



MARITAL QUALITY OF WOMEN SPOUSES OF MEN WORKING IN ABROAD WITH REFERENCE TO PALAKKAD

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Abstract

Families of today are facing unprecedented and varied challenges like urbanization, drug abuse breaking down of marriages. Changing economic and social conditions etc. which are leading families to destruction. Disorganization of the family is one of the important challenges to be tackled. Lack of family unity due to divergent objectives, ambitions, thoughts and ideas; decrease in the family control due to competition; lack of control and unit; conflicts between parents and children due to undue expectations of authority and freedom, and all such precarious areas have become a burning challenge of modern family. On the other hand, laxity in marital bonds, availability of alternative satisfaction, misuse of economic freedom etc. really challenged the very foundation of modern family.

Key Words: Spouse, Pre separation, Marital Quality.

Introduction

Human beings have lived without schools, worships factories, but never without marriage and family. It is the place where we will get the satisfaction of certain basic human need. Therefore, even with all the possible shortcomings, we prefer to be in connection with our families. And even those people whose family life has produced more sorrows than happiness often look forward to happier marriage and family life for themselves and as well as for their children.

Families of today are facing unprecedented and varied challenges like urbanization, drug abuse breaking down of marriages. Changing economic and social conditions etc. which are leading families to destruction. Disorganization of the family is one of the important challenges to be tackled. Lack of family unity due to divergent objectives, ambitions, thoughts and ideas; decrease in the family control due to competition; lack of control and unit; conflicts between parents and children due to undue expectations of authority and freedom, and all such precarious areas have become a burning challenge of modern family. On the other hand, laxity in marital bonds, availability of alternative satisfaction, misuse of economic freedom etc. really challenged the very foundation of modern family.

Marriage in Indian society is more a religious institution than a legal one. It is understood as relatively permanent unions of two people implying a number of inter locking status and roles. Family is never merely a personal matter, because society is so much affected by the quality of its families. Even the breaking up of a family is not a personal concern alone.

Here this study attempts to find their marital quality of this particular group, which the researcher feels is essential for strengthening their marriage.

Need and significance of the study

The researcher has seen very many couples, who are experiencing extended absence of their spouses, with problems in their marriage and family. Once they get into the deep ocean of trouble, they find it very difficult to get out it even if they wish. This will affect not only the person but also the whole family and society in which he /she belongs. Even though the society has been aware of the problems of the extended absence of the spouses not much has been done to care for them. There are few studies on the problems of the job-oriented migration on family and marriage. However, a study of its impact on marital quality on this particular group could not be found on the Indian context. Therefore a study is planned to understand these aspects which are essential planning further service and research.

Statement of the problem

The problems under study are the marital quality of the women spouses of men who live outside country from the early months of marriage for occupational reasons. This study is entitled as **“Marital Quality of Women Spouses of Men Working In Abroad”**: With Reference To Palakkad

Objectives

1. To study the impact of occupational separation of men on the marital quality of women spouses in the early years of marriage
2. To study the effects of social support, employment status on the marital quality of the study group.

3. To analyze the marital quality of the study groups with respect to certain selected socio-demographic variables.
4. To suggest the specific counseling goals for those women with low marital quality among the study group.

Hypothesis

1. There will be no significant difference between the marital quality of the women in the study group and the control group.
2. There will be no significant difference between the marital quality of the women in the study group with high social support and those with low social support.
3. There will be no significant difference between the marital quality of the women in the study group with high spirituality and those with low spirituality.
4. There will be no significant difference between the marital quality of the women in the study who are employed and those who are not employed.
5. There will be no significant difference between the marital quality of the women in the study group staying with in law and those staying with own parents.
6. There will be no significant relationship between the marital quality of the women in the study group and duration of pre-separations stay.

Scope and limitation

This study is expected to explain the impact of occupational separation of the couple on the marital quality of the women spouses. The advantages of examining the marital quality of women spouses of men working abroad. Firstly, being an exploratory study it is expected to reveal many interesting findings and thereby increase the knowledge base regarding the marital quality of the woman spouses of men working abroad. It is also hoped that, the finding of the study will help the counselors and social workers to create awareness among finding of the study many give directions for further research in this area.

The impact of occupational separation of the couples on marriage and family are several, but the researcher did concentrate only on the area of their marital quality. The study is limited to the first five years and it covers only Palakkad area. The study group constitutes women who are experiencing the extended absence of their spouses. The study is limited to evaluate the marital quality of the women spouses of men working abroad. If the same of their husbands also were studied.

Methodology of Study

The descriptive survey method was adopted as the method of the research. The samples for the present study consists of 105 women who are experiencing the long term separation of their spouses due to occupational reasons constituting the experimental group and 105 women who are staying with their husbands as the control group. The sample was taken on the basis of Simple random Sampling from the Palakkad district of Kerala state. Altogether Three different tools were used for the collection of data

Tools Used for Analysis

Collected data were analysed with the following tools

1. Computation of arithmetic mean and standard deviation
2. The 't' test of significance.
3. One way analysis of variance.

Analysis and Interpretations

This chapter deals with the analysis and interpretation of data collected using different tools.

Table -1, Means, Standard Deviations, and t value of marital quality scores of study group and control group

Group	Respondents	Mean	SD	T value
Study Group	105	93.37	20.26	6.79
Control Group	105	79.33	19.26	

Source: Primary Data

Table 1 gives the means, standard deviations and 't' value of the marital quality scores of the study group and control group. The test of significance for difference between the means shows that the marital quality of study group differs significantly from the marital quality of the control group at 0.01 levels. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. In this research the study group is the wives whose husbands are away from home and control group is the women who are staying with their partners. The higher mean value is obtained for the study group, which indicates that their marital quality is significantly lower than the marital quality of the control group.

Table -2, The means, standard deviations and 't' value of marital quality scores of the study group with respect to their employment status

Group	Respondents	Mean	SD	T value
Unemployed	59	90.89	18.28	-2.38
Employed	46	97.35	22.94	

Table- 2 gives the means, standard deviations and 't' value of the marital quality score of the women whose husbands are staying away from home for occupational reasons. The test of significance for difference between the mean values shows that there is a significant difference between the mean values of the unemployed and employed groups at 0.05 level. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. The higher mean value of the employed group shows that their marital quality is lower than that of the unemployed group.

Table -3, Means, standard deviations and 't' value of marital quality scores of the study group staying with in-laws and with own parents

Group	Respondents	Mean	SD	T value
Staying with Own Parents	55	92.41	20.77	-1.86
Staying with in-laws	50	95.54	17.44	

Table 3 gives the means, standard deviations and 't' value of marital quality scores of the study group staying with in-laws and with parents. The test of significance for difference between the means of marital quality scores shows the observed difference is not statistically significant. So the null hypothesis is retained. Hence it can be concluded that in the absence of husband, whether the wife is staying with in-laws or with own parents is immaterial in deciding her marital quality.

Table -4, Correlation between marital quality scores of the study group and duration of pre-separation stay

Variable	Correlation	Level of Significance
Duration of Pre-separation	-0.03	0.64*

* Significant at 0.05 level

Table-4 shows the value of coefficient of correlation computed between the scores of marital quality of the women spouses of men working abroad and the duration of the life together before the separation. It is evident from the table that the obtained correlation coefficient is far below the critical value of significance either at 0.01 level or at 0.05 level. So the null hypothesis is retained. Hence, it can be concluded that there is no significant relationship between the marital quality and duration of marital life before the separation of the women spouses of men working abroad. The study group included the persons with a pre- separation stay from two weeks to three months. The result shows that this difference in the duration does not make any difference in the marital quality of the study group.

Table -5, The summary of Analysis of variance (ANOVA) for the marital quality of the Spouses of men working abroad with respect to the number of children

Sources of Variance	Sum os Square	Df	Mean Square	F- Ratio
Between Groups	2720.44	2	1360.22	3.39*
Within Groups	81750.62	103	401.16	

* Significant at 0.05 level

Table 5 shows that the obtained F-ratio is statistically significant at 0.05 level. Hence it can be concluded that the number of children is a significant influential factor in deciding the marital quality of the spouses of men working abroad.



Findings

1. The Study which indicates that marital quality of Study Group is significantly lower than the marital quality of the control group.
2. The employment status emerged as a significant factor influencing the marital quality of the women spouses of men working abroad. ($t = -2.38$, $p < .05$). Unemployed wives show high marital quality than the employed
3. The present study revealed that there is no significant difference in the marital quality of the study group who are staying with their parents with those who are staying with their in-laws. This means that the place of stay of the women spouses of men working abroad is not an influential factor of their marital quality.
4. The duration of pre separation stay does not found to be significantly correlated to the marital quality of the women spouses of men working abroad. This means that the duration of pre-separation stay is not a determining factor of the marital quality of the study group.

Conclusion

The major conclusions that are arrived at from the present study are given below.

1. One of the major objectives of the present study was to analyse the impact of occupational separation on the marital quality of the women spouses left behind. The study rejected the null hypothesis and clearly revealed that the occupational separation has a significant negative impact on the marital quality of the women spouses of men working abroad. Comparison with the marital quality of the control group, the group does not have the separation.
2. The factors such as social support from family and friends, the stay of the study group with parents or in-laws, and duration of pre-separation stay found to be retaining the null hypotheses. That is, the study proved that there is no significant difference exists on the marital quality of the study group based on these factors.

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