

## Abstract

This thesis is an attempt to examine marital satisfaction. The objectives of this research are firstly to study the relationships between social background factors (ie.sex; age; level of education; occupational rank) and marital satisfaction and secondly to construct and to test a causal model of marital satisfaction basing on theoretical reasoning and relevant research findings and utilizing path analysis with least-square approach respectively. In addition, the research was proposed to examine relative contribution of the eight factors to explanation and/or prediction of marital satisfaction

A sample of 310 was randomly drawn from the list of married government officials of Industry Ministry.

The results showed that sex, age, level of education and occupational rank were not significantly related to marital satisfaction.

The causal model was composed of eight concepts:

(1) marital satisfaction; (2) relative deprivation; (3) companionship; (4) role consensus; (5) social background similarity; (6) child spacing; (7) number of children and (8) length of marriage.

In testing the causal model of marital satisfaction, it was found that only role consensus, relative deprivation and companionship had direct effects upon marital satisfaction.

Comparing relative effects of these three variables upon marital satisfaction reveal that role consensus had a strongest effect upon marital satisfaction and companionship the least. The direct effect of role consensus upon marital satisfaction was five times of that of companionship. The effect of relative deprivation upon marital satisfaction had the second strongest effect as its direct effect was more than three time of that of companionship. However these effects were partly due to the indirect effect of social background similarity, child spacing, number of children, and role consensus through companionship and relative deprivation, and of role consensus and companionship through relative deprivation. It was also found that the three variables could explain and/or predict 53 percent of the variance in marital satisfaction.