

EFFECT OF MARITAL STABILITY OF MOTHERS ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN

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Abstract

Marital stability is one of the major concerns of this era where the technological advancements alter the relations of husband and wife. A mother plays a very important role in the overall development of the children. Child development is always a complex process but in today's world it becomes more complex because of various factors. Changes in the composition and roles of the family members especially mother affected the process and ways of child rearing which can directly or indirectly alter the development of the children. A healthy and happy marriage contributes towards a well developed child. It has been seen that the children lack social maturity because of the prevailing social family dynamics. This paper is an attempt to find out the effect of marital stability of mothers on the social development of their children. Marital stability is assessed using the quality of marital relationship scale and social development is assessed using social maturity scale. A sample of 200 mothers whose children falls in the age of 4-12 years were taken as samples for the study in the Aligarh city.

Keywords: marital stability, social development, mother, children etc.

1. Introduction

Mother is the primary care taken and there is no other substitute to mother for a child. Mothers bonding and commitment in marriage adversely affect the children. Sharing a lifelong committed relationship with a partner is an almost universal aspiration. For most people, that means getting married because marriage is viewed as the most committed organization of relationship. More than 90% of people marry by age 50 across almost all countries, cultures and religions [1] in general way, everyone wants to in a committed and loyal relationship to enjoy good quality of marital relationship. According to [2], the desire to be in a committed partner relationship is so persuasive that some psychologists have argued that it reflects an evolutionary imperative. When people achieve their aspiration for a strong, mutually satisfying marriage, this is very powerful predictor of positive health and well being in the

partners. In an extensive review of research evidence, [3] concluded that being in a satisfying marriage was one of the strongest determinants of life satisfaction for adults, and this was true across a diverse range of cultures.

Marital stability can be defined as remaining legally married without divorce, physical separation, or legal separation [4]. The person can remain legally wedded if the person is happy and satisfied with the marital relationship. A stable marriage provides a good sense of happiness, satisfaction, adjustment and quality in a marital relationship. Therefore, marital stability can be viewed as a sum of marital happiness, satisfaction and adjustment which together constitute quality of a marital relationship. According to [5], Marriages of high quality tend to have high stability. Social development is the learning of socially approved ways by the individual and well adjusting to the societal norms. [6], suggest that destructive

and constructive marital conflict may directly and indirectly influence children's social skills development through the mediation of parenting practices.

2. Material and Methods

A sample size of 200 women who possesses children of 4-12 years (100 boys and 100 girls) along with their children were chosen to conduct the study from Aligarh city of Uttar Pradesh, India. The primary data was collected using the questionnaire cum interview schedule method. For collecting general information a self designed questionnaire was designed. The marital stability of Mothers was assessed through the quality of marital relationship scale by Dr.Sweta Singh which has 8 dimensions and 50 questions. For assessment of social development of children, social maturity scale by Dr. R.P. Srivastava published by is used to assess the social development of the children from 4-12 years of age. It has 17 parts depending on the age of the respondents. The secondary data was collected using books, journals, e-books, web links etc. The data was analyzed using percentage, frequency, mean, standard deviation and ANOVA.

3. Results and Discussion

The results from the sample collected are represented below. The level of social development of the children is analyzed with the level of marital stability i.e. high, moderate and low and also with all the eight dimensions of marital stability

3.1. Profile of respondent women

A sample of 200 women ranging between the ages of 25-55 years of age was selected for the study. The age group is divided into three categories. The first category which bears women from 25-35 years of age has the highest frequency. The third category which consists of women of 45-55 years of age has the lowest frequency count in the whole divided population of respondent women. The data is presented in tabular form and also represented by pie chart below-

Table 1: Profile of respondent women

Age group	Frequency	Percent
25-35 Years	115	57.5
35-45 Years	71	35.5
45-55 Years	14	7.0
Total	200	100.0

3.2. Profile of respondent children

For the purpose of study 200 children were selected. Out of which 200 were boys and 200 were girls of the respondent mothers. Both the categories bears equal frequency. The data is presented in tabular form and also represented by pie chart below-

Table 2: Profile of respondent children

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Girl	100	50.0
Boy	100	50.0
Total	200	100.0

3.3. Marital stability of respondent women

There are three levels of marital stability as per the quality of marital relationship scale. The three categories are high/good, moderate, and low. From the collected samples the highest frequency was found to be of the moderate marital stability and the lowest is of the low level of marital stability. The data is presented in tabular form and also represented by pie chart below-

Table 3: Marital stability of respondent women

Levels of Marital stability	Frequency	Percent
High/Good	67	33.5
Moderate	99	49.5
Low	34	17.0
Total	200	100.0

3.4. Social development levels

There are seven categories of social development of children as per the social maturity scale.

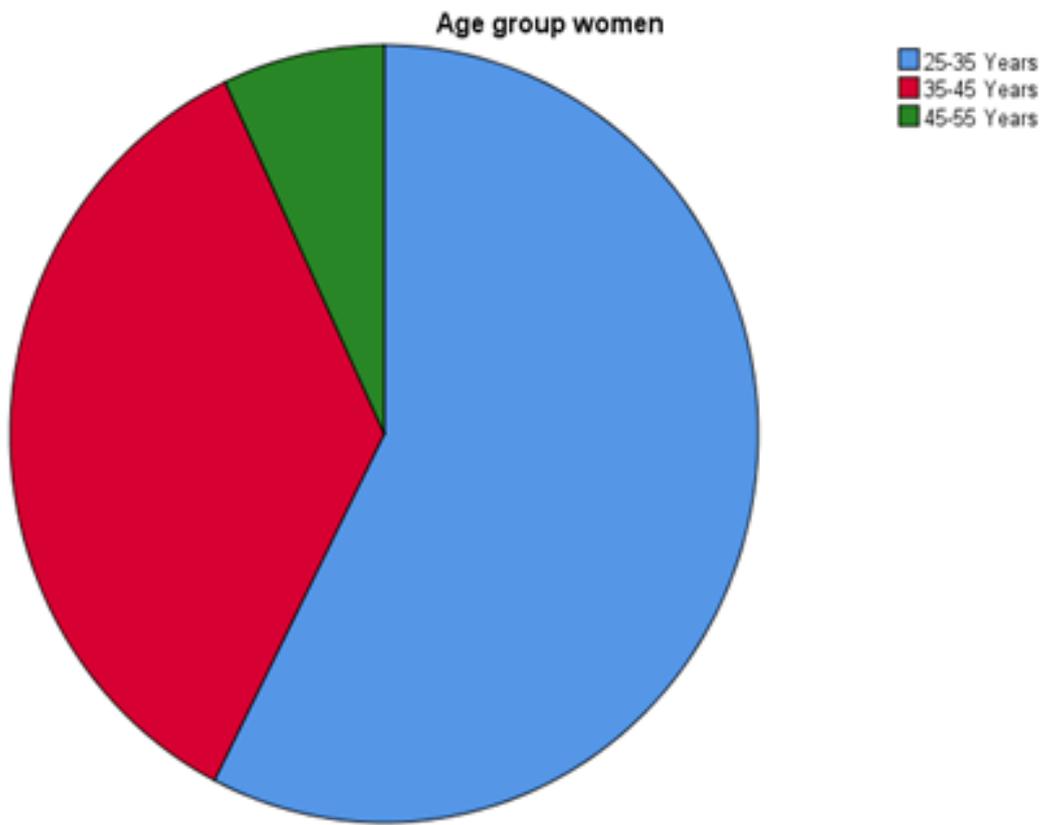


Figure 1: Age group women

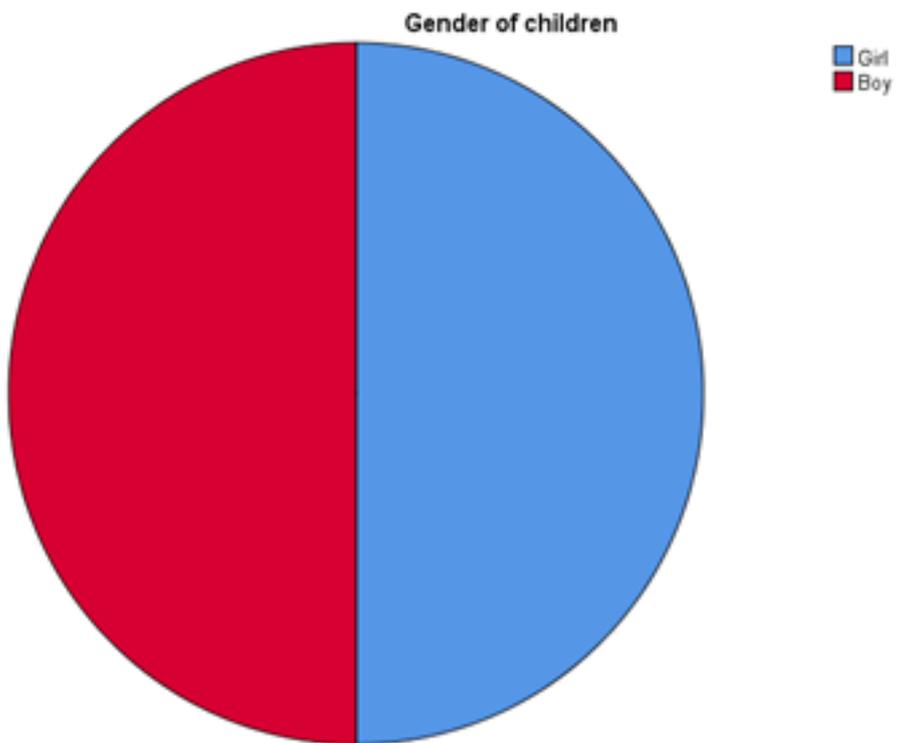


Figure 2: Gender of children

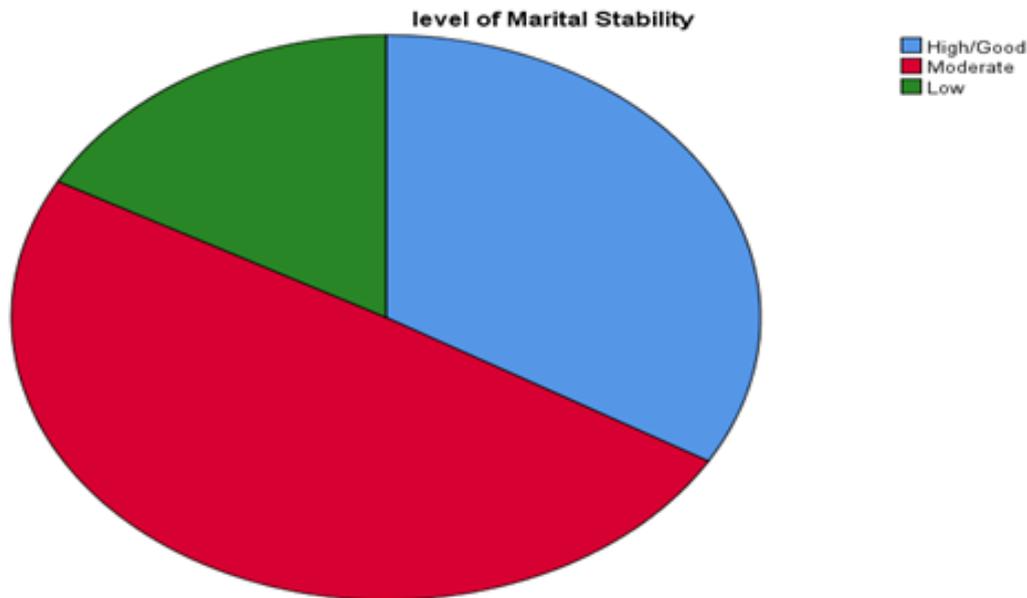


Figure 3: Level of Marital stability

The social development category of average has the highest frequency. The category of poor social development has the lowest frequency count. The data is presented in tabular form and also represented by pie chart below-

Table 4: Social development levels

Levels of social development	Frequency	Percent
superior	42	21.0
above average	27	13.5
average	49	24.5
below average	32	16.0
inferior	14	7.0
very inferior	8	4.0
poor	6	3.0
Total	200	100.0

3.5. Descriptive analysis

The following table shows the minimum & maximum values, mean and standard deviation of the calculated value of marital stability, social development and all the dimensions of marital stability. The total mean for the calculated value of marital stability is 22.9539 with standard deviation of 2.86192. The total mean for the calculated value

of social development is 107.2100 with standard deviation of 25.16231. The highest mean in the dimensions of marital stability is of dimension of intimacy on the other hand the lowest mean is of the dimension of dominance. The data is presented in tabular form.

3.6. Effect of marital stability of mothers on social development of children

The analysis of variance test was used to analyze the effect of marital stability on the social development of their children at 0.05% level of significance. The result shows that the social development of children is highly significant with the levels of marital stability. The F value is 15.067. The data is presented in tabular form.

It has been found from the study that the dimensions of support, intimacy, openness, connectedness-autonomy, empathy, love and conflict were significantly associated with the social development of the children. The dimension of dominance is not found to be significantly associated with the social development of the respondent children.

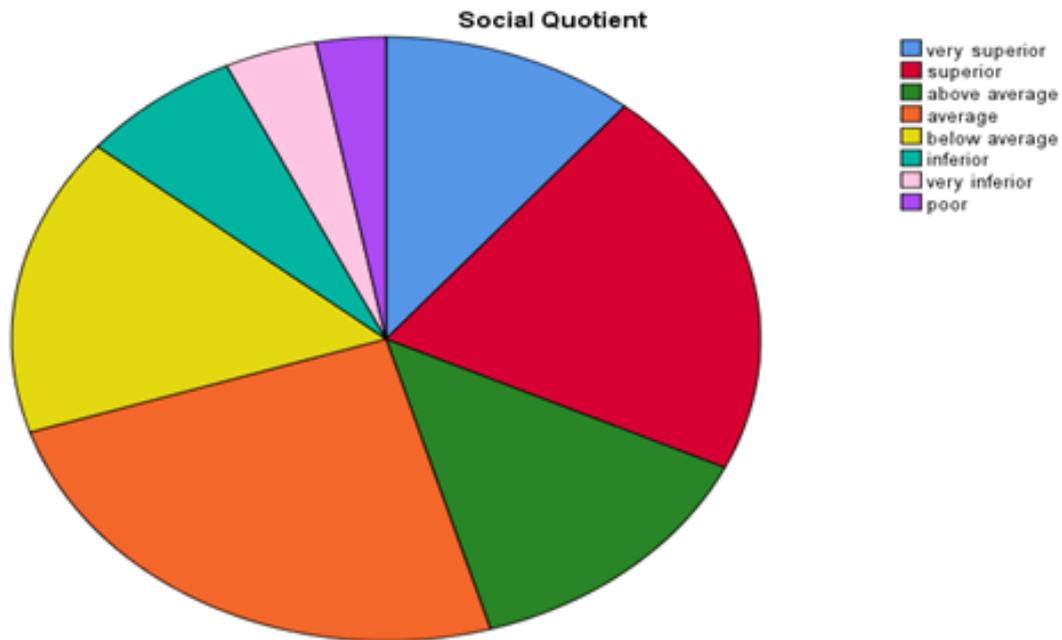


Figure 4: Social Quotient

Table 5: Descriptive analysis

Values	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Calculated Value of Marital Stability	200	14.66	29.77	22.9539	2.86192
Calculated Value of Social Quotient	200	37.00	149.00	107.2100	25.16231
Support	200	1.50	4.00	3.0050	.52246
Intimacy	200	1.57	4.00	3.0679	.55708
Openness	200	1.45	4.00	3.0354	.62296
Connectedness-Autonomy	200	1.57	3.57	2.6602	.37138
Empathy	200	1.50	4.00	3.0513	.57606
Love	200	1.67	4.00	3.1213	.57239
Dominance	200	1.00	4.00	2.4050	.56797
conflict	200	1.00	4.00	2.6088	.81966

Table 6: Effect of marital stability of mothers on social development of children

ANOVA					
Social Quotient	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	82.943	2	41.472	15.067	.001
Within Groups	542.252	197	2.753		
Total	625.195	199			

Dimensions of marital stability	Group	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Support	Between Groups	20.109	2	10.055	57.899	0.001
	Within Groups	34.21	197	0.174		
	Total	54.32	199			
Intimacy	Between Groups	32.877	2	16.438	112.127	0.001
	Within Groups	28.881	197	0.147		
	Total	61.758	199			
Openness	Between Groups	44.836	2	22.418	136.34	0.001
	Within Groups	32.393	197	0.164		
	Total	77.229	199			
Connectedness-Autonomy	Between Groups	3.779	2	1.889	15.726	0.001
	Within Groups	23.668	197	0.12		
	Total	27.447	199			
Empathy	Between Groups	18.333	2	9.167	37.855	0.001
	Within Groups	47.704	197	0.242		
	Total	66.037	199			
Love	Between Groups	35.201	2	17.601	115.591	0.001
	Within Groups	29.996	197	0.152		
	Total	65.197	199			
Dominance	Between Groups	0.184	2	0.092	0.284	0.753
	Within Groups	64.011	197	0.325		
	Total	64.195	199			
conflict	Between Groups	34.713	2	17.357	34.544	0.001
	Within Groups	98.984	197	0.502		
	Total	133.697	199			

4. Conclusion

It has been found from the above results that the marital stability of the mother is significantly associated with the level of social development of their children. The levels of marital stability were significantly associated with the calculated value of social development of the respondent children. Majority of dimensions of marital stability are also associated with the calculated value of the social development of the respondent children. Only the dimension of dominance was not significantly associated with the social development of the children. A similar study may be conducted on a larger sample to get more detailed association. Marital stability of mother is considered to be the most significantly contributing factor in the social development of their children.

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