

# Psychology of Woman Journal

2020, Volume 1, Issue 2, Pp. 1-14

eISSN: 2783-333X

## Examining the mediating role of moral intelligence in the relationship between general intelligence and marital satisfaction in married women

Tara Rafaei<sup>1</sup>, Mohammadhossein Mehrpour<sup>2</sup>, Ehsan Liaghat<sup>3</sup>, Behrad Ranjbar<sup>4</sup> & Farhad Namjoo<sup>5\*</sup>

### Abstract

The purpose of the current research was to explain the relationship between the dimensions of general intelligence and marital satisfaction with the mediating role of moral intelligence. The current research was descriptive and correlational. The statistical population of the research was made up of all married women of Yasouj city in 2020. Among the statistical population, 150 married women were selected and studied as available sampling. To collect data, Cattell's general intelligence, Lennick's and Keil's moral intelligence and Enrich's marital satisfaction questionnaires were used. After collecting and extracting the data, the scores of the participants were analyzed using hierarchical regression analysis. The results of the hierarchical regression analysis showed that moral intelligence has a significant mediating role in relation to the dimensions of general intelligence and marital satisfaction in married women. According to these findings, it can be concluded that when a person has used the function of his intelligence to internalize moral values, he can have richer reasoning and benefit from higher marital satisfaction.

**Keywords:** *General intelligence, marital satisfaction, moral intelligence.*

### Cite this article as:

Rafaei, T., Mehrpour, M., Liaghat, E., Ranjbar, B., & Namjoo, F. (2020). Examining the mediating role of moral intelligence in the relationship between general intelligence and marital satisfaction in married women. *PWJ*, 1(2): 1-14.



© 2020 by the authors. Licensed by Iranian Association of Women's Studies, Tehran, Iran. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International (CC BY-NC 4.0 license) (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>)

1. Master's degree in clinical psychology
2. Master's degree in family counseling
3. Master's degree in clinical psychology
4. Master's degree in educational psychology
5. \***Corresponding author:** PhD in counseling, Isfahan Branch (Khorasgan), Islamic Azad University, Isfahan, Iran.

## Introduction

Marital satisfaction provides a general evaluation of the current state of the relationship (Nichols, Nichols, Becker, and Napier, 2000) and is achieved when the person's current situation in the marital relationship is in accordance with what he expects (Winch, 2000). In fact, marital satisfaction is one of the factors of progress and achievement of life goals, during which the husband and wife feel happy and satisfied with marriage (Sinha & Makarjoy, 1991). Satisfaction from married life is considered to be his satisfaction from his family, and satisfaction from family means satisfaction from life, and as a result, it will facilitate the growth and excellence and material and spiritual progress of society (Taylor, 2006). One of the factors that can lead to endless marital satisfaction is general intelligence. General intelligence is the intelligence that helps us make sense of what we do, our thoughts and feelings, and the relationships that exist between all of these things, yet we can learn to manage ourselves and our emotions. General intelligence is the intelligence that allows us to regulate relationships with others, empathize with them, establish clear communication, and motivate them and understand the relationship between them. With this intelligence, we can inspire others and gain their trust in us very quickly (Bar-on, 1997). Borba (2005) considers moral intelligence as descriptive, the capacity and ability to understand right from wrong, strong moral beliefs and actions, and behavior in the right direction. Also, Ford and Richardson (1994) and Martin and Sloan (2008) consider moral intelligence as expressing deep beliefs and values that guide all the thoughts and activities of a person. People with high moral intelligence actively deal with problems and

have more health and satisfaction. This type of intelligence is a kind of orientation to take the right action and the ability to apply the principles of global ethics in interaction with others (Lennick & Keil, 2005).

Therefore, it can be said that moral intelligence plays an important role in marital satisfaction because it is tied to feelings and reason and moral behavior is dependent on integrated feelings, intuition, and reasoning. Moral intelligence refers to the ability to apply moral principles to one's personal goals, values, and activities, and it refers to the capacity and ability to understand good issues from bad issues.

Therefore, based on the stated contents, this study and research are trying to answer this basic question, is there a meaningful relationship between general intelligence and marital satisfaction of married women with the role of moral intelligence?

## Method

The present study has a practical goal and in terms of methodology, the method it follows is a descriptive correlation of the path analysis type. The statistical population of the present study was made up of all married women of Yasouj city in 2020. The sample of the current research is made up of 150 married women from Yasouj city, and an available sampling method was used to select the sample group.

## Materials

**1- Moral Intelligence Questionnaire Lennick & Keil (2008).** The moral intelligence questionnaire of Lennick & Keil (2008) uses the four main scales of honesty, responsibility, compassion, and forgiveness. (Lennick & Keil 2008) This questionnaire has been validated and standardized by Bahrami, Asmi, Fateh Panah, Dehghani Tafti, and Ahmadi Tehrani (2012). This questionnaire contains 40 closed-answer

subscales. Cronbach's alpha for this questionnaire has been reported as 85% (Bahrami et al. 2012).

**2- Enrich Marital Satisfaction Questionnaire (2000).** This questionnaire has been used as a valid tool in various studies to measure marital satisfaction (Olson, 1997). This questionnaire consists of 12 scales. In order to calculate the reliability of the alpha coefficient, it was calculated to be 95%, which indicates the high reliability of this questionnaire.

**3- Cattell intelligence questionnaire (1943).** This test was made by Cattell in (1943). Scale 3 is intended to measure seniors, graduates, and academics. Scale 3 of this questionnaire consists of two forms A and B. Each of these forms includes 4 sub-tests. These 4 sub-tests include series, classifications, matrices, and conditions. The reliability of this scale was obtained with Cronbach's alpha method of 0.73 and the internal consistency method was used to verify the validity of the questionnaire, which revealed a significant correlation between the subtests and the total score of the test between 0.22 and 83.

**Implementation.** The sample size examined in this research was 150 people. After the implementation of the questionnaires on the sample, first, the descriptive statistics indicators such as number, minimum, maximum, mean, standard deviation, standard error of the mean, and interval estimation related to the research variables are reported. In the following, the investigated hypotheses were analyzed through the Pearson correlation test, linear regression, and path analysis, the results of which will be reported later. It should be noted that all statistical calculations were done through SPSS-22 and Lisrel software.

## Findings

The mean and standard deviation of the total marital satisfaction score are 166.22 and 31.56, respectively. The mean and standard deviation of the total score of moral intelligence is equal to 57.03 and 9.41, respectively. The mean and standard deviation of general intelligence are 19.59 and 2.73, respectively.

Correlation between all investigated variables, moral intelligence and general intelligence with marital satisfaction is significant at 0.01 level. Also, the subscales of marital satisfaction are significant with the total score of moral intelligence and spiritual intelligence. The findings show that the direct effect of general intelligence and moral intelligence on marital satisfaction is significant at the 0.01 level.

## Discussion

The present study was conducted to investigate the relationship between general intelligence and marital satisfaction of married women with the mediating role of moral intelligence. In this regard, the results showed that among all the investigated variables, moral intelligence and general intelligence are significant with marital satisfaction at the level of 0.01, and subscales of marital satisfaction are significant with the total score of moral intelligence and spiritual intelligence. Also, the results showed that moral intelligence has a significant mediating role in the relationship between general intelligence and marital satisfaction in married women.

In explaining the obtained results, it should be said that general intelligence is related to a person's abstract ability. In other words, intelligence with the help of abstraction power can generally strengthen the reasoning of married women. These data and information obtained from general

intelligence and cognitive ability can take on moral content and become a basis for moral reasoning, problem-solving, long-term moral commitments, and, as a result, increasing satisfaction with married life. It can be argued, married women have higher general intelligence than others, have good self-confidence, are eloquent in expressing their rational issues and thoughts, and have many intellectual interests. Introverted, they reflect on their anger and think about it before they act. Therefore, it seems that having general intelligence and high IQ in married women has been able to increase their marital satisfaction. Intelligent people have a deeper understanding of themselves and others due to their cognitive abilities and can better adapt to marital pressures and conflicts. As another explanation, we can refer to Piaget's cognitive theory. Piaget believes that the intelligence and cognitive development of people is related to the formation of complex schemas and the performing of complex abstract processes. Schemas are frameworks, models, and theories about how objects, social, family, emotional and physical events work; For this reason, married women who have optimal cognitive development can use them to improve their lives and increase marital satisfaction. On the other hand, in the adaptation process, when married women face a new situation, they try to deal with the situation appropriately by referring to the schemas in the cognitive system and quickly processing the stored experiences. Even if the new conditions are so new and fresh that the person does not find a suitable method that has already been experienced. It is the ability of intelligence that helps married women, by combining and manipulating past experiences with new information, to create an appropriate way to face new situations.

It is suggested that researchers in the future examine more variables and try to examine the effectiveness of moral intelligence on other subjects.

### **Ethics**

In this research, ethical standards including obtaining informed consent, ensuring privacy and confidentiality were observed.

### **Acknowledgement**

The cooperation of all participants in the research is thanked and appreciated.

### **Conflict of Interest**

According to the authors, this article has no financial sponsor or conflict of interest.

### **References**

- Abbaspour, A., Shadmolek, B., & Bakhtiari, S. (2015). Investigating the relationship between moral intelligence and marital satisfaction in married students of Azad University, Gorgan Branch, Fourth International Conference on Psychology and Social Sciences, Tehran, Mehr Eshraghi Conferences.
- Ahmadi, K., Nabipoor, S. M., Kimiaee, S. A., Afzali, M. H. (2010). Effect of family problem solving on marital satisfaction. *Journal of Applied Science*. 1(8): 682-687.
- Anjum Al-Shaaa, M.R., Hosseinchari, M.R., & Latifian, M. (2017). The relationship between general intelligence and moral reasoning: the mediating role of moral identity dimensions. *Educational Psychology Studies*, 27, 63-86.
- Arasteh, H., et al. (2010) + Investigating the status of students' moral intelligence." *Culture Strategy - 10-11*: 201-214.
- Asghari, F., & Qasemi Jobineh, R. (2013). Investigating the relationship between moral intelligence and religious tendencies with marital satisfaction in married teachers. *Family Counseling and Psychotherapy Quarterly*, 1(1), 65-85
- Baghian Koleh Marz, M. J., Padron, H., Hosni Rad, T., & Bakhti, M. (2014). Comparison of moral intelligence, perfectionism and marital satisfaction in fathers of students with and without learning disabilities, the first national conference of educational sciences and

- psychology, Marvdasht, Andishe Sazan Mobtaker Javan Company.
- Bahrami, M. A., Asemi, M., Fateh Panah, A., Dehghani Tafti, A., Ahmadi Tehrani, Gholamreza (2014) The level of moral intelligence of faculty members and employees of Shahid Sadougi University of Medical Sciences, Yazd, *Medical Ethics and History*, 5(6): 81-95
- Bakshaish, A. (2015). Prediction of marital satisfaction based on emotional intelligence and spiritual intelligence of couples. *Women and Society (Sociology of Women)*, Summer 2013, 5(2), 69-84.
- Bar-on, R. (2006). The bar-on model of emotional intelligence skills development training, program and student achievement and retention. Unpublished raw data, Texas A & M University.
- Black-Kutner, R. (2020). Self-Acceptance, Partner-Acceptance, and Forgiveness Relating to Marital Satisfaction. Dissertation for the Degree of Doctor of Psychology Hofstra University Hempstead, N.Y.
- Borba, M. (2005). The step-by-step plan to building moral intelligence. Nurturing kid's heart & souls. National Educator Award, National council of Self-esteem: Jossey-Bass. Pp. 108-154.
- Broman, C.L. (2005). Marital quality in black and white marriages. *Journal of Family Issues*, 26(4), 431-441.
- Ganji, H. (2007). Emotional intelligence, tests and skills. Tehran: Savalan Publications.
- Gardner, H. (1999). Intelligence reframed: Multiple intelligences for the new millennium. New York: Basic Books
- Gottman, J. M., & Krokoff, I. J. (2018). Marital interaction and satisfaction: A longitudinal view. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 57, 47-52.
- Hosseini Nesab, S.D., & Hashemi Nusrat Abad, T. (2009). Examining the relationship between religious orientation and marital adjustment. *Tabriz University Psychology Quarterly*, 4(14): 112-123.
- Jeanfreau, M. M. (2009). a qualitative study investigating the decision making process of women, participation in marital infidelity. kansas state university.
- Jung, S.Y. (2019). The Relationship between the Covert Narcissism and Marital atisfaction of Korean-Americans: The Mediating Effects of Forgiveness and Empathy. *he Journal of the Korea Contents Association*, 19(8), 412-426.
- Kamal Joo, A., Nirimani, M., Atadokht, A., & Abul Qasimi, A. (2016). Prediction of extramarital relationships based on spiritual intelligence, moral intelligence, marital satisfaction and the use of virtual social networks with the role of adjusting gender, *Journal of Family Counseling and Psychotherapy*, 22(2), 39.
- Kegans, L. (2009), "Occupational Work Ethic Differences: Implications for Organizational Diversity Initiatives in Health Care Organizations", *Performance improvement quarterly*, 22(3): 83-94
- Kerami, A. (2004). Familiarity with psychological tests and tests. Tehran: Psychometric Publications.
- Khani Jazni, J. (2008). Work ethics and work conscience in entrepreneurship, *ethics in science and technology quarterly*, 3(3,4), 91-96.
- Khaniki, H., & Tabrizi, M. (2009). Satisfaction with married life in guiding moral attitude and action. *Social Sciences Quarterly*, 16 (46), 187-228.
- Kiamarsi, M. (2012). Validation for measuring psychological toughness scale and investigating its relationship with personality type A, center of restraint, self-esteem, physical complaints and academic performance in male and female students of Payam Noor Sahne University, Master's Thesis of Psychology, Payam Noor University, Sahne Branch
- Lennick D, Kiel F. (2008). Linking strong moral principles to business success. Pennsylvania: whartone school of university of pennsylvania
- Mahoney, A., Pargament, K. I., Jewell, T., Swank, A. B., Scott, E. Emery, E., & Rye, M. (1999). Marriage and the spiritual realm: The role of proximal and distal religious constructs in marital functioning. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 13, 321-338.
- Martin, d.e & Sloan l.r. (2008). Plagiarism, integrity, and workplace deviance: a criterion study. *Ethics and Behavior*. 19, 36-51.
- Motamdeen, M. (2004). The effect of teaching strategies to deal with irrational beliefs based on cognitive approach on these beliefs and marital satisfaction of couples referring to Ahvaz Welfare Family Counseling Center. Master's thesis. Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz. Faculty of Education and Psychology.
- Munawar, K., & Tariq, O. (2017). Exploring Relationship Between Spiritual Intelligence, Religiosity and Life Satisfaction Among Elderly Pakistani Muslims. *Journal of Religion and Health*, 1-15.
- Nichols WC, Pace-Nichols MA, Becvar DS, Napier AY. (2000). Handbook of family development and intervention. NEW YORK: Wiley.

- Olson, D. H. Olson, A. K. (1997). Enrich Canada, Inc. *Journal of family ministry*, 11(4), 28 -53.
- Olson, D. (1998) Circumflex Model of Marital and Family Systems. *J Fam Ther.*, 22(2): 144–167.
- Pelege O. The relation between differentiation of self and marital satisfaction: What can be learned from married people over the course of life? *The American Journal of Family Therapy* 2012., 36: 388-401
- Pourdehghan, Mohammad., Mohammadi, Shahnaz., and Mahmuduniya, Alireza. (2008). The relationship between self-esteem and marital satisfaction of middle school teachers. *Applied Psychology Quarterly*, 4(8), 701-702.
- Rahim Nia, F., Mortazavi, S., Delaram, T. (2010). Investigating the effect of cultural intelligence on the performance of task managers. *Farda Management Quarterly*. (22), 67-78.
- Sadeghi, Meysam., Arizi Samani, Hamidreza (2011). *Journal of Family Counseling & Psychotherapy/Vol.1/Issue.1/summer*, 2011 Page 11 -65, original research article
- Salvia, J., & Ysseldyke, S. (1989). *Assessment in special and remedial education*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
- Shah Siah, M., Bahrami, F., Etami, E., Mohebi, S. (2010). The effect of sex education on improving the marital satisfaction of couples in Isfahan city, *Nizam Salamat Research Journal*. 4(6), 12-24.
- Siadat, S. A., Mokhtaripour, M., & Kazemi, I. (2009). A relationship between moral intelligence and team leadership in educational and non-educational managers from the perspective of faculty members of Isfahan University of Medical Sciences. *health Management*. (36), 61-70.
- Silva, M. & et al. (2009). Quality of life and spiritual well-being in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease patients. *Rev Enferm usp*, v 43 (2), p. 910-1186.
- Sinha PS, Mukerjee N. (1991). Marital adjustment and space orientation. *J soc psycho*. (132):5-9.
- Soleimani, N., Abbaszadeh, N., & Niaz Azari, B. (2012). Relationship between work ethics and job satisfaction and job stress of employees in technical and vocational education organization of Tehran. *scientific-research quarterly of new approach in educational management*, 3(1), 21-37.
- Sternberg, R. J. (2010). *College admissions for the 21 st century*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Suleimani, A. (1994) Examining the effect of illogical thinking based on the cognitive approach on the dissatisfaction of the master's thesis. Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences. Tarbiat Moalem University of Tehran.
- Taniguchi ST, Freeman PA, Taylor S, Malcarne B. Study of married couple's perceptions of marital satisfaction in outdoor recreation. *Journal of experimental education* 2006., 28(3): 253-254.
- Winch, R. (2000). *Selected Studies in Marriage and the Family*. New York: H. Holt Rinehart and Winston. INC.
- Zarch, Z. N., Marashi, S. M., & Raji, H. (2014). The relationship between emotional intelligence and marital satisfaction: 10-year outcome of partners from three different economic levels. *Iranian journal of psychiatry*, 9(4), 188.