Chapter 5 summary

Chapter Report

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Chapter Sources

Levin, A. "Effect of price and access on contraceptive use", Social Science & Medicine, 199907
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SUMMARY

Family is the fundamental unit of human society. It is in same ways in which the meaning of society lies not in its being a group of human beings but in constituting a web of relations between them. Foundation of family rests upon mutual relationships between the family members. It is blessed upon man’s biological and physical needs. It, as a part of society, is a system of relationships (Singh, 2008). Marriage is one of the ancient, closest, and most important complex human relationships. It is the base of a society since it results in the formation of family. Its most important characteristic is that it gives social acceptance or sanction to human relationships in the form of social acceptance of sexual union of the opposite sexes (Gupta, 2005). Marriage and family are nevertheless not optional, but are essential as they meet human deepest companionship, affection and sexual expression.

Marriage may be stable or unstable depending upon the nature of interaction between the partners. A stable marriage is one in which relationship ends with the death of one of the spouse. On the other hand, divorce and separation define an unstable marriage (Corsini & Auerbach, 2000; Kluwer, 2010). There are various factors which affect the stability of marriage. Interaction between husband and wife is an important phenomenon which determines the nature and stability of marriage. A good interaction may enhance the marital satisfaction, and hence stability of marriage. Marital satisfaction also determines the nature and quality of interaction between husband and wife and therefore both affect each other. Researches on marital interaction clearly reveal three peculiar features of the interactions, i.e., behavioral, cognitive and affective. It has been reported that distressed couples involve in less recreational activities together, spends less time together (Tulane, Skogrand &
Defraine, 2011), rate the time together more negatively, display negative behaviour when together, one-half or one-third sex than normal, make more negative statements, are more confronting, complaining and defensive and reciprocate more the negative behaviour than non-distressed couples. They are less likely to interpret more negatively spouse’s statements and intentions, interpret that causes of spouses positive behaviour as global and pervasive (Gottman & Levenson, 2000). The distressed or dissatisfied couples are more negative in their attitudes and behaviour (Buehler & Gerard, 2002; Fiorito, 1977; Gottman, 1979; Schaap, 1984). Non-distressed couples are found to be more positive. Positivity is reflected in couples through emotional expression, behaviour exchange, and problem-solving behaviour and also in verbal behavior (Gottman, 1979).

Distressed/ dissatisfied couples lacks in “positive cues of affect”. The positive cues of affect means empathetic smile, warm, tender voice, attention (Gottman, 1979; Rubin, 1977). Distressed/ dissatisfied couples show more negative affect in terms of their spousal inattention, duplicating voice and crossing over arms (Gottman, 1979; Rubin, 1977) and; more forceful acts in their behaviour like leaving the field, using an outside power to force the other to agree (Barry, 1968; Raush et al., 1974); more negative social reinforcement like turn off, put down, disagree, criticize (Birchler, 1972; Hahlweg, Helmes, Steffen, Schilder, Revenstorf, & Kunert, 1979; Vincent, 1972) and more defensive behaviours like disagreement and disapproval of other (Sprenkle, 1975).

Marital dissatisfaction is characterized by less positive affect, more negative affect, more reciprocity of affect which means that one partner would dominate the exchange of affect (Bradbury & Karney, 2004; Gottman, 1979, 1980; Schaap, 1982).
Gottman and Levenson (1999) found that the stability of affect such as belligerence, domineering, contempt, tension/fear over year in husbands in distressed marriages. Domineering, contempt and defensiveness were stable affect over years in wives in distressed marriages. Positive affect has been found to associated with increased relationship, but only for man.

Levenson and Gottman (1983) found wife’s to use more negative interaction than husbands during problem area discussion. It was also found that negative affect in the problem area to be more than events of the day. Wives in dissatisfied marriages reported less positive affect. Wives in dissatisfied marriages showed more reciprocation than their husbands. Husband’s in dissatisfied marriages were found to reciprocate wife’s positive affect (Levenson & Gottman, 1983). Communication behaviours has been linked not only with difficulty in problem solving behaviours but also to other important tasks in marriage (Bradbury & Karney, 2004). Quality of communication has been found to be best predictor of relationship (Holman, 2001).

Marital interaction of dissatisfied wives in the present study has been defined as the negative interaction between husband and wife (limitation of the study). It includes

1. Quarrel on issues of maternal support,
2. Quarrel caused due to dowry demand,
3. Quarrel due to attachment of husband with his parents,
4. Quarrel on blame on child rearing issues,
5. Quarrel on sex issues of wife,
6. Quarrel on sex issues of husband,
7. Quarrel on problem solving,
8. Quarrel on demeaning attitude,
9. Quarrel on disregarding communication,
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10. Quarrel on mental harassment by husband,
11. Quarrel on doubts by husband,
12. Quarrel on demand withdrawal,
13. Quarrel on uncaring attitude of husband towards wife,
14. Quarrel on aggressive behaviour by wife,
15. Quarrel on non-reactance by wife,
16. Quarrel on economic matters,
17. Quarrel on work-life imbalance,
18. Quarrel on aggression by husband and
19. Quarrel on lifestyle issues.

Rationale of the study

Various studies have been carried out showing a relationship between marital satisfaction or dissatisfaction and various dimensions of marital interaction such as communication, problem-solving, demand-withdrawal pattern, and other related factors. However, none of the studies reveal a relationship between a wife’s maternal home attachment, maternal support, birth-order, etc. The present study aims to explore variables which predict a wife’s marital interaction in light of parental support, attachment to maternal home, parental income, birth order, education, and tenure of marriage.

At the time of the proposal of study, six predictor variables were considered. However, various other factors came to light which were conducive for dissatisfaction in marital interaction. Therefore, they were included in the study. The variables that were later included are age of wife, age of husband, male child, female child, family type, education of wife, education of husband, income of wife, income of father (of wife), age at marriage, and separation period.
Objectives and hypotheses

1a. To explore whether different dimensions of marital interaction is determined by parental support in wives.

It was hypothesized that parental support of wives would predict the different dimensions of marital interaction.

b. Whether the above said effects are different in wives who are divorce seekers from those seeking marital counselling.

It was hypothesized that the effects would be different in divorce seekers from those seeking marital counselling.

2a. To explore whether different dimensions of marital interaction is determined by attachment with maternal home in wives.

It was hypothesized that attachment with maternal home of wives would predict the different dimensions of marital interaction.

b. Whether the above said effects are different in wives who are divorce seekers from those seeking marital counselling.

It was hypothesized that the effects would be different in divorce seekers from those seeking marital counselling.

3a. To explore whether different dimensions of marital interaction is determined by wife’s parental income.

It was hypothesized that parental income of wives would predict the different dimensions marital interaction.

b. Whether the above said effects are different in wives who are divorce seekers from those seeking marital counselling.

It was hypothesized that the effects would be different in divorce seekers from those seeking marital counselling.
4a. To explore whether different dimensions of marital interaction is determined by birth order, education and tenure of marriage.

It was hypothesized that birth order, education and tenure of marriage would predict the different dimensions of marital interaction.

b. Whether the above said effects are different in wives who are divorce seekers from those seeking marital counselling.

It was hypothesized that the effects would be different in divorce seekers from those seeking marital counselling.

5a. To explore whether dimensions of marital interaction is determined by age of wife, age of husband, male child, female child, family type, education of wife, education of husband, income of wife, income of father (of wife), age at marriage and separation period.

It was hypothesized that age of wife, age of husband, male child, female child, family type, education of wife, education of husband, income of wife, income of father (of wife), age at marriage and separation period would predict the different dimensions of marital interaction.

b. Whether the above said effects are different in wives who are divorce seekers from those seeking marital counselling.

It was hypothesized that the effects would be different in divorce seekers from those seeking marital counselling.

Methodology

Design

The aim of the present study was to examine the marital interaction of distressed participants and the factors affecting it and how the effects are different in divorce seekers and marital counselling receivers. Marital Interaction which was criterion
variable in the study, included all the possible interactions of husband and wife ranging from in-laws problems to children upbringing issues, interpersonal problems to behavioural problems. Predictor variables included parental support, attachment with maternal home, parental income (of wife), birth order, education, and tenure of marriage. Hence the design is correlational in nature.

**Participants**

The universe of the study consisted of 500 participants who were dissatisfied from their marriage or more appropriately distressed participants. The sample frame included all the married legal wives who were dissatisfied from their marriage. The target group included dissatisfied wives who enrolled themselves for marital counselling due to dissatisfaction in their marital relationship and divorce seekers who had enrolled themselves for divorce due to dissatisfaction in their marital relationship. The sample size included 103 marital counselling receiver’s group and 103 divorce seekers group. The sample was selected through systematic random selection.

**Tools**

Maternal home attachment scale, maternal support scale and marital interaction scale was constructed. The main purpose of the development of the scales was to identify and explore the maternal home attachment, maternal support of the distressed married wives which they receive after marriage and their marital interaction. The items were generated with information gathered through individual interview with wives in distressed marriage. During the individual interview with the distressed wives, open ended questions were asked related to how the maternal home attachment and maternal support from their maternal home is related to their married life or in a way affects her marriage.
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Maternal home attachment scale revealed one factor. Maternal support scale revealed two factors namely general support given by parents and support given to children and husband. Marital interaction scale revealed 19 factors namely of quarrel on issues of maternal support, quarrel caused due to dowry demand, quarrel due to attachment of husband with his parents, quarrel on blame on child rearing, quarrel on sex issues of wife, quarrel on sex issues of husband, quarrel of problem solving, problems of demeaning attitude of husband, disregard in communication, mental harassment by husband, doubts by husband, demand withdrawal, uncaring attitude, aggressiveness by wife, non-reactance by wife, quarrel on economic matters, work life imbalance, aggression by husband and quarrel on life style. The reliability and validity of the scale was established.

Procedure

To gather data for marital counselling seekers group, the participants who had enrolled themselves for marital therapy in various counselling centers were contacted. Written permission was obtained from Bhilai Steel Plant Counselling Centre, Sammohan Chikitsa Kendra and oral permission was granted from Police Counselling Cell (Durg and Bhilai). With the consent of counsellors the clients were introduced to the study, all the participants who were approached to take part in the study agreed. They were interviewed by the researcher for required variables individually with only client and researcher in the room. The interview lasted for 30-40 minutes depending upon individual.

The researcher filled the data obtained in the scale. Each and every detail was cross checked with the help of concerned Counsellor and the details were corrected. The details which were kept hidden from the researcher were noted down and then included in the study.
For the divorce seekers group the participants were taken from registered cases of Durg and Pune family court. In response to written application, family court provided counsellor to the researcher. With the oral consent of family court counsellor (appointed to the researcher by the court) the clients were introduced to the study, and were further interviewed by the researcher for the required variables individually with only client and researcher in the room.

The interview took 30 minutes to 45 minutes depending upon the individual. Clients and their advocates were thanked for their co-operation. The researcher filled the data obtained in the scale. Every day 10 subjects were interviewed for the purpose of the study. Every third case was included to be selected as subject of the sample.

Results

General support received by wives from their maternal home was found to be significant in explaining variances in the quarrel on issues of maternal support of wives. General support received by wives from their maternal home was found to be significant in explaining variances in the quarrel caused due to dowry demand. Family type, education of wife, education of husband, maternal home attachment were found to be significant in explaining variances of quarrel on attachment of husband with his parents. Support to husband and child, general support, male child, female child, span of marriage were found to be significant in explaining variances of quarrel on blame on child rearing.

Group type and income of wife were found to be significant in explaining variances of quarrel on sex issues of wife. Age of husband and group type was found to be significant in explaining variances of quarrel on sex issues of husband. Group type was found to be significant in explaining variances of quarrel on issues of problem solving. Group type, Income of husband and span of marriage were found to be
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significant in explaining variances of problems caused by to demeaning attitude of husband towards wife.

Group type was found to be significant in explaining variances of quarrel of disregarding communication. Group type and support to husband were found to be significant in explaining variances in mental harassment by husband. Group type and support to husband and child and income of wife were found to be significant in explaining variances in doubts by husband. Group type was found to be significant in explaining variances of demand withdrawal pattern.

Separation period, group type, age of husband, education of husband and family type were found to be significant in explaining variances in uncaring attitude of husband towards wife. Maternal home attachment was found to be significant in explaining variances of aggressiveness by wife. Education of husband was found to be significant in explaining variances of non-reactance by wife. Support to husband and child, income of husband, maternal home attachment and education of husband were found to be significant in explaining variances in the quarrel on economic matters.

Separation period and income of father were found to be significant in explaining variances in the quarrel on work-life imbalance. Span of marriage, group type and family type were found to be significant in explaining variances in the quarrel on aggression by husband. Group type, education of wife and support to husband and child were found to be significant in explaining variances in the quarrel on life style.

General support received by wives from their maternal home and age at marriage was found to be significant variables in on issues of maternal support among counselling receivers. General support received by wives from their maternal home, age at marriage and income of husband were found to be significant variables in on issues of
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maternal support among divorce seekers. Family type, education of wife, maternal home attachment and education of husband were found to be significant variables in quarrel on attachment of husband with his parents among marital counselling receivers. Family type was found to be significant variables in quarrel on attachment of husband with his parents among divorce seekers. Family type, male child and support to husband and child received by wives from their maternal home were found to be significant variables in the quarrel caused due to dowry demand among marital counselling receivers. General support was found to be significant variables in quarrel of caused due to dowry demand among divorce seekers.

Support to husband and child received by wives from their maternal home, general support and female child were found to be significant variables in the quarrel on blame on child rearing issues among marital counselling receivers. Support to husband and child, male child, maternal home attachment, span of marriage and female child were found to be significant variables in the quarrel on blame on child rearing issues among divorce seekers. Income of husband was found to be significant variables in the quarrel on sex issues of wife among marital counselling receivers. Education of husband, general support and maternal home attachment were found to be significant variables in the quarrel on sex issues of wife among divorce seekers. Age of husband and income of husband were found to be significant variables in the quarrel on sex issues of husband among marital counselling receivers. Span of marriage was found to be significant variables in the quarrel on sex issues of wife among divorce seekers. Quarrel on problem solving among marital counselling receivers revealed no results. Female child and age of husband were found to be significant variables in the most important variable for explaining quarrel on problem solving among divorce seekers.
Income of husband was the only variable found to be significant in explaining variances in the quarrel on demeaning attitude among marital counselling receivers. Age at marriage and female child were found to be significant variables in explaining variances in the quarrel on demeaning attitude among divorce seekers. Age of husband was the only variable found to be significant in explaining variances in quarrel on disregarding communication among marital counselling receivers. Age at marriage was the only variable found to be significant in explaining variances in quarrel on disregarding communication among divorce seekers.

Age at marriage and separation period were significant variables in explaining variances of mental harassment by husband among marital counselling receivers. Age at marriage was the only variable found to be significant in explaining variances of mental harassment by husband among divorce seekers. Age at marriage was the only significant variable in explaining variances of doubts by husband among marital counselling receivers. Age at marriage, income of wife and separation period was the significant variables in explaining variances of doubts by husband among divorce seekers. Age at marriage was the only significant variable in explaining variances of quarrel on demand withdrawal among marital counselling receivers. Family type was the only significant variable in explaining variances of quarrel on demand withdrawal among divorce seekers.

Age of husband, separation period and age were the significant variables in explaining variances of quarrel on uncaring attitude of husband among marital counselling receivers. Education of husband was the only significant variable in explaining variances of quarrel on uncaring attitude of husband among divorce seekers. Age of husband and separation period was the significant variables in explaining variances of quarrel on aggressiveness by wife among marital counselling receivers. Maternal
home attachment and female child were the significant variables in explaining variances of quarrel on aggressiveness by wife among divorce seekers.

Income of wife and education of wife was the significant variables in explaining variances of quarrel on non-reactance by wife among marital counselling receivers. Education of husband was the significant variables in explaining variances of quarrel on non-reactance by wife among divorce seekers.

Support to husband and child, maternal home attachment and income of father were the significant variables in explaining variances of quarrel on economic matters by wife among marital counselling receivers. Support to husband and child, age at marriage, income of husband and education of husband were the significant variables in explaining variances of quarrel on economic matters by wife among divorce seekers. Income of father and separation period was the significant variables in explaining variances of quarrel on work–life imbalance among marital counselling receivers. Female child and education of husband was the significant variables in explaining variances of quarrel on work–life imbalance among divorce seekers.

Age of husband and birth order of wife was the significant variables in explaining variances of quarrel on aggression by husband among marital counselling receivers. Age at marriage and female child was the significant variables in explaining variances of quarrel on aggression by husband among divorce seekers.

Education of wife and age at marriage were the significant variables in explaining variances of quarrel on life style issues among marital counselling receivers. Age at marriage was the significant variables in explaining variances of quarrel on life style issues among divorce seekers.