Chapter Two

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A large number of studies on marriage have been devoted to personality and social or demographic concomitants of marital happiness, marital adjustment, marital satisfaction or marital success, needs similarity hypothesis, need complementary - similarity hypothesis, social, physical and mental health characteristics of married couples. This chapter comprises only those studies which are directly related to our purpose (i.e. the variables under study) or having some implication for the study. Indian studies will also be reviewed to be abreast with the research tradition in this area.

The plan of this chapter is to review the empirical studies on the relationship between (a) locus of control and marital satisfaction, (b) locus of control and marital problem solving, (c) locus of control and approval motivation (d) locus of control and social intimacy and other social- psychological variables and (e) personality and social correlates of marital adjustment.
(a) **Locus of control and Marital Satisfaction**

For many years, marital satisfaction or marital adjustment has been the most commonly studied aspect of the marital relationship (Lewis & Spanier, 1979). Most of the research literature on locus of control and marriage has postulated a direct relationship between locus of control and marital satisfaction—specifically that internality would influence marital satisfaction positively. In this section the review is intended to present the studies on the relationship between individual locus of control and couple combinations of locus of control with marital satisfaction.

There is mixed evidence to both individual and couple locus of control configuration—husband more internal and marital dissatisfaction. Mlott and Lira (1977) reported that a significant difference in locus of control scores existed with wives being more external and husbands more internal, in a sample of maritally distressed couples presenting themselves for treatment.

Replicating Mlott and Lira's finding in his newly sample, Doherty (1981) reported the relationship between spouses' individual expectancy for internal versus external control of reinforcements and their level of marital dissatisfaction. It was hypothesized that a marital pattern
in which the wife was relatively more external and the husband more internal would be associated with high levels of marital dissatisfaction. This hypothesis was supported for wives but not for husbands. Additional data on self and other descriptions suggested that external wives may believe that their dependency needs are not being met sufficiently by their relatively more self contained internal husbands.

Using a slightly modified version of Rotter's I.E. scale in a secondary analysis of American adults, Doherty (1980) found a correlation of .12 (p = .007) between locus of control and a four item measure of satisfaction with marriage and family life. This correlation indicated a small but statistically reliable positive association between internality and marital and family satisfaction.

Using a smaller sample of 10 marital therapy clinic and 10 nonclinic couples, Genshaft (1980) found that clinic wives were more external than non-clinic wives; clinic wives were also more external than their husbands, but this difference was not statistically significant.

Miller (1981) developed a 44-item marital locus of control scale with adequate reliability and validity. Using a sample of over 200 married student couples, Miller found significant correlations of .37 and .29 between internality and a measure of marital intimacy and a one-
item measure of marital satisfaction. The correlations for husbands and wives separately were quite similar.

Sabatelli (1982) reported insignificant correlations between Rotter's I.E. scale and a measure of marital satisfaction for a sample of 48 couples, married for an average of almost 3 years. Sabatelli (1982) using the Locke Wallace scale the Ryder's Love-sickness scales, reported that the more internal husband - more external wife configuration was associated with lower satisfaction for husbands on the Love-sickness Scale; however, the same pattern was associated with higher satisfaction for wives, on the Locke-Wallace Scale. Finally, a reanalysis of McCabe's (1978) data showed a trend for high love-sickness husbands to be relatively more internal and their wives relatively more external (\( t = 1.82, P = .082 \)), whereas high lovesickness wives were not different from their husbands on locus of control.

Sabatelli et.al. (1983) employed field dependence as a potential mediator of relationship quality in married dyads. Consistent with Witkin's theory of psychological differentiation, it was predicted that spouses with relatively field development patterns and individuals from dyads with similar levels of differentiation would have fewer complaints.
Results, contrary to the predictions, showed that husbands married to field-dependent wives and wives from matched dyads had more complaints about their marital relationships. These findings suggest the need for a careful evaluation of the role of cognitive style in the domain of intimate interpersonal relationships. Apparently, it may not be sufficient to generalize about the role of personality in social relationships from the results of studies employing experimentally created dyads or groups to other more enduring and real-life types of social relationships.

Winkler and Doherty's (1983) study using Doherty's CRIE and Spanier's Dyadic Adjustment Scale show a correlation between internality and satisfaction of .33 (p=.058), with husbands and wives having a nearly identical correlation. The Israeli couples however, showed no significant associations between marital locus of control and marital satisfaction.

Marital locus of control scale was administered on the 120 couples to obtain increased precision in the prediction of behaviour among spouses and couples of working, conventional younger and older couples. The evidence obtained from this study indicated that there were no significant differences between spouses of working, conventional, younger and older couples and between working and conventional couples, and between younger and older couples. (Husain & Gupta, 1987).
(b) **Locus of Control and Marital Problem Solving**

Doherty and Ryder (1979) related individual locus of control to problem solving behaviour in a sample of 80 newlywed couples. They also used interpersonal trust as a moderating personality characteristic between locus of control and problem-solving behaviour. Hypotheses were formulated in terms of individual locus of control and interpersonal trust - internal - low trust and external - high trust. Results showed that internal husbands behaved more assertively than did externals in the problem solving interaction. Furthermore, external-high trust husbands were the least assertive of the husband group on both the interactional measure and on the win score measure, where they yielded scores to the extent of 70% disagreement to that of their wives. For wives, a significant interaction effect was found for locus of control and interpersonal trust on problem-solving behaviour, with internal low trust wives behaving most assertively in the Inventory of Marital Conflicts' discussion.

Winkler and Doherty (1983), conducted a study on the relationship between marital satisfaction and communication style in two cultural samples: 34 United States couples, 26 of whom were Jewish, and 29 Israeli couples. The author
used a measure of marriage-specific locus of control, the Close Relationships I.-E. scale (CRIE) and two measures of marital communication styles during marital conflict (i.e. Conflict Tactics Scale and the Imagined Situation Inventory).

Using these measures Doherty (1983) correlated Marital Locus of Control with marital problem-solving behaviour. The Israeli couples, differed significantly from the United States couples on all the measures and showed few relationships between marital locus of control and marital problem-solving, except that internal Israeli wives were more likely to use reasoning approaches than were external wives.

The authors reported the data for the United States couples on the highest correlations between the CRIE and the conflict measures for the 34 American husbands: Greater externality was associated with higher levels of verbal aggression (r = -.310, p = .075) and of physical violence (r = -.427, p = .012) on the CTS, on the ISI, externality was associated with greater use of the angry response style (r = -.351, p = .042) the interpretation of these correlations, indicates that internals reported less verbal and physical aggression during the past year and were less likely to respond with anger to a provocative statement from the spouse. For wives the only significant correlation
was between marital locus of control and the ISI response style of "try to kid or tease the partner" (r = -.387, p = .026). External wives were more likely to choose this indirect and deflecting response when provoked by their husbands.

These results add further empirical support to the hypothesized relationship between externality and aggression in husbands. Husbands who held generalized beliefs in external control over marital outcomes were more likely than internals to behave aggressively in marital conflict situations. The results for wives are consistent with an indirect nonassertive problem-solving style; External wives were more likely to respond by kidding or teasing when provoked by their husbands.

Miller et al. (1986) examined the relation between individuals' marital locus of control orientation and their approach to marital problem solving among 88 couples. Behavioural measures of conflict resolution style and problem solving ability were derived from video tapes of couples as they dealt with commonly encountered marital conflict situations. The investigators predicted that internals for marital satisfaction would more actively engage in problem-solving than externals. They also predicted that couples who confronted problems in a constructive rather than an avoidant or destructive style would arrive at better solutions and would be happier
with them. The data support these hypotheses and suggest that internals for marital satisfaction are more active and direct in their problem-solving than are externals. Internals were more effective in communicating and achieving their desired goals and reported higher levels of marital satisfaction than externals. Active engagement in the discussion of marital issues by couples resulted in more effective problem-solving than styles characterised by avoidance. Destructiveness was related to poor problem solutions and lower self reported ratings of solution satisfaction.

c) Locus of Control and Approval Motivation:

There are few studies where the relationship between locus of control and approval motivation has been investigated.

Kawash and Scherf (1975) studied self-esteem, locus of control, and approval motivation in married couples. They feel that the two observations in this study of greatest importance to researchers and practitioners alike are the sex difference observed in homogeneity of self-perception and the significant correlation between SEI and MCSD. In the case of the former observation further research will be necessary to clarify this difference, but a good starting point would be to establish whether it can be replicated on
college students. There may be generational shift in this phenomenon and it will be necessary to establish this observation before further analysis is possible. The implications of the second observation have been discussed. Independent confirmation is necessary in order to substantiate the observation that MCSD is a measure of defensiveness.

Tripathi (1980) investigated the relationship between approval motive and locus of control. Among undergraduate students following a 2 x 2 x 3 factorial design with two levels of approval motive (high and low), two sex groups (male and female) and three components of locus of control (internal control, powerful others and chance) were taken into consideration. The given responses of subjects were measured on the measure of internal-external control. The results revealed significant main effects of sex and components of locus of control. Further, the interaction of approval motive components of locus of control and sex components of locus of control yielded significant effects. Results indicated that high approval group subjects are more externally controlled while low approval group subjects are more internally controlled. Overall, girls are less externally controlled as compared to boys in samples.
Misra and Tripathi (1981) determined the relationship between approval motive and three factors of locus of control i.e. internal, chance and powerful others. Results indicated that high approval motivated subjects were significantly more external and less chance oriented as compared to low approval motivated subjects. In regard to powerful others the main effect of approval was not significant while sex yielded a significant main effect. The results showed independence of the three sub-scales of I.E. control and indicated cross-cultural generality of the measure.

Miller et. al. (1983) conducted a study on 45 students enrolled in a psychology course. Subjects were asked to complete the Miller Marital Locus of Control (MMLOC) scale and Marlowe-crowne Social Desirability (MCSD) scale, imagining how they would feel if they were married. Results showed that the MMLOC scores were significantly correlated with the MCSD scores (r = -.29, p < .05), indicating that those who are high in the need for approval tend to report that they, if were married, would prefer spouses with more internal locus of control for marital interaction.

Marital locus of Control Scale and Approval Motive Scale were administered on 60 younger and 60 older couples (a) to determine the relationship between marital locus of control and approval motivation among spouses (younger and older husbands, younger and older wives) and couples (younger and
older ) (b) and to determine the significance of difference between younger husbands and older wives, older husbands and older wives and younger couples and older couples in two correlations. Significant positive relationships were found to exist between marital locus of control and approval motivation among younger and older wives and younger couples on the correlation between marital locus of control and approval motive, significant differences existed between younger husbands and younger wives, older husbands and older wives, and younger couples and older couples. (Gupta & Husain, 1988).

d) Locus of control and Social Intimacy and other Social-psychological variables:

In the last fifteen years there have been many investigations on the psychological significance of marriage on close relationships with others, life stress and bereavement which suggests that intimacy is an important prediction of healthy psychological and physiological functioning. However, we could come across only two studies where a precise measure of social intimacy developed by Miller and Lefcourt (1982) was used.

Miller et.al. (1983) used a Miller Social Intimacy Scale for determining the validity of the Miller Marital Locus of
Control scale. The total MMLOC scale correlated significantly with the MSIS (r = - .37, p < .001), indicating that the more external for marital interaction, the less intimacy subjects were apt to reveal. Likewise, MMLOC correlated significantly with discrepancy scores between partners on this scale (r = .16, p < .05); the more external for the marital interaction the more discrepant the intimacy the scores of spouses were. This was particularly the case for wives whose scores were significantly related to MMLOC scores (r= .12).

Miller and Lefcourt (1983) conducted two studies to determine the role of social intimacy in predicting the individual's response to stress. In the first study the experimenter reinforced the experimental subjects' verbalizations during an interview on a fixed schedule for the first 3 minutes, withdrawing reinforcement for the final four minutes. The control group received reinforcement on a fixed schedule for the total seven minutes. Subjects scoring low on a measure of intimacy disclosed less personal material during the withdrawal period in the experimental contrast to high scoring subjects to maintain their level of disclosure for both parts of the interview. In the second study, previously experienced life change events were assessed. Individuals lacking a current intimacy were formed to be prone to higher levels of emotional disturbance specially when many previous negative or few positive life change events had occurred.
e) Indian Studies: Personality and Social Correlates of Marital Adjustment:

One of the important areas of personality and marriage studies concerns the role of personality and social characteristics in marital adjustment. Some of the important studies conducted in India are reviewed here.

Singh (1976) illustrated that marriage may be more successful in individuals whose need pattern are complementary rather than similar. The study had further suggested that personality is perhaps the most crucial factor in marital adjustment and spouses having complementary traits are likely to lead a more happy married life.

Bhatt and Surti (1979) examined marital adjustment and family adjustment of older and younger generation i.e. mother-in-law and daughter-in-law in joint and nuclear families. For this purpose two groups were selected, 25 pairs of mother-in-law and daughter-in-law from joint families and 25 pairs from nuclear families. Mehta's Marital Adjustment Scale and Family Adjustment inventory developed by the authors were administered on subjects. The results obtained by Spearman's Rank Order Correlation showed that the correlation between marital adjustment and family adjustment of the daughter-in-law in the joint and nuclear families was statistically significant.
Gupta and Nathawat (1982) examined the effect of the type of marriage, duration and sex on love and liking. The study was undertaken to provide empirical data to support or rule out the common belief in Indian society, "that love marriages at initial stage are more successful whereas arranged marriages are more successful in the long run in terms of love and liking". The data collected on 25 couples of love marriage and 25 couples of arranged marriage substantiated that 'as time passes' love and liking decreases among love marriage pairs but it increases among arranged marriage pairs. The study revealed that men tend to be more likable than women but not more lovable.

Parikh (1982) investigated the anxiety reaction variables of the divorce and the happily married. He compared two groups of divorcees (N = 150, Males = 100, Females = 50) and happily married (N = 150, Males = 100, Females = 50) with respect to nine personality traits which can be called the anxiety reaction variables. The two groups differ significantly in all the nine traits. But the divorcees are significantly high on five traits of harmavoidance, disjustivity, change impulsion and emotionality, while the happily married have scored significantly high in the opposite traits of conjuctivity, sameness, deliberation and placidity. It seems that there are two different types of reaction patterns of anxiety, exhibited by the divorcee and the happily married.
Stākaran (1984) examined 5 work related (WRVs) and 5 non-work related variables (NWRVs) in dual career nuclear families for their impact on job and life satisfaction of the couples. WRVs were career, job involvement, self esteem, time spent on work activities and income. NWRVs were multiple role stresses integration of families and work enabling processes, self esteem and hired help. One hundred thirty dual career couples (mean age of wives 34 yrs, mean age of husbands 39 yrs) responded to a questionnaire individually. Results indicated that the objective and attitudinal WRVs considered were not significant in explaining the variance for job satisfaction. But the NWRVs were significant for explaining the variance in subjects, life satisfaction. Gender also moderated the relationship between WRVs and job and life satisfaction. Even for career oriented wives non-work aspects of life had greater impact on their experienced satisfaction than work relevant factors.

Jamuna and Ramamurti (1984) conducted a study of adjustment trends and husband-wife communication of married women between 40-55 years of age. The results of the study indicate poor adjustment in the menopausal age groups. The husband-wife communication was good in 40-45 age groups, poor in the 46-50 age groups and better in the 51-55 age groups.
Kumar and Rohatgi (1984) administered Raven's Progressive Matrices, Ascendence-Submission Reaction Inventory and Maudsley Personality Inventory on 75 highly adjusted and 75 poorly adjusted married couples. Better adjustment was found significantly associated with higher intelligence. Extravertive interests in the couple along with higher dominance in the husbands. A slight but not significant trend for better adjustment with submissive tendency was found among better adjusted wives. They have reported a close-positive relationship between intelligence, dominance need, and extraversion and marital success. They have found the high adjusted couples to be more relaxed (lower anxiety) emotionally more stable (lower neuroticism) and a tendency to feel more secure in comparison to the low adjusted couples.

Kumar and Rohatgi (1985) determined the relationship of anxiety, neuroticism and security with adjustment in marriage. The marital adjustment questionnaire was administered on a sample of 300 married couples to identify two criterion groups—the high adjusted (top 25%) and the low adjusted (bottom 25%). Each group comprised 75 couples in the age of 21-45 yrs. The comparison of the two groups showed that the high-adjusted husbands and wives felt significantly more relaxed (anxiety score being low) and emotionally more organized (neuroticism score being low) as compared to the low adjusted husbands and
wives. In addition, the high adjusted couples tended to feel more secure though not on a statistically significant basis.

Agnihotri (1985) determined the relationship between marital adjustment and combinations of ordinal birth positions of couples. One hundred and sixty-three couples, whose length of marriage ranged from 5 years over to 10 years, whose ordinal birth position stood in a specific relation to the other sex sibling, and whose family was medium sized, served as subjects. The couples belonged to either of the four categories, namely, older husband and older wife, older husband and younger wife, younger husband and older wife, younger husband and younger wife. They were administered Singh's Marital Adjustment Inventory. The analysis of the data revealed that it is not the particular ordinal birth position, in relation to the presence of older or younger other sex sibling, of other spouse alone that produces adjustment differences but the specific combinations of particular ordinal positions of both the members of a married couple that leads to differences in adjustment. The best marital adjustment has been found between those couples where husbands were the older brothers with younger sisters and wives were older sisters with younger brothers. The poorest adjustment is obtained between those couples where the husbands were younger brothers with older sisters and wives were the younger sisters with older brothers.
In case either husband or wife making a couple was older among sibling, the adjustment was better, though not significantly different.

Husain and Garg (1985) investigated the significance of internal-external control beliefs among married couples. Miller Marital Locus of Control (MMLOC) scale was administered on 68 married couples residing at Aligarh. Point-biserial correlation indicated a significant positive relationship between husbands' and wives' scores on the MMLOC scale.

Sekaran (1985) attempted to trace the links among three sets of exogenous variable (individual differences, work and non-work factors), 2 indigenous variables (job satisfaction and life satisfaction) a dependent variable (mental health) for husbands and wives in dual career families. The mean age of husbands and wives were 38 and 35 yrs. The responses were analyzed to establish the links among variables. Cross-sectional analyses showed that both the indigenous variable (job satisfaction and life satisfaction) have direct influence on the mental health of the husbands, and two of the exogenous variables, multiple role stress and number of children had significant direct link to the mental health. For both the husbands and wives age had a significant negative impact on job satisfaction. Over all there were more similarities, than differences between the husbands and wives, but it is suggested
that wives continue to be overburdened with the responsibilities of running the household.

Mathur and Lakhani (1985) 50 infertile and 50 fertile couples (out of which 33 couples belonged to urban population and 17 to rural population of both the groups). Marital Adjustment Scale, Depression Inventory, and Neurotic Scale Questionnaire were employed. Infertile couples in both samples showed poor marital adjustment, poor depression and neuroticism. However, rural infertile couples were found more neurotic as compared to urban infertile couples.

Kumar and Rohatgi (1986) identified certain personality correlates—frustration management and self disclosure associated with success in marriage among high adjusted and low adjusted couples. The results showed that the high adjusted couples depended to a lesser degree on unadaptive defensive modes in the management of frustration in comparison to the low adjusted couples. They also showed a higher tendency to self disclose among themselves than the low adjusted couples.

Patel (1987) determined the role of personality traits (emotion, counteraction, and understanding) among quarrelling couples. The trait of understanding is found lowest degree than the trait of emotion and counteraction in quarrelling couples. The trait of counteraction is found in highest degree than the traits of emotion and understanding in the
quarrelling couples. The trait of understanding has lowest total mean score in the group of male and female. The trait of counteraction is dominating on the other traits in quarrelling couples.

Bal (1988) selected 72 married couples for determining marital adjustment of dual earner couples in relation to marriage style. A comparison of working and non-working wives and husbands of working and non-working wives was done on adjustment scores of Patel's Battery of Adjustment Scale. Analysis of variance (2 x 3 factorial design) revealed that working-non-working status of wife does not affect adjustment scores for either wives or husbands on any of these scales. A significant column effect is observed for wives on the Marriage Adjustment Scale and Family Adjustment Scale indicating that adjustment scores were significantly different for working and non-working wives for different marriage span. No significant difference on scores of Sex Adjustment Scale was observed.

Husain and Sharma (1988) determined the relationship between marital adjustment scores and satisfaction with life scores among spouses of working and conventional couples. Results indicated that the significant positive relationship existed between scores of marital adjustment and satisfaction with life among subjects. Critical ratio yielded significance of difference between husbands and wives of working couples,
between husbands and wives of conventional couples, and between wives of working couples and wives of conventional couples, in the relationship scores of marital adjustment questionnaire and satisfaction with life scale.