

Prediction criteria of mate selection base on marital satisfaction, and mutual popularity of parents

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Abstract

Introduction: One of the variables that is considered before the start of married life and is related to the subsequent performance of couples is the criteria for choosing a spouse. The aim of the present study was to predict the criteria for choosing a spouse of young people on the verge of marriage based on marital satisfaction and mutual popularity of parents.

Research method: The research method was descriptive-correlation and the statistical population was all students aged 18 to 30 on the verge of marriage at universities in Shiraz and their parents. 300 of them were selected by multi-stage cluster sampling method and were evaluated by the Afrouz Marital Satisfaction Scale; Asadi and Afrouz Parental Popularity Scale; and the Welfare Criteria for Choosing a Spouse Questionnaire. The research data were analyzed using SPSS software and Pearson correlation and stepwise regression methods.

Findings: The findings showed that there was a significant positive relationship ($p < 0.05$) between all components of marital satisfaction and parental popularity with content and process criteria for mate selection. Also, the findings from regression analysis showed that the three components of financial affairs and economic activities, parenting method, and mother's popularity were the best predictors of content criteria, and the components of mother's popularity, spiritual feelings and behavior, and communication and social behaviors were the best predictors of process criteria for mate selection.

Conclusion: The results showed that family functioning, especially marital satisfaction and mutual popularity of parents, play a special role in the criteria for mate selection of young people.

Key words: criteria for choosing a spouse, marital satisfaction, mutual popularity of parents

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Introduction:

Marriage is the most sacred and complex relationship between two people of opposite genders, which has wide and deep dimensions and multiple goals. Marriage is the foundation which the divine creation is base on, and it's a general law that covers the entire of universe (1). Many factors are involved in a successful marriage, including the role of social, economic, family and individual factors (2), especially the individual's criteria for mate selection, the level of marital satisfaction and the mutual popularity of parents-young.

A smart and desirable marriage takes place with the correct criteria for mate selection (3) mate selection is a process that includes examining and evaluating the characteristics and status of the ideal future spouse from various aspects such as: appearance, income, socio-economic, education level, job, and family status; So that the set of these characteristics form the behavior of mate selection (4). Mate selection is a delicate and dynamic matter, in which success requires paying attention to appropriate criteria (5).

One of the influencing factors on choosing a suitable spouse for young people is the family atmosphere, especially the parents' marital satisfaction (6). Marital satisfaction is a very complex structure, which can be seen as the mutual satisfaction of the wife's with each other's psycho-sexual attractions (7) and having the greatest sense of peace and psychological security in their joint life (8). Halford (9) define marital satisfaction as a state of spiritual that reflects a person's perceived benefits and costs of marrying with specific person. In other words, marital satisfaction means the compatibility between a person's expectations of married life and what she experiences in her life, and this includes the feeling of satisfaction and pleasure experienced by couples at any time that includes all aspects of their marriage (10) family psychologists and researchers have listed marital satisfaction as the main act of mental peace and development of family members (11, 12). Recent research shows the relationship between the health of the main family (13, 14), couples conflicts and divorce (15, 16) and attachment styles (17) with the young criteria of mate selection. The research results of Chen, Lin, Lu and Chang (18) show the vital role of parents on the satisfactory marriage of young children; Young children develop better when parents are satisfying partners.

Beside parents' marital satisfaction, the intra-individual variable of parents' mutual popularity can also have a close relationship with young's mate selection. Popularity refers to the status and position that a person has in the eyes of others and is respected because of it, and it expresses the value, respect and dignity that is considered for the person by the family and society (19). Popularity is an innate need and all human beings like to be respected and liked by others (20). In other words, parents, especially popular parents, due to their key role in the family, have the ability to influence their children from various aspects (21). Atakilit (22) in a research, showed that family, ethics and behavior and parents popularity has a key role as criteria of mate selection and marriage processes.

The necessity of conducting the present research is explained due to the importance of marriage and the necessity of forming a family. Considering the role, importance and impact of the main family on the marriage process of young people, researchers are looking to answer this question that are criteria for mate selectin predictable based on marital satisfaction and mutual popularity of parents?

Research Method:

The current research was descriptive-correlational and the statistical population was all 18 to 30 years' old students who were on the verge of marriage in the universities of Shiraz and their parents that 300 of them were selected by multi-stage cluster sampling and analyzed using SPSS software and regression method.

Research tools:

1. Afrooz Marital Satisfaction Scale (8): This 110 items' scale, which has 10 subscales, measures the satisfaction of spouses on a four-point scale. Internal consistency coefficient using Cronbach's alpha method for the whole test was 0.95 and the convergent validity of this scale with Enrich Marital Satisfaction Questionnaire was 0.43 (8). The reliability of present study, with using Cronbach's alpha method was 0.89.
2. Asadi and Afrooz parental popularity scale (2013): This scale has 70 items and is graded on a five-point scale. Asadi and Afrooz reported the Cronbach's alpha coefficient for this scale about 0.74. The reliability of present study, with using Cronbach's alpha method was 0.78 for father's popularity and 0.81 for mother's popularity.
3. Refahi criteria of mate selection Scale (23): This questionnaire was made by Refahi et al (23) in two parts of content criteria (11 question) and process criteria (11 question). The construct validity in two factors, content and process, was explained 75% of questionnaire total variance (23). In the current study, Cronbach's alpha value was 0.79 for content criteria and 0.83 for process criteria.

Findings:

In order to check the normality of the variables distribution, the skewness coefficient and the kurtosis coefficient indicate that the variables are normal. Also, the non-collinearity test of the independent variables showed that the value of the Variance Increase Factor for the marital satisfaction variable is 2.279 and the parents' popularity is 2.132, which is acceptable.

Table 1 Findings from the regression analysis in content criteria if mate selection

predictor variables	Multiple correlation	Coefficient of determination	F value P value	Regression coefficients (B) and (β)		
				1	2	3
1.Financial affairs	0.615	0.378	F=59.998	B=1.108	B=1.245	B=0.484
2.parenting			P<0.001	β =0.684	β =0.493	β =0.340
3.Mother's popularity				t=6.617 p=0.001	t=5.003 p=0.001	t=2.991 p=0.001

As can be seen, in the first step, financial affairs and economic activities, in the second step, the parenting method, and in the third step, the mother's popularity were the best predictors of the content criteria of mate selection.

Table 2 Findings from the regression analysis in predicting process criteria of mate selection

predictor variables	Multiple correlation	Coefficient of determination	F value P value	Regression coefficients (B) and (β)		
				1	2	3
1. Mother's popularity	0.633	0.401	F=66.07 9	B=1.894 β =0.689	B=1.780 β =0.986	B=1.180 β =0.761

2. Spiritual feeling and behavior	t=7.220 p=0.001	t=8.334 p=0.001	t=6.048 p=0.001
3. Social behaviors	P<0.001		

As can be seen, in the first step, the mother's popularity, in the second step, emotional and spiritual behavior, and in the third step, communication and social behaviors were the best predictors of the process criteria of mate selection.

Discussion and conclusion:

The results of the regression analysis showed that content and process criteria of mate selection can be predicted by the components of marital satisfaction and parents' popularity. These findings are consistent with the research results of Zakeri and Mokhtari (2), Sabornjad et al (24), Heydari, Soudani, Rajabi, and Khojaste-Mehr (15), Gharlipour, Rahbar, Omid oskoi, Ghasemi, and Rahbar (25), Akbari, Farahbakhsh and Naeimi (26), Tagavi, Ahmadi, Mirfardi and Rajabi (27), Akpa et al. (28), Al-Alawi, Al Gharaibeh (29), Chirwa, Banda, Thankian (30) and Eaves, Hatemi (31) research. In explaining the role of parental satisfaction in financial affairs and economic activities on predicting the content criterion of mate selection it can be said that according to Maslow's pyramid of psychological needs, parents' economic foresight is the basis for providing children's basic needs and does not become an obstacle for providing high-level needs including dignity, intimacy and self-actualization. It is obvious that the children in the family were not hindered by low-level needs and have reached high levels of development, in life surveys, especially marriage, examine more precisely and meticulously the mate selection criteria, which results to suitable marriage.

It seems that the reason for predicting the young mate selection by the parenting methods is that the influence of the parents on the parenting method is effective in all aspects of the children's lives and can affect their type of mate selection peoples who were brought up in an authoritative family have a rational view to marriage and its basic criteria and can take consider the content criteria of mate selection including suitability in culture, family, ethnicity, age and education.

Probably, the reason for this finding that content and process criteria of mate selection can be predicted by mother's popularity is that the parent-child deep relationship, which is rooted in coexistence, cohesion and solidarity of parent-child can be one of the reasons for facilitating and strengthening the mother's influence on the young criteria in mate selection compared to other sources and it can become the basis for the security and peace of mind in these peoples. Atakilit (22) showed that family, morals and behavior and popularity of parents has a key role in criteria mate selection and marriage processes. In explaining the role of spiritual feelings and behavior, it seems that couples who have similar spiritual raise children who have higher peace, dynamism and mental stability, and reflect the spiritual values of their parents. It is evident that the spiritual youth have a special view on marriage and the mate selection criteria. In explanation of the role of parents' behavioral-relational satisfaction on the process criteria of mate selection, it can be said that family interactive styles as a highway of communication and exchange of emotions, desires and needs, can help to supply the basic needs of family members. Grown up youth in these families learn the correct interaction during the marriage period, in order to gain the necessary knowledge in marriage criteria about her candidate, and understand the role of content and process criteria of mate selection in an efficient marriage. Based on the mentioned cases, it can be concluded that marital satisfaction can

create a safe psychological atmosphere in the family, so that the young on the verge of marriage in this family choose a spouse with higher psychological health.

Limitation: The present study was a cross-sectional study using a self-report method and limited to the student community, which should be cautious in generalizing it to other statistical communities. It's suggested that the current research be carried out with different research methods in different statistical communities. The results of this research can be helpful for various organizations that work in the field of youth and marriage. In this research were observed, ethical considerations including: ensuring the confidentiality of the results, using the information only for research purposes, and obtaining written consent from the participants.

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