

THE INFLUENCE OF EDUCATIONAL LEVEL AND DURATION OF MARRIAGE ON MARITAL SATISFACTION AMONG NIGERIAN COUPLES

Ndubuisi N. Umeaku
Ebube M. Iwuchukwu
Dr. Kingsley O. Nweke
Sylvester U. Oradiegwu

Department of Psychology,
Faculty of Social Sciences,
Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria
Email: nn.umeaku@unizik.edu.ng, jnbest4sure@gmail.com

Abstract

This study examined the influence of educational level and duration of marriage on marital satisfaction among Nigerian couples. Three hundred and eighty seven participants (387) were sampled for the study. They all consist of couples who were selected through simple random sampling procedure. Their age ranged from 18-70years, with a general mean age of 35.3980, the mean age for males is 37.3585, and the mean age for females is 45.4126 and a general standard deviation of .98052. The instrument for the study is a 25-item Index of Marital Satisfaction by Hudson (1982). It adopted 3x3 factorial design and a 2-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used to test the hypotheses. The first hypothesis which stated that Educational level will significantly influence Marital Satisfaction among Nigerian Couples was rejected at ($f=2.636$, $\text{sig} < .073$). The second hypothesis which stated that duration of marriage will significantly influence Marital Satisfaction among Couples was accepted at ($f=12.666$, $\text{sig} < .000$). Based on the findings of this study, the researchers therefore recommended marital experts should counsel spouses on the effect of educational level and duration of marriage on marital satisfaction. It also recommended that marital therapists, parents, friends, and religious leaders should query all the information and procedures that influence marital satisfaction as perceived by the couples, and couples are also advised to attend therapeutic sessions in order to be counseled on the ways to increase their marital satisfaction.

Keywords: Educational Level, Duration of Marriage, Marital Satisfaction, Nigerian Couples

Introduction

Marital satisfaction has been an upsurging issue in the areas of research, as the sudden rise of divorce or separation among various couples has been a problem that needs serious attention. Marital research has often focused on the cause and reasons for changes in marriage as the time goes on, these changes here will either be the increase on the level of marital satisfaction or the decline of marital satisfaction. As we discuss marital satisfaction, there is a need to understand what marriage is all about. Marriage is the processes by which two individuals who are of age make their relationship public, official and permanent. Marriage is the joining or coming together of two people in a bond that usually lasts until death, but in reality, it is often cut short by separation or divorce. Marriage is said not to be stationary but vigorous, that is it is open to changes which are usually influenced by individual development (Henrich et al, 2010). Married people encounter various difficulties at different points of their marital existence, yet within their families and this affects the marital satisfaction over the years. Fluctuations in marriage have generally been studied according to a cross-sectional scheme with samples of families at different stages and a longitudinal design with samples of newlyweds (Bradbury et al, 2000), but the influence of education and duration of marriage on marital satisfaction among couples have rarely been studied.

The study of marital satisfaction is essential in understanding why considerable amount of marriages fail. The possibilities that a lot of couples marry for wrong/bad reasons and with time discover the right reason which usually comes late. Essentially, many problems in marriage that arise are because of problems which are usually present, but ignored or not detected on time. Couples stay in marriage

despite not being satisfied, some are in these unsatisfied marriages for various reasons; some married couples develop attachment anxiety and are afraid of what they would become if divorced from their couples.

According to Bradbury et al (2000), marital satisfaction research has focused on the identification and effect of so many key independent variables which contribute to lack and increase of marital satisfaction, and this research would also be looking into the influence of education and duration of marriage on marital satisfaction among couples. This topic is very important in our current society in order to reduce the rate of divorce, to increase marital satisfaction and also to find out if the influence of education and duration of marriage on marital satisfaction among Nigerian couples, but, we need to understand what education is.

Education (educational level) is usually established by societal standards for each level and how one's education compares to those standards. Educational level can also be defined as the highest level of education you have achieved. Education is a mindful and intentional effort to create an environment of learning and the learning process so that the learners are actively developing the potential for him to have the spiritual strength of religious, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and the skills needed for themselves and society. Education can also be seen as an act or process of impacting or acquiring knowledge, increasing the power of analysis and opinion, and in general prepare oneself or other individual academically for adult living. Education is also an act or procedure of impacting or acquiring knowledge or skills, as a profession. Education is therefore a process whereby individuals gain knowledge in order to enable the individuals know more about a particular field or thing, knowledge is important in the day to day living of every human being. The knowledge we acquire is what we use in performing and functioning daily in our day to day activities.

Some studies have been done in the area of marital satisfaction with different variables of interest, Janssen et al (1998) discovered that highly educated women had higher rates of unstable marriages. But, according to the National Survey of Family Growth data, marital dissolution was lower among women who were more educated. An in-depth study would take us through to know if education has an influence on marital satisfaction, and if this influence is negative or positive.

The duration of marriage refers to the period of time with respect to days, weeks, months and years of marital existence/relationship among couples often calculated in years. The period that partners have spent together has been shown to associate with marital satisfaction. The influence of marriage duration on marital satisfaction is negative (it decreases with a relationship length) or U-shaped (it decreases in the beginning and increase after some time). But this variable may differ in so many tribes or races, for example in prescribed marriages; marriage satisfaction might be lesser in the early stages of a marriage (Lavner & Bradbury, 2010).

Furthermore, it could be said that couples who were able to achieve five years' marriage duration are on their way to achieving marital satisfaction as well as being satisfied with the support they receive from their spouses. Generally, we expect that couples married for longer amounts of time will report being more satisfied and supported in their marriages than those who have been married for shorter amounts of time. Duncan (2008) plausibly stated that if couples have been married for longer period of time then, they have the tendency to be wiser.

Statement of the Problem

Marital satisfaction is an important constituent to the firmness of any marriage which in turn influences the stability and cohesion of any nation or country, because the family is the basic and the fundamental unit of any nation or country. Overtime marital satisfaction being a complex process has been proven to be influenced by many factors, including education, duration of marriage, number of children, socio-economic status, love, commitment, conflict, gender, age, sexual relations, marital communication and division of labour. Low level of marital satisfaction usually leads marital dissatisfaction. Yet, there are

different factors that could negatively influence marital satisfaction which in turn could lead to marital dissatisfaction and then divorce. Various works have been done in the search for a remedy for this ugly trends in marriage, but a lot of grounds are still left to be covered. Although, works have been done on education and duration of marriage on marital satisfaction among couples in the Western setting, but from the existing studies, factors such as the influence of educational level and duration of marriage on marital satisfaction have not been given adequate attention in this part of the world (Africa) particularly in Nigeria and there have been a dearth of research in this area among Nigerian couples.

Research Questions

1. Does educational level have significant influence on marital satisfaction among Nigerian couples?
2. Dose duration of marriage have significant influence on marital satisfaction among Nigerian couples?

Purpose of the Study

The general purpose of this study is to understand the influence of educational level and duration of marriage on marital satisfaction among Nigerian couples. The specific purposes of this study are to determine:

1. Whether educational level has an influence on marital satisfaction among Nigerian couples.
2. Whether duration of marriage has an influence on marital satisfaction among Nigerian couples.

Relevance of this Study

The outcome of this study is important because, it would aid the marriage counselors, counseling psychologists, religious teachers, psychotherapists and family psychologists on how to counsel partners and families. It would also assist couples in knowing how to maintain an effective and stable marital relationship that leads to marital satisfaction. Finally, this study will open another chapter of empirical research in this area.

Theoretical framework

Social Exchange Theory of Marital Satisfaction

Social Exchange Theory (SET) by Thibaut and Kelley (1959) is based on the postulation that the ideology which oversees profits and losses in the business transactions can be applied in regulating social communications in relationship. It noted that expectations of satisfaction within a relationship hinge on on past experience, and that commitment to a relationship depends on whether there are alternative relationships available to the individuals which may be more satisfying. Blau (1964) referred to social exchange as "voluntary actions of the individual that are motivated by the returns they are expected to bring and typically to do in fact bring from others". He noted that the exact nature of the returns is neither determined in advance nor traversable because they depend on the decision of the person making them; the apparent returns depend on trusting the other to fulfill their responsibilities. This means that marriage is a transactional relationship in which each partner has roles and obligations to keep and when these obligations are met, couples attain marital satisfaction.

Afolabi (2014), examined the influence of personality and gender on marital satisfaction and mentoring relationships among Nigerian nurses. The participants were made up of 100 nurses (20 males; 80 females) who were randomly selected from two Teaching Hospitals in Benin City, Nigeria. The findings showed that neuroticism, agreeableness, and gender have significant influence on marital satisfaction of nurses such that nurses who were low in neuroticism and high in agreeableness and males tended to be more satisfied with their marital life than other categories of nurses. Nevertheless, there were no interaction effects of neuroticism, agreeableness, and gender on marital satisfaction. Moreso, neuroticism and agreeableness significantly influenced mentoring relationship of nurses in such a way that those who were low in neuroticism, but high in agreeableness benefited more from mentoring relationships than those who are either high in neuroticism or low in agreeableness. There were no

gender differences in mentoring relationship among nurses. Finally, there were no significant interactions of effects of neuroticism, agreeableness and gender on mentoring relationship among nurses.

Wendorf et al (2011) studied “marriage across three cultures: does the number of children have an impact after accounting for other marital demographics?”. In their work, they investigated the impact of children on love among couples in the United States. The participants sampled for the study were more than 2,000 married couples from largely urban areas in the three racially, religiously, economic and geographically dissimilar countries. Data were collected using Marriage and Relationships Questionnaire (MARQ) of Rusell and Wells. The study revealed that number of children has a significant negative impact on marital satisfaction among couples, it also showed that comparable to the impact of number of children, that the duration of marriage has a largely negative impact on marital satisfaction.

Tavakol et al (2016) reported a study with main aim of reviewing the factors influencing marital satisfaction and dissatisfaction. They made a search through different online academic databases such as Google scholar and Scopus for papers published from the year 2000 to 2015. Their searches yielded 250 scientific papers with the related key words such as marital adjustment, marital satisfaction and couple satisfaction. Out of the 250, only 180 were eligible for the study. From their findings, personal health, attachment styles, sex, sacrifice, religion, emotional intelligence, relationship, personality traits, communication, forgiveness, intimacy, demographic speculations, and couples’ families are the factors influencing marital satisfaction.

Abamara et al (2018) investigated marital satisfaction among married people in Awka: A factorial study of intimacy and libido. Participants sampled were a total number of 165 married men and women who were randomly selected using simple random sampling techniques. Data were collected using three instruments; Index of Marital Satisfaction, Personality Assessment of Intimacy in Relationship Scale and Sexual Libido Scale. The results showed that intimacy has significant influence on marital satisfaction. Also, libido has a high significant influence on marital satisfaction, and that there is a significant interaction effect on intimacy and libido on marital satisfaction.

Ambroz et al (2021) reported a study on marital satisfaction which investigated values and virtues as correlates of quality and stability of romantic relationships and marriage in post-socialist transitional society. A sample of 511 participants served as the sample for the study from Slovenia, and the findings showed that the participants/respondents rated love, health, and safety at the zenith of values. The results further indicated that family safety and comfort as well as love correlated significantly with relationship quality and excitement have significant effect on the stability of relationship. Finally, love was associated with subjective perception of a person’s quality of relationship.

Hypotheses

1. Educational level will significantly influence marital satisfaction among Nigerian couples.
2. Duration of marriage will significantly influence marital satisfaction among Nigerian couples.

Method

Participants

The total of three hundred and eighty seven (387) participants was conveniently selected from Southern and Northern Nigeria. A total of 60% sample size was drawn from the Southern Nigeria and a total of 40% sample size drawn from Northern Nigeria. They included hundred and six (106) men and two hundred and eighty one (281) women, their age ranges from 18-70 years.

Instrument

The instrument used for this study and for data collection is the Index of Marital Satisfaction by Hudson (1982). The Index of Marital Satisfaction is a 25-item inventory developed by Hudson (1982), to evaluate the different factors linked with marital satisfaction. The instrument has a likert response

pattern, ranging from 1= Rarely or none of the time, 2= A little of the rarely, 3= Some of the time, 4= Good part of the time, 5= Most of all the time.

There are direct scoring and reverse scoring items. The direct scoring items are items: 2, 4, 6, 7, 10, 12, 14, 15, 18, 22, 24, and 25; while the reverse scoring items are: 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21 and 23. To attain the raw score, the result of the direct scores and the reverse scores were added together and 25 was subtracted from the raw score to obtain the clients final score, scores below 30 will be taken to indicate a satisfaction in relationship, while any score above 30 will be taken to indicate dissatisfaction in marital relationship.

The reliability coefficient reported by Hudson (1982) is: Cronbach alpha internal consistency of .96, 2- hour test retest of .96. A concurrent validity coefficient of .48 was obtained by Anene in 1994, while Abamara in 2019 reported alpha coefficients reliability of 0.70.

Procedure

The research was approved by the concerned authorities after due considerations of ethical issues. Copies of the research questionnaire were distributed with the help of research assistants. The ethics for the research included; anonymity, voluntary participation and confidentiality. The research participants consent were sought and they were also informed about the purpose of the research. A total number of 421 copies of questionnaire were distributed to the participants. It took few months to fully distribute these copies of the questionnaire and the participants were instructed on how to fill the questionnaire. A total number of 387 copies of the 421 distributed copies of the questionnaire were completely filled and being valid, were used for the study.

Inclusion Criteria

Married men and married women

Exclusion Criteria

Non-married men and non- married women

Design and Statistics

The study is a survey, it adopts 3x3 factorial design and 2-way ANOVA was the statistics used to investigate the influence of educational level and duration of marriage on marital satisfaction among Nigerian couples.

Results

The details of the result summary of the analysis on the influence of educational level and duration of marriage on marital satisfaction among Nigerian couples.

GENDER	Mean	N	Deviation	Std.
MALE	2.2056	106		.36405
FEMALE	2.1262	281		.40148
Total	2.1478	387		.39279

The table above shows the means (x) scores of men and women on marital satisfaction (men are more satisfied in marriage than women at the mean scores of 2.2056 and 2.1262).

Table 2

Tests of Between-Subjects Effects					
Dependent Variable: MS					
Source	Type III Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected Model	3.199 ^a	8	.400	4.692	.000
Intercept	3377.535	1	3377.535	39635.720	.000
EDUCATION	.449	2	.225	2.636	.073
DOM	2.159	2	1.079	12.666	.000
EDUCATION * DOM	.015	4	.004	.043	.996
Error	32.211	378	.085		
Total	3785.980	387			
Corrected Total	35.410	386			

a. R Squared = .090 (Adjusted R Squared = .071)

The table above shows that Duration of Marriage (DOM) has significant influence on marital satisfaction (MS) among Nigerian couples at ($f=12.666$, $sig < .000$), but Educational Level (EL) has no significant influence on MS among Nigerian couples at ($f=2.636$, $sig < .073$).

Table 3:

Multiple Comparisons						
Dependent Variable: MS						
Tukey HSD						
(I) DOM	(J) DOM	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
LOW	AVERAGE	.0451	.03685	.440	-.0416	.1318
	HIGH	-.1466*	.03791	.000	-.2358	-.0574
AVERAGE	LOW	-.0451	.03685	.440	-.1318	.0416
	HIGH	-.1917*	.03509	.000	-.2742	-.1091
HIGH	LOW	.1466*	.03791	.000	.0574	.2358
	AVERAGE	.1917*	.03509	.000	.1091	.2742

Based on observed means.
 The error term is Mean Square (Error) = .085.
 *. The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level.

The table above describes the mean differences among the three (3) levels of DOM (Low level=0-3 years, Average=4-7 years and High=8-11 years) with respect to their contributions to the level of significant influence.

Summary of Result

The ANOVA table above shows the summarized result of the hypothesis. The first hypothesis which stated that educational level will significantly influence marital satisfaction among couples is thereby rejected at ($f=2.636$, $sig < .073$). This findings implies that educational level does not have a significantly effect on marital satisfaction among couples.

The second hypothesis which said duration of marriage will significantly affect marital satisfaction is there by accepted at ($f=12.666$, $sig < .000$). This implies that duration of marriage will not significantly influence marital satisfaction among couples.

Discussions

The outcomes of the study which investigated the influence of educational level and duration of marriage on marital satisfaction among Nigerian couples were discussed below. The Hypothesis one which stated education level will significantly influence marital satisfaction among Nigerian couples was rejected. The study indicated that educational level has no significant effect on marital satisfaction among Nigerian couples. The result is in consonance with the findings in the work of Barongo et al, (2015) who investigated the association of levels of education and marital experience on marital satisfaction among selected marriages in Kisii Township Kisii country and the result stated that there is no significant relationship between level of education and marital satisfaction. Agha et al (2012) who found out that there were no statistical significance between education, emotional intelligence and marital satisfaction. Similar to this is also the findings of Madanian et al (2012) reported in their work that financial issues, intimacy, commitment, and children were significant factors that influence the level of marital satisfaction and not educational level of participants. Ernest et al (2012) also found that education had no positive influence on marital satisfaction rather number of children has an influence on marital satisfaction.

Hypothesis two which stated that duration of marriage would significantly influence marital satisfaction among Nigerian couples was accepted. The result of the analysis conducted showed that duration of marriage has significant influence on marital satisfaction among Nigerian couples and it is in consistent with Gallimore et al (2006) examined marriage length, spousal support and marital satisfaction in dual income men and women. Participants used were 143 dual-income couples from the United States of America, of the 286 dual income respondents, the majority of (75%) identified as Caucasian, 14% as African-American, and 3% as Asian. They were all selected using a convenience sampling method. Data was collected using Satisfaction with dual income lifestyle and Enrich Marital Satisfaction Scale questionnaires were used. They calculated Pearson correlations for marital satisfaction and spousal support for couples and also separate correlations for men and for women; all correlations were significant as predicted. Spousal support is positively related with marital satisfaction. For Men, spousal support and marital satisfaction was strongly correlated, also, for women there was a strong correlation between spousal support and marital satisfaction. Hawkins and Booth (2005) reported the effects of long duration of marriage and low quality marriage on wellbeing. The study highlighted the factors and reasons responsible for long term marriage that is not satisfying and stipulated that low quality marriage is more detrimental than divorce and that low quality marriages are usually associated with lower levels of overall happiness, self-esteem, life satisfaction and overall health. Weishaus and Field (1988) investigated long term marriages that from 50 to 59 years. They studied a variety of couples using multiple interviews, and the results of their in-depth study showed six different types of long term marriages; curvilinear, continuous decline, continuous increase, stable/positive, stable neutral and stable negative. Swensen and Trahaug (1985) did a study on the duration of marriage, adopting different tests and scales such as Love Sale Index and Marriage Scale Index, they were able to establish the commitment level and in long term marriage, love expression and how their trajectory of changes in the course of marriage. From the results also, (see Tables 1 & 3), a greater number of Nigerian couples take marriage for better for worse, and this belief plays great roles in influencing the longevity of their marriages and the longer the marriage, the more satisfied they become, but, the men are more satisfied in marriages than their women counterparts.

Implication of the Study

The present study has shown that duration of marriage has significant influence on marital satisfaction among Nigerian couples, but duration of marriage does not have a significant influence on marital satisfaction among Nigeria couples. Theoretically, the study will be added to the existing literature and enhance more understanding on the concept of marital satisfaction. These findings will also enlighten marriage counselors, therapists and psychologists on the factors that have an effect on marital satisfaction and give them more knowledge on how to resolve marital dissatisfaction.

Limitation of the Study

The sample size for this study is not that large and might affect the generalization of the findings.

Recommendations

Marital experts should counsel spouses on the influence of duration of marriage on marital satisfaction. Marital therapists, parents, friends, and religious leaders should query all the information, procedures that influence marital satisfaction as perceived by the couples. Couples are advised to attend therapeutic sessions in order to be advised on ways to increase their marital satisfaction. Based on the findings of this study, the researchers recommend that married persons should pay more attention to their marital affairs instead of leaving it in the hand of chance.

Suggestion for Further Study

Researchers are encouraged to increase the population while conducting related study. The research suggests that more studies should be conducted on the other various factors/ variables that influence marital satisfaction.

Conclusion

This study investigated how much influence educational level and duration of marriage have on marital satisfaction among Nigerian couples. Based on the findings, the researcher concluded that duration of marriage has a significant influence on marital satisfaction among Nigerian couples, but educational level has no significant influence on marital satisfaction among Nigerian couples. Empirically, the findings of this study expanded the knowledge base in the area of marital satisfaction, also the study will contribute to the existing knowledge by enhancing the understanding of marital satisfaction as a whole. Given the result of the findings, couples should endeavour to put more effort in observing how different factors influence their marital satisfaction.

References

- Abamara, N.C., Abamara, I.C., Udeze, C.N., & Ibekwe, L. (2018). Marital satisfaction among married people in Awka: A factorial study of intimacy and libido. *Journal of Health & Science*, 4, 78-100.
- Afolabi, O. A. (2014). Do personality and gender have effects on marital satisfaction and mentoring relationships among Nigerian nurses? *Nigerian Journal of Applied Behavioural Sciences*, 2, 153-165.
- Agha, M. H. P., Mokhtaree, M. R., Sayadi, A. R., Nazer, M. & Mosavi, S. A. (2012) Study of Emotional Intelligence and Marital Satisfaction in Academic Members of Rafsanjan University of Medical Sciences. *Journal of Psychology & Psychotherapy*, 2:106, 245-255. <http://doi.org/10.4172/2161-0487.1000106>
- Ambroz, M. A.; Suklan, J. & Jelovac, D. (2021). Values and virtues as correlates of quality and stability of romantic relationships and marriage in post-socialist transitional society. *Social Sciences*, 10: 289. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci10080289>
- Blau, P. M. (1964). *Exchange and Power in Social Life Transaction*. Wiley: ISBN 978-0-88738-628-2.
- Borong, S.; Okwara, M.; Aloka, P. & Mosaka, N. O. (2015). Association of levels of education and marital experience on marital satisfaction among selected marriages in Kisii Township, Kisii County. *Research on Humanities and Social Sciences*, 5, 8, 27-32.
- Bradbury, T.; Fincham, F. & Beach, S. (2000). Research on the nature and determinants of marital satisfaction: A decade in review. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 62, 954-980
- Duncan, G. D. (2008). The relationship between traits forgiveness and marital adjustment in heterosexual individuals. *Dissertation of Capulla university*.

- Ernest, I. O.; Piotr, S.; Agnieszka, S.; R. & Nathan P. (2012). Children and marital satisfaction in a non-Western sample: having more children increases marital satisfaction among the Igbo people of Nigeria. *Journal of evolution and human behavior*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.evolhumbehav>.
- Gallimore, S. A.; Hughes, J. L. & Geldhauser, H. A. (2006). "Marriage length, spousal support, and marital satisfaction in dual-income men and women". *Modern Psychological Studies*, 12, 1, 61-69.
- Henrich, J.; Heine, S. J. & Norenzayan, A. (2010). The weirdest people in the world. *Behav. Brain Sci.*, 33, 61-83.
- Hawkins, D. & Booth, A. (2005). Unhappy ever after: effects of long-term, low-quality marriages on well-being. *Social Forces*, 84,1, 445-465.
- Hudson W.W. (1992). *Index of marital satisfaction*. Walmyr publication.
- Janssen, J. P.; Poortman, A. R.; De Graaf, P. M. & Kalmijn, M. (). De instabiliteit van huwelijken en samenwoonrelaties in Nederland. *Mens en Maatschppig*, 73, 4-26.
- Lavner, J. A. & Bradbury, T. N. (2010). Patterns of change in marital satisfaction over the newly wed years. *J. Marr. Fam.* 72, 1171-1187.
- Madanian, L.; Syed, M. S. S. M. & Abdul, H. O. (2012). *Marital satisfaction of Iranian female students in Malaysia: a qualitative study*. 3rd World Conference on Psychology, Counseling and Guidance.
- Swensen, C. & Trahaug, G. (1985). Commitment and the long-term marriage relationship. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 47, 4, 939-945.
- Tavakol, Z; Nasrabadi, A. N.; Moghadam, Z. B.; Salehiniya, H. & Razael, E. (2016). A review of factors associated with marital satisfaction. *Galen Medical Journal*, 6, 3: ISSN (online) 2322-2379
- Thibaut, J. W. & Kelley, H. H. (1959). *The social psychology of groups*. Wiley: ISBN 978-0-88738-633-6
- Weishaus, S. & Field, D. (1988). A half century of marriage: Continuity or change? *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 50, 3, 763-774
- Wendorf, C. A.; Lucas, T.; Imamoglu, E. O.; Weisfeld, C. C. & Weisfeld, G. E. (2011). Marital satisfaction across three cultures: Does the number of children have an impact after accounting for other marital demographics? *Journal of Cross Cultural Psychology*, 42: 340–354.