The Relationship between Social Intelligence and Marital Harmony among Married Catholics in Edo and Delta States, Nigeria

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Abstract: **This study examined the relationship between social intelligence and marital harmony among married Catholics in Edo and Delta States. Using the multi-stage sampling procedure, the study investigated the relationship between social Intelligence and marital harmony among 606 married Catholics from 43 catholic parishes in Edo and Delta State Nigeria. Two instruments were used. These include the Social Intelligence Scale and Marital Harmony Scale. Data were analysed using simple regression and multiple regression analysis. The result suggested that social intelligence, moderating variables of duration of marriage and educational status have a positive correlation with marital harmony of the married Catholics. It was however, recommended that marriage counsellors should organize workshops, seminars for intending couples and married persons on how to spend quality time and instil the skills of social intelligence in their relationship.**

Keywords: **Marital Harmony, Social Intelligence, Married Catholics**

I. INTRODUCTION

A socially intelligent individual is equipped for creating satisfactory conduct for the benefit of accomplishing needed social objectives. It indicates to what extent an individual possesses capabilities like social aptitudes, social data processing, social awareness, and social desirability and it examines the ability to use communication skills, friendly relationships with others, social behaviour and empathy with others (Mohammadian, 2006). People with high social intelligence have the ability to produce the proper behaviour for reaching and achieving their desired social goals (Saffarinia, Solgi & Tavakkoli, 2011). Also they use all of their psychological and physical quality so as to have powerful relationship with others (Rezaei & Khalilzadeh, 2009). However, marital harmony is the dream of every couple around the world, including Nigeria and many religious groups, especially the Catholic Church, holds in high esteem the sanctity of the married life (Rezaei, & Khalilzadeh, 2009).

Harmony in marriage entails agreement in feelings, actions, ideas, interests, peaceable or friendly relations between husband and wife which subsequently extends to their children and people around them. Although it appears that,

despite this expectations brought about by marital harmony in society, documented and undocumented evidences point to the fact that many married persons are facing different challenges arising from incompatibility, disagreement, lack of understanding, intrusion from third party, amongst others (Aminpoor, 2013). It could be believable that once the harmony between married persons becomes strained, the entirety of the marital relationship may be heading for a crash. In the Nigerian society, there could be instances where newly wedded couples and those who had been married for long just suddenly do not have reasons why they should remain in the union. It is also possible to see couples engaging in unresolved conflicts, abandoning their marriages, experiencing threat of divorce and eventual divorce among other incidents. All these incidents pose a lot of concern to the caring individuals and the children seem to be at the receiving end as they bear the resultant effects. Children reared in such atmosphere laden with negative experiences may be a threat to the society. In addition, the alarming rate of divorce in Nigeria, the number of broken homes and stories of wife abuse are some of the indicators which are increasingly raising lots of questions concerning the harmony between couples. Adding to this is the fact that these incidents are no longer occasional incidents but frequent one in most communities (Doğan & Eryılmaz). In this study, the moderating variables of duration of marriage and educational status were thought to have the capacity of affecting the study outcomes and that was why they were studied alongside the independent variable (social intelligence) and the dependent variable (marital harmony) to know their level of interactions among them. It appears therefore, that the difficulties involved in achieving marital harmony may be connected with poor social intelligence for this determinant occupy a pivotal role in marital harmony and fulfilment.

Emerging literatures in present days indicate that marital harmony is not easily achieved especially in recent times (Bruker & Kimberly, 1993). This suggests that a greater number of marriages are associated with uncertainty, instability and lack of trust between the man and the woman. The menace of uncertainty associated with the problem of disharmony in marriage has therefore generated serious

challenges to marriage counsellors. To this end (Owuamanam and Osankinta, 2005) asserted that some marriage even breakdown before their first anniversaries. According to numerous studies, marital harmony is a multidimensional concept that is affected by many factors, including age at marriage, duration of marriage, ethnicity, personal characteristics, mental maturity, way of thinking, perception of one's own self and others, expectations of life, emotional and social intelligence of the married persons, religious beliefs, trust, commitment, intimacy, sexual function amongst others.

Honarmand, Naami and Roshani (2014) surveyed the position of social intelligence with its components in life satisfaction of elderly people. To guide their study, one hypothesis was formulated which aimed at finding whether there is a significant relationship between the social intelligence and its components with life satisfaction. One hundred and forty nine elderly people were sampled in the research and same, selected based on cluster sampling. For the measurement of the variables, Tromso Social Intelligence Scale (TSIS) and Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS) were used. Statistical methods included Pearson correlation coefficient and regression analysis. Results showed that a positive significant correlation exists between social intelligence and its components with life satisfaction. Also, the outcome of the regression analysis revealed that among the components of social intelligence, only the components of social skills were predicting the life satisfaction. Doğan and Eryılmaz (2014) examined the perspective which happiness play in social intelligence. Two hundred and forty nine graduate learners (130 females/119 males) were involved in the research. One hypothesis formulated included if there was a correlation between social intelligence and the happiness level of the university students. The Turkish Version of the Tromsø Social Intelligence Scale (TSIS-TR) and "The Turkish Version of the Oxford Happiness Questionnaire Short-Form (OHQ-SF) were used as a medium of collection of data. Pearson Correlation and multiple regression analysis method" were used for analysing data. According to the outcome of the analysis it was shown that sub-dimensions of social intelligence were very good and mathematically significant which relates with the happiness levels of higher learners. The research concludes that when it comes to sub-dimensions of social intelligence, "social skill" was the dimension that best explained happiness. Therefore, social intelligence is a significant factor in the joy of college students.

Yahyazadeh-Jelouda and Lotfi-Goodarzi (2012) studied the nexus which exist between teachers' social intelligence and their job satisfaction factor at senior secondary school level. The study employed three (3) research questions and was also guided by three hypotheses. The research questions include: will there be relationship between teachers' social intelligence and their job satisfaction? Will there be difference between teachers' social intelligence and their academic performance? Will there be relationship between teachers' social intelligence and five factors of job satisfaction? The persons who participated in the study were 177 educators who also completed the Tromsø Social Intelligence Scale (TSIS), and a version of the Job Descriptive Index which is a scale used to measure six major factors associated with job satisfaction based on a selected demographic variable. The findings of the study showed that there was significant relationship between teachers' social intelligence and their job satisfaction. Aminpoor (2013) researched on relationship between social intelligence and happiness among male and female university students. Two hundred and twenty six students (96 males and 130 females) were selected randomly. Social Intelligence Questionnaire (SIQ) and Oxford Happiness Inventory (OHI) were employed in the study. Data analyzed by Pearson correlation coefficient, T test, and ANOVA. The after effects of the study indicate that there is a positive relationship connection between social intelligence and joy. Furthermore, Zaheri, Dolatian, Shariati, Simbar, Ebadi, and Azghadi (2016) investigated the effective factors in marital satisfaction in perspective of Iranian women and men: A systematic review. This systematic review surveys published articles from 2005 to 2015 and discovered that the spiritual and religious, sexual and interpersonal factors, communication, duration of marriage and interaction factors and mental health had positive impact on marital satisfaction. In the same vein, Ziaei, Jannati, Mobasheri, Taghavi, Abdollahi and Modanloo (2014) analyzed the relationship of conjugal satisfaction with sexual satisfaction among sexually active employee ladies. Strategies: One hypothesis was figured to direct the study: There is no great connection between sexual fulfilment and level of education. This analytical descriptive examination was carried on 140 married ladies working at educational and clinical institution of Golestan University of Medical Sciences.

Main Objective of the Study

Therefore, the aim of this study was to determine the relationship between social intelligence and marital harmony among married Catholics in Edo and Delta States respectively

Research Hypotheses

1. There is no significant relationship between social intelligence and marital harmony among married Catholics in Edo and Delta state
2. There is no significant impact of duration of marriage in the relationship between social intelligence and marital harmony among married Catholics in Edo and Delta state
3. There is no significant impact educational status in the relationship between social intelligence and marital harmony among married Catholics in Edo and Delta state

II. METHODOLOGY

Research design

The correlational design was adopted for this study. This design was appropriate for this type of study because it is a

quantitative type of research design which attempts to find out the existing relationship between two or more variables.

Population

The population in this study comprised all married Catholics in Edo and Delta States. As at the time of this study there are 12,105 married Catholics in the two states. A total number of 6,005 from Delta State while 6,100 from Edo State (Source: Marriage Registry of, Edo/Delta States, 2018).

Sample and Sampling Technique

The sampling technique used in this study is known as multi-stage stratified random sampling technique and simple random sampling technique by balloting. The sample size of 606 married Catholics representing 5% of the entire population were used as the sample for the study.

Research instrument

Two instruments were used to obtain data for the study and the demographic questionnaire, which gives biological information about the respondents. The first instrument was Social intelligence questionnaire. This is used to measure the social intelligence of the married persons while the second instrument was Marital Harmony Scale which was used to measure the marital harmony existing among the married persons. The instruments were designed with the response based on a 4-point rating scale, that is strongly disagree (1), disagree (2), agree (3) and strongly agree (4).

Reliability of the Instrument

In order to establish the reliability of the instruments, the researcher administered sixty (60) copies of the instrument of Social intelligence Scale (SIS) and Marital Harmony Scale (MHS) on married persons who were not part of the study population. Social intelligence Scale (SIS) has r value of 0.85 while Marital Harmony Scale obtained a r –value of 0.82.This showed that the instruments are adequately reliable and suitable for the study.

Method of Data Collection

The instruments were administered to the participants in their various parishes. Six hundred and six married Catholics were randomly selected across 43 parishes of Edo and Delta State. Five (5%) percentage of the population of married Catholics in Edo State is 306 while five (5%) percentage of the population of married Catholics in Delta State is 300. The researcher briefed the respondents on the overall purpose of the study as well as information regarding confidentiality and anonymity. The completed instruments administered were retrieved from the respondents on the same day while some were subsequently retrieved.

Data analysis

Data analysis involved using simple regression and multiple regression analysis to examine the mean, standard deviation and correlation between the variables.

III. RESULTS

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant relationship between social intelligence and marital harmony among married Catholics.

In order to test hypothesis 1, linear regression was employed.

Table 1: Linear Regression Analysis of the significance of the relationship between Social intelligence and marital harmony among married Catholics

Model	SS	Df	MS	F	B	β	S. E	Sig
Regression Residual Total	3962.751 26450.298 30413.049	1 544 545	3962.751 48.622	81.501	.486	.361	1.76	.000

P ≤ 0.05 level of significance; N = 545

Table 1 showed the computed F-value of 81.501 and a P-value of 0.00 in testing the hypothesis at an alpha level of 0.05. The P-value of 0.000 was less than the alpha level of 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected. This implies that there is a significant relationship between social intelligence and marital harmony among married Catholics. The conclusion is reached that social intelligence has positive contribution to changes in marital harmony among married Catholics involved in this study.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant moderating impact of duration of marriage in the relationship between social intelligence and marital harmony among married Catholics.

In order to test hypothesis 2, multiple regression analysis was employed.

Table 2: Multiple Regression Analysis of the significance of the moderating impact of duration of marriage in the relationship between social intelligence and marital harmony among married Catholics.

Model	SS	Df	MS	F	B	β	S.E	T	Sig
Regression	17437.182	4	4359.295	181.751	-	-	-	-	.000
Residual	12975.867	541	23.985	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**30413.049**	**545**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Social Intelligence					.062	.046	.042	1.479	.140
Duration of Marriage					-.136	-.018	.211	-.645	.519

P≥0.05 level of significance; N = 54

As shown in Table 2, the analysis of duration of marriage as a moderator variable produced B = -.136, Beta β =-.018, t - value = -.645, P ≥ .05 level of significance. The P-value of 0.000 was less than the alpha level of 0.05. Therefore the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant moderating impact of duration of marriage in the relationship between social intelligence and marital harmony is rejected. The finding is that duration of marriage has a significant moderating impact on the relationship that exists between the variables and marital harmony of the married Catholics.

Therefore, the conclusion is drawn that duration of marriage significantly moderate the relationship that exists between the variables of social intelligence and marital harmony among married Catholics involved in this investigation.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant moderating impact of educational status in the relationship between social intelligence and marital harmony among married Catholics.

In order to test hypothesis 3, multiple regression analysis was employed.

Table 3: Multiple Regression Analysis of the significance of the moderating impact of educational status in the relationship between social intelligence and marital harmony among married Catholics

Model	SS	Df	MS	F	B	β	S.E	t	Sig
Regression	17447.811	5	3489.562	145.340	-	-	-	-	.000
Residual	12965.238	540	24.010	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**30413.049**	**545**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Educational Status -	-	-	-	-.127	-.019	.192	-.665	.506

P ≥ 0.05 level of significance; N = 545

As shown in Table 3, the analysis of educational status as a moderator variable produced B = -.127, Beta β =- -.019, t - value =--.665, P ≥ .05 level of significance. The P-value of 0.000 was less than the alpha level of 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant moderating impact of educational status in the relationship between social intelligence and marital harmony is rejected. The finding is that educational status has a significant moderating impact on the relationship that exists among the variables and marital harmony of the married Catholics. Therefore, the conclusion is drawn that educational status significantly moderates the relationship that exist between the variables of social intelligence and marital harmony among married Catholics involved in this investigation.

IV. CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that social intelligence, duration of marriage and educational status have significant contribution to marital harmony of married Catholics used for the study.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings from this study, it is recommended that marriage counsellors should encourage marriage couples to consider the roles of social intelligence, duration of marriage and educational status and should not allow these variables to bring about conflict into their marriages.

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