Chapter Five

SUMMARY & CONCLUSION
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Recent studies on locus of control and marital interaction have been conducted on the relationship between marital locus of control and marital interaction behaviour (Sabattelli, Buck & Dreyer, 1983; Winkler & Doherty, 1983), marital problem solving (Miller, Lefcourt, Helmes, Ware, Saleh, 1986), social intimacy and marital satisfaction (Husain & Gupta, 1987; Miller, Lefcourt & Ware, 1983; White, 1984), and approval motivation (Gupta & Husain, 1988). These studies have produced enough intriguing results that lead to further research on marital locus of control and marital interaction. The present study employed cognitive personality constructs-marital locus of control scale and social intimacy scale—and approval motive scale to assess relationship between these variables among adjusted—maladjusted married couples.

The present study precisely sought to determine:

1. the relationship between Marital Locus of Control (MLOC) and Social Intimacy (SI), Marital Locus of Control and Approval Motivation (AM), and Social Intimacy and Approval Motivation among husbands, wives, and couples of adjusted, complementary Group I and Group II;  
2. the significance of difference between adjusted and maladjusted
husbands, adjusted and maladjusted wives, and adjusted and maladjusted couples in two Zr coefficients (i.e. relationship between MLOC and SI, MLOC and AM, and SI and AM scores); (3) the significance of difference between adjusted and maladjusted husbands, maladjusted and adjusted wives, and couples of complementary Group I and Group II in two Zr coefficients (i.e. relationship between MLOC and SI, MLOC and AM, and SI and AM scores); (4) the partial correlations between MLOC and SI scores (when the variable of AM is partialled out), between MLOC and AM scores (when the variable of SI is partialled out), and between SI and AM scores (when the variable of MLOC is partialled out), among husbands, wives, and couples of adjusted, maladjusted, complementary Group I and Group II; (5) the significance of partial r at the .95 confidence interval for husbands, wives, and couples of adjusted, maladjusted, complementary Group I and Group II; (6) the multiple coefficient of correlations between scores actually earned and scores predicted on the MLOC from the two variables SI and AM scores (i.e. to what extent MLOC scores are related to SI and AM scores) among husbands, wives, and couples of adjusted, maladjusted, complementary Group I and Group II; (7) the critical values of multiple R for husbands, wives, and couples of adjusted, maladjusted, complementary Group I and Group II; and (8) β coefficients,
of the independent contribution of the variables SI and AM in determining the predicted value of the criterion variable MLOC among husbands, wives, and couples, of adjusted, maladjusted complementary Group I and Group II.

Chapter two "Review of Relevant Studies", covered studies directly related to the variables under study. The review of studies was given under five major heads: (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, (e) Personality and social correlates of marital adjustment.

One hundred forty four married couples of Aligarh City served as subjects for the present study. The measures employed in this study were: (1) Marital Adjustment Inventory, (2) Marital Locus of Control Scale, (3) Social Intimacy Scale, and (4) Approval Motive Scale. This study was conducted in two phases. In the first phase, Marital Adjustment Inventory was administered on 200 married couples, to identify four groups of subjects—adjusted, maladjusted, complementary Group I and Group II. In the second phase of the study, subjects
completed the marital locus of control scale, social intimacy scale and approval motive scale. The data were analyzed by means of Pearson Product Moment Correlation Method, Z-test, partial r, significance of partial r, multiple R, significance of multiple R (F-test), and β coefficients (R²1 (23)).

The data analyzed by means of several tests were presented in 16 Tables and the description and discussion of results were given in chapter four.

The main findings of the study were:

(a) Significant positive relationships were found to exist between Marital Locus of Control (MLOC) and Social Intimacy (SI) scores, and marital locus of control and approval motive (AM) scores among adjusted husbands, wives and couples.

(b) Marital Locus of Control scores were negatively correlated with SI scores among maladjusted husbands, wives, and couples. Social Intimacy scores were also negatively correlated with AM scores among maladjusted husbands and couples.

(c) No significant relationships were found to exist between MLOC scores and SI scores, MLOC scores and AM scores and SI scores and AM scores among husbands, wives and couples of complementary Group I and Group II.

(d) Significant differences were found to exist between adjusted and maladjusted husbands, adjusted and maladjusted wives, and adjusted and maladjusted couples in the relationship scores of MLOC and SI and MLOC and AM.
(e) No significant differences existed between adjusted and maladjusted husbands, maladjusted and adjusted wives, and couples of complementary Group I and Group II in the relationship scores of MLOC and SI, MLOC and AM, and SI and AM.

(f) The values of partial r's were found to be significant at the .95 confidence interval among husbands, wives, and couples of adjusted and maladjusted groups.

(g) The .95 confidence interval were quite wide for partial r's (\(\sqrt{12.3}, \sqrt{13.2}, \sqrt{23.1}\)) of husbands, wives and couples of complementary Group I and Group II and in some cases the lower limit of the confidence range approached zero.

(h) The values of Critical R (obtained by F-test) were found to be significant among husbands, wives, and couples of adjusted, maladjusted group and maladjusted husbands and adjusted wives of complementary Group II.

The results were discussed mainly with reference to the findings of earlier studies and in the various conceptual, theoretical and cultural context.
CONCLUSION:

General Issues:

Most of the correlation coefficients between marital locus of control scores and social intimacy and marital locus of control and approval motivation were in the .3 to .8 range among adjusted husbands, wives, and couples. The correlation coefficients between marital locus of control and social intimacy, social intimacy and approval motivation were in the .3 to .9 range among maladjusted husbands, wives and couples. Most of correlation coefficients between marital locus of control scores and social intimacy, marital locus of control and approval motivation, and social intimacy and approval motivation, were insignificant among husbands, wives, and couples of complementary Group I and II. This pattern of finding is not surprising, in the sense that marital adjustment is more crucial than general adjustment. The nature of husband-wife relationship represents a style of thinking that helps to moderate personal stress. Caution is needed in interpreting findings of no significant relationship between these variables, especially given the limited sample sizes in this study.

The results are promising enough to encourage continued pursuit of the topic of locus of control and marital adjustment.
The results led to certain conclusions and pointed out possibilities for future research.

The first task for marital researchers is to further clarify the nature of Marital locus of control, construct i.e. factors influencing external orientation must be situation or culture-specific. Development of such a measure will allow for systematic assessment of various groups formed on the basis of personality or demographic variables.

The second area for future research involves the relationship between Marital locus of control and marital adjustment in different samples of couples. In addition, research in this area might clarify the ways in which adjusted or maladjusted couples limit or constrain the type of coping behaviour they are willing or able to use.

Third, the relationship between dimensions of internal and external control and the pattern of marital adjustment, intimacy and need for approval to be examined in detail before we can specify the relationship among these variables, but a start has been made rich directions for future research which may include some other cognitive-personality and motivational correlates of marital locus of control.

Fourth, longitudinal studies are needed for clarifying the ways in which Marital Locus of control changes or remains constant with the development. Doherty's (1983) work indicates that locus of control change with age and marital status.
Similar changes probably occur with respect to marriage span, type of family, couples (working, conventional), socio-economic status etc. but these have not been investigated. Similar changes associated with social intimacy or approval motivation may affect locus of control.

In sum, research concerned with Marital Locus of Control conducted in relation to marital satisfaction and stability, problem solving behaviour, approval motivation, etc. has yielded various important findings. However, it now seems necessary to look for factors and processes that may be common to marital adjustment across a wide variety of samples. Foremost among these, is the role of the family.