Association of Levels of Education and Marital Experience on Marital Satisfaction among Selected Marriages in Kisii Township Kisii County

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1.1 Abstract

Marital satisfaction is a pertinent ingredient to the stability of any nation, given that the family is the basic unit of any nation. Too much marital dissatisfaction leads to family members being unstable socially which trickles down to societal problems hence to the nation. In Kisii Town, Kisii county women have derived marital dissatisfaction from the fact that their husbands batter them for money from the woman' small businesses and the men are also threatened by the womens' stability and that generally there is family conflicts between men and women. The purpose of this study therefore sought to establish the relationship between age, level of education, marital experience and gender in relation to marital satisfaction among selected spouses. The objectives for the study were: to determine the relationship between between education and marital satisfaction and to establish the relationship between marital experience and marital satisfaction among selected spouses in Kisii Township in Kisii County. The researcher employed a correlation survey design. The population of the study comprised 4,019 spouses and a sample size of 200 spouses was randomly selected for the study. Data was collected by using the Marital Satisfaction Questionnaire. Content and construct validity was ascertained by a pilot study of applying 20 questionnaires outside the area of study by a questionnaire vetted by peers. Reliability was established by the calculating Cronbachs' Alfa Coeffecient by administering the questionnaire to 20 respondents who did not take part in the final study. Reliability coefficients of 0.763, 0.710, 0.716 and 0.701 were reported and were all above the recommended value. Data analysis was done using statistical techniques such as ANOVA with the aid of statistical package of social sciences version 21. marital satisfaction in marriages. From the statistical analysis in the table 4.5, the P value indicating the significance of education was at 0.05 and the calculated p value was at 0.171. Thus (P>.05) in all the different educational levels. Therefore, we accept the null hypothesis that there is no statistically significant relationship between level of education and marital satisfaction and reject the alternative hypothesis that there is statistical significant relationship between level of education and marital satisfaction. And on marital experience statistical analysis in table 4.7, the P value indicating the cut off value was indicated at 0.05 and the calculated p value was 0.086. Subsequently, (p>0.05) therefore the null hypothesis stating that there is no statistical significance between experience and marital satisfaction was accepted and the alternative hypothesis was rejected.
Keywords: key words, level of Education, Marital experience, marital satisfaction

1.2: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

According to Creswell (2012) a research design is a systematic plan to study a scientific problem. The design of a study defines the study type where for the case of this research it was correlation survey design. Creswell (2012) asserts that correlation survey design is used where the researcher wanted to collect much information from many subjects at one time, he could also study a wide range of variables and their interrelations. He could also study variables that were not easily produced in the laboratory. However, that correlation could not indicate causation. The design involved the measurements of the study, variables so as to determine and estimate the extent to which the values for the variables are related. The design entailed uses of correlation coefficients which are statistics used to measure the strength between variables.

Further the study also employed the cross sectional survey design which involved determining the level to which age, education and experience were related to spouse's marital satisfaction in Kisii County.

Kisii township is a town located to the south east of Lake Victoria and is bordered by six counties with

Narok to the south, Migori to the west, Homa Bay to the north west, Kisumu to the north, Bomet to the south east and Nyamira to the east.

The target population comprised of all the married spouses in Kisii Township in Kisii County. There are approximately 4019 spouses according to 2009 census in Kisii Township of Kisii County. This study population was chosen because the information required could be obtained from them.

Sample size refers to the act, process, or technique of selecting an appropriate *sample*. The sample size was an important feature of this empirical study in which the goal was to make inferences about a population from the sample. In practice, the sample size used in a study was determined based on the expense of data collection, and the need to have sufficient statistical power.

Due to limited time and the vast majority of the households the researcher did not get data from all the married spouses in Kisii Township. There are approximately 4,019 spouses (source 2009 census). According to Gay (2006), as shown in the table below, a sample of 5% of the total population is a good representative of the target population for populations that are between 4001 to 10, 000 so as to ensure homogeneity, size and accuracy. Therefore the study utilized 200 respondents as per the principle above which were chosen by simple random sampling.

Table 1:1 Population sampling table

Size of population	Percentage of sampling
0-100	100%
101-1000	10%
1001- 5000	5%
5001- 10,000	3%
10,000+	1%

2

According to Moore (2008) simple random sampling is used when a large number of individuals, subjects or phenomena exist in the sample size you are targeting to study. As such simple random sampling (SRS) was used so as to eliminate the systematic bias. Subsequently all the individuals were given an equal chance to participate in the study.

The Study obtained data from the field using a questionnaire as the main instrument. Self - administered questionnaires were used to collect information from spouses on personal data under study. The marital satisfaction Questionnaire (MSQ) was administered to ascertain the level of marital satisfaction among spouses. It had Items, which measured the aspect of marital satisfaction such ability to solve marital problems, using family money or finances, faithfulness in sexual matters, length of time he/she stays at home, attention to family matters, time spent on social media e.g. face book, time spent on reading at home, time spent doing office work at home and how spouses handles children, e.g. care, discipline.

This refers to how well a scientific test or piece of research actually measures what it sets out to, or how well it reflects the reality it claims to represent Creswell (2012). Like reliability, validity in this sense is a concept drawn from the positivist scientific tradition and needs specific interpretation and usage in the context of qualitative research. Content validity was maintained by re- examining the questions to ensured they capture the needed data Creswell (2012). The research peers, research experts evaluated all aspects such that the instruments focused on the required information . Construct validity ensured that the instruments obtained the anticipated view , attitudes and perceptions on the subject under research. Validity of questionnaire was ensured by expert judgement of peers. Finally, the items in the questionnaire were arranged from the simple to the most complex.

Reliability is yielding the same or compatible results in different clinical experiments or statistical trials Creswell (2012). To ensure reliability of instruments, a pilot study was conducted with respondents who had similar thematic characteristics to the ones the study and were residing in the area of the study but were not included in the main study. Therefore, a sample size of 20 respondents were given the research questions which they filled. A test retest coefficient reliability values was the calculated using Cronbach alpha coefficients.

Table 1.2 : Cronbach Alfa co efficient output

Variable	No of items	Cronbach Alfa
Age	8	0.763
Education	5	0.710
Experience	7	0.716
Marital satisfaction	15	0.701

The questionnaire items used to measure the variables were reliable as they indicated by the Cronbach values were above 0.70 for all the variables. This value is above the recommended as proposed by Kothari (2006)

that reliable questionnaire should have a reliability coefficient of r = 0.6 and above.

1.2: Data analysis

The responses from the questionnaires were thoroughly edited for completeness accuracy, uniformity, consistency and comprehensibility. his was then followed by coding which involved translating answers given by the respondents into measuring the categories and giving them numerical codes so as to make them easy for entering into the computer for analysis. For analysis, the data was entered into the computer using the statistical packages for social sciences (SPSS) version 21. Frequency percentages were then used to analyze beyond characteristics of the respondents. Then statistical chi squares were then derived and interpretation was done and results discussed. Specifically, the statistical tests such as pearson correlations, t-test, Analysis of Variance and Post Hoc comparisons were used to test the hypotheses. The hypotheses were tested at 5% level of significance. When the obtained value was less than .05, the null hypothesis was rejected but when the obtained value was greater than .05, the null hypothesis was accepted.

1.3: ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION
1.3.1: Relationship between Educational level and marital satisfaction
Hypothesis 2
There is no statistical significant relationship between level of education and marital satisfaction among spouses in Kisii, Township, and Kisii County.

The goal of this hypothesis was to determine whether the level of education had an influence in marital satisfaction. The participants were in six different levels of education and the one way ANOVA was performed to test the hypothesis and the descriptive statistics results were presented in the table 4.4:

Table 1.3: Descriptive statistics for educational level and marital satisfaction

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Minimum	Maximum
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
Primary	57	1.74	.444	.059	1.62	1.85	1	2
Secondary	43	1.67	.474	.072	1.53	1.82	1	2
Certificate	35	1.60	.497	.084	1.43	1.77	1	2
Diploma	30	1.60	.498	.091	1.41	1.79	1	2
Degree	15	1.80	.414	.107	1.57	2.03	1	2
Post Graduate	10	2.00	.000	.000	2.00	2.00	2	2
Other (specify)	10	1.80	.422	.133	1.50	2.10	1	2
Total	200	1.70	.459	.032	1.64	1.76	1	2

From the descriptive statistics in the table 4.4, most satisfied spouses were those who were in the postgraduate educational level with a mean of 2.00, followed by spouses who were holders of a bachelors degree and others who had 1.80, thirdly primary level with 1.74, fourth were secondary school leavers with a mean of 1.67, diploma and certificate with a mean of 1.60 each. However, the mean distribution was not very wide among the respective education levels meaning the marital satisfaction in regard to age was not of a higher magnitude.

To find out whether there was a statistically significant difference in marital satisfaction on the basis of educational level, a one WAY ANOVA was carried out and the results presented in Table 4.5.

Table 1. 4 ANOVA on Educational level and marital satisfaction

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	1.906	6	.318	1.529	.171
Within Groups	40.094	193	.208		
Total	42.000	199			

From the statistical analysis in the table 4.5, the P value indicating the significance of education was at 0.05 and the calculated p value was at 0.171. Thus (P>.05) in all the different educational levels. Therefore, we accept the null hypothesis that there is no statistically significant relationship between level of education and marital satisfaction and reject the alternative hypothesis that there is statistical significant relationship between level of education and marital satisfaction.

These findings are similar to Agha (2012) who found that there was no statistical significance between education, emotional intelligence and marital satisfaction (P<.05). Similar to the above findings was Madanian (2012) reported that financial issues, intimacy, commitment and children were significant factors that influence the level of marital satisfaction and not education level of participants. Michelle (2013) also concurred with the current study when he found that new education attainment did not demonstrate marital satisfaction but rather

attachment anxiety interacted to predict marital satisfaction or dissatisfaction. Dinah (2012) also had similar findings that couples who relied mainly on friends for relationship guidance and education were not satisfied in their marriages. Ernest (2012) too found that found that education had no positive influence on marital satisfaction but rather the number of children. Tampieri (2010) study found that that couples with similar education levels had higher marital satisfaction due to assortative matching.

However, some studies were contrary to the current study where for instance, Golzari (2014) did a study and revealed that women who had received post-secondary education enjoyed higher marital satisfaction as compared to the rest of couples. Rezaee (2013) studied the level of family life education and its effectiveness on marital satisfaction among women attending. The results of this survey show that the level of education in family life improved marital satisfaction (P<0.01). Tucker and O'Grady (2004) also found that subjects judged similarities in education levels to be an important determinant in whether the couple was likely to have a satisfying marriage. An important aspect of this study was that people of higher education levels were only seen as having more satisfying marriages if the education level was commensurate with that of their spouse. Lower-educated couples were also judged as having satisfying marriages, as long as they were similarly matched in level of education. Bradbury (2000) found out that there was a strong relationship between marital education and marital satisfaction. Humoud (2010) also found that marriage education enrichment program had a significant positive effect on marital communication and marital adjustment immediately following the enrichment experience. Nivischi (2009) studied education as one of the factors that affect marital satisfaction among couples and found that age, gender, and educational attainment level were significant predictors of marital satisfaction ($p<0.05$). Tampieri (2010) examined how education affects decisions hence job and marital satisfaction among couples. The empirical findings supported the theoretical results that as education level of individuals increased, job satisfaction decreased and marital satisfaction increased. Mahin et al (2012) found that communication and conflict resolution skills training improved marital satisfaction due to education (p<.05). Cohen (2004) found that the relationship between education sources of information and expectations was found to be highly significant for variables related to family satisfaction.

Mahdieh (2014) reported on the impact of premarital education and effectiveness of marital stability and found that marital satisfaction showed significant correlation with sexual satisfaction and not educational aspects. Imhonde (2008) found that education had a significant relationship with marital satisfaction when compared with other variables that influence marital satisfaction. Mahdieh (2014) examined on the level of education and marital satisfaction interns of effectiveness of premarital Education Programme and found that at one-year follow-up, both groups showed improvement in mental health to the level of premarital education P<0.05. Alder (2010) study revealed that there was not a statistically significant relationship between marital satisfaction, and education level. Lastly, Anim (2011) generalization were also contrary to the current study for the findings showed that there were no significant differences between husbands and wives of low education and those of high education in their distress. Those with high education were not less distressed than those with low education.

1.3.2: Relationship between marital experience and marital satisfaction
Null Hypothesis 1
There is no statistically significant relationship between marital experience and marital satisfaction
The goal of this hypothesis was to determine the level of experience had in marital satisfaction among spouses. A one way ANOVA was calculated and the results are presented in the table 4.6.
Table 1.5: Descriptive Statistics for Relationship between marital experience and marital satisfaction

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Minimum	Maximum
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
0 -10 Years	80	1.64	.484	.054	1.53	1.75	1	2
11 - 20 Years	40	1.65	.483	.076	1.50	1.80	1	2
21 - 30 Years	40	1.85	.362	.057	1.73	1.97	1	2
31 - 40 Years	25	1.80	.408	.082	1.63	1.97	1	2
41 - 50 Years	15	1.60	.507	.131	1.32	1.88	1	2
Total	200	1.70	.459	.032	1.64	1.76	1	2

From the descriptive statistics presented in table 4.6 there was the highest amount of satisfaction with spouses who were married in who were married for a period of between 21- 30 years (with a mean of 1.85), second were spouses married for 31- 40 years (with a mean of 1.80), third were spouses between 11- 20 years with (a mean of 1.64), fourth were spouses married for a period of between 0-10 years (with a mean of 1.64) and least satisfied were spouses married for a period of between a period of 41- 50 years (with a mean of 1.60).
To ascertain whether there were a statistically significant differences on marital satisfaction on the basis of years

of marital experiences, a one way ANOVA was carried out and the results are featured in the table 1.6.

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	1.713	4	.428	2.072	.086
Within Groups	40.288	195	.207		
Total	42.000	199			

From the statistical analysis in table 4.7, the P value indicating the cut off value was indicated at 0.05 and the calculated p value was 0.086. Subsequently, (p>0.05) therefore the null hypothesis stating that there is no statistical significance between experience and marital satisfaction was accepted and the alternative hypothesis was rejected.

From the statistical analysis the P value indicating the cut off value was indicated at 0.05 and the calculated p value was 0.086. Subsequently, (p>0.05) therefore the null hypothesis stating that there is no statistical significance between experience and marital satisfaction was accepted and the alternative hypothesis was rejected.

The findings were similar to Hansen (2006), who revealed that there was no relative significance between duration in marriage and marital satisfaction.

However other researchers were contrary to the current finding where for instant Jose (2007) found that length of marriage was significantly positively correlated with sexual adjustment and educational attainment with general-life adjustment problems. Kwena (2014) still found out that women's age – more than 24-30 years with a percentage of 95% of total population respondent tending that that age gave more marital satisfaction. Zainah (2012) results indicated significant differences in marital satisfaction based on the length of marriage and income. Ofovwe (2013) length of marriage and marital satisfaction were related where 215 (82.7) teachers had marital satisfaction. Levenson (2013), found a significant age, duration in marriage spouse interaction revealed that greater signs of alcoholism for middle-aged couples than for old couples was true for husbands—middle-aged husbands, but not for wives. In satisfied marriages, wives' and husbands' health was equivalent; in dissatisfied marriages, wives reported more mental and physical health problems than did their husbands. Erika (2008) results indicated that the transition to parenthood is associated with greater declines in marital satisfaction than is seen in non-parent couples and that information on marriage and pregnancy planning prior to the transition to parenthood aids prediction of how and why marital change occurs over this transition. MacDermid, Huston, and McHale (2000) found that all three groups exhibited declines in the prominence of companionate activities over time, but the declines were sharper for couples who became parents, regardless of the timing of parenthood.

Animasahun (2012) study findings revealed that there was a significant main effect of treatment on marital satisfaction based on experience of marriage. p>0.05). Ghada (2014) findings also revealed women who were married for 15 or more years, women who were married for less than 15 years tended to be younger (mean age ± SD = 28.7 ± 5.6 years) compared to (mean age ± SD = 40.3 ± 4.5 years) among women who were married for 15 or more years (P<0.001). Also women who were married for < 15 years were more likely to be co-residing with their mother-in-law at the same building (P<0.05). However, those who were married for 15+ years were more likely to report that their in-laws increased their duties or work load (14.4%) compared to those who were married for <15 years (9.6%) although the difference was not statistically significant. Also Alder (2010) examined duration in marriage and marital satisfaction and concluded that there was not a statistically significant relationship between marital satisfaction, and duration in marriage. Azeez (2013) study out that about half of the respondents feel that their attitude towards marriage life is same as before marriage 63 (57.2%) meaning that there was no significant relationship between attitude towards marriage in duration before marriage and after marriage.

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