

**COMPARING MARITAL CONFLICT ASPECTS AMONG USERS AND NON-USERS OF VIRTUAL SOCIAL NETWORKS**

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**ABSTRACT**

Marital conflicts are one of the most common problems among the couples in present world. These conflicts have harmful and destructive effects on family physical and psychological health. The present research is performed to compare marital conflict aspects among users and non-users of virtual social networks. The present research is Ex post facto research. The statistical population of this research is all users and non-users of virtual social networks in Karaj province. The sample includes 143 people of referrals to counseling centers who have been chosen through available sampling method. To collect data, marital conflict questionnaire (MCQ) and membership in social networks questionnaire have been used. Data analysis was done using Bowman statistical method. The results showed: there is meaningful difference between marital conflict mean in the aspects such as: sexual intercourse reduction, finances separation, emotional reactions enhance, loss of contact with spouse relatives and contact enhance with his/her relatives among the users and non-users of virtual social networks, while no meaningful difference could be seen between marital conflicts mean in aspects such as cooperation reduction and children support in users and non-users of virtual social networks.  $P > 0.05$ . According to the achieved results from the present research, the couples could be helped by teaching Strategies for enriching relationships between couples, therefore, in spite of conflict reduction, the improvement and repair of the their relationship would be conducted.

**KEYWORDS:** virtual social networks, marital conflict, aspects, users and non-users

**INTRODUCTION**

Marriage is bed stone of forming family and requires cooperation, empathy, unity, love, kindness, patience and responsibility. By starting marriage and also sexual relationship, marital satisfaction would be alter to important change related to marriage quality (Abolmaali, Mojtabae and Rahimi, 2013) marital satisfaction is considered as one of the most important factors in couple's emotional flexibility (Fisher & McNulty 2008). In fact it could be asserted that marital satisfaction is one most aspects of marital system that couples could experience and could have important role in strengthen and lasting that (Damiri, Haidarian, Ahmadi and Borhani 2015). One of the most important factors which can affect family growth and survival is tact relationship and understanding among the members, especially between wife and husband. Existing marital conflict and dissatisfaction in wife and husband relation, can cause drawback in family function and social relation, the trend of social and moral deviations and also decline of cultural values between couples (asserted on behalf of Yarmohammadian, Bonakdar, Hashemi and Askari 2011).

In many of the cultures, family and marital relation is considered as initial source of support and emotion and the couples are expected to show honesty, love, affection, warmth and support in an exclusive relationship. Approximately all couples at the beginning of marital life reports high level of satisfaction, but this satisfaction would decrease during time. (Lahsae zade, Mardani and Hakimi nia 2013) in fact in the family life cycle, some problems occur that foreclose peace for a short period of time. Such issues in micro level is related to family structures and functions and in macro level is related to social structures (Mansorian and Fakhraee 2008).

Conflict occurs along with love in marital relationship when individual's actions is interfered with the others. Also as two people get closer, the conflict power would grow more (Yusefali, Shekarkan and Rostami 2003). Some of the family sociology experts following school theorists of classic conflict point to inevitability of family conflicts. In their view occurring micro conflicts is considered as the nature of family. When the fact of family conflicts isn't deniable, the necessity to observe and study would get importance, as just through scientific research, conflicts governing the

marital relations and the factors would be recognized. It is considerable to mention that family conflicts nuisance isn't limited to family and can create issues and pinch in organization and social level. In family organization level, the results of made conflicts not only involve all family members, but relatives and friends would be affected too (Lahsae zadeh et al2012).

Regardless of the reasons that deprive peace in family, the couples in present societies are facing many problems to establish friendly relationships and understand the feelings of their spouses. Therefore one of the most common problems in the family is family conflicts (Salahian, Sadeghi, Bahrami and Sharifi, 2010. Conflict process occurs when one of the sides feels that another side of the relationship is going to repress his/her favorite issues (Greef & Bruyne 2000) conflict occurs when satisfaction is provided for one side of the relationship, while another side is deprived of the same. Generally, conflict in every close relation is inevitable. Some of the couples deny or suppress their conflicts directly and openly and the others emerge them hidden. (Afkhami, Bahrami and Fatehizadeh , 2007)there are many Definitions and interpretations in the field of conflict. In this regard, according to Davis; the conflict in relations occurs when behavior of one isn't coordinated with the expectations of another party. The existence of marital conflicts would be governed on couple`s relation from verbal and physical reactions (Davis1998).

Solving conflicts or tension is an integral part of a successful relationship and it could be mentioned that the annoyance that occurs due to marriage violations, probably can exacerbate couple`s conflicts and prevent the successful resolution of the conflict.( Fincham & Steven 2004).

Ducan-Ducan& Murgan (2007) andalso Bukman(2008)in their researches realized that :using social networks for the users could have attitude change to marital relations. In recent decade, technology progress and entering electronic life in all aspects of life such as: Internet, cell phone, virtual networks and mobile applications (web chat, Viber, Tango, etc.) have grown considerably. Social networks systems like: Facebook, V chat, Viber, etc. are influencing the daily life of people. Cyberspace, especially internet world network , in present era that is called technology era , such as using the internet and virtual networks in each house and family is having special place and found its place and identity and is having considerable effect in forming culture and social values. Nowadays, using cyberspace and virtual social networks is having special importance among all literate and illiterate groups, among men, women, youths and elders, as using such technology is inevitable and makes the life difficult for whom are accustomed to .Interment like other technologies along with many advantages to develop society is along with adverse outcomes and effects. Per family may be exposed to some of the damages due to cyberspace that the most important one is internet. According to the fact that family forms the basic base of the society, observing negative effects and damages derived from abnormal use of virtual space seems necessary and important. (Abdolahian 2006).

Generally, as made effect by marital conflicts and extra-marital relationships can generally ruin family and couple and have adverse psychological effects such as guilt, betrayal, loss of trust, loss of identity, anger, stress, exhaustion and chronic restlessness on both couples(asserted by Harly and Harly Charmter 2009, translated by Hosaini and Aramnia, 2011) and according to considerable growth in excessive use of the Internet and mobile phones, and lack of attention to long-term psychological, social and domestic effects of these means of communication, which can grow marital conflicts. On the other hand, according to observation of researchers this article, very limited numbers of researches are conducted till now in written form about destructive effects of social networks on the lives of the couple, especially the comparison of marital conflict aspects, so present research is to compare marital conflicts aspects among users and nonusers of virtual social networks.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The present research is applied from nature point of view. The study type is quantitative and also ex post facto(scientific ,comparative). The statistical population of this research were all users and non-users of virtual social networks in Karaj province, so it is limited. According to infinity of Statistical Society, to determine sample capacity, Cochran's formula was used. According to gained results from Cochran's formula, assuming the fact  $p=q=0/5$  and  $(d=0/1)$  error rate and also Z score with 95% confidence was calculated 1/96 and sample rate capacity was estimated 96 people. Therefore by calculating 96 capacity sample Of 96, 150 research questionnaires were distributed to the individuals randomly and finally 143 creditable questionnaires have been returned which are the base of statistical basis. To collect data, it was referred to counseling centers and the people who referred there were asked to answer the

research questionnaire with high attention. It is considerable to mention that; according to the fact that in present research, to complete questionnaire, the consent and cooperation of the participants should be gained, therefore non-probability available sampling method was used.

Research tools

In this research to collect data, following questionnaires have been used:

Marital conflicts questionnaires (MCQ):

It is a 42 questions tool to evaluate couples` conflicts and is made based on clinical experiences of Mr. Bagher Sanaee(2000) this questionnaire evaluates 7 aspects of marital conflicts such as: cooperation reduction, sexual intercourse reduction, finances separation, emotional reactions enhance, loss of contact with spouse relatives and contact enhance with his/her relatives. For per question, 5 options have been considered from 1 to 5. the highest score of total questionnaire is 210 and the lowest is 42. In this tool, higher score means more conflict and lower score means better relationship and less conflicts. Cronbach's alpha for the whole questionnaire on a group of 32 was 53/0 and for 7 sub-scales is as following: participation reduction 0/30, sexual relationship reduction 0/50, emotional reactions enhance 0/73, children support enhance 0/60, loss of contact with spouse relatives 0/64, financial separation 0/51. Marital conflict questionnaire is having perfect content validity. In test analysis stage, after initial implementation calculating the correlation of each item with the total questionnaire and their scales, 13 questions out of 55 have been deleted (Sanaee Zaker 2008).

Membership questionnaire in social networks (self-made):

To observe usability or non-usability of social networks, self-made questionnaire was designed that observes membership or non-membership in social networks and different aspects of that. This questionnaire includes 4 questions; in first question, respondents were asked to answer whether they are member of social networks or not. In case of positive answer, in answering second question, they should specify the name of social networks. In third question, the respondents should specify the time they are in such networks and finally in fourth question they should specify their motivation to be the member of social networks.

To analyze data, SPSS-20 software was used. Data analysis was done in descriptive and inferential levels. In descriptive level, mean indices and standard deviation have been used and in inferential level, Bowman and Withney nonparametric test have been used.

## RESULTS

Among 143 respondents in observed sample, 69 people were male and 74 were women. In fact %48/2 of the respondents were male and %51/8 were female. The subject`s mean and age deviation in this research is 32/89±5/313 which were distributed between 20 to 45. Also 75 people of the subjects were the members of virtual social networks and 68 people weren`t the members of any virtual social networks. Descriptive indices of marital conflict aspects were presented based on membership in social networks in table 1.

Table 1. Descriptive indices of marital conflict aspects were presented based on membership in social networks.

| Marital conflict aspects               | User/non-user | numbers | scope | minimum | maximum | mean | Standard deviation |
|--|---------------|---------|-------|---------|---------|------|--------------------|
| Cooperation reduction                  | Users         | 75      | 0-4   | 1/6     | 3/4     | 2/74 | 0/392              |
|  | Non-users     | 67      | 0-4   | 1/2     | 3/4     | 2/71 | 0/445              |
| Sexual relation reduction              | Users         | 75      | 0-4   | 1/8     | 3/8     | 2/87 | 0/443              |
|  | Non-users     | 67      | 0-4   | 1/2     | 3/6     | 2/24 | 0/426              |
| Emotional reactions enhance            | Users         | 75      | 0-4   | 1/63    | 3/0     | 2/61 | 0/283              |
|  | Non-users     | 67      | 0-4   | 1/25    | 3/38    | 2/67 | 0/457              |
| Children support enhance               | Users         | 75      | 0-4   | 1/4     | 3/6     | 2/68 | 0/330              |
|  | Non-users     | 67      | 0-4   | 1/2     | 3/2     | 2/69 | 0/438              |
| The loss of contact with spouse family | Users         | 75      | 0-4   | 1/83    | 3/5     | 2/74 | 0/341              |
|  | Non-users     | 67      | 0-4   | 1/0     | 3/33    | 2/50 | 0/547              |
| More contact with his/her relatives    | Users         | 75      | 0-4   | 1/83    | 3/67    | 2/52 | 0/336              |
|  | Non-users     | 67      | 0-4   | 1/33    | 3/83    | 2/87 | 0/767              |
| Financial separation                   | Users         | 75      | 0-4   | 1/71    | 3/43    | 3/00 | 0/434              |
|  | Non-users     | 67      | 0-4   | 2/00    | 3/57    | 2/81 | 0/498              |

In table1, descriptive indices presented different aspects of marital conflicts based on users and non-users of social networks. The data considered in this table indicates: in participation reduction aspect, sexual relationship reduction, loss of contact with spouse relative and financial separation, conflicts mean of social network users is higher than non-users, while in the aspect of emotional reaction enhance and individual relation enhance with his/her relatives, the average of conflicts among the non-users of social networks is higher than users. It is also seen that in these two aspects of distributions in evaluation of respondents among the non-users of social networks is higher in comparison with social networks users. In the aspect of children support enhance, also conflicts mean in two groups of users and non-users of social network is equal. To observe the meaningfulness of differences, in attitude average than marital conflicts aspects, Bowman and Withney test was used that the result would be as following.

It is considerable to mention that, to use parametric tests, the normality of score distribution is one of the pre-assumptions. Therefore, to observe this pre-assumption, Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was used and the results are mentioned in table2.

**Table 2. Observing the pre-assumption of data distribution normality in different aspects of marital conflicts by using Kolmogorov-Smirnov test.**

| aspects                               | membership | statistic | DOF | Meaningfulness level |
|---------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----|----------------------|
| Participation reduction               | Users      | 0/255     | 75  | P<0/001              |
|                                       | Non-users  | 0/230     | 67  | P<0/001              |
| Sexual relation reduction             | Users      | 0/211     | 75  | P<0/001              |
|                                       | Non-users  | 0/347     | 67  | P<0/001              |
| Emotional reactions enhance           | Users      | 0/235     | 75  | P<0/001              |
|                                       | Non-users  | 0/213     | 67  | P<0/001              |
| Children support enhance              | Users      | 0/250     | 75  | P<0/001              |
|                                       | Non-users  | 0/292     | 67  | P<0/001              |
| Loss of contact with spouse relatives | Users      | 0/292     | 75  | P<0/001              |
|                                       | Non-users  | 0/293     | 67  | P<0/001              |
| More contact with his/her relatives   | Users      | 0/250     | 75  | P<0/001              |
|                                       | Non-users  | 0/237     | 67  | P<0/001              |
| Financial separation                  | Users      | 0/169     | 75  | P<0/001              |
|                                       | Non-users  | 0/229     | 67  | P<0/001              |

According to mentioned data in table2, data distribution isn't normal in all aspects of marital conflicts in observed groups. Therefore, the pre-hypothesis of using parametric tests wouldn't be proved.(p>0.05) therefore, to observe marital conflicts seven aspects average in users and non-users of virtual social networks, t test nonparametric equation is used in two dependent groups that is Bowman Whitney test. The results of this test, would be presented in table 3.

**Table3: Difference meaningfulness distribution in marital conflicts seven aspects average in users and non-users of social networks**

| Aspects                               | Bowman Whitney | Wilcoxon | Z      | Two ways meaningfulness |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------|--------|-------------------------|
| Participation reduction               | 2500/500       | 4778/500 | -0/050 | P>0/05                  |
| Sexual relation reduction             | 818/500        | 3096/500 | -7/047 | P<0/001                 |
| Emotional reactions enhance           | 2001/500       | 4851/500 | -2/118 | P<0/05                  |
| Children support enhance              | 2085/000       | 4935/000 | -1/796 | P<0/05                  |
| Loss of contact with spouse relatives | 2019/000       | 4297/000 | -2/119 | P<0/05                  |
| More contact with his/her relatives   | 1959/000       | 4809/000 | -2/316 | P<0/05                  |
| Financial separation                  | 1870/500       | 4148/500 | -2/651 | P<0/01                  |

The gained data from table3 indicates: in aspects such as sexual relation reduction and financial separation, meaningful level gained from Bowman Whitney is less than 0/01(p<0.01) so with 99% confidence, there is meaningful difference between marital conflicts average in these two aspects between users and non-users of virtual social networks and according to gained results from mentioned table, these two aspects of conflicts in social networks users is higher than non-users. Also mentioned data in this table indicates: in the aspects such as: emotional reaction enhance, contact loss with spouse relatives and more contact with his/her relatives, the meaningful level gained from Bowman Whitney is

less than 0/05 ( $p < 0/05$ ) so with 95% confidence, there is meaningful difference between marital conflicts average in such aspects between users and non-users of virtual social networks and according to gained results from descriptive results, in aspects such as: more contact with his/her relatives and emotional reaction enhance, the conflict average in non-users of social networks is higher than conflicts average in users of social networks, but in the aspect of less contact with spouse relatives, the conflicts average in users is higher than conflicts average in non-users. Furthermore, the results mentioned in table 3 indicates: there is no meaningful difference in marital conflicts average in aspects such as participation decrease and children support in users and non-users of virtual social networks, ( $p > 0/05$ ).

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The results of marital conflicts isn't limited to family members, but other social and also economic organizations would be affected. In other words, marital conflicts can cause problems in social, organizational and individual levels (asserted by Enayat and Yaghobi doost 2012) the present research is conducted with the goal to compare marital conflicts aspects of users and non-users of virtual social networks. The gained results from this research indicates: there is meaningful difference between marital conflicts in two aspects of sexual relation decrease and financial separation among users and non-users of virtual social networks and these two aspects of conflicts in social networks users is higher than non-users. Also another part of gained results from this research shows: in aspects such as: emotional reaction enhance, loss contact to spouse relatives and more relation with his/her relatives, there is meaningful difference between marital conflict average in such aspects among users and non-users of virtual social networks and according to gained results from descriptive results, in aspects such as: more individual with his/her relative and emotional reaction enhance, the average of conflicts among social networks non-users is higher than conflicts among social networks users. In spite of mentioned results, comparing the aspects of marital conflicts among users and non-users of virtual social networks indicates that: there is no meaningful difference between aspects such as: cooperation reduction and children support in users and non-users of social networks ( $p > 0/05$ ) generally, the results of this research are in line with the results of Adib Rad (1995) Zolfaghari (1998) Barati (1995), Kaveh (2008) and Nold and Fits Patric (1990). In this regard, the results of these researchers indicate: marital conflicts is higher among social network users than others. The users use most of their time through social networks and it leads to get away from family and contact reduction with the relatives, would increase marital conflicts.

In line with explaining the gained results from resent research, it is necessary to mention that: among internet users, types of different contact form real situation and the users would be addicted to the internet. As result, individual's relation with the others would be decreased, as he /she is accepted in virtual space with types of internet culture that is unknown for the others in real situation. Therefore, the family members would lose effective contact with the family members. In this regard, as individuals provide this need through the internet, it would decrease the contact with the spouse and this issue can lead to marital conflict enhance. It is considerable to mention that using virtual networks would increase when individual feels lonely and finds unfulfilled needs in family life I other place like virtual space. As result this issue would separate the couples and their relation would lead to coldness and conflict and lead the others to extra-marital relationships. Also based on needs satisfaction theory of Drygvtas and Rasbalt (1992) the relations would provide the possibility to meet the needs of four requirements. These requirements include: Intimacy, friendship, security and emotional relationships. Intimacy requirement needs self-disclosure, trust and affection to spouse and to be informed of each other's secrets. Satisfy the requirements of camaraderie and friendship, through joint activities such as: Join in the fun and spending leisure time together which makes sense given the closeness of the parties. The ability to be supported by the spouse in added content and relation richness and also the ability to predict spouse behavior, would lead to satisfy the need for security. In other words, this need is related with having reliable relation and makes the life peaceful. To satisfy emotional and affective needs, individual feeling to emotional bond with the couple is important. In other word, the individual in spite of his/her feeling, would consider the spouse emotion and feeling. It seems: in marital relations, these four needs couldn't be meet normally and this would lead to cause some problems in couple's relations such as: Failure to adhere to the wife. It means when a relation can't fulfil special needs, probably the individual to fulfil that would lead to extra-marital relationships. It is probable that need satisfaction would lead to creation of positive feelings and finally would lead to formation of inappropriate and annoying relations and would enhance the probability of couple disloyalty (Lvandvsky and Ackerman, 2006).

According to gained results from present research and as family has important role among all institutions, organizations and social institutions and all people who are pioneer in society field and also all family reformers and importance of

that on society are emphasized and also according to the fact that no society can claim to be tact without having tact families (Bahramnia 2012): Therapists, counselors and psychologists can enrich learning relationships between couples to help them so they can spend more time with each other and by increasing the scope of social relations with the friends and relatives, would use more time together so could have prominent role to protect family health. One of the limitations of present research is research sectional and society of research that includes one city. These two issue would face result generalization with limitation and caution. Using questionnaire as one of self-report scales with the possibility of trend in responding that is another limitation of research. In line with the limitations of research, the future researchers are suggested to do the research in other parts with different cultures as the data of this research is collected from specific place domain. As this task can compare the results, the results generalization power would increase too. Also used conceptual framework would be expanded by increasing some of the interfering factors such as: Demographic characteristics of spouses, other affective aspects in marital conflicts, etc. therefore it is suggested to the researchers: by considering mentioned factors, expand Theoretical insights in this area.

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