

Marital Satisfaction on Long-distance Marriage: A Phenomenological Study on Wives Whose Husbands Study Abroad in the Sidoarjo Sub-District

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Abstrack

Long distance marriages that occur in married couples become pheneomenain Sidoarjo regency, Conditions separated by distance and time make couples can only meet at certain periods, this condition is prone to couse various problems in marriage. Some needs in long distance marriages that cannot be fulfilled, it can have an impact on the satisfaction of marriage lived by married couples.

This study aims to express the satisfaction of marriage to wife who undergo long distance marriages because their wives work abroad in Sidoarjo regency. Marriage satisfaction is defined as a field evaluation in marriage which includes communication, recreational activities, religious orientation, conflict resolution, financial management, sexual relations, family and friends, equality of participation and child care. This type of research is a qualitative research method with a phenomenological approach. The sampling procedure in this study uses purposive sampling, with data collection techniques in the form of interviews, observation and documentation. In this study there were 2 subjects, all of whom were wife whose husbands worked abroad.

Based on the result of the study, it showed that the three subjects were relatively satisfied with their long distance marriage. This is evidenced by the efforts made by the three subjects to maintain household harmony with their partners, even though they are undergoing long distance marriage. The three subjects also have efforts to achieve marital satisfaction as well as strategies in dealing with obstacles or problem experienced during long distance marriage. The most dominant aspects of marital satisfaction felt by the three subjects were financial manageent, communication, support from family and friends, children and parenting and religius orientation. The achivement of marital satisfaction in factors supporting the achiement of marital satisfaction in the three subjects are the presence of communication, attention and support from spouses, support from family and friend, improved economic conditions and self perception.

Keywords : *Long distance marriage, Marital Satisfaction, wife left by his husband working abroad.*

A. Introduction

A marriage has a nature that has the meaning of uniting men and women in one legal bond to build a household. Marriage is a commitment in which there is an emotional bond between two people to complement each other and share psychological and biological responsibilities. Couples who are officially married should ideally choose to live together under the same roof, in the same area and also spend time together, but in line with the times and also increasing economic needs, many married couples decide to live far apart or what is commonly referred to as distance marriage. In this long-distance marriage, of course, the background is various factors. (Ramadhini & Hendriani, 2015: 16).

This long-distance marriage has become a natural thing and is no stranger to today, especially in the community. This incident is currently happening in the Sidoarjo sub-district, where many married couples decide to undergo long-distance marriages for years and only meet at certain times. Long-distance marriages are now commonly found in married couples whose wives have been left by their husbands to study abroad as students and employees.

Judging from the reality in domestic life, many husbands and wives are undergoing long-distance marriages due to various factors. For example, the factors behind the three subjects in this study to be willing to undergo long-distance marriages with their husbands were due to study abroad and social contract factors. The existence of a husband's study contract abroad makes the husband must live far away from his wife because of the demands from the foreign boarding school that he must complete his studies, even though he is now married and not only fulfills the obligations of his foreign boarding school but he is also obliged to provide a living for his wife despite the long distance marriage. The causes of long-distance marriages are very diverse, such as career demands, economic demands and refusal to live together, it is not uncommon for husband and wife to undergo long-distance marriages (Ekasari et al, 2007).

It is very interesting to conduct research on Marital Satisfaction in long-distance marriages in Sidoarjo District, motivated by the phenomenon of husband and wife couples who undergo long-distance marriages because one of the partners completes study studies and is also an employee. And also there is a high number of divorce cases in Sidoarjo District, where one of the cases that contributes to the high divorce rate is the divorce filed by a wife who has been in a long-distance marriage with her husband. This study took the setting technique in Sidoarjo District with a purposive sampling technique to determine the criteria for the subject.

B. Research Methods

The data collection procedure begins by submitting a number of interview questions, which have been prepared in the interview guide, to each subject. The questions asked are open (Opened Question) with the aim that the subject can answer freely the questions asked without any intervention or direction from the researcher. The character of the subject's unique experience is part of determining the research criteria. Related to this statement, the researcher used purposive sampling as the type of sampling that is suitable for this study.

The characteristics of the subject that the researcher wanted were married couples who were in a long-distance marriage relationship, had at least 1 year of long-distance relationship, and were willing to become research subjects by signing an informed consent.

C. Result And Discussion

1. Definition Marital Satisfaction

Marital satisfaction is defined as an individual's overall subjective evaluation of the nature of his marriage, including the extent to which one's needs, hopes, and desires are met (Gelles, 1995 in Hyun & Shin 2009). Li and Fung (2011) define marital satisfaction as an individual's global subjective evaluation of the quality of their marriage. Likewise, Anderson and Spruill (193) define marital satisfaction as a subjective feeling of happiness, satisfaction, and pleasure experienced by couples by considering all aspects of their lives.

Brockwood (2017, in Noviajati, 2015: 14) satisfaction in marriage is a general assessment of the marital conditions that are being experienced by a person, this assessment can be a reflection of the attitude of how happy humans are towards specific aspects of the marital relationship. Satisfaction from a marriage is an individual subjective evaluation that refers to marital relations (Taylor, Peplau & Sears, 1997 in Azeez, 2013: 17). Based on the understanding of some of the characters above, it can be concluded that Marital Satisfaction is defined as an individual evaluation that is subjective in nature to all aspects that prioritize the positive side compared to the negative side related to married life.

a. Aspect aspect Marital Satisfaction

Marital Satisfaction consists of several aspects, namely the aspect used in this study refers to the theory put forward by Fowers and Olshon (199:3-4), on the enrich Marital Satisfaction scale. Namely there are 10 aspects to achieve marital satisfaction, namely:

a. Communication

Laswell (Marini & Julianda, 2008) divides marital communication into five basic elements, namely: openness between spouses (openness), honesty towards partners (honesty), ability to trust one another (ability to trust), empathy for partners (empathy). and the ability to be a good listener (listening skill).

b. Conflict Resolution

This aspect measures the partner's perception of existence and resolution of conflicts in their relationship. This aspect is in focus on the couple's openness to issues of recognition and resolution of problems and the strategies used to stop arguments. Besides that, they also support each other in overcoming problems together and build trust in each other.

c. Personality Issues

This aspect measures the individual's perception of their partner in respecting the behaviors and the level of satisfaction felt with the problem regarding each other's personality.

d. Financial Management

This aspect focuses on how couples manage their finances. This aspect measures the pattern of how couples spend their money and their attention to their financial decisions.

e. Leisure Activities

This aspect measures the choice of activities to spend leisure time. This aspect reflects social activities versus personal activities, choices for sharing between individuals and expectations in spending leisure time with a partner.

f. Sexual Relationship

This aspect measures how partners feel about their affection and sexual relationship. This aspect shows attitudes regarding sexual issues, sexual behavior, birth control, and fidelity. Sexual conformity can be a cause of contention and unhappiness if a satisfactory agreement is not reached. Sexual satisfaction can continue to increase over time. This can happen because both partners have understood and know their needs for each other others, able to express their passion and love, also read signs given by the couple so that satisfaction can be created for the husband and wife.

g. Children and Parenting

This aspect measures attitudes and feelings towards the task of caring for and raising children. This aspect focuses on decisions related to discipline, the future of children and the influence of children on the couple's relationship.

h. Family and Friend

This aspect measures attitudes and feelings towards the task of caring for and raising children. This aspect focuses on decisions related to discipline, the future of children and the influence of children on the couple's relationship. Agreement between spouses in terms of parenting and educating children is important in marriage. Parents usually have personal goals for their children which can lead to satisfaction if they can be realized.

i. Egalitarian roles

This aspect measures individual feelings and attitudes about marriage and family roles. This aspect focuses on work, housework, sex, and parenthood. The higher this score indicates that the couple chooses egalitarian roles.

j. Religious Orientation

This aspect measures the meaning of religious beliefs and practices in marriage. A high score shows that religion is an important part of marriage. Religious orientation is closely related to prayer and other activities.

a. Satisfaction Factor

a. Gender Differens

Conley (Ayub, 2010) states that if the wife will be more satisfied if the husband is more open to the wife, why does the husband feel sad.

Meanwhile Gokmen (2001) states that marital satisfaction in men tends to be higher than women. Marital satisfaction with husbands occurs when the wife feels happy and attractive.

b. Relationship with Laws

The quality of the relationship with the partner's family has an important role as a factor that can predict marital satisfaction. The existence of the unification of two families is considered important, where individuals (husband and wife) have a good relationship with in-laws.

c. Couple education

The higher a person's educational level, the more free expression and assertive behavior. Couples who are more assertive have views that are not tied to traditional styles, such as the style of men dominating women.

d. Partner understanding and support

Partner understanding and support means understanding each other in various ways, such as life values, agreement, and the ability to deal with changes and differences that occur. Partner support cannot be replaced by the support of loved ones or friends. People who don't have a supportive partner are more likely to experience depression, anxiety, and resentment. Sharing free time together and sharing tasks and roles fairly in the family is included in the understanding of spouses.

b. Marriage Problem

Partner understanding and support means understanding each other in various ways, such as life values, agreements, and the ability to deal with changes and differences that occur. Partner support cannot be replaced by the support of loved ones or friends. People who don't have a supportive partner are more likely to experience depression, anxiety, and resentment. Sharing free time together and sharing tasks and roles fairly within the family is included in the understanding of spouses.

The problems experienced in each subject's marriage are different. Lestari (2012), also stated that the support provided by parents in the form of emotional and instrumental support is very important for couples. In contrast to the results of this study, Mrs. Q and Mrs. F feel that in married life there are problems that must be resolved. The intervention resulted in a personal debate because it was considered not in accordance with the needs of the condition of the marriage. In contrast to the condition of Mrs. F and Mrs. F's intervention, Mrs. A felt there was a problem with the condition of her long-distance marriage relationship. The long-distance relationship that he did made him feel bored and hoped that they could be together as soon as possible

According to (Ervika, 2005), mother's behavior is considered to play an important role in child development because mothers play an important role in the early life of a child. This had an impact on the long-distance marriage relationship

carried out by Mrs. L and Mrs. A because their children became less familiar with their father's figure. The father figure who is felt to play less of a role at the beginning of the child's development, results in the child not knowing his father. Another impact felt by Mrs. L and Mrs. F is the effect of the lack of togetherness in their married life. This caused Mrs. L to suspect her husband was having a relationship with another woman.

3. Factors that influence its occurrence Long distance marriage

There are several factors which state that some of the occurrences of long distance marriage are as follows: (Bonakraitis (in Qomariyah, 2015: 32)

- 1) One partner (especially the wife) sees where she lives will have a negative impact on her career and work.
- 2) One of the couples has a job in a different city and is likely to prioritize job satisfaction. a will have a negative impact on his career and work.
- 3) Undergoing a long-distance marriage is an alternative that is done to relieve the stress of being a new parent in taking care of children.
- 4) It is difficult to find a job, causing anxiety financially88888 and worries about not being able to make ends meet.

Then there are several other factors that cause long-distance marriages, namely due to the demands of the husband's studies who must complete studies abroad as well as become employees. Which requires that between husband and wife have to undergo a long-distance marriage. Not only that between husband and wife must also be able to have good communication so that long-distance marriages do not experience unwanted things.

D. Conclusion

Based on the results of the analysis of the research data that has been obtained, One of the factors that underlies each subject in undergoing a long-distance relationship is the economic factor or needs in the family. In the early days of undergoing a long-distance marriage, the subject felt surprised in living his married life because there was no presence of a partner to help take care of the household directly. The adaptation made by the subject is considered difficult, because of his unpreparedness in taking care of his own household when he is away from his partner. Sacrifice is the key for the subject in maintaining his married life. One of the sacrifices made is trying to accept long-distance circumstances for the good of the family. Acceptance of the subject with the condition of a long-distance marriage relationship raises wisdom when living it. The lesson that can be learned from the subject is the wisdom to be grateful, because gratitude helps to lighten the burden of problems when away from a partner (husband).

Long-distance marriage relationships are not easy for couples who do not have a strong commitment to keep their marriage intact. Researchers try to provide advice to each subject to improve good communication in their marital relationship. Good communication that is done is able to maintain the integrity of the household in the family. Communication can also influence intimacy, passion and commitment. Therefore, the subject needs to improve good communication in order to maintain the integrity of his household. For other researchers, based on the results of research conducted by researchers, researchers suggest other researchers to be able to add variations in data collection in the form of differences in terms of methods used, characteristics the subject, and experience the problems faced by the subject. In addition, the researcher also advises other researchers to be able to hone their skills in epoching so that the results of interviews with subjects can be more in-depth during the data collection process.

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