, and for men is an exchange to gain a beautiful woman, a good wife and mother for his children. Actually, achieving these will make some sort of satisfaction for them. (Azazi, 1388: 42).

In new societies, unlike the traditional world, one is controlled by many factors outside the control of him and institutions have taken over control of individuals and their lives. "Marx" in conflict school by relying on the concept of "alienation", says that parallel to the development of the productive forces especially in the capitalism era, the control of individuals is taken by subjects such as markets and machines. Therefore, as new social systems develop, more individuals deprive himself of power which ultimately human person will be merely present as a small speck in the great mass of other particles.

Sociology believes about philosophy of enlightenment that industrialization and science has created a more rational, more humane and more democratic society. In the works of "Weber", of sociological point of view, modernity has rooted in differences of community structure and culture - the value arena- which leads to the autonomy of institutions and action. Accordance with Weber's, the concept of mental interaction reflects the increasing role of the agent. So, modernity represent a kind of voluntarism, choice and increasingly goal-orientation (Nozari 459,1379) and it is the opposite to societies that has an essential role in playing connection between social act and the existential fabrics. In societies where there is the traditional procedure, a wide range of "conventional approaches" is drag to the future. Time is not empty, and connects a kind of decisive "way of life" of the future to the past. Moreover, a certain sense

of fatalism and consistency of the tradition which he has created, combines cognitive and moral elements, generally. The world is as it is, since it is actually as it should be.

Another aspect of the modern society is a tendency to democratic society in political arena. It tends, in addition to other areas of politics, to human social relationships and human life.

Healthy relationship of mutual trust, mutual relations, community involvement, and lack of violence are features of democracy. With the spread of the globalization, relationships and family patterns are influenced, this phenomenon is called "emotional democracy" in family new relationships which family is the marginal results of the globalization. Family life and emotions are formed on the basis of democratic indexes and leads to the democratization of social relations at various levels. Theorists believe that democracy strengthens family relationships in private sphere and finally leads to strengthen social basics based on local community participation in public sphere. (Giddens, 2003: 56).

In the tradition of marital conflict studies, researchers believe that in case of conflict, people will face to tensions and pressures which have a different attitude and behavior in reacting to them. Lack of implementation of a comprehensive database on women and men of wealth, power, prestige, and the growing knowledge which is result of factors such as urbanization and development, education, etc..., will provide expectations which cannot be answered by many of the couples. This situation can cause them psychological negative mood such as depression, anxiety and despair; it can cause many people to be conservative, authoritative, and some to be opposed to changes and innovation and some possess a positive attitude, flexible and innovative tendencies.

About psychological well-being, there are different views on behaviorism, social psychology and... which are discussed about. Perspective on humanism believes that anything preventing the satisfaction of the needs of the person and maintaining him to be prosperous, will cause disorder. In view of Maslow about humanism, he believes that the religious values of the believer are based on philosophical embrace of nature and physical reality of life (Dillini, 2008). The major part of the everyday judgments and valuation come from the acceptance of reality. Chahn also considers a value system as a necessary condition for achieving mental health: Benefit from a series of personal values based on beliefs, desires and aspirations are closely connected to your happiness and surrounding and prerequisite for mental health.

#### Research Hypotheses

- There is a relationship between spouse fatalism and their conflict.
- There is relationship between mental well-being and the extent of their conflict.
- There is a relationship between family income and the extent of their inconsistency.
- There is a relationship between marriage duration and the extent of their inconsistency.
- There is a relationship between age and the extent of their inconsistency.

#### Materials and Methods

The present study based on collected and analyzed data, is a quantitative research examined the issue of dealing with and entering to through field study. The technique used in this research is the survey. In the field study, a questionnaire was

used to collect the required information. Prior to the survey, the initial questionnaire was first tested and by using the results obtained, the final questionnaire was drafted and defects were resolved.

The population and sample population:

The sample population of the entire study consisted of all married people of Guilan-e-GHarb. Since it was not naturally possible to view the entire study population, "sampling" method was used for theoretical explanation of the study population. Number of participants (n = 378) were identified as the representative sample population. In this study, sampling method is cluster sampling and home to home systematic random sampling. After data collection, the analysis was performed by using SPSS statistical software. In order to test this hypothesis, statistical tests were applied according to each hypothesis.

In this regard, to ensure the reliability required in relation to efficient credit, benefit from masters and relevant experts and Cronbach's alpha test for reliability is attempted.

#### Data Analysis

##### Analysis of research hypotheses

Before proceeding to the statistical tests and analysis of the hypothesis test, non-parametric and parametric tests and also inter-correlations among variables were examined. Below each of these tests will be discussed.

##### Review of the normalized variables situation

To review the normalized variables situation, KS-test (Ks-test sample) is used. The findings are summarized below.

Ho: The data followed a normal distribution

H1: the data are not normally distributed

**Table 1. KS test(Kolmogorov-Smirnov test) for normality of variables**

Couple inconsistency	Fatalism	Mental welfare	Family income		
378	378	378	378	number	
2.31	2.98	3.11	3.42	Mean	Normal parameters
0.411	0.375	0.669	0.362	SD	
1.54	1.92	1.809	1.63	Values of Ks-test	
0.25	0.067	0.0210	0.069	Significant level	

According to Table 1, it can be concluded that the significant values of all variables are greater than 0.05, then we can say that these variables are the normal distribution. So, parametric tests can be used for the hypothesis test.

##### Hypothesis 1. There is a relationship between spouse fatalism and their conflict

To investigate this hypothesis, the Pearson correlation coefficient was used. The findings are in the table below:

**Table 2: Pearson Test of fatalism and inconsistency of spouses**

Pearson	The extent of correlation	Significant level of the domain
Fatalism-inconsistency	.389	.062

**Pearson test has been performed at a confidence level of .99, and the probability of error .01.**

The findings show that there is no significant relationship between fatalism and inconsistency of partners. Since the significance level (sig = 0/062) is more than 0.05, the assumption that there is a significant relationship between fatalism and amount of conflict is rejected. Accordingly, it can be stated that no significant relationship exists between fatalism

and inconsistency of partners, so the research hypothesis is rejected.

**Hypothesis 2. There is relationship between mental well-being and the extent of their conflict.**

To investigate this hypothesis, the Pearson correlation coefficient was used. The findings are in the table below:

**Table 3. Pearson test of mental well-being and inconsistency of spouses**

Pearson	correlation coefficient	Significant level of the domain
Mental welfare – conflict	-.456	.000

Pearson test has been performed at a confidence level of .99, and the probability of error .01.

There is a negative ( $r = -0.45$ ) and significant ( $\text{sig} = 0/000$ ) relationship between the total score and the mental welfare. Accordingly, as the level of psychological well-being (i.e., increase in happiness, positive emotions and positive relationships) is increased, the rate of disagreement between the spouses is reduced, so this relationship is significant. Nevertheless, the research hypothesis that there is a significant relationship between mental well-being and inconsistency of spouses is confirmed.

**Hypothesis 3. There is a relationship between family income and the extent of their inconsistency.**

Since family income was evaluated by using open questionnaire and classified and calculated as an ordinal variable, to survey their relationship with inconsistency, Kendall and Gamma test was used.

Hypothesis H0 or the statistical hypothesis showed no relationship between the studied variables. H1 hypothesis or research hypothesis of this study indicates that there is a relationship between the variables in the statistical tests. To prove the hypothesis, the Sig value is used. According to Table 5, the significant level is less than 05/0 ( $\text{Sig} = .000$ ), therefore the research hypothesis is proved. This hypothesis was confirmed and showed that there is a relationship between "family income" and "inconsistency of spouses". This relationship is inversed. As income increases, less conflict will exist. So the hypothesis is confirmed at the confidence level of 0/95.

**Hypothesis 4. There is a relationship between marriage duration and the extent of their inconsistency.**

The results suggest that there is a statistically significant difference between the total score of the marriage duration and spouses conflict, so this is a moderate rate ( $r = -0.26$ ).

With the increase in marriage duration, the conflict between spouses is reduced. As mentioned, by increasing years of marriage (over 6 years), the amount of conflict between spouses is reduced. While the range of less than 5 years cause more conflict between couples. According to the findings, the most conflict is seen in the early years of life in the range of less than 1 year ( $r = 0.20$ ). Therefore, regarding to the above mentioned statements, can be argued that there is a significant relationship between marriage duration and the extent of their inconsistency. Based on this, the hypothesis is confirmed.

**Hypothesis 5: There is a relationship between age and the extent of their inconsistency.**

The findings suggest that there is a statistically significant difference between the total score of age difference and inconsistency of the spouses, so this is a moderate rate ( $r = 0.42$ ). As the mean of age difference increases, conflict between spouses will enhance. Through age range, there is a significant

relationship between the age difference of more than 5 years (5 to 7 and 7 above) with conflict of spouses. When the age difference is less than 5 years, there will be no significant relationship with conflict of spouse. The above diagram shows the relationship between age difference and conflict of spouses.

Finally, the overall score of the hypotheses must be mentioned. Overall score of relationship between the conflict of spouses and their age difference shows that as the age difference increases, inconsistency rate will also enhance ( $r = 0/42$ ) and this relationship is significant ( $\text{sig} = 0/000$ ).

**Conclusion**

As we have seen, marital satisfaction is one of the final factors in family stability and of the mental health of spouses and children as well as society. Several factors caused the spouse to be satisfied in a marital relationship. Marital adjustment influences on many aspects of human life, individual and social. It is the foundation stone of family and parental role to facilitate parent performance role, increases couple's long-life, increases health and helps economic development, greater satisfaction with life, reduction of psychological problems, better management of conflict, communication skills and problem solving and conflict resolution skills will be better.

Regarding to the importance of the issue of influential factors of the spouses conflict in Guilan-e-Gharb city, this study is to analyze the relationship between variables such as fatalism, psychological well-being, family income, age of the spouses' marriage duration as independent variables and conflict of spouses as dependent variable.

The results of this study are as follows:

- There is no significant relationship between fatalism and the spouses' conflict. The significance level ( $\text{sig} = 0/062$ ) is more than 05/0. The assumption that there is a significant relationship between fatalism and conflict is rejected. Accordingly, it can be stated that no significant relationship exists between spouses' conflict with fatalism, so the research hypothesis is rejected.

- There is a negative ( $r = -0.45$ ) and significant ( $\text{sig} = 0/000$ ) relationship between the total score and the mental welfare. Accordingly, as the level of psychological well-being (i.e., increase in happiness, positive emotions and positive relationships) is increased, the rate of disagreement between the spouses is reduced, so this relationship is significant. Nevertheless, the research hypothesis that there is a significant relationship between mental well-being and inconsistency of spouses is confirmed.

- There is a relationship between family income and the extent of their inconsistency. This is a moderate and inversed relationship. That is, as income increases, conflict is reduced. So this hypothesis is confirmed by confidence level of 95/0.

- There is a statistically significant difference between the total score of the marriage duration and spouses conflict, so this is a moderate rate ( $r = -0.26$ ). With the increase in marriage duration, the conflict between spouses is reduced. As mentioned, by increasing years of marriage (over 6 years), the amount of conflict between spouses is reduced. While the range of less than 5 years cause more conflict between couples. According to the findings, the most conflict is seen in the early years of life in the range of less than 1 year ( $r = 0.20$ ). Therefore, regarding to the above mentioned statements, can be argued that there is a significant relationship between marriage duration and the extent of their inconsistency. Based on this, the hypothesis is confirmed.

**Table 3. Correlation between family income and inconsistency of spouses**

Spectrum of conflict and wives' earnings	Conflicting amount of the spouses				
	A lot	High	Average	Low	Very little
200-400	12	27	63	48	50
401-600	10	25	74	62	29
601-800	8	31	80	53	28
801-1000000	11	25	52	82	30
1000000-1200000	13	27	49	81	30
1200000 UP	9	16	51	87	37

**Table 4. The result of Kendall and Gamma test**

	Value	The standard error	Significant level
Kendall test	-.086	.018	.000
Gamma test	-.117	.025	.000

**Table 5. Correlation between two variables and differences in marital Conflicting**

Variable name	Indicators	Conflicting Couple	
		The correlation coefficient	Significance level
During the years of marriage	Less than 1 year	0/20	0/023
	1 to 5 years	0/17	0/043
	6 to 10 years	-0/22	0/003
	More than 10 year	-0/26	0/000
	Overall score for marriage	-0/31	0/000

**Table 6. Correlation between the two variables: age and inconsistency.**

Variable name	Indicators	Conflicting Couple	
		The correlation coefficient	Significance level
The age difference	Less than 3 year	0/07	0/060
	3 to 5 years	0/10	0/058
	5 to 7 years	0/27	0/003
	More than 7 years	0/33	0/000
	Age difference scores	0/42	0/000

- There is a statistically significant difference between age difference and inconsistency of the spouses, so this is a moderate rate ( $r = 0.42$ ). As the mean of age difference increases, conflict between spouses will enhance. Through age range, there is a significant relationship between the age difference of more than 5 years (5 to 7 and 7 above) with conflict of spouses. When the age difference is less than 5 years, there will be no significant relationship with conflict of spouse. The above diagram shows the relationship between age difference and conflict of spouses. Finally, the overall score of the hypotheses must be mentioned. Overall score of relationship between the conflict of spouses and their age difference shows that as the age difference increases, inconsistency rate will also enhance ( $r = 0/42$ ) and this relationship is significant ( $\text{sig} = 0/000$ ).

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