Investigation of Relationship Between the Schemas of Gender Role, Sexual Desires and Marital Satisfaction among Students

[1]Dariush Ghasemian, [2]Sedigheh Ebrahimi and [1]Zahra Jalilabadi
[1]Deprtment of Clinical Psychology, [2]Departmen tof General Psychology,
Islamic Azad University, Sari Branch, Tehran, Iran

Abstract: The present study was conducted with the purpose of studying the relationship between gender role, sexual desires and marital satisfaction among married students in Tehran. The statistical population of the study consisted of all the students in married accommodation of Tehran University. Order to select samples through the mentioned population, the simple random sampling method was used and number of 133 individuals was selected based on the Morgan table. To collect the data, the questionnaires of Bem sex role, Enrich marital satisfaction and Halbert sexual desire were used. For data analysis, the 16th version of SPSS Software and the Pearson correlation method were used. The results indicated that there is a direct and significant relationship between femininity and masculinity with sexual desire in married students and there is also a direct and significant relationship between femininity and masculinity with marital satisfaction in married students.

Key words: Gender role schemas, marital satisfaction, sexual desire, SSPSS Software, analysis

INTRODUCTION

Due to the functions in society, family is an entity of interest to researchers and theorists of behavioral sciences fields. In this context, marital satisfaction is considered as an index of marital relationship health more than other subjects (Sanagouie *et al.*, 2011). Believed that there are several ways to define marital satisfaction and Hokin's definition is one of the best ones. She considers marital satisfaction as the objective feelings of happiness, satisfaction and joy experienced by spouses while they consider all the marriage aspects. Satisfaction is an attitude variable, therefore it's considered as a personal attribute of spouses. According to the definition above, marital satisfaction is actually the positive and joyful attitude of spouses in different aspects of marital relationships and marital dissatisfaction is the negative and joyless attitude of spouses in different aspects of marital relationships. Whinch believed that marital satisfaction is a compliance with the current situation and the expected one. Based on this definition, marital satisfaction occurs when individuals' current marital situation is consistent with the one they have expected and marital dissatisfaction occurs when individuals' current marital situation isn't consistent with the one they have expected. In another definition from Sinha and Mukherjee, marital satisfaction is the condition in which spouses feel happiness and satisfaction from marrying each other and being together. Marital satisfaction is not a constant and static concept and most of the couples

experience slight changes in level of their satisfaction in their satisfaction and as a result they always have to adapt themselves actively with different and immutable physical, social and psychological aspects of environment. However, it's accepted that marital satisfaction is a result of happiness and consistency of spouses in various aspects of their common life and provides the strength of family bonds and spouses' health (Jonabadi and Nasti Zaie, 2010). Among the factors influencing the marital satisfaction, gender role schemas and sexual desires can be pointed out. Gender role schemas are the set of beliefs and attitudes about men's and women's identity (Khamsei, 2006). It means, having their masculine or feminine traits, individuals can have the traits of both genders. According to Bem (1985), the men and women with both gender traits in terms of social roles have better psychological health in comparison to the individuals with masculine or feminine sex roles. Schema is a concept in cognitive psychology that reviews how individuals think, how they perceive and process and how they remember the information. Schema is the general knowledge framework of individuals about a specific subject. In Bem's opinion, individuals have somewhat different gender schemas and this difference may be the result of different information that individuals confront with in families, cultures and societies due to their gender in their entire lifelong. Abolghasemi and Kiamarsi (2006) found out in a research that androgyny (sex role) has a positive and significant relationship with marital consistency in women and the role is also able to

---

Corresponding Author: Dariush Ghasemian, Deprtment of Clinical Psychology, Islamic Azad University, Sari Branch, Tehran, Iran

express the marital consistency in women. In a research, Asgari, Ehtesham Zadeh and Pirzaman indicated that feminine and masculine gender role schemas have positive and significant relationship and correlation with psychological well-being in female students. Aliakbari *et al.* (2011) indicated in a research that feminine and masculine sex role has a positive and significant role in prediction of psychological health in employed women. Sexual desire is a human physiological need (Sadouk and Sadouk 2007; Rezaei, 2012). In the first 15 years of life, individuals acquire their sexual orientations or also their subjects of sexual arousal and these subjects arouse them for the rest of their lives. Most of men and women are sexually aroused by other gender's body (Rosenhan and Seligman, 2008). Each individual's sexual desires depend on four interlinked psychological factors: sexual identity, individual's gender and sexual behavior. These factors are effective on development, growth and function of personality. Sexual desires are more than just physical proximity with or without sexual intercourse and they are less than allthe behaviors leading to pleasure (Edalati and Redzuan, 2010). In a research, Amanolahi *et al.* (2012) indicated that romantic styles have an important role in prediction of marital satisfaction of employed women. To sum up the presented theoretical and research bases it can be said that gender schemas and sexual desires have relationship with marital satisfaction and since there hasn't been any research reviewing the relationship between the marital satisfaction with gender schemas and sexual desires in married students within the country and the importance of this issue hasn't been well-specified, the present research seeks to answer this question if gender role schemas and sexual desires have relationship with marital satisfaction in students?

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present research is descriptive and correlational. The statistical population of the research consisted of all the married students in married accommodation of Tehran University. Using the simple random sampling method through all the married students of married accommodation of Tehran University, number of 113 individuals was selected using the Morgan table. In this research to obtain the objectives of the study, the three questionnaires of sex role, Enrich marital satisfaction and sexual desires were used.

Bem sex role questionnaire: This questionnaire has been developed by Bem based on the cognitive schemas theory which contains 60 attributes or personality traits. It includes 20 attributes of stereotypical feminine traits, 20 attributes of stereotypical masculine traits and 20 neutral attributes. This questionnaire conducts an independent assessment of masculinity, femininity and androgyny and undifferentiated sex role based on self-evaluation. Answers are based on a 7 point scale that indicates how much each of the 60 attributes exists in the subjects. It means the subjects were asked to describe the attributes or traits based on a scale from one (never applies in my case) to seven (always applies in my case). The validity and reliability of this test has been reported acceptable.

Enrich marital satisfaction questionnaire: The Enrich marital satisfaction questionnaire (2000) was used for data collection in this research. This questionnaire was prepared by Oloson to evaluate the potential problematic fields or to identify the strength fields of marital relationships. The questionnaire consists of 10 subscales. The first scale has 5 questions and each of other scales have 10 questions. According to Oloson report, the alpha coefficient for the subscales of idealistic distortion, marital satisfaction, personality issues, communication, conflict resolution, financial management, leisure activities, sexual intercourse, children and parenting, family and friends, equalitarian roles and religious orientation is respectively as follows: 0.9, 0.81, 0.73, 0.68, 0.75, 0.74, 0.76, 0.48, 0.77, 0.72 and 0.71. In Iran within 4 weeks, this questionnaire has been 0.77 by retest validity (for the leisure activities) to 0.92 (for sexual intercourse and idealistic distortion) with average of 0.82. According to Mahdavian's, research the Pearson correlation coefficient in retest method was calculated 0.937 for men group, 0.944 for marital unfaithfulness group and 0.94 for men and marital unfaithfulness groups (in 1 week intervals).

Halbert sexual desire questionnaire: This questionnaire contains 25 questions and the Likert 5 point scale was used for selection of the choices. The choices have been graded from always to never as follows: always to never. Despite of lack of confidence, for each question, subjects can mark the choices that represent their amount of sexual desire more accurately. Sexual assertiveness or sexual desire index of Halbert is used in group and in individual with time limit. According to the selected choice, scoring each questions is from always = 0 to never = 4. Questions 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19 and 20 are scored reversely (always = 4 to never = 0). After scoring and adding the scores, the amount of sexual assertiveness of the subjects will be determined. The range of test scores is from 0-100 and the highest score indicates the high sexual desire while the low scores indicate the low sexual desire. Validity and reliability of this test has been reported acceptable.

Implementation procedure: After getting the required permissions and using the simple method sampling and Morgan table, 133 individuals were selected from married

accommodation of Tehran University and then they were asked to answer the questions. It should be noted that the subjects were given explanations about confidentiality of the questionnaires. For data analysis, the 16th version of SPSS Software and the Pearson correlation coefficient were used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 indicates the average and standard deviation of the research variables. As presented in the Table 1, the maximum average is due to sex role while the minimum average is due to marital satisfaction.

As indicted in the Table 2 there is a positive and significant relationship and correlation between gender role schemas (masculinity and femininity) with sexual desire. There is also a positive and significant relationship and correlation between gender role schemas (masculinity and femininity) with marital satisfaction in married students. In addition to above mentioned as presented in the Table 2 there is a positive and significant relationship and correlation between sexual desire and marital satisfaction in married students. The results of the multiple regression in Table 3 for prediction of marital satisfaction in married students through gender role schemas scores (masculinity and femininity) and sexual

Table 1: Average and standard deviation of the research variables

Research variables	Average	SD
Sex roles	90.20	13.96
Marital satisfaction	50.36	10.47
Sexual desire	66.77	17.92

Table 2: The correlation between marital satisfaction with sexual desire and gender role schemas in married students

Variables	Masculinity	Femininity	Sexual desire	Marital satisfaction
Masculinity	1			
Femininity	0.75 (0.001)	1		
Sexual desire	0.44 (0.001)	0.27 (0.03)	1	
Marital satisfaction	0.38 (0.001)	0.41 (0.001)	0.25 (0.05)	1

Table 3: Summary of regression analysis results (entry method) of gender schemas and sexual desire in prediction of marital satisfaction in married students

The criterion variable	Predictor variables	Multiple correlation coefficient	Square correlation multiple coefficient	Factor F (109.3)
Marital satisfaction	Masculinity Femininity Sexual desire	0.60	0.293	151.27

Table 4: Review of significance level of gender role schemas and sexual desire in prediction of marital satisfaction in married students

Predictor variables	B	β	t-values	p-values
Masculinity	0.311	0.357	3.866	0.001
Femininity	0.160	0.196	2.498	0.004
Sexual desire	0.139	0.154	1.967	0.050

desire indicate that these three variables totally predict 29% of variance of marital satisfaction ($p<0.001$, $F (109, 3) = 151.27$, $R^2 = 0.293$) in married students.

As indicated in the Table 4, the scores of masculinity ($\beta = 0.357$), femininity ($\beta = 0.196$) and sexual desire ($\beta = 0.139$) can positively and significantly predict marital satisfaction in married students. According to the obtained beta value among the three variables of masculinity, femininity and sexual desire, it's specified that masculinity has a greater share in explaining the variance of marital satisfaction in married students.

CONCLUSION

The present research was conducted with the purpose of reviewing the relationship between gender role schemas and sexual desires with marital satisfaction in married students. The research results indicate that there is positive and significant relationship and correlation between gender schemas (masculinity and femininity) with sexual desire in married students. Increasing the amount of masculinity or femininity in married students these results represent the fact that sexual desires will increase in married students. The results of the present research are consistent with results by Khamsei (2006). In their researches, these researchers indicated that gender role schemas including masculinity and femininity have relationship with marital satisfaction and sexual desires. To explain the results of the hypothesis by progress of societies and expansion of mutual role of men and women in economic, cultural and political affairs and by doing some of the household chores and kids' affaires by men it can be said that some changes have occurred in sex roles, therefore there is simultaneous masculinity and femininity more than before in men and women which is also androgenic gender type based on Bem two-dimensional model and since the study population of this research is married students that have to act the inconsistent sex role in many cases their masculinity and femininity is in one orientation that represents a positive relationship between masculinity and femininity with sexual desires in married students.

The research results indicated that there is a positive and significant relationship and correlation between gender role schemas, masculinity and femininity with marital satisfaction in married students. These results explain the fact that the marital satisfaction increases by increase of the masculinity and femininity in marries students. The obtained results confirm the second hypothesis of the research; therefore the second hypothesis is accepted. These findings are in line with the research results by Abolghasemi and Kiamarsi (2006) and Aliakbari *et al.* (2011). In their researches, these researchers indicated that gender schemas have

relationship with marital satisfaction and gender schemas have significant correlation with marital satisfaction and life satisfaction. To explain this finding regarding the new mental health model it can be said that the individuals who are able to behave both masculine and feminine gender types confronting their life events have more and better marital satisfaction and mental health. The couples with greater compassion at the right time are the ones who can make decisions easily and undoubtedly they have better marital satisfaction and they can deal with psychological pressures of life more appropriately. Another finding of this research was positive and significant relationship and correlation between sexual desires and marital satisfaction in married students. These findings explain the fact that the amount and level of marital satisfaction increases by increase of sexual desires amount in married students. This finding is consistent with the research results by Amanolahi *et al.* (2012). These researchers indicated that romantic styles have significant relationship with marital satisfaction.

The results of the present research indicated that gender role schemas, masculinity and femininity have positive and significant relationship with sexual desires in married students and on the other hand, feminine and masculine gender types have positive and significant relationship with marital satisfaction in married students. Through other results of the present research, positive and significant relationship and correlation of marital satisfaction and sexual desires can be mentioned. The results of the multivariable regression analysis indicated that masculine and feminine personality types along with sexual desires can predict the value of marital satisfaction variance in married students while through the three masculinity, femininity and sexual desires variables, the masculine gender type has a greater role and share of prediction of marital satisfaction in married students. At the end considering the results of the research, a training package is suggested to be designed by family experts for education of the roles and gender ideologies leading to improvement and increase of human life. Through limitations of this study these cases can be pointed out: using a specific population (students) makes it hard to generalize the results and collection of data was based on the self-report scales and these reports are prone to be distorted due to unconscious defenses, prejudice in answering and personal answering methods.

REFERENCES

Abolghasemi, A. and A. Kiamarsi, 2006. Review of androgyny relationship with general health and marital compatibility in women. Women's Stud., 4: 66-55.

Aliakbari, M., H. Shokrkon and T. Mohtashami, 2011. The relationship of sex role with mental health and its components in employed women. J. Behav., 3: 48-37.

Amanolahi, A., K. Aslani, H. Tashakor, S. Ghavabesh and S. Nekouei, 2012. Review of the relationship of romantic styles and love with marital satisfaction. Women's Stud., 10: 86-67.

Bem, S.L., 1985. Androgyny and Gender Schema Theory: A Conceptual and Empirical Integrations. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, NE.

Edalati, A. and M.R. Redzuan, 2010. Perception of women towards family values and their marital satisfaction. J. Am. Sci., 6: 132-137. J. Am. Sci., 6: 132-137.

Jonabadi, H. and N. Nasti Zaie, 2010. Marital satisfaction of parents of children with mental retardation. Tolouei Behdasht (Quarterly Faculty Public Health), 9: 33-43.

Khamsei, A., 2006. Review of the relationship between sexual behavior and gender role schemas in two groups of married students: Comparison of sexual behavior of women and men in family. J. Family Res., 2: 339-327.

Rosenhan, D.L. and M.A.P. Seligman, 2008. Psychopathology. Arasbaran Publications, Tehran.

Sadouk, B.J. and V. Sadouk, 2007. Summary Psychiatry. 2nd Edn., Arjmand Publications, Tehran.

Sanagouie, M., M. Janbozorgi and A. Mahdavian, 2011. The relationship between communication patterns of couples with marital satisfaction. J. Islamic Stud. Psychol., 5: 69-57.