

ABSTRACT

Title of the Research: **DEVELOPMENT, VALIDATION AND
STANDARDIZATION OF THE MARITAL
SPIRITUALITY SCALE**

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This instrument-development project is aimed at developing the Marital Spirituality Scale (MSS). Specifically, this is aimed at constructing the items of the MSS and determining its validity and reliability. The study involved two phases, the qualitative and quantitative phases. The qualitative phase covered content-domain identification and item generation. The quantitative phase covered five (5) stages; content validation, pilot-testing and Exploratory Factor Analysis, field testing and confirmatory factor analysis, method of contrasted groups, and standardization and norming.

A total of 970 married respondents; 83 in dataset 1, 381 in dataset 2 and 506 in dataset 3, were chosen through referral technique. Interview and open-ended questionnaires were used to gather data for the content

domain and item- generation stage. Several quantitative statistical techniques were used to analyze the data.

Findings from the study showed that from the initial 92-item, 5-factor structure MSS, the final form of the MSS has become a 31-item item, 6- factor structure MSS. The factors of the final form of the MSS are relationship with God, Existential, Traditional/Ritual, Intimacy, Forgiveness and Partnership.

Furthermore, the MSS exhibits validity and reliability as evidenced by content validation of five (5) experts, convergent and discriminant validity as demonstrated by Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) and Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) results. Likewise, the method of contrasted groups also showed construct validity of the MSS where the high marital satisfaction group showed significantly higher scores in marital spirituality dimensions than the low marital satisfaction group.

The study concludes that the MSS is a valid and reliable measure of marital spirituality among respondents/clients who are of the Christian faith. Norms are also provided in the manual to facilitate interpretation of raw scores. The MSS could be used in assessing marital spirituality among married individuals and the information thereof could be used in counseling and therapy.