



## **Social Adjustment of Children and degree of Marital Satisfaction of Parents**

**Fereshteh Sadat Shojae<sup>1\*</sup>, Gholam Ali Afrooz<sup>2</sup>, Anita Baghdasarians<sup>3</sup>**

1. Department of Psychology, Tehran Central Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran

2. Department of Psychology, Tehran Central Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran

3. Department of Psychology, Tehran Central Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran

**Email:** f.shojae.psychology@gmail.com

### **ABSTRACT**

*The purpose of the present study was to evaluate the relationship between social adjustment of children and marital satisfaction of parents. Material used to collect data included two kinds of questionnaire; Afrooz marital satisfaction Scale questionnaire to measure marital satisfaction among parents of the students and California social adjustment test to measure adjustment. Descriptive statistics and Pearson correlation coefficient were used to describe data and to evaluate the relationship between variables, respectively. Obtained results showed a significant relationship between marital satisfaction of parents and social adjustment of children; moreover, marital satisfaction of fathers had more influence on social adjustment of children. According to results, there is a significant relationship between marital satisfaction of parents and social adjustment and social adjustment of children; considering limitations, however, this relationship needs further investigations.*

**Keywords:** Marital satisfaction, Social adjustment

### **INTRODUCTION**

Family is a dynamic system consisting of dependent relationships within social-cultural and economic situations. A kind patient relationship requires helpful responses; on the contrary, bitterness and impatience arouse anger and opposition. In turn, these responses trigger a new loop in the interaction chain. The first case is followed by a positive message and the second ends to a negative social message. Social adjustment is reflect of interaction; that is, satisfaction with roles and performances most probably under influence of the previous personality, culture and family relations [11]. Houses in which everything is its place are a peaceful place for study; while, harsh conversations decrease marital satisfaction. Harsh conversations refer to indirectly negative attempt for effective decisions during interactions. Socialization is a process to form norms, skills, motives, attitudes and behaviors consistent with current and future role in the society. In the other words, socialization is a process to teach life styles, to personalize and develop capacities for personal tasks as a member of the society.

In fact, couples who learn effective communications are more likely to experience satisfaction. Those people are actually concerned who show positive behaviors and responses while talking or asking details. Positive responses usually include activities which lead to live, attractive, vital and exciting relationships. Among many social factors which contribute to parenting, family is undoubtedly the most essential; because family is both the first and oldest place for social communications of the child. Interaction and emotional relationship between children and parents form future expectations and responses of children. Social adjustment, as the most important sign of mental health, is a discussion interested by sociologists, psychologists and psychoanalysts particularly instructors during recent decades. Socialization is a process for socialization and mental health. According to Lotfabadi, socialization is a mutual communicational system between a person and the society. Therefore, both cultural effects and personal growth patterns need to be considered simultaneously. According to studies related to growth, people experience the world differently in different ages. Therefore, it is necessary to introduce personal growth patterns as well as values delivered by society and social groups to explain socialization. Thus, the present study evaluates the relationship between social adjustment of children and marital satisfaction of the parents [9].

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Participants of the present study included high-school students living in Tehran, Iran, in 2012-2013. The sample included 100 students selected by cluster random sampling.

### Material

Afroz marital satisfaction Scale (AMSS): AMSS was developed by Dr. Afroz to evaluate and measure satisfaction among spouses by a new approach. AMSS is highly consistent with Iranian-Islamic culture of Iran. AMSS includes 110 items in a Likert four-point scale from 'totally disagree' to 'totally agree'. The correlation between AMSS and Enrich marital satisfaction is 0.431 which is significant in 99% confidence [10].

California social adjustment scale (CPI-AD): California psychological inventory (CPI) has several forms among which the 9-16 year-old form was developed in 1939 and revised in 1953. This scale was developed to measure different life adjustments in terms of personal and social adjustment. CPI-AD includes 180 two-point items (Yes or No); 90 items cover personal and remaining 90 are related to social adjustment.

Average score: Average scores of students obtained in the previous semester were used to measure academic achievement.

## RESULTS

Results of Pearson correlation coefficient showed a significant positive relationship between marital satisfaction of parents and social adjustment of children. Moreover, marital satisfaction of the father had more influence on social adjustment of children (Table 1).

**Table 1: Pearson correlation coefficient for the relationship between marital satisfaction of the parents and social adjustment of children**

Variables	social adjustment of children	Sig.
Marital satisfaction of the mother	0.218	0.031
Marital satisfaction of the father	0.469	0.000

Results from other correlations showed a significant positive relationship between scales of marital satisfaction including optimism, sexual satisfaction, personal behaviors, social interactive behaviors, problem solving, financial and economic activities, religious attitudes, parenting style, leisure, as well as emotional, verbal and visual interaction of the mother and responsibility of children (Table 2).

There was a positive and significant relationship between scales of marital satisfaction including optimism, sexual satisfaction, personal behaviors, social interactive behaviors, problem solving, financial and economic activities, religious attitudes, parenting style, leisure, as well as emotional, verbal and visual interaction of the mother and socialization of children (Table 2).

There was a positive and significant relationship between scales of marital satisfaction including optimism, sexual satisfaction, personal behaviors, social interactive behaviors, problem solving, financial and economic activities, religious attitudes, parenting style, leisure, as well as emotional, verbal and visual interaction of the mother and responsibility of children (Table 2).

There was a positive and significant relationship between scales of marital satisfaction including optimism, personal behaviors, social interactive behaviors, problem solving, financial and economic activities and leisure of the mother and social presence of children (Table 2).

**Table 2: Pearson correlation coefficient for the relationship between scales of marital satisfaction of the mother and academic achievement of children**

Variables	Responsibility	Socialization	Social presence
Optimism	.281**	.413**	.236*
Sexual satisfaction	.282**	.425**	.171
Personal behaviors	.335**	.296**	.216*
Social interactive behaviors	.326**	.298**	.206*
Problem solving	.271**	.337**	.213*
Financial and economic activities	.257*	.311**	.266**
Religious attitudes	.342**	.097	.164
Parenting style	.444**	.118	.113
Leisure	.512**	.305**	.244*
emotional, verbal and visual interaction	.301**	.271**	.186

There was a significant positive relationship between scales of marital satisfaction including optimism, sexual satisfaction, personal behaviors, social interactive behaviors, problem solving, financial and

economic activities, religious attitudes, parenting style, leisure, as well as emotional, verbal and visual interaction of the father and socialization of children (Table 3).

There was a positive and significant relationship between scales of marital satisfaction including optimism, sexual satisfaction, personal behaviors, problem solving, financial and economic activities, religious attitudes, parenting style, leisure, as well as emotional, verbal and visual interaction of the father and responsibility of children (Table 3).

There was a positive and significant relationship between scales of marital satisfaction including optimism, sexual satisfaction, personal behaviors, social interactive behaviors, problem solving, financial and economic activities religious attitudes, parenting style, leisure as well as emotional, verbal and visual interaction of the father and social presence of children (Table 3).

**Table 3: Pearson correlation coefficient for the relationship between scales of marital satisfaction of the father and academic achievement of children**

Variables	Responsibility	Socialization	Social presence
Optimism	.522**	.491**	.395**
Sexual satisfaction	.274**	.403**	.351**
Personal behaviors	.270**	.295**	.309**
Social interactive behaviors	.202*	.176	.286**
Problem solving	.318**	.352**	.285**
Financial and economic activities	.290**	.284**	.386**
Religious attitudes	.252*	.264**	.382**
Parenting style	.293**	.376**	.391**
Leisure	.335**	.452**	.389**
emotional, verbal and visual interaction	.314**	.449**	.416**

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Results of Pearson correlation coefficient showed a significant positive relationship between marital satisfaction of the parents and social adjustment of the children; moreover, marital satisfaction of the father had more influence on social adjustment of the children. Satisfaction is based on positive thought. In most cases, couples with communicational problems experience some cognitive problems including misjudgment. This result is consistent with Fishman and Myers (2000) who found a significant relationship between marital satisfaction of parents and mental health of children [4]. They also found that mothers with marital dissatisfaction less involve in problems related to children; therefore, their children suffer more psychological pressures. Matthews also claimed that high percent of children who had less martially satisfied mothers showed more peremptory behaviors in home. Their fathers were less active and less responsible for taking care of children. In fact, maternal satisfaction considerably influences on the relationship with the father. Maternal satisfaction directs the father to growth and activity which make the father responsible for his children [3]. Edwards et al found that women were less satisfied with their marriage than men did [7]. This might be due to parenting, housekeeping and problems solving roles of mothers. In fact, the father shows more effective engagement in parenting when he feels more satisfaction. His emotional, verbal and visual interaction directs children to a more dynamic environment which leads to responsibility of children.

## REFERENCES

1. Afrooz, G. (2001). Basics of Marital Psychology in Context of Islamic Culture and Values.s.I.:University of Tehran.Afrooz, G. (2008). Basics of Marriage Psychology. 5th ed. s.I.:University of Tehran.
2. Alder,E. S. (2010). Age, Education level,and length of courtship in Relation to Marital satisfaction. school of professional psychology.
3. Fishman,E. & Meyers,S. (2000). Marita satisfaction and child adjustment.
4. Forsch, C. A., Mangelsdorf, S.C. &Mchale, J. L. (2000). Marital behavior and the security of preschooler-parent attachment relationships. Journal of family psychology, 14(1),144.
5. Loukas, A. & Murphy, J.L. (2007). Middle school student perceptions of school climate:Examining protective functions on subsequent adjustment problems. Journal of school psychology, 45(3), 293-309.
6. Poag,C. K., Cohen,R.S.W., Summerville, M. B. & Ray, G. E. (1992). Marital satisfaction and family stress as predictors of classroom behaviors. Journal of child and family studied .,1(3), 287- 303.

7. Salehy,Z., ZuriaAmat, S. (2011). Marital satisfaction and yolom theory in Iranian couples. *European journals of social sience*,22(1),35-43.
8. Shackelford,T.K. (2001).Self-esteem in marriage.*Presonality and individual Differences*, 30(3), 371-390.
9. Turnbull, R., Turbull, A., Shank, M., Smith, S. & Leal, D. *Exceptional lives: special education in todays schools*. Colunbus ,OH: Merrill,2002. Links.
10. Whitson, S. & EISheikh, M. (2003). Marital confilict and health :: processes and protective factors. *Aggression and Violent Behavior* ,8(3),283-312