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INVESTIGATING THE EFFECTIVE FACTORS ON CONFLICTS BETWEEN COUPLES IN SHIRAZIAN FAMILIES

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to investigate the degree of couple's conflicts, their content and the effective factors in families in Shiraz, southern Iran. The degree of the conflicts is studied with sociological approach. The theoretical framework of the study is based on Collins theory consists of four sociological explanation for modern family conflicts and violence, including: Sexual possession right, economic pressures, social control and intergenerational transfer of conflicts. CTS (Conflict tactics scale) Straus scale is used to assess the degree of conflicts between wife and husband.

Research methodology is Survey and data have been collected using a questionnaire.

Statistical population consists of families residing in Shiraz in 2012, and 700 subjects are chosen based on the Lin sample size formula. Multivariate regression results showed that emotional relationship with spouse, husband authority in family, an unpleasant event , economic pressure on the family, a pleasant event, marital relationship with, relationship with man friend, relationship with man relatives and relationship with are significant factors in couples conflicts, respectively. The nine variables have explained totally 0.396 of dependent variable changes.

Keywords: Couple's Conflicts, the Conflict's Degree, Authority in the Family

INTRODUCTION

Family as a social institution reflects social disorders. No society can grow without healthy families (Sarokhani, 1991). Family is the most important social institution in human communities in which education and development of the human personality is formed (Farjad, 1998; Barboza and William 2004). How to share power in family is related to quality of couples happiness and the fairness being sense of power (Sabin, 1995). Despite the positive aspects of the changes in the family institution, conflict is increased among family members.

Many serious problems in family life, including violence, divorce and child abuse result from the family member's conflict. Minor spousal conflicts and disputes over various issues, if not being resolved in a timely manner and with the wisdom of the parties, will become a source of major conflicts.

Problematic family relations become clear only when such conflicts are intensified, leading to separation and divorce. Hence family conflict and its dysfunction is a problem. Many couples do not speak even with closest relatives about their marital conflicts. Revealing family issues is considered shame and embarrassment sometimes, hence they bear even the worst conditions. Therefore, a lot of stress is introduced upon such people which may lead to physical or mental illness. Conflicts in the family may arise between husband-wife, children with each other, or between parents and children. As children usually have learn this kind of behavior from parents, so conflicts between couples is more important and the study is limited to this issue.

In Iran, although a body of research has been done in family conflicts, but much of these researches have been selected their study samples from divorced families, or families referred to judicial authorities (Khalili, 1999).

As many of the conflicts in the family either between couples or between parents and children are not reported, so scientific understanding of such conflicts becomes very important. We can assess and provide strategies to reduce exacerbated conflicts as well as disintegration of families.

As noted in the proposal (question), Fars province statistically is located in third place in terms of statistics runaway girls (from home), following Tehran and Isfahan provinces. Girls running away from

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home are a sign of conflict within the family (women news agency of Iran, 1384). Statistics show that the most frequent subjects occur in provinces centers. Therefore, the necessity of such a study can be observed in Shiraz.

Literature Review

Mansourian and Qaderi (2002) in a survey named " patterns of family authority structure" in Shiraz with 300 samples suggested that couple's education is an important variant in the pattern of decision making and participation in family.

Higher educated Wife had more significant role in decision-making within the family. There was significant negative relationship between husband and his authority in family; as the level of husband education increased, their authority in family reduced and greater participation of wife in decision-making was found.

Yan *et al.,* (2013) studied empathy skills in married couples and found that couples raising self-awareness can be effective in reducing conflicts. Communication skills such as speaking, understanding, feeling, thinking, and interacting with others are effective in reducing couple's conflict .

Lauren *et al.,* (2013) in a study entitled "Evaluation of emotional problems in daily life at home", on 100 couples of the Statistical population 748, investigated variables such as devotion and passion, and showed that factors such as anger, depression and verbal, the love of children and Financial matters play an effective role in conflict increase. Positive feelings and find constructive solutions can reduce husbands' depression and conflict.

Principles and Theoretical Framework

The major sociological theories investigating the changes in family conflicts include the paternalistic attitude, resource theory, conflict theory, feminist theory and exchange theories (Wallace, 1986). As the study theoretical framework is based on the Collins theory, we will investigate it.

Collins Theory

According to Collins (Collins & Coltrane, 1991) there are four following major sociological explanations to answer why conflict and violence occur in today marriages :

1. Sexual possession rights
2. Economic pressure
3. Intergenerational conflicts transfer
4. Social control

Based on Collin, conflict resources in the family as well as the stress that may occur during their life depend on their power sources, particularly between husband and wife (Collins, 1998; Collins, 2004). Power sources include employment status of wife and husband, their social relations network, sexual situations, the income and educational level.

The stressful events of Family life may have either positive or negative effect. Unpleasant events, such as unemployment and job loss (quit), bankruptcy and financial problems, disease and so may cause conflicts and even violence in some families, especially lower-class families. Positive stressful events such as birth (new baby) or finding a new job may also lead to conflict in some families

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research Methodology

The study was conducted using a survey method. Distinguishing features of survey lies in the data collecting methods and their analysis (Dvas, 2000). The main tool for data collection in the study was a questionnaire composed of three main components. One section (item) consists of 22 questions to measure the degree of couples 'conflicts using a Likert scale. In the setting of these sections used indicators in Strauss scale known as CTS including conflicts, verbal, psychological, physical, sexual coercion indicators, and injury to another were used (straus-1996).
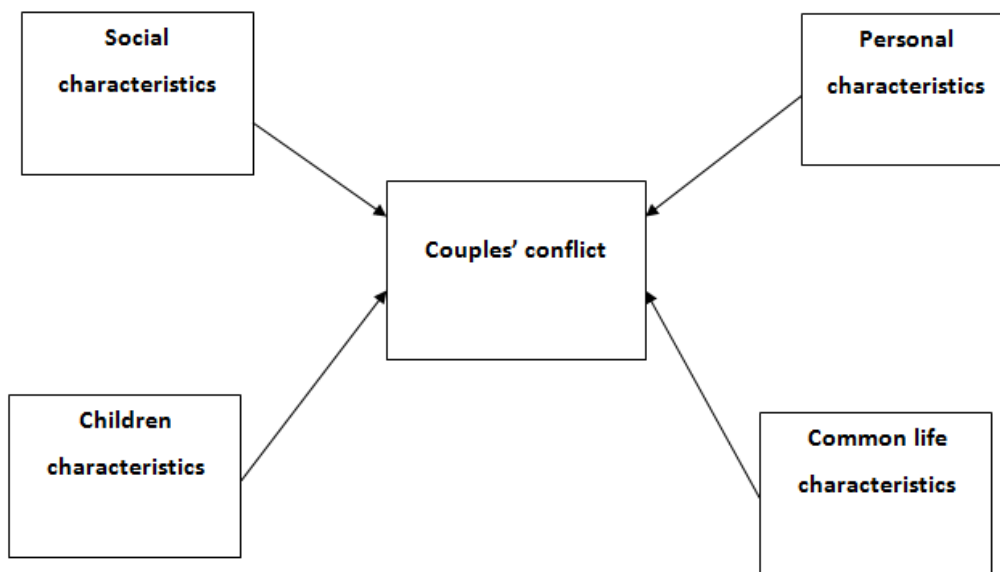
Population, Statistical Sample and Sampling Method

The survey Population includes families residing in Shiraz in 2011 (Bureau of Statistics and Information, 2011) while the couple were alive and live together. Based on the 2011general census of population and

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housing in Shiraz, there have been 416,141 family in 9 Regional Municipality (Iran Statistical Center, 2011). Based on Table Lin (Lin, 1974:446) accepting the sample error of 4%, reliability level 95% and assuming a 50% given ratio of the observed variable (having the studying characteristics by 50% population) sample size was Set 700 = n .

Regarding to dividing the city into 9 regions by the Management and Planning Organization of Fars province, stratified cluster random sampling method was chosen to include all social classes and groups.

Theoretical Model of Research

Hypothesis

According to the study theoretical framework, the following hypotheses were tested :

There is a relation between the husband authority over family members and couple's conflicts .

There is a relation between Economic pressures and couple's conflicts.

There is a relation between the stress on the family and couple's conflicts.

There is a relation between couple's marital relationship and their conflicts.

There is a relation between couples emotional relationship and their conflicts.

There is a relation between husband work hours outside the home and couples conflicts.

There is a relation between quality of relationship with relatives and couple's conflicts .

There is a relation between communicating with friends and couple's conflicts .

There is a relation between wife income and couple's conflicts.

There is a relation between a decision maker in marriage and frequency of conflicts.

Validity and Reliability of Conflicts Assessment Tools

In this study, Straus CTS scale items were used in order to assess the degree of couples' conflicts. The validity of the scale has been confirmed in most previous studies (Khalil, 1378; Clark, 2001; Gelles, 1997).

Validity is calculation of correlation coefficients constituting of the conflicts degree with the variables.

The results showed a significant 95% correlation between each item and conflict degree.

Kmo and Bartlett's test results

Name of test	Value
Kmo	0.922
Bartlett	6.828
Significant level	0.000

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
Relation of couples' conflicts with a decision-maker in wife marriage

Table 1: The variance analysis tests of couples conflicts based on decision-maker person in wife marriage

Main decision-maker	Frequency	Conflicts mean	standard error	F	significance level
Woman	433	42.7	18.3		
Father	180	42.4	18.0	6.51	0.000
Mother	70	52.5	22.2		
Others	17	50.0	14.1		

Table 1, shows the results of couples' conflicts review based on a decision maker in respondents marriage.

Scores means indicate in the cases where mother is the decision maker, conflict rate is high. Also according to F-test with value 6.51 and significance level of Sig =0.000, it can be concluded with 99% confidence that there is a significant difference between decision-maker person in woman marriage in term of conflict degree; so the hypothesis will be confirmed.

The Relationship between Couple Conflict and Stress on the Family

Table 2: Results of couples conflicting relationships with incidence of pleasant and unpleasant events in family

Type of event	Happening an accident	Number	Mean	Standard deviation	T	Significance level
Pleasant	Yes	81	54.9	18.1		0.000
	NO	619	42.3	18.4	5.77	
Unpleasant	Yes	143	54.4	19.9		0.000
	No	557	41.1	17.5	7.27	

Table 3: Pearson correlation coefficient between couples conflicts and independent variables

Variables	Couples conflicts		
	Number	Correlation coefficient	Significance mean
Husband authority in family		0.276	0.000
Wife authority in family		0.093	0.014
Economic pressure on family		0.0231	0.000
Marital relationship		0.0459	0.000
Emotional relationship		0.555	0.000
Husband employment hours outside		0.015	0.687
Relation with wife relatives		0.186	0.000
Relation with husband relatives	700	0.282	0.000
Relation with wife friends		0.103	0.006
Relation with husband friends		0.136	0.000
Wife education		0.109	0.004
Husband education		0.178	0.000
Wife income		0.039	0.302

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Table 2 represents the results of couples' conflicts degree with incidence of Pleasant and unpleasant events in family .The conflicts degree means of those who experience a pleasant or unpleasant events leading to controversy - are higher. The observed differences between two means based on T-test and significance level of Sig = 0.000 represents a significant difference between a pleasant or unpleasant event experience in terms of the conflicts degree, therefore the above hypothesis is confirmed. Relation of couple conflict with other independent variables.

The correlation coefficient has been used in Table 3 to show the relationship between couples conflicts and dependent variables. Based on the results, husband authority in family, wife authority in the family, the economic pressures on the family and relationships with husband friends have a significant positive correlation with conflicts degree; also marital relationship, emotional relationship, relationship with wife relatives, relationship with husband relatives, relationships with wife friends, husband education, and wife education have a significant negative correlation with the conflict degree.

Table 4: the regression equation of Independent variables effect on couples' conflicts

Variables	B	β	T	Sig
Emotional relationship with partner	-5.553	-0.372	-8.01	0.000
Husband authority in family	1.973	0.137	4.45	0.000
Unpleasant event	-5.822	- 0.125	- 3.98	0.000
Economic pressure on family	1.433	0.094	3.07	0.002
Pleasant event	-5.673	- 0.097	- 3.18	0.002
Marital relationship with partner	-1.617	- 0.105	- 2.39	0.017
Relationship with husband friends	1.221	- 0.080	2.60	0.009
Relationship with husband relatives	-1.634	- 0.103	- 2.81	0.005
Relationship with wife relatives	1.296	- 0. 075	2. 08	0.037

$R^2 = 0.396$ $R= 0.630$ $a= 65.35$

According to Table 4, emotional relationship with spouse, husband authority in the family , unpleasant event, economic pressure on the family, pleasant event ,marital relationship, relationship with husband friends, relationship with husband relatives and relations with wife relatives have the highest proportion in the conflicts, respectively. The 9 variables totally explain 0.396 of dependent variables changes.

Path Analysis

The path analysis were used to assess the impact of independent variables on the dependent variable, i.e. the couple's conflicts.

The results showed that maximum variance of couple conflicts satisfaction is explained by mutual emotional relationship. Path coefficient between these two variables is 308/0-.

The more emotional satisfaction, the lower conflict levels. On The other hand the emotional relationship satisfaction is explained by the relationship with relatives. As seen in the path analysis diagram, path-coefficient of relationship with relatives and emotional relationship satisfaction is 280/0. Another variable explaining most of the couples' conflicts variance is man authority in family. The variable path coefficient with couple's conflicts is 206/0. Husband authority is affected by his education level. Path coefficient of the two variables is 104/0-.

Increasing the husband educational level decreases his authority over family members. Although husband education has no direct effect on the determination of couple conflict, yet does indirectly affect it. The marital relationship Satisfaction is another variable that play a significant role in explaining the variance in the dependent variable.

As specified in the graph, the path coefficient of this variable with couples' conflicts is 192/0-. Marital relationship Satisfaction is strongly influenced by the emotional relationship satisfaction of spouse. So these two variables path coefficient is 790/0. It can be concluded that the wife's emotional relationship satisfaction will affect the amount of conflicting couples both directly and indirectly through other

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variables. Path coefficients of unpleasant events in family with couple conflicts are 181/0 and Path coefficients of pleasant events, in family with couple conflicts is 139/0, respectively.

So it can be said that the β weights of these two variables altogether in explain and predict of conflicts between couples is 32/0.The occurrence of both negative and positive events in family is effective in increasing couple conflicts.

Wife income and couples conflicts path coefficient is 075/0. Wife income is a variable influenced by wife education level. Increasing level of wife education influence her income. Path coefficient between these two variables is 413/0, as defined in diagram.

So it can be said that the wife education level explain conflicts between couples indirectly. Economic pressure on the family is another variables in the path analysis model that its beta weights or path coefficients with couples conflicts is 074/0. Amount of explained variance, R^2 (547/0), indicates that the paths in the model explain about 54% of dependent variable changes, i.e. the amount of couples conflicts and e2 value or unexplained variance is about 46%.

Conclusion

The results showed that the mean of couple conflict degree in Shirazian family is 52/41, minimum 23, and maximum is 107.

Applying Factor analysis for categorization of used items in degree measurement tools showed all constituent items are fewer than five factors. 63/4 % of variance are explained by the five factors.

Of the total explained variance, 38.3 % explained physical confrontations, 9.5 % verbal conflicts, 7.2 % psychological conflicts, 4.7 % sexual conflicts and 4.5 % damage or severe injury.

Assigning the first factor to spouses physical interactions indicate high degree conflicts among them.

In fact, more than half of the total variance explained of conflicts degree devotes to physical confrontations. Although most of physical confrontations are not often so serious to cause physical violence and injury, but collisions among spouses is a sign of the cultural and social immaturity.

According to Collins's theory the more society is underdevelopment and traditional, the more intense conflict occurs in families. Even though Shiraz is a cultural and developed Metropolis, but shirazian familie's entity suffers from cultural weakness. Sociological variables such as the social relationships network of couples, and how they of their relationships, both within and outside of family, play a major role in the level of conflicts and clashes. Couples who were more satisfied with their marital and emotional relationships are less likely to experience a conflict in their life. The more the size of their social circle of relatives, friends and acquaintances, the more positive impact on family relationships.

Communicating with others especially makes housewives feel less isolated and alone in their social interactions. As a result, their encounter with husband returns home tired after a day's work was different from the time alone at home. Relationships with husband's close relatives reduces occurrence of potential problems.

In the present study, verbal conflicts between couples are of secondary importance. It suggests that in our society, some families are still fighting and physical altercation occurs between couples. Physical confrontations between couples are indicators of patriarchal family. As it's usually a physical altercation applies by husband than wife.

Recommendation

1 –culture building to increase pre-marriage familiarity in order to get mutual knowledge and awareness than ever before. Hasty marriage based on mere sentiments should be avoided.

2 –aware Couples to change the way of empathy and improving communication skills such as listening and speaking, by the public media and marriage counselors as supplemented.

3 - Couples take final decision about marriage their selves.

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