

**ABSTRACT**

Name of the Institution: De La Salle University -- Dasmariñas

Address: Dasmariñas, Cavite

Title: Age Gap, Years of Marriage and Number of Children as Determinants of Marital Satisfaction Among Selected Couples of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas.

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Objectives of the Study:**A. General**

This study aimed to determine the level of marital satisfaction in relation with age gap, years of marriage and number of children.

B. Specific

1. What is the demographic profile of the couples in terms of:
 - a. Age gap
 - b. Years of Marriage, and
 - c. Number of Children?
2. What is the level of marital satisfaction of the couples in terms of:
 - a. Affective Communication (AFC)



- b. Time Together (TTO)
 - c. Disagreement About Finances (FIN)
 - d. Sexual Dissatisfaction (SD), and
 - e. Conflict over Child Rearing (CCR)?
3. Is there a significant relationship between age gap and marital satisfaction of couples?
 4. Is there a significant relationship between years of marriage and marital satisfaction of couples?
 5. Is there a significant relationship between number of children and marital satisfaction of couples?

Scope and Coverage:

The study was mainly concerned about the relationship of age gap, years of marriage and number of children to marital satisfaction. The respondents were faculty members of De La Salle University – Dasmariñas and their spouses. The chosen groups were with and without age gap of 5 years and above. The length of marriage should be at least 5 years and above with or without children. Each group had 10 target couples but not necessarily to meet such because the availability and consent of the faculty members and their spouses were considered. The researchers focused only on the five (5) areas of MSI instead of eleven (11) areas because they were the global factors and it has a general representation of other categories to find out the level of marital satisfaction of couples.

**Methodology:**

The research designs that were used are descriptive and correlational method. The respondents of the study was composed of 19 married couples particularly faculty members of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas and their spouses because availability and consent were considered. The couples were counted as two that resulted to 38 respondents all in all. They were chosen through the purposive sampling method. The research respondents of the study has an age gap of 5 years and above/ below, married for at least 5 years and with or without children. These married couples were divided into 3 groups. The first two groups fall in the category wherein they have an age gap of 5 years and above and the third group falls under the category no age gap or whose age are almost equal. The study made use of the Marital Satisfactory Inventory Manual (MSI) in measuring the level of marital satisfaction of the respondents but the main concentration were limited to 5 scales (Affective Communication, Time Together, Disagreement about Finances, Sexual Dissatisfaction and Conflict over Child Rearing) for reasons that the other scale are broad and covers the childhood aspect or the background of the couples which was not the focus of the study. The T-score was used as basis for interpretation. These scores were determined through the profile sheet after plotting the number of scale obtained from the answer sheet. To clearly identify if there is an existing relationship between these variables, the chi-square and Cramer's V were used as the statistical tools.



Findings:

1. Most of the respondents fell on the no age gap group and mostly male were older than the female.
2. Most of the couples have 5-15 years of marriage, which suggests that couples entered late marriages.
3. Couples have 2-3 numbers of children which for them is appropriate due to economic and social crises nowadays. They foresee the hardships that they might face if they have many children.
4. The primary sources of marital dissatisfaction emanated from Time Together (TTO), Sexual Dissatisfaction (SD) and Disagreement of Finances (FIN). However, couples have a good affective communication and generally has a positive interaction between spouses and regarding their children.
5. There is a moderate significant relationship between age gap and marital satisfaction of couples in terms of Time Together (TTO), Sexual Dissatisfaction (SD) and Conflict over Childrearing (CCR). On the other hand, there is a weak significant relationship between age gap and marital satisfaction of couples in terms of Affective Communication (AFC) and Disagreement about Finances (FIN).
6. There is a moderate relationship existing between years of marriage and marital satisfaction of couples in terms of 5 scales.



7. There is a moderate relationship between the number of children and marital satisfaction of couples in terms of Affective Communication (AFC), Time Together (TTO), and Disagreement about Finances (FIN), Sexual Dissatisfaction (SD). However, Conflict over Childrearing (CCR) has a weak relationship in relation to number of children and marital satisfaction of couples.

Conclusions:

1. There is a moderate significant relationship between age gap and marital satisfaction of couples in terms of Time Together (TTO), Sexual Dissatisfaction (SD), and Conflict over Childrearing (CCR), except for Affective Communication (AFC) and Disagreement about Finances (FIN) on which it has a weak significant relationship.
2. There is a moderate significant relationship between years of marriage and marital satisfaction of couples in terms of 5 scales.
3. There is a moderate relationship between number of children and marital satisfaction of couples in terms of Affective Communication (AFC), Time Together (TTO), Disagreement about Finances (FIN), and Sexual Dissatisfaction (SD) except for Conflict over Childrearing (CCR) on which it has weak significant relationship.

Recommendations:

1. Future researchers must obtain a larger sample of population for the study to become more reliable and valid.



2. To find out the levels of marital satisfaction of couples using MSI, it is suggested to include not only the 5 scales but rather to use the full scales to generate more reasons for dissatisfaction.
3. To construct and conduct structural interview questions to respondents to acquire necessary and supplementary information related to MSI dimensions and for some clarification regarding the respondents' answers.
4. The next researchers must specify which among the three (3) groups of respondents (older men and younger women, older women and younger men and no age gap) will be given emphasis for a clear analysis of the dissatisfaction.
5. Lastly, it is recommended for future researchers as much as possible to administer the survey personally with the respondent for observation purpose and to avoid manipulation of data that might occur.