

Mutual Knowledge Between Spouses About Their Characteristics and Its Relationship to Their Educational Level, Jourdan

Anas Abdulkareem Alkhlaifat*
Tayba Youth Center Manager-Youth Ministry
Email: anas-mira@hotmail.com, Cell number: 00962796524204

Mohammad A. Beirat
Associate Professor in Special Education, Al Hussein Bin Talal University / Faculty, of Educational Sciences,
Department of Special Education
E-mail: beirat@ahu.edu.jo, Phone: 00962775496004

Daniel L. Mpolomoka
Dean, School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, Unicaf University Zambia, Off Kasangula Road,
Roma, Lusaka, Zambia
Email: mpolomokadl@gmail.com , Phone: +260954591171

Abstract

Objectives: This study aimed to explore (1) the knowledge level of husbands and wives about their characteristics and (2) the existence of a relation between the level of mutual knowledge of spouses about their characteristics and their educational level. **Methods:** This study used the descriptive correlational method. The sample consisted of 390 husbands and 390 wives residing in the Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority. To collect data, two scales about the husband and wife's level of knowledge of each other's characteristics were developed. **Results:** The results from the two scales showed the total and sub-level of knowledge (emotional characteristics, financial characteristics, parental characteristics, characteristics in decision-making), with the spouses having a medium degree of each other's characteristics. The study also revealed that there were differences between the educational level of husbands and wives and the level of knowledge of their characteristics in favor of the higher educational level (higher education). **Contributions of this study:** Findings of this study have a bearing on individual and collective attainment of lifelong education, literacy and socio-economic determinants that propel health living. This study provides a realistic description of spousal characteristics, promotes family union and longevity, contributes to the reduction in divorce cases; improves the level of relations between spouses. It also promotes SDG goal number 4.6; contributes to the field of counseling and families.

Keywords: knowledge, characteristics of the husband, characteristics of the wife, educational level.

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1. Introduction

This study is concerned with the level of knowledge of spouses and showing the importance of some characteristics (emotional, financial, parental roles, decision-making). It also highlights characteristics of each other and the impact on interpreting the behaviors and thoughts of a husband or wife.

By targeting the Commission of Authority, Petra Tourism Region makes this study invaluable because the region is considered a multicultural place for being a global tourist place. This gives the study enough room to deal with different characteristics of husbands and wives which may be affected by various life styles.

This study emerged from the recommendations of a study labeled with the level of marital satisfaction in the Petra Tourism Authority Commission for the integration of knowledge of the characteristics between spouses on the same study sample.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Lack of knowledge of the characteristics of both spouses is the basis of the daily problems that occur between them and affect their psychological state. Spouses' knowledge of each other's characteristics enables them to satisfy their desires and create an atmosphere of happiness (Beam et al., 2018). It is recommended when making the decision to marry, that both should understand the nature of the other, their characteristics and their way of thinking. Therefore, emotional characteristics and expression of feelings are the most important common priorities between a man and a woman. Love helps the spouses complement each other, and life becomes brighter and happier (Al-Masri, 2007; Vu, 2021; Chikopela, Chitundu & Mpolomoka, 2020). It is also argued that financial management affects relations, understanding and sharing between spouses (Ross, Neal'O, Arnold, & Mancini, 2017). In addition, marital beliefs about the parental roles for each of them and the division of

household chores affect the level of their commitment to each other in tasks and work (Nourani, Seraj, Shakeri & Mokhber, 2019). This study explores marital differences, cognitive characteristics and level of knowledge. It answers the following questions:

- (1) What is the level of mutual knowledge of the husband and wife about each other's characteristics? Which is higher?
- (2) Does the level of mutual knowledge differ according to the educational level of husbands and wives?

1.2 Delimitation

This study targeted married individuals in the Petra Region Tourism Authority Commission area between 9/13/2020 to 11/30/2020, which falls within the first semester of the academic year 2020/2021.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Marital relationship is considered one of the most sacred human relationships that brings both sexes together in a sacred and social bond. This eternal relationship continues to be the direct way to satisfy emotional instincts and needs. Marriage is also the first way to form a family and to construct societies. If marriage is reconciled, family and society will be reconciled too. This entails that people who intend to marry must follow a specific criterion considered when choosing a future partner including age, psychological compatibility, social and material level, educational level. These are enshrined in many theories which explain marital choice. The most important theories are homogeneity, spatial convergence, values, complementary needs and psychoanalytic.

The natural marriage consists of two different sexes male and female. This requires the spouses to be aware of each other's characteristics and needs; to reach a state of happiness and marital harmony. There are several differences between males and females regarding behavior and thinking which are generated from different social and cultural heritage that is determined by the factors of socialization, customs and traditions. Some of them can be attributed to the chemical differences between males and females such as sex hormones (Ristori, et al., 2020; Al- Dahery, 2016; Sherif & Kamel, 2012). A man has different hormones than a woman. For example, the male hormones known as testosterone are responsible for physical differences and an increase in the size of the centers for distinctive functions of the male brain such as sexual activity and aggressive behavior. It is also the neurogenesis controlling the communication between brain centers. It can be said that the testosterone hormone makes the brain masculine in its structure, functions and parts (Arora & Topiwala, 2020).

Estrogen is considered the main feminine hormone. The most important roles that estrogen plays in the female body in terms of sexual and reproductive development are puberty, menstruation, pregnancy and menopause. It also catalyzes the brain system, heart, blood vessels, hair, muscular system, skin and urinary tract. Its increase and decrease has an effect on memory and learning centers, activating the center of emotions and feelings, and the areas responsible for higher mental functions (Pietrangelo, 2019).

There are many general cognitive characteristics related to a husband which is portrayed in theoretical literature. First, a husband feels the desire to provide services and care for a wife when there is a feeling of love (Gray, 2012). Second, a husband can be confident and happy when he feels that his wife is happy too (Carr, Freedman, Cornman & Schwarz, 2014). Third, the man is motivated by words of appreciation and benevolence (Baldoni, 2019). Fourth, a man is always result oriented (Pease & Pease, 2016). Fifth, a man tends to be isolated and silent when he feels upset, which is taken as the best way to solve problems (Ridge, Emslie & White, 2011). Sixth, a husband secures time and space to have some freedom and independence (Smalley & Smalley, 2004). Seventh, a man displays his prestige, strength and authority by owning expensive or modern things (Karpinska-Krakowiak, 2021). Eighth, the purchases of men are as important as any other task and must be implemented and completed as soon as possible (Katrodia, Naude & Soni, 2018). Ninth, a husband feels that he is a failure if his wife tries to help him without asking (Vogel, Heimerdinger-Edwards, Hammer & Hubbard, 2011). Tenth, it is rare and difficult for husbands to take care of children (Power, 2020).

On the other hand, there are general cognitive characteristics related to a wife pointed by different scholars. First, a wife prefers to communicate, talk and share if she feels upset (Tannen, 2017). Women network, making them able to engage and achieve more than one task and or goal at the same time (Amen, et al., 2017). Fourth, a wife considers that saving money is necessary to achieve family security (Russell, Kutin, Green, Banks & Di Iorio, 2016). Fifth, a wife cares for detail and information, which helps in decision-making processes (Birknerová & Čigarská, 2020). Sixth, a female is always looking for change, development and modernization (Murad, 2017). Seventh, a female is always ready to help or support and take care of others (Soutschek, et al., 2017). Eighth, women are exposed to depression and psychological fluctuations more than men (Salk, Hyde, & Abramson, 2017). Ninth, a wife does not look for solutions while talking about a problem, but rather needs sympathy (Baez, et al., 2017). Tenth, respect, appreciation, care and attention are motivators for wives to feel loved (Gray, 2012).

Several studies were conducted related to the subject of the current study or one of its variables. One of them is the study by Neto (2021), which examined gender differences in how people estimate the intensity and

style of love in themselves and in others. The six domains analyzed toward love were: sex and affection, play, friendship and intimacy, practical enterprise, obsession and possession, and altruistic love. The study sample was 265 participants, comprising 170 wives and 95 husbands. The results showed that the subjective ratings of friendship, intimacy, practical projects, and altruism of women are higher than that of men. It was also found that husbands are higher than wives in obsessive possession. There were no differences in t/he estimates of parental love between the sexes.

Stronge, et al., (2019) examined gender differences and the relationship status, social support and happiness. A sample of 20,774 national statistics files in New Zealand was used to test whether social support mediates the relationship between having a romantic partner and happiness. The results of the study revealed that social support plays a mediating role between having a romantic partner and greater happiness; life satisfaction and self-esteem. It was also shown that having a romantic partner had more benefits in terms of personal happiness for men compared to women.

A study by Lin et al., (2019) uncover the gender differences in online consumer buying decisions. The study measured gender differences in interaction with advertising for a product, comments, guesswork and perceived risk in the purchase situation. Comments and expectations affected females more than males. In addition, the attitude towards displaying products online influenced purchase intent stronger for males than for females.

Beam et al. (2018) conducted a study aimed at evaluating the impact of differences between spouses on the quality of marriage. The study used independent samples (2406) of married males and independent samples (2,215) of married females. The study also explored the effect of differences between spouses due to genetic or environmental factors on the quality of the marital relationship in a sample of (491) pairs of twins. The results indicated that there is a difference in the quality of marriage in the samples. It was also found that women have more agreement, harmony and support for the partner than men. Furthermore, the study supported the differences between spouses in the genetic and environmental influences on the quality of the marital relationship from different aspects.

Mullis (2018) clarify the current limited understanding of how differences between spouses and personality affect marital satisfaction and relationship improvement. The Couples Counseling Report (16PF-CCR) was used to achieve the purpose of the study. The results were extracted from 80 heterosexual couples and 160 individuals who were trying to obtain marital counselling. Findings showed that there were statistically significant differences between spouses within the global personality factors. Rigid minds showed a great deal of difference between males and females, where men scored a higher level than women.

Furthermore, Endendijk et al. (2018) examined whether paternalism changes the behavior and roles of a husband. The study was undertaken on Dutch fathers as a part of a longitudinal sample that took four years. The results indicated that fathers have a traditional stereotype. After the passage of time, it was shown that parental roles did not differ over time, before and after the transition to the stage of paternity.

The study by Carnes (2017) examined the effect of using political skills to deal in a political style between spouses. It assumed that husbands and wives differ in their ways of dealing with stressors. The study sample consisted of (139) husbands and wives. The results showed that political skills were an important mediator of husband-and-wife treatment, but not of a wife treatment of a husband. In addition, political skills were an important mediator in bearing the burden of a wife's treatment of a husband but not of the husband's treatment of the wife.

Deabi (2017) also conducted a study aimed at identifying the extent of marital compatibility and mutual perceptions between spouses towards the dimensions of family life, and to identify the nature of mutual perceptions and their impact on the spouses. It included married female teachers in government schools for girls affiliated to the Ministry of Education in the East and West Region of Gaza Governorate. The sample included 200 wives and 200 husbands. The results showed that there is a positive statistically significant correlation between each of the dimensions of mutual perceptions between spouses and the total level of marital compatibility. In addition, the results indicated that there were statistically significant differences between the average scores of spouses on the scale of mutual perceptions according to the variables number of children, duration of marriage and economic status. On the other hand, the study indicated that there are no statistically significant differences according to the variables (kinship and the nature of a family - extended or nuclear).

3. METHODOLOGY

The study population was 7823 families, a composition of all husbands and wives in the Petra Tourism Authority Commission area. According to the numbers registered with the Jordanian Department of Statistics (The Jordanian Department of Statistics, 2020).

The sample of this study was 390 families, consisting of 780 husbands and 390 wives. These were chosen by random sampling method.

This study followed a distinct inclusivity and exclusivity criteria. Participants came from those who met the

condition of choosing married men and women with one wife. This ensured homogeneity of the sample in terms of environment and culture. Families that reside in separate housing and the spouses who live together were chosen. Primarily, this was because families with an expatriate husband could have meant less friction between spouses and lack of communication, which could have affected the validity of the measurement for the sample.

The study used two scales to collect data. The first scale is a measure of the husband's level of knowledge of the wife's characteristics, and the second is the measure of the wife's level of knowledge of the husband's characteristics. The two scales were distributed in a way of giving it to each of the spouses and receiving the two scales after filling them in a closed envelope.

The two scales were applied to husbands and wives. Each one of them was given a copy in a closed envelope and couriered to them. The objectives of the study were explained to the participants, assured them of the confidentiality of their responses and their anonymity as participants this was evident in that participants did not indicate their names, identity numbers and or telephone numbers on data collection instruments. Participants were urged to be truthful, candid and credibly provide their responses. The researchers also attached an envelope with a return stamp on it, ready to be couriered back with each completed questionnaire enclosed (therein) by the husband or wife. This was done in confidence so that other participants did not know the responses on the questionnaire of others.

There are two main measurements in the present study. One is meant to measure the husband's level of knowledge of the wife's characteristics distributed to spouses, while the other is meant to measure the wife's level of knowledge of the husband's characteristics distributed to wives. The researchers developed each of the scales and formulated their paragraphs based on the theoretical, environmental and cultural literature. The study was conducted in light of the following assumptions: First, there are differences between males and females in emotional matters and their needs. Second, there are differences between spouses with regard to financial measures and spending. Third, males and females are different in the decision-making process. Forth, spouses and their nature make them different in playing the parental role.

The dimensions of the fields of knowledge of the characteristics of the spouses and their needs were also determined in order to decipher the following: the domain of emotional characteristics consisting of 14 items, the domain of financial characteristics consisting of 6 items, the domain of characteristics in decision-making consisting of 7 items and the domain of parental characteristics consisting of 7 items. Each scale contains a total of 34 items in its final form.

3.1 Validity and Reliability

3.1.1 Face Validity

The two scales in their initial form, consisting of 36 paragraphs each, were presented to a number of examiners including professors of official Jordanian universities with experience and expertise in the field of family counselling. The approval of 9 arbitrators was adopted, indicating the validity of each paragraph. After reviewing the paragraphs, they made some pertinent suggestions and recommendations to enhance the scales. Four paragraphs in the scale of the wife's knowledge of the husband's characteristics were modified. Furthermore, their augmentation led to the two scales only comprising 34 items each, compared to the initial 36. Comparatively, the percentage of agreement between the examiners was 90%.

3.1.2 Structural validity (Internal Consistency)

The researchers piloted the instruments, reaching out to sample consisting of 30 husbands and 30 wives. These were from the study population but outside its sample. The exercise helped the researchers to verify the internal consistency.

3.1.3 Reliability

The reliability coefficient of the scale was calculated using the Cronbach's alpha α method and the split-half by the Guttman method for the domains of the husband's knowledge of the wife's characteristics and the scale as a whole.

4. FINDINGS

The findings are presented following the research questions earlier set. They begin with the presentation of demographic information captured in tables 1 to 5.

4.1 Demographic Information

Table 1: The distribution of the educational level of the spouses

Percentages	Frequencies of wives	Percentages	Frequencies of husbands	Level of education
40	156	41.5	162	High school or less
22.3	87	18.7	73	Diploma
35.4	138	33.1	129	Bachelor
2.3	9	6.7	26	Post graduate studies
100%	390	100%	390	Total

Table 1 above shows that the highest educational level for husbands and wives was (high school or less), followed by holders of a bachelor's degree, and then diploma, and those with post graduate studies were the fewest in study.

Table 2: Correlation coefficients between the sub-domains of the husband's knowledge of the wife's characteristics scale

Parental Characteristics of wife	Decision-making Characteristics of wife	Financial Characteristics of wife	Emotional Characteristics of wife	Domains
.847**	.700**	.794**	----	Emotional Characteristics of wife
.820**	.569**	----	----	Financial Characteristics of wife
.598**	----	----	----	Decision-making Characteristics of wife
----	----	----	----	Parental Characteristics of wife

**statistically significant at the significance level ($\alpha \leq 0.01$)

Table 2 above shows that all the correlation coefficients between the sub-domains of the husband's knowledge of the wife's characteristics are statistically significant at the (significance) level $\alpha \leq 0.01$. The correlation coefficients between the sub-domains of the wife's knowledge of the husband's characteristics were also extracted. Table 3 below provides details.

Table 3: Correlation coefficients between the subdomains of the wife's knowledge of the husband's characteristics scale

Parental Characteristics of husband	Decision-making Characteristics of husband	Financial Characteristics of husband	Emotional Characteristics of husband	Domains
.941**	.588**	.752**	----	Emotional Characteristics of husband
.714**	.389*	----	----	Emotional Characteristics of husband
.603**	----	----	----	Decision-making Characteristics of husband
----	----	----	----	Parental Characteristics of husband

**statistically significant at the significance level ($\alpha \leq 0.01$)

*statistically significant at the significance level ($\alpha \leq 0.05$)

Table 3 above shows that all the correlation coefficients between the sub-domains of the wife's knowledge of husband's characteristics are statistically significant at the significance level $\alpha \leq 0.05$.

The results of the reliability coefficients (Cronbach's alpha) and (Guttman) for the sub-domains and the scale as a whole are presented in table 4 below.

Table 4: Reliability coefficients (Cronbach's alpha) and (Guttman) for the sub-domains and the scale as a whole

split-half by the Guttman method of reliability	Cronbach's alpha coefficients	Domains	split-half by the Guttman method of reliability	Cronbach's alpha coefficients	Domains
.930	.940	Emotional Characteristics of husband	.879	.947	Emotional Characteristics of wife
.772	.835	Financial Characteristics of husband	.933	.876	Financial Characteristics of wife
.799	.892	Decision-making Characteristics of husband	.880	.894	Decision-making Characteristics of wife
.848	.872	Parental Characteristics of husband	.718	.850	Parental Characteristics of wife
.938	.961	The Level of wife's knowledge of husband's characteristic	.933	.966	The Level of husband's knowledge of wife's characteristics

Table 4 above shows that the two scales are honest in terms of internal consistency in addition to their high reliability coefficients. So, the two scales were applied to the study sample.

4.2 Scale correction of the husband's knowledge of the wife's characteristics and the wife's knowledge of the husband's characteristics:

The answer to each of the two scales' items was graded on a four-way scale (strongly agree, agree, disagree, and strongly disagree), according to the applicability of the paragraph's content to the husband or wife's knowledge of each other's characteristics. The responses to the scale were converted into degrees; so that they express the following: level 1 strongly disagree, level 2 disapproval, level 3 agreement and level 4 strongly agree. In addition, the two scales did not contain negative clauses. The researchers identified and adopted three levels: high, moderate and low as limits when commenting on mean scores of the variables contained in the study model, and to determine the level of approval, based on the following equation:

$$\text{Length of period} = (\text{maximum alternative} - \text{minimum alternative}) / \text{number of levels.}$$

$$(4-1) / 3 = 3/3 = 1.00 \text{ (Al-Munazel \& Gharaibeh, 2010)}$$

Table 5 below shows the scale for determining the appropriateness level for the means, in order to benefit from it when commenting on the arithmetic averages.

Table 5: The limits of the scales' levels

Levels	Mean Score
Low	- less than 2.00
Moderate	2.00 - less than 3.00
High	3.00 - 4.00

4.3 Results related to the first question

What is the level of mutual knowledge of the husband and wife about each other's characteristics? Which is higher?

Findings indicate that the means and standard deviations of the sample members' responses about their knowledge of each other's characteristics in each of the areas of the two scales were calculated. Thus, a husband's total knowledge level of a wife's characteristics is shown in table 6 below.

Table 6: Means and standard deviations of the husband's level of knowledge of the wife's characteristics

Level	Standard Deviation	Mean score	Domain	No.
Moderate	.670	2.286	The level of husband's knowledge of emotional characteristics of wife	1
Moderate	.816	2.256	The level husband's knowledge of financial characteristics of wife	2
Moderate	.806	2.266	The level of husband's knowledge of decision-making characteristics of wife	3
Moderate	.838	2.411	The level husband's knowledge of emotional characteristics of wife	4
Moderate	.724	2.302	The level of husband's knowledge of parental characteristics of wife	

Table 6 above shows that the mean of husbands for the level of knowledge of their wife's characteristics is 2.302 with a standard deviation of .724. Table 6 also shows that the domain of knowledge of the characteristics of the parental wife had the highest mean (2.411) and standard deviation of .838, depicted at a moderate level. The domain of the husband's knowledge of the financial characteristics of the wife was ranked last, at moderate level, with a mean of 2.256 and a standard deviation of .816.

Table 7: Means and standard deviations of the wife's level of knowledge of the husband's characteristics

Level	Standard deviation	Mean score	Domain	No.
Moderate	.646	2.146	The level of wife's knowledge of Emotional Characteristics of husband	1
Moderate	.801	2.350	The level of wife's knowledge of Financial Characteristics of husband	2
Moderate	.670	2.254	The level of wife's knowledge of Decision-making Characteristics of husband	3
Moderate	.666	2.386	The level of wife's knowledge of parental Characteristics of husband	4
Moderate	.503	2.254	The level of wife's knowledge of the Characteristics of husband	

Table 7 above shows that the mean of the wives' knowledge of their husband's characteristics has a mean of 2.254, with a standard deviation of .503, which is within a moderate level. Table 7 further shows that the knowledge of the husband's parental characteristics had the highest average (2.386) and standard deviation (.666). The knowledge of the husband's emotional characteristics got the least estimate, at a moderate level, with a mean of 2.146 and a standard deviation of .646. Comparatively, table 6 and table 7 show that the mean of the knowledge of husbands about their wives' characteristics is higher (2.302) than the mean of the wives' characteristics (2.302).

4.4 Results related to the second question

Does the level of mutual knowledge differ according to the educational level of husbands and wives?

To measure the level of knowledge of spouses according to the educational level variable, one-way ANOVA was used, as shown in table 8 below.

Table 8: Extent of differences in the level of knowledge of spouses according to the different educational level

Significant	(F) Value	Standard deviation	Mean score	The number of the sample	The level of husbands' knowledge attributed to the educational level
0.005	4.40	.673	2.193	162	High school or less
		.729	2.357	73	High school or less
		.738	2.325	129	Bachelor
		0.800	2.719	26	Post graduate studies

Table 8 above shows that there are statistically significant differences in the knowledge of spouses according to the educational level variable. The value of 'F' is 4.40, which is statistically significant at the level of significance $\alpha \leq 0.05$.

To find out the reason for the differences, a dimensional comparison test (Sheffe) was carried out, whose results are shown in table 9 below.

Table 9: Results of the dimensional comparison test (Sheffe) for the husband's knowledge about the characteristics of the wife according to the educational level

Significant	Mean scores differences	The comparison of the husbands' educational levels
^0.446	0.164	Diploma - High school or less
0.992	0.032	Diploma – Bachelor
0.481	0.132	Bachelor - High school or less
0.007	*0.526	Post graduate studies - High school or less
0.181	0.361	Post graduate studies – Diploma
0.089	0.393	Post graduate studies – Bachelor

Table 9 above shows that the reason for the statistically significant differences in the husband's level of knowledge of the wife's characteristics according to the educational level is due to the difference between the educational level (post graduate studies) and the level (high school or less) with a difference of (0.526) and a level of significance ($\alpha \leq 0.05$). On the other hand, the difference with diploma was not statistically significant because the difference value (0.361) came with a level of significance (0.181), which is greater than .050. In addition, the difference between the category of Bachelor's was not statistically significant, as the difference value was 0.393 and with a greater significance level (0.089), which is greater than .050.

Table 10: Extent of differences in the wives' level of knowledge of husbands' characteristics according to the educational level

Significant	(F) Value	Standard deviation	Mean score	The number of the sample	The level of wives' knowledge attributed to the educational level
0.000	23.82	0.405	2.152	156	High school or less
		0.490	2.287	87	Diploma
		0.520	2.268	138	Bachelor
		0.103	3.486	9	Post graduate studies

Table 10 above shows the results of the analysis of variance (One-way ANOVA). There are statistically significant differences between the means of wives' knowledge of their husbands' characteristics according to the educational level variable. The value of (F) (23.82) indicated that it is statistically significant at the level of significance ($\alpha \leq 0.01$). Table 10 also shows that the value of the educational level at post graduate studies is greater than the other educational levels (high school or less, diploma, bachelor), with a mean score of 3.486.

In order to find out the reason for the differences, a dimensional comparisons test (Sheffe) was carried out, depicting the means of the wives' knowledge of the husband's characteristics according to the educational level whose results are shown in table 11 below.

Table 11: Results of the Sheffe dimensional comparisons test including the means of the wives' knowledge of the husband's characteristics according to the educational level

Significant	Mean scores differences	The comparison of the wives' educational levels
0.194	0.135	Diploma - High school or less
0.993	0.018	Diploma – Bachelor
0.205	0.116	Bachelor - High school or less
0.000	*1.334	Post graduate studies - High school or less
0.000	*1.199	Post graduate studies – Diploma
0.000	*1.218	Post graduate studies – Bachelor

Table 11 above indicates that the reason for the statistically significant differences in the level of knowledge of wives' characteristics according to the educational level is due to the difference between the educational level (post graduate studies) and the lower educational levels (high school or less), (diploma) and (bachelor's) with a difference in the means of 1.334, 1.199 and 1.218, respectively, with a level of significance of $\alpha \leq 0.05$.

5. DISCUSSION

This section discusses the findings of the study. Descriptive and thematic analysis approaches were employed. Thus, subheadings herein emanate from thematic depictions of emerging topical areas on one hand, and on the other, they contain rich descriptive analysis.

5.1 Theme 1: Level of mutual knowledge of the husband and wife about each other's characteristics

The results showed that the husbands' knowledge of the characteristics of their wife ranked within the moderate level. They possess knowledge of the wife's role as a mother, which symbolized husbands' knowledge and appreciation of the parental and familial role of wives. In spite of that, researchers contend that we should not ignore that their knowledge does not necessarily mean that they possess sufficient information about their wives, which was confirmed by the current result in the study, as their mean reached (2.302), which is the closest for the low level. This indicates husbands' need for greater knowledge of the characteristics of their wives.

In addition, the wife's level of knowledge of the husband's characteristics was moderate with a mean, but it

is less than the level of knowledge which was (2.254). This might be because of the stereotyped image of wives that they have to satisfy the basic needs of the husband (Mushibwe, Chambeshi and Mpolomoka, 2021). In addition, the wife considers that the level of knowledge is better the more it is related to the feelings of love and happiness that she receives from her husband, as the emotional field is less than the rest of the other fields of knowledge of the characteristics of the husband. She does not have a great desire to know the characteristics of the husband, and this is consistent with the study of Neto (2021) and Mpolomoka, Mushibwe, Dube, Musonda, Sumbwa, Mabenga and Kanduza (2019).

Furthermore, the results indicated that there were differences and indications at the level of the emotional characteristics sub-domain (the first domain) recorded at an average level. This might be because those husbands do not realize that the wife prefers to participate and desire to talk when she feels upset, and husbands do not realize that what their wives said did not necessarily express what they wanted to say. Wives did not realize that there was an emotional aspect of importance to their husbands, and they did not realize that their lack of appreciation for their husbands' efforts would make them feel that they were failures. In addition, they were not cognizant that their husbands might understand their complaints as a kind of blaming to have more responsibility than just listening to their complaints. The characteristics of husbands were manifest by providing advice, suggestions and solutions when their wives complained, while they needed to be attentive and listen only to them. Literature also points to these inconsistencies and misunderstanding among marriage partners (Tannen, 2017; Baldoni, 2019; Chikopela, Chitundu and Mpolomoka, 2020).

The results also showed that there are differences of the second field, financial characteristics, which was ranked within the moderate level. Findings revealed that husbands realized the importance of having money for women; that their wives asked a lot of information about products before buying (them); that their wives changed their minds about what they wanted to buy during the process of purchasing and replacing them several times. In addition, the wives' knowledge of the husband's financial characteristics was moderate. Results further showed how the paragraphs that dealt with the nature of the purchase process and how to deal with debt and financial matters among men recorded the highest mean. This is consistent with findings by some studies reviewed (Birknerová & Čigarská, 2020; Russel, et al, 2016).

The results revealed that the level of knowledge of husbands and wives about each other's characteristics in decision-making was moderate (i.e. in the third domain). Men believe that there is a role for women's emotion in decision-making. The results also showed that husbands do not realize that women care about the causes of problems and details before making a decision. This indicates the lack of knowledge of husbands about the characteristics of their wives, as women's thinking is holistic, analytical and networked. The study also indicates that husbands' knowledge of the nature of women in the process of participation and consultation in decision-making was weak. Meanwhile, wives' knowledge of husbands' characteristics in decision-making was established to be moderate. Interestingly, women did not know that men believe that 'asking for help' is evidence of weakness. On the other hand, a wife's refusal to help her husband makes him feel that 'his opinion' is not important. This agrees with findings of many studies reviewed (Amen, et al. 2017; Vogel, et al. 2011; Ali, O'Cathain & Croot, 2019).

The results related to the fourth field showed that a husband's knowledge of the parental wife's characteristics was moderate. Despite a husbands' awareness of the sacrifice and the work that a wife does in caring for the husband and children, the results showed a decrease in the level of men's knowledge of the pressures and stress that a wife endures. The researchers attribute this to the women preference to be estimated by their men about what they are exposed to without asking. Women believed that men's feelings about / of them and their knowledge of what goes around them was evidence of love and affection This is consistent with what was stated by Gray (2012). A wife's knowledge of the parental husband's characteristic was found to be moderate. Wives' knowledge of the nature of men with regard to dealing with children and raising them almost was recorded to be at a low level. Thus, the researchers contend that men play a secondary role in caring for children. This is consistent with the study by Power (2020). The researchers further question the role culturally relevant education (Loscocco & Walzer, 2013; Banda & Mpolomoka, 2018; Papp, 2018) can play in harmonizing, harnessing and grooming husbands and wives to better appreciate one another's characteristics and gain more knowledge or/about one another.

5.2 Theme 2: Level of mutual knowledge differ according to the educational level of husbands and wives

The results revealed that there are differences in the level of husbands' knowledge of the wife's characteristics according to the educational level and in favor of those with higher education. The researchers attribute this to the fact that the educational level does three things: (1) exposes the person to more sciences and knowledge that affects his life and his thinking positively; (2) makes him more attentive, balanced and more familiar with life's problems; and (3) helps an individual work towards fulfilling the needs of the husband, the wife; and or family at large.

The results also showed that wives with higher education had, like their male counterparts, differences in

the level of knowledge of the husband's characteristics according to the educational level and in favor of those with higher education and at a high level. This corroborates with the tenets of culturally relevant education for emancipation of communities espoused by Banda & Mpolomoka (2018). It is also consistent with the findings of a study by Watd & Hamida (2018).

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Government, Stakeholders, Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) and Faith-Based Organisations should design counseling programs to educate couples about psychological and mental differences and financial management, and to increase educational and awareness sessions for both spouses about the importance of knowing their characteristics especially the persons who are about to marry.

6.2 Government, Stakeholders, Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) should design and conduct studies on knowledge Management, hold seminars and public forum discussions on knowing characteristics of spouses and their impact on raising children and socialization in families.

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