

## The Role Of Intimacy and Communicative Dynamics in Predicted of Family Function in Women with Marital Conflict

Taraneh Ghaem Magami<sup>1\*</sup>, Abbass Abolghasemi<sup>2</sup>, Mojgan Niknam<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of psychology, Kish International Branch, Islamic Azad University, Kish Island, Iran

<sup>2</sup>Professor of Psychology, Department of Guilan University, Guilan, Iran

<sup>3</sup>Department of psychology, Roodehen Branch, Islamic Azad University, Roodehen, Iran

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### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to examine the role of intimacy and communicative dynamics in predicted of family function in women with marital conflict. This research is descriptive and correlational. The population consist of all women referred to counseling centers and dementia clinics in Tabriz. 120 women were selected with sampling method. The students answered the same questionnaire including: questionnaire of marital conflict, Family Assessment Device (FAD), intimacy scale and communicative dynamics scale. Data analysis included multivariate regression, pearson's r correlations, regression analysis, ANOVA analyses with SPSS software (package of Spss / pc + + ver18). The results of this study show the there is a significant relationship between intimacy and communicative dynamics in predicted of family function in women with marital conflict.

**Keywords:** Intimacy communicative dynamics, Family function, Marital conflict

### Introduction

Family, since the beginning of history, has been considered as the most important and smallest social institute and unit in all human societies. A healthy society depends on establishment of stable, dynamic, and lively families (Omidian far, Refahe, Qaderi, Afshon, 2015). Family is the place that in which a variety of needs are satisfied. Knowledge about biological and mental needs, how they are satisfied, and being equipped with the techniques to understand biological and psychological

desires are critical (Edalati, Aghamohamadian Sherarba, Moarres Gharavi, Hassanabadi, 2009). Having close social relationship like the one that is formed in a marriage has to do with people's welfare and the psychological/physical health outcomes as well (Ditzen, Hahlweg, Fehm-Wolfsdorf, Baucom, 2011). Family function is one of the main factors that guarantees quality of life and psychological wellbeing of the family members. As suggested by studies,

where the interactions in family are based on intimacy, dialogue, and mutual understanding, the family members enjoy more resistance and immunity to life pressures (Goldenberg, 2012). Intimacy is a critical factor in stability and survival of the marriage bond (Levinger & Huston, 1990). Affection is a dynamic concept in human relationships and as to marital relationship; it means openness to enter close relationship with one or more persons from emotional, rational, and functional viewpoints. Dynamism of relationship lies with fact that intimacy is an outcome of a relationship as a whole and any gap or problem in whatever aspect of interpersonal relationship might influence the whole relationship (Hotfield, Bensman & Rapson, 2012). Intimacy is critically important in stability of marital life and higher level of intimacy has profound effect on happiness felt in marital life (Saadatian, Samani, Parsani, Vikram, Anshul, Tejada, David & Nakatsu, 2014). Couples in the marriages that are on the rocks usually show lower levels of intimacy and affection toward their life partner (Halford, Sanders, Behrens, 2001). Conflicts are inevitable in any relationship as by entering intimate relationship, people let the other part to enter their private life and mutually affect each other. People find themselves, in intimate relationships, rightful to have influence on their partner and this is where people become vulnerable (Hakim, Fatehizadeh, Batheban, 2011). Conflict is the lack of agreement among two individuals so that they find it impossible to reach agreement in their viewpoints and behavioral goals (Sehat, Sehat, Khanjani, Mohebbi and siah kinShahsiah, 2014). Conflicts in marital

relationship strengthen the couples' relationships with their friends and relatives so that the relatives and friends gradually replace the spouse (Somohano, 2013). With this introduction, the present study is an attempt to survey the relationship between the variables noted above while it was avoided to adopt a holistic and conceptual model. On the other hand, effectiveness of the variables on the family function is not examined, which makes this study necessary. The purpose of this study was to examine the role of intimacy and communicative dynamics in Predicted of family function in women with marital conflict.

### **Research methods**

This research is descriptive and correlational. The population consist of all women referred to counseling centers and dementia clinics in Tabriz. 120 women were selected with sampling method. The students answered the same questionnaire including: questionnaire of marital conflict (Alson et al, 2011) (including 10 questions), Family Assessment Device (FAD) (Epstein et al, 1983) (including 60 questions), intimacy scale (Vacker and Tomson, 1983) (including 17 questions) and communicative dynamics scale (Stanli and Markman, 1996) (including 25 questions). The cronbach's alpha that obtained from the pilot data was 0.72 for marital conflict, 0.83 for FAD, 0.97 for intimacy scale and 0.55 for communicative dynamics scale. Data analysis included multivariate regression, pearson's r correlations, regression analysis, ANOVA analyses with SPSS software (package of Spss / pc + + ver18).

**Table 1.** The mean and standard deviation of family functions and its components

Statistic	Solving problem	Communicative	Roles	Affective Response	Affective involvement	Behavior control	Overall performance	Family function
Mean	18.25	22.35	28.48	20.63	31.21	30.04	43.49	194.48
SD	6.34	7.06	9.6	7.48	8.92	9.54	11.71	49.66

**Table 2.** The mean and standard deviation of intimacy and its components

Statistics	Intimacy	Dynamics
Mean	42.72	11.66
SD	5.15	4.69

**Table 3.** The correlation coefficient between intimacy and dynamics with family functions

Family function	Intimacy	Dynamics
Solving problem	**0.38	**0.51
Communicative	**0.54	**0.34
Roles	0.07	0.17
Affective Response	**0.45	**0.45
Affective involvement	**0.38	**0.36
Behavior control	0.09	0.13
Overall performance	**0.44	**0.44
Family function	**0.49	**0.50

## Discussion and Conclusion

The purpose of this study was to examine the role of intimacy and communicative dynamics in predicted of family function in women with marital conflict. This research is descriptive and correlational. The results showed that the mean age of the subjects was 27.97 and SD was 6.261.

The results of this study show the there is a significant relationship between intimacy( $r=0.49$ ) and communicative dynamics( $r=0.5$ ) in predicted of family function in women with marital conflict. ( $p<0.01$ ). According to the results there is a significant relationship between intimacy with problem solving, communication, emotional companionship, emotional involvement, overall performance and predicted of family function in women with marital conflict ( $p<0.01$ ).

These results are in good agreement with results, Kong (2005), Zoheiri (2011),

Mousavian (2012), Konic (2014), Loren et al, (2015) and Ghasemi et al (2015). Kong (2005), reports the there is significant relationship between intimacy and satisfaction. Mousavian (2012), reports the there is significant relationship between marital intimacy and quality of life in young couples. Konic (2014), reports the there is significant relationship between couple's communication and family functioning. Loren et al, (2015), reports the there is correlation significant inverse between degree of intimacy and marital conflict. The explanation of these results can be stated, quality and quantity of intimacy between spouses, were determines the environment and the performance family. Studies have

shown that a successful marriage often associated with intimacy (Shelton & Gordon, 2008) and intimacy for most relationships is considered a major source of dissatisfaction. Intimacy and satisfaction were key factors in spouse's attachment. Therefore, such a relationship can affect family functioning.

According to the results there is a significant relationship between communicative dynamics with problem solving, communication, emotional companionship, emotional involvement, overall performance and predicted of family function in women with marital conflict ( $p < 0.01$ ). These results are in good agreement with results Gottman (2000), Noller et al (2001), Fatehizade and Ahmadi (2005) and Mohammadi (2015). Mousavian (2012), reports the poor relations dynamics in the family that lead to increased conflict between couples. Fatehizade and Ahmadi (2005) show that there is significant relationship between mutual construction patterns with marital satisfaction. Mohammadi (2015) show that there is significant relationship between marital satisfaction and communication patterns of couples. The explanation of these results can be stated, family functioning is as the ability family to adapt to the conditions created during the life, conflict resolution, protection of family (Nasr Esfahani, 2012), Accordingly, the existence of such a pattern leads to a certain kind of dynamics between family members and thus functioning and marital satisfaction and will increase function and sexual satisfaction. The results of regression analysis showed that is explained 24 % of family functions by intimacy and 25% by the dynamics of communication.

In conclusion it can be said that improved family functions of women with marital conflict can be mitigated by increasing intimacy, improved communicative dynamics. The use of convenience sampling method and used questionnaires to collect information is limitations of this study. Hence it is recommended in future research other methods are also used for data collection. Because the data is collected through a questionnaire and like other self-report research results may be making the possibility of abuse.

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