

Correlation between Marriage Satisfaction and the Self-Relation and the Person Psychological Gender in Young Families

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Abstract

Timeliness of the studied problem is caused by a need to solve the problem of modern society: preservation of the family enduring a difficult stage—transition from traditional model to a new. The article is directed on research of the factors influencing the marriage satisfaction. The leading research methods of this problem are: the theoretical review of the available researches on this subject, testing, mathematical statistics methods.

The main results of research are: definition of correlation between separate indicators of the self-relation and marriage satisfaction; existence of male and female characteristics of the correlation between self-relation and marriage satisfaction; correlation of the male's marriage satisfaction with the person psychological gender characteristics. Article can be used in researches of the factors influencing marriage satisfaction and also can be used by applied psychologists in the work with married couples.

Keywords: young family, marriage satisfaction, self-relation, person psychological gender

1. Introduction

1.1 Timeliness

The modern family endures a difficult stage in the evolution—transition from traditional model to a new, and many scientists characterize present conditions for a family as a crisis. All this, in the end, leads to the birth rate falling, divorces grow and increase in number of single persons.

According to Federal State Statistics Service in the last few years for each 1000 marriages are about 500 divorces that make 50%. That is each second marriage is breaking up (2013).

According to researches, the greatest percent of divorces is in the marriages which lasted less than 3-5 years (Gasparyan, 1999). Therefore recently the special attention of sociologists, demographers, psychologists is attracted more and more to a young family.

1.2 Definition of the Key Terms

It is assumed that the young family is a family in the first 3 years after a marriage (in case of the birth of children—without restriction to marriage duration) provided that any of spouses didn't reach 30-year age (Kosacheva, 1990).

In modern psychology the marriage satisfaction most of researchers mark out as a key psychological parameter of family wellbeing, through which difficult mechanisms of dynamics and functioning of a family become clear.

Usually the marriage satisfaction is defined as inner value judgment, the spouses' attitude to their marriage, which develops as result of adequate realization of idea (image) of a family, which person developed in his mind under the influence of various events making his experience (real or symbolical) in this field of activity. Marriage satisfaction let the person to be sure that he is empathized, will be helped to solve problems and overcome a difficult life situation (Golod, 1984). Family is a special system of the person relations with the world that assumes a problem of marriage satisfaction in the angle of methodological questions dealing with the person interaction in space of the standard situations subject to a cultural context including a family context (Bayanova, 2009, 2011, 2013).

After V. Stolin and S. Pantileev we determine the self-relation concept as “the direct and phenomenological expression (or representation) of “Me” for the person lying on his mind surface. Thus specifics of “Me”

experience are derivative of the person real life, his objective position in society” (Stolin & Pantileev, 1989).

The psychological gender is considered as a dimension of “... the person and the person behavior according to the masculinity-femininity point of view. The masculinity-femininity is a set of the features distinguishing men and women, phylogenetically given properties of mind, which are formed under the influence of social factors” (Lopukhova, 2001).

At the present stage of development of ideas about the person psychological gender manifestations (within orthogonal model) the four main types of psychological gender are highlighted. Psychological gender is considered to be masculine(male) if in individual traits of the person, idiosyncrasy, hierarchy of the main life values and structure of motives of the person standard characteristics of a male gender role in society are shown.

Feminine (female) psychological gender is a compliance of the mentioned features of the person to standard characteristics of a female gender role.

The androgenic psychological gender is a manifestation by the person at the same time the feminine and the masculine features with adequate sexual identity that allows him to keep the gender-role norms loose and to pass from traditionally female occupations to man’s and vice versa freely.

Undifferentiated psychological gender is an absence or deficit to show such qualities as masculinity and femininity by the person.

1.3 Description of the Purpose, Hypothesis, Research Selection

The purpose of this study was the factors influencing marriage satisfaction in young families.

Hypothesis of our study: the positive self-relation and adequacy of a psychological gender correspond to higher satisfaction with marriage.

Young families with ages from 19 till 30 years were part of the study. The length of married life didn’t exceed 5 years. Total number of respondents made 34 persons (17 women and 17 men).

2. Materials and Methods

To study factors influencing marriage satisfaction in young families the following techniques were used: the test/questionnaire of marriage satisfaction (Stolin, Romanova, & Butenko). It is intended for instant diagnosis of degree of satisfaction/dissatisfaction with marriage, and also extent of consent/discrepancy of marriage satisfaction different couples. The questionnaire represents the one-dimensional scale consisting of 24 statements relating to various spheres: perception of self and partner, opinion, assessment, installation, etc.

The BSRI standardized questionnaire to measure manifestations of the person psychological gender (Bem & Lopukhov, 2013). Validation of this questionnaire in Russia was carried out during 1997-1999. Repeated revalidation was in 2012-2013. This questionnaire is aimed to identify the person psychological gender. For today it represents 27 qualities of the person, which the examinee estimates on a scale from 1 to 5 regarding evidence of: nine of them make a scale of masculinity, another nine a scale of femininity, and nine are “buffer”, describing the “universal” socially desirable qualities, which aren’t typified on category of a gender. The questionnaire measures 2 scales (masculinity and femininity) with which 4 types of the psychological gender can be diagnosed: masculine, feminine, androgenic and undifferentiated.

MIS technique of the self-relation study (Panteleev). The questionnaire represents the multidimensional psychodiagnostic tool based on the standardized self-report principle and includes the following scales:

- 1) Openness (or lie scale)
- 2) Self-confidence sets self-image as independent, strong-willed person who can respect himself.
- 3) The self-management reflects the person ideas that the main source of activity and his own personality is himself.
- 4) The reflected self-relation includes points connected with the expected attitude towards the person from others.
- 5) Inherent worth reflects an emotional assessment of “Me” by internal criteria of love, richness of an inner space.
- 6) Self-acceptance: high values speak about the friendly attitude to self, peace with self, unconditional acceptance of self, even if with some weaknesses.
- 7) Self-attachment: high values speak about a constriction of “Me” concept, unwillingness to change against the general positive attitude towards self.

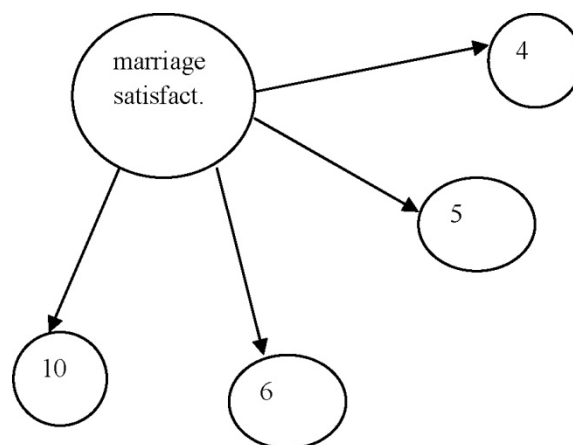
8) An internal proneness to conflict: high values testify existence of the internal conflicts, disagreement with self. Moderate increase shows an internal reflection, awareness of the difficulties, an adequate image of “Me”.

9) Self-accusation: high value shows readiness to blame himself for the failures and weaknesses. It is an indicator of sympathy absence and followed by negative emotions on self.

3. Results

To have made the general correlation analysis of men and women, we revealed that marriage satisfaction in young families has direct correlation with a factor of a worthiness, $r=0.4$. This factor reflects importance of self and at the same time estimated value of “Me” for others.

The correlation analysis which is carried out in group of women (fig. 1) showed existence of direct correlation between marriage satisfaction and the following parameters of the self-relation: closedness $r=0.4$: high values of the scale speak about closedness, inability or unwillingness to realize and generate significant information on self. Self-confidence $r=0.3$: the factor sets the attitude towards self as a confident, independent, strong-willed and reliable person who deserves to respect himself. The self-management $r=0.3$: this factor can be interpreted as reflecting representation that the main source of activity and his own personality is self. Self-attachment $r=0.4$: according to his psychological content the factor is close to such measurement of “Me” concept as “crystallization”—ease or difficulty for the person to determine idea of self. These correlations can be explained by that the importance and stature of the woman in society in many respects is defined by her success as the wife. As a consequence of it, on one hand, can be demonstration of satisfaction with marriage, rather her real feelings and, on the other hand, give her a self-confidence.



4. openness (closeness)

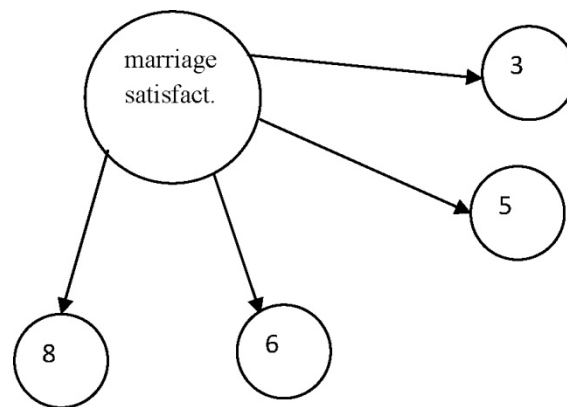
5. self-confidence

6. self-management

10. self-attachment

Figure 1. Factors connected with satisfaction with marriage for women in young families

In group of men the carried-out correlation analysis showed (fig. 2) direct interrelation of marriage satisfaction with femininity $r=0.3$. It can be explained with that in a modern family the importance of good relations prevail and for that a man have to show “feminine” qualities such as an ability to listen, concede, keenness, etc. Self-confidence: $r=0.4$ —a factor sets self-image as independent, strong-willed person who can respect himself. The self-management $r=0.5$ —this factor can be interpreted as reflecting representation that the main source of activity and his own personality is self. Inherent worth $r=0.5$ —that is, the more man respects himself the more his satisfaction with marriage.



- 3. femininity
- 5. Self-confidence
- 6. self-management
- 8. Inherent worth

Figure 2. Factors interconnected with marriage satisfaction for men in young families

Thus, from the above it is clear that our hypothesis partially was confirmed: marriage satisfaction is significantly connected with some components of the self-relation, and also with features of the person psychological gender.

4. Discussions

4.1 Studies of Satisfaction with Marriage

A number of studies is devoted to a problem of satisfaction with marriage. In particular, studies of correlation of marriage satisfaction and spouses' social activity were conducted (Karymova, 2013; Tashcheva, 2012; Khusainova, 2014; Fedorenko & Potapova, 2014). Klyueva studied correlation of marriage satisfaction with family scenarios (Klyueva, 2012). Distinctions of marriage satisfaction in legally registered couples and couples living in "civil" marriage were investigated (Tashcheva & Frondzey, 2011; Bielogai & Zulfukharova, 2009). Also there are studies devoted to search of correlation of marriage satisfaction with personal and intra family adaptability of spouses (Karchauli, 2006). Levkovich's study showed the term of premarital acquaintance influence on marriage satisfaction (Levkovich, 2010). The ratio of marriage motives and degree of marriage satisfaction was in detail analyzed by S. Golod (Golod, 1984).

4.2 Gender Features of Satisfaction with Marriage

Also a number of researchers considered gender features of marriage satisfaction (Andreyeva, 2009; Vasilyeva & Shigavaleev, 2010; Bielogai & Kuskova, 2009). Lopukhova allocates such phenomenon as the intra personal gender conflict. A source of this conflict can be internal conflict ratio of gender characteristics, (a divergence of personal qualities and standard gender installations and expectations, for example, the masculine woman and patriarchal mindset and expectations of her partner) (Lopukhova, 2013).

Therefore, study correlation of marriage satisfaction and the self-relation of spouses with such characteristic as the person psychological gender appear to be interesting. On this subject there is a study considering features of the person psychological gender with the family life value of the young unmarried people (Karneev & Merzlyakova, 2011).

4.3 Self-Processes and Satisfaction with Marriage

Also there are studies of spouses' attitude to themselves and each other and their correlation with marriage satisfaction. In one of them correlation of marriage satisfaction and a self-assessment is confirmed (Sacco & Phares, 2001), in others, on opposite, it is negative (Admiral's, 2008)

4.4 Novelty of Study

Novelty of our study is analysis of the marriage satisfaction level and parameters of the self-relation of spouses in young families in correlation with features of the person psychological gender.

5. Conclusion

From results of the correlation analysis the following conclusions can be drawn:

- There is a direct correlation between separate indicators of the self-relation and satisfaction with marriage.
- Men and women has their own individualities in the correlation of the self-relation and marriage satisfaction.
- Men's marriage satisfaction has correlation with features of the person psychological gender.
- The hypothesis that the positive self-relation and adequacy of the person psychological gender correspond to higher satisfaction with marriage, was confirmed in general.

6. Recommendations

The results received in study are recommended to be used in practical psychological work with married couples both at diagnostics stage, and at a psycho-correction stage. The obtained data is possible to use in the empirical researches dedicated to problems of marriage satisfaction.

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