



Influence of Women Education on Marital Relationship

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Abstract

This research is an exploration of the influence of women's education on marital relationship. The pivotal focus is the influence educated women have on their relationship with their husband in particular; their behaviour, attitude and what they themselves expect from them. The way a woman's education affects her marital relationship and overall marital stability is highlighted. The sample was selected through the purposive sampling technique from a frame of 100 households in a sector in Islamabad. Data was collected through in-depth interviews from 15 respondents. Thematic analysis techniques were used during and after data collection. As for the findings, the research suggests a positive influence of a woman's education on her marriage. It not only improves marital quality, but also aids in strengthening the marital bond. Themes like mutual understanding, love, care, trust and communication have been explored and they quite profoundly propose an interpretation of the substantial need of women education.

Keywords: women's education, marital relationship, stability, satisfaction, influence

1. Introduction

Historically, the study of marital life emerged about the same time that a new era of research in family behaviour was beginning. Since then, the quality of marriage relationships has been some of the most popular subjects of family research. Whether one focuses on marital adjustment, happiness, satisfaction or other terms, this area is one of the most frequently studied dimensions in the marriage and family field of the sociological domain (Burr, 1970; Hicks & Platt, 1970; Nye, 1988; Spanier & Lewis, 1980).

Marital quality was strongly associated with evaluations of one's life as a whole (as reflected in judgments of life satisfaction) and moment-to-moment experiences of happiness while performing daily activities. It is an important factor shaping both global well-being (happy lives) and experienced well-being (happy days). According to Schoen et al. (2002), marital satisfaction is a global evaluation of the state of one's marriage and a reflection of marital happiness and functioning. From an evolutionary perspective, marital satisfaction can be viewed as a psychological state of regulated mechanisms that monitor the benefits and costs of marriage to a particular person (Schakelford & Buse, 2000).

Marital satisfaction can be evaluated from the perspectives of both husbands and wives. Several factors are said to influence wives' marital satisfaction. These factors include level of intimacy, the ability to self-disclose with their spouses and perceiving their partners as responsive (Laurenceau et al., 2005). Other factors include husbands' expression of affection and amount of time spent together, as well as communication styles. On the other hand, factors associated with marital satisfaction from the husbands' point of view include satisfaction with sexual relationship, division of household tasks or view of gender roles and the extent of input they perceive they get in the relationship (Zainah et al., 2012).

1.1. Significance

As for women education, for more than a century, women were often forced to choose either a husband or education. In the present day world, women earn almost 60 percent of all bachelor's degrees while more than half of the masters as well as Ph.Ds. It is believed by many that while this may be favorable for women as income earners, it becomes damaging for their marital prospects (New York Times, 2012). After marriage when women become mothers, their education has a significant impact on the life chances of their children. Research across developing countries has demonstrated consistently that infant and child health suffers because of a mother's lack of education. Similarly, education is one of the most critical areas of empowerment for women. It is not only beneficial for their marital life in many respects, but it also gives them a better understanding of themselves.

Therefore, in order to draw on additional information to strengthen interpretations, it is vital to investigate from the women's perspective how education can or does help support the relationship they have with their husband. Not only this, it is also necessary to validate the idea that women education can play an important role in family building, offspring socialization and broadly societal equilibrium.

1.2. Objectives

- To probe the socio-economic characteristics of respondents.
- To explore the influence of women education (bachelor level) on their marital life.

1.3. Understanding Matrimony

Marriage can be defined as a social agreement between two individuals that unites their lives legally, economically

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and emotionally (Fatima & Ajmal, 2012). It has many important functions in the society including prevention from adultery, reproduction, love, comfort and care. Similarly, Villa and Del-Prette (2013) describe marriage as the affective relationship between two people who maintain a commitment to live together and mutually enjoy their sexuality. Socioemotional studies of marriage offer wide ranges of factors that contribute to a successful, happy and lasting marriage (Bradford & Vail, 2010; Carandang & Guda, 2015; Cornman et al., 2014; Güney, 2011; Johnson, 1995; Nazier & Ramadan, 2012).

In addition, essential elements of the union are explored within the paradigms of social sciences. All including marital satisfaction, commitment, intimacy, mutual understanding and trust, communication are the fundamental pillars of this bond. Satisfaction within a marital relationship is a key contributor to its success. In a broader sense, it can be understood through a three-axes construct: spousal interaction, partner's emotional aspects and, practical aspects of marriage (Villa & De-Prette, 2013). Likewise, social skills may also be considered as a factor conducive to marriage satisfaction.

For the purpose of this research through extensive groundwork, some considerable characteristics of marriage were derived which at this stage, presented a semi translucent image of this relationship. They were inclusive of *mutual understanding, commitment, communication, trust, and intimacy*.

1.4. Theoretical Stance

The "social exchange theory" proposed by George Homans, (1984) and Peter Blau (1964) is a theoretical framework for studying the relationship process in marriage and family relationships. A model of social communication theory (Applicable to behavioral psychology, sociology, and classical economics) is development, maintenance (e.g., exploration, exploration, and exploitation) carried out in the context of a balanced spouse.

Cost is a factor that hinders or inhibits performance in marriage, while reward is the joy, satisfaction, and happiness that a person enjoys in marriage (Feibert & Kelly, 1959). Thus, a marriage relationship can be viewed as a model for the exchange of large amounts of resources between participants and the exchange of rewards and costs associated with such transactions, which can be caused by different consequences of profit or loss (McDonald's, 1981).

Chavannes (1901), one of the first modern sociologists to make explicit use of the concept of social exchange, argued that exchange lies at the base of all relations of men with each other, and is the ground work on which society is built. Also, that social exchange embraces all the possible transactions between human beings, from the largest material business transaction to the exchange of love and affection.

1.5. Social Exchange and Marital Stability

Social exchange theory portends that individuals in relationships are motivated by the goodness of outcomes they are expected to bring (Blau, 1964; Thibaut & Kelly, 1959). Marital partners yield goodness of outcomes based on rewards and costs, but each partner must value the mutual activity above a comparison level in order for relational solidarity to be sustained. The comparison level is a standard which represents the accumulation of past experiences weighted by its salience (i.e., past-salient central memory) and reward/cost comparisons. Thus, the outcome of marital exchange is evaluated on the basis of past experience, which in turn leads to a partner's perception of his or her goodness of outcome—a cognitive evaluation of costs and rewards (Edwards & Saunders, 1981).

Marital couples who receive favorable reward/cost outcomes from each other—the proportion of rewards and costs are distributed in a fair ratio to each other—are more likely to be satisfied with their marriage (Homans, 1974). Couples satisfied with their marriage are less likely to dissolve the marriage through divorce or separation (Levinger, 1979). This axiom of social exchange theory suggests that when profits (rewards minus costs) from marital exchange are perceived as equitable, there tends to be a development of solidarity within the marital relationship. Durkheim (1893/1933, p. 202) wrote that "the integration of a social aggregate can only reflect the intensity of the collective life circulating in it" and that group or marital solidarity encourages strong bonds between individuals based upon collective standards of equitable behavior deriving from historical group or shared tradition. The solidarity of a marital relationship, however, is dependent not only upon reward and cost experiences (outcomes) in the past, but also upon the expectations of rewards and costs (outcomes) in future exchanges (Levinger & Snoek, 1972).

Elements of the Social Exchange Theory may also be enriching when analyzing love. In this theory, human behavior is seen as a rational choice where one seeks to maximize pleasure and minimize cost or pain. According to the sociologist George C. Homans (1974), when someone enters into a social interaction they will guide the reaction of others to what they are saying or doing and will continue behavior that is enforced by the behavior of others. This, in a sense, seems similar to what Goffman (1959) meant by needing the audience approval one's role to be validated. Thus, the cohesiveness or strength of a social bond is determined by the degree of reinforcement that members of the group receive. In this way, if the loving behavior that a woman or man expresses towards their partner, it is reciprocated and the social bond becomes stronger and they have more cohesiveness.

1.6. From Theory to Practice

As marriage is a relationship of give and take, love and care, as aforementioned, the theories are quite specifically applicable to this study. Social exchange theory is a concept based on the notion that a relationship between two people

is created through a process of cost-benefit analysis and so it can be used to measure romantic relationships. From a sociological standpoint, applying the metrics that collectively build social exchange theory can be a great tool to analyze relationships and human behavior. The dynamics that go into making this theory work can be useful for sociologists to develop their own theories and concepts regarding the ways in which humans behave with each other. And for this particular research, this theory as well as the 'looking glass' concept and Mead's 'I and me' concept is supportive in order to understand how marital relations function and what further needs to be understood regarding their stability mechanisms.

2. Review of Literature

Marriage is the paramount foundation and kernel for the human society. For every individual, marriage is a distinguished event while being one of the most determining cores and rudiments in the family building process. In society as a whole, it involves several individuals from different backgrounds and different families (Quezimbing & Hallman, 2017).

2.1. Interactional Styles

Conflict prevails throughout every relationship. Therefore, it is important to remember that the way in which a couple interacts with each other during a conflict can contribute to the success and satisfaction of marriage. Gottman (2017) found that with specific interaction styles, how a couple handles conflict is crucial to a successful and satisfying marriage. Four behaviors are extremely destructive to a happy and successful marriage; criticizing, humiliation, defend oneself, and building a rock. He explains that criticism is a statement of what it means to say that something in the world is wrong about one partner. And self-defense is defined as the attempt to defend itself against an argument attack. He also states that humiliation has not been seen in even a single successful and satisfying marital relationship.

2.2. Sexuality

Sexuality is the most intimate part of a couple's relationship, yet necessary to understand what repercussions it has for the marriage. A study by Lega and Stinskiweni (2018) investigates the effects of sexual relationships on the marital satisfaction of couples. To conduct this study, they used a simple sample of 41-year-old couples in Lithuania and examined the relationship between marital satisfaction and sexuality. They found evidence that confirmed the link between marital satisfaction and sexual relationship and also showed that having a partner before marriage reduced the willingness of men and women to marry.

2.3. Partner Support

Lawrence, Bondi, Barry, Brock, Sullivan, Paske, White, Daly, and Adams (2018) conducted a study of 275 married couples to compare the limits of two factors that influence marital satisfaction. They found evidence that men should try to provide extra support without asking for help and women should seek more help to try to increase their freedom of consent. Lawrence et al. (2018) found that husbands and wives differ in their feelings about the amount of support, but that men are less satisfied with support than women are. For men, a sufficient amount of support was estimated for their marital satisfaction, while the amount of support for women was not estimated. This finding implies that a sufficient amount of support was crucial for both men and women. High levels of support for women were found to predict marital satisfaction. Both demands for positive and negative women's support are predictors of marital satisfaction for women.

2.4. Attachment

Another therapeutic model used in working with couples is the Emotional Focused Couples Therapy (EFCT), as described in the study by Wright (2015). A few studies have examined to determine if each individual's attachment may have an effect on marriage success.

Mondor, McDuff, Lucier and Wright (2015) conducted a study that looked at the relationship between attachment and marital satisfaction. In their study, they used a sample size of 172 pairs and found that avoiding contact was a characteristic of depressed couples. They also found that lack of attachment was a valid reason for dissatisfaction between couples with a troubled relationship.

2.5. Education and Marital Relationship

Education is one of the vital determinants of marriage success in developing communities. In recent times it has grown dramatically (Deprett & Bockman, 2016; Schweit & Blausfeld, 2015). Quality education, especially for women, is one of the most significant reasons for better marital relationship (Oppenheimer, 2017). Several studies have examined different factors that can influence the relationship between husband and wife and one of them is education. Much of the research focuses on women in Western societies, and researchers have largely ignored the Pakistani society. It is believed that education may enhance communication skills that play an important role in marital relations. On the other hand, education can increase the concept of freedom and independence of women, and make women emotionally independent (Jansen, 2017). The logics that can explain the relationship between education and marriage or marital relationship are presented in Baker's model (Tahir, 2016). As per the model, two recorded facts about the relationship between education and marriage are not well known. First, people who invest more in

education tend to marry peers that are more educated. Second, education has an impact on the overall marital life and relationship.

2.6. Marital Relation and Practical Life of Women

Rataj and Matiasiak (2016) investigated which family can be happier for married people. Study has used panel data techniques that allow researchers to account for choosing the happiest people. It was found that recruiting women has a positive effect on women's well-being, but decreases the happiness of husbands. It turns out that the husband's participation in the labor market also affects women's satisfaction. However, among men, researchers have noticed a pronounced detrimental effect on the psychological well-being of husbands over wives.

Edsel (2012) to conclude his study, used the World Values Survey data to answer the question: "Who's happy: a housewife or a working woman?" Relating to the non-compulsory work of a wife at home, this work is described in three areas, namely: full-time, part-time, or secular work. In all, the paper found no clear document of the difference between happiness between home women and working women. What they found instead, was evidence that if there was a difference in happiness between family wives and working women, it might be related to the culture and social environment. What may be appealing for a working woman in Western Europe and North America is not the demand elsewhere. The results showed that paid work might be considered valuable in some areas but worthless in others. In particular, the difference in happiness between a home making wife and a working woman may be the result of many cultural and social practices.

2.7. Women Education, Marriage and Divorce

Women's education can influence marital relationship through various reasons, and it can both stabilize or disturb marriages (Becker, Lindsay, & Michael, 2017). Education has the same effect on marital stability as other factors (Langstad & Jalwara, 2015; White & Rogers, 2016). In fact, women's education can reduce divorces among women (Becker et al., 2015). Krieger (2014) and Schwein (2017) have argued that because women's education improve family life, it should stabilize the marital relationship.

However, other studies on education and divorce have found that there is a relationship between education and divorce among women (Jalwara, 2015; Remo, Fukuda, & Iwasa, 2016). Education can also affect divorce for non-economic reasons, though many of these reasons often simply occur (Baker, Lindsay, & Michael, 2017). Educational institutions provide life lessons and human behavior. Educated women are eager to get married at an early age, which Harkinen & Drankers (2016); Jalwara (2016); Mart (2016); Pastor (2014); Schwartz (2016), predicts marriage stability (Lampard, 2013).

2.8. Educated Women and Marital Satisfaction

The level of divorce increased dramatically in the 20th century, which reached its highest level in 1979 and then declined. Another explanation for the high divorce rates of the 1970s may be that this period was changing, with most married couples marrying the right partner, but finding that the couple is insufficient for the modern women's marital relationship (Stevens & Wolfers, 2017). Likewise, it may not be surprising that current divorce rates are lower to those of witnesses in the 1970s. This decline in divorce rates are interesting facts for researchers. In addition, looking at married people in the 1990s, it seems that divorce rates for college graduates are starting to decline with the recent date pairing, especially among those with high or low qualifications.

3. Methodology

Qualitative research methodology was used for a thorough understanding of the influence of women education on marriage. In-depth interviews were used as a method to collect data for this study to get an essence of the effects of women's education on the relationship they have with their spouse. The area chosen for this study was Islamabad. I have conducted interviews in the vicinity of my residence in sector G-14. Being a resident of this city, I was well aware of the area and it was convenient for me as a researcher to conduct interviews and extract information from respondents.

For this study, married non-working women within the age frame 25 – 40 years having bachelors' level of education were considered as the population. As marriage tends to change with proceeding years, I have identified the differences and have developed themes accordingly. This particular age frame has been used because at least bachelors level of education is completed in an average of 24-25 years, and then usually women tend to get married. A sampling frame of 100 households was taken for this research from its theoretical population. 15 women of the aforementioned characteristics were taken as a sample through purposive sampling method to conduct in-depth interviews.

For the purpose of respondent selection in this study, the following criterion of inclusion and exclusion was followed:

Inclusion	Exclusion
At least bachelor level education	Less than bachelor level
Age 25-40	Above or less than 25-40

4. Data Analysis

As qualitative research design was used for this study, thematic content analysis techniques were implemented. During the process of gathering data, it was realized that despite the different educational backgrounds, it was difficult to see any noticeable difference between responses, opinions and perspectives. Similarly, it is worth mentioning that a vast majority of people respond permanently to years of experience, which allows them to speak more confidently and to have more personal knowledge and role models to support their ideas. Also predominantly, the sample of participants may not accurately reflect the ideas of the population under review.

4.1. Mutual Understanding in Married Couples

According to Esch and Stefano (2015), mutual understanding in a relationship affects well-being and health of the individuals by influencing emotions, motivations, attentions and memory and by reducing distress in the relation. Similarly, for Acevedo and Araon (2016), mutual understanding is such a powerful predictor of marital satisfaction that even in long-term marital relation, when obsession ends, marital satisfaction can be assessed through it.

While analyzing the collected data from the participants in order to find out the perspective of women about marital relationships, it was found that most of the educated women are of the opinion the extent of understanding is the key to strengthening the bond of marriage. A participant revealed that the extent of understanding she has with her husband has made her life quite peaceful and contented, *“Me and my husband share everything with each other. We make decisions mutually even if it is about changing the décor of our house or buying new clothes. Similarly, when I need to make a decision I make sure he is a part of it, and he too discusses everything with me and then decides accordingly. Another aspect of an improved mutual understanding between couples is the awareness of likes and dislikes of the other partner. On this question, a subject replied, “He knows what I like and dislike and I know the same about him. This way we avoid arguments by being careful with each other in this regard. But of course this takes years to know. Sometimes being married for 50 years also does not allow a person to understand their partner’s wishes! But yet again, yes they do play a role in good mutual understanding.”*

Another factor that paves the way to a useful mutual understanding between couples is making compromises, and this was found to be the basis of significantly several women’s marital lives. For many women, it was essentially required for marriage stability. As one of them quoted, *“Compromises support the relationship and when I say compromises, I’m going to extend it to more than just making little sacrifices. They are utterly important to sustain the whole structure of marriage”.*

Forgiveness is a vital constituent of an ideal marital relationship. Subjects responded with acknowledgement of the fact that forgiveness is fundamental for overall marital stability. In response to the question on who is inclined towards forgiveness a participant replied, *“Most of the time, I am. I know that no one is perfect and I should accept my partner with his strength and weaknesses.”* The educated women have the mindset that being a woman they need to have a big heart and thus tend to forgive more. They know the weakness and shortcomings of their partners. This study is in accordance with the existing literature on married life that is filled with research suggesting a predicting role of mutual understanding for marital satisfaction. It has been observed that mutual understanding is one of the most important factors of marriage and its dissolution as lack of it is the most important reason for divorce (Risavy, 1995). The research findings are similar to previous studies.

4.2. Marital Communication

In a successful marital relationship, effective communication plays a key role in fulfilling desires and concerns. Previous studies suggested that happy marriages could be distinguished from unhappy marriages by the ratio of positive to negative behavior in the relationship based on communication (Jacobson & Margolin, 2015). A cross-sectional study by Conner and Jacob (2014), has also shown that unsatisfied couples have negative communication behaviors and negative conflict resolution behaviors. The theory of behavior further supports these findings, considering that marital stress is the result of poor communication.

The relevance and influence of communication was actively reflected in the discussions with interviewees. They reported that in a healthy marriage, the interaction between two partners is crucial because there will always be disputes and disagreements. Yet, active interpersonal communication comfortably eases such tensions within the relationship. The analysis informed that educated wives and their husbands talk to each other about their activities on a daily basis.

Similarly, this way they sort out the problems with the help of mutual discussion. An interviewee expressed, *“I think most healthy relationships require effective communication. My husband discusses his day with me and so do I. Rather, on my part, I actually feel incomplete unless and until I have told him everything about my day.”*

Being educated has helped women communicate in more effective and assertive ways. They agree that communication is the best way to deal with problematic issues. A woman said. *“When we face anything disturbing...we dig out the reason and resolve by the mutual discussion....”*

Most of the respondents also spoke about the positive role their husbands play in the socialization of children, and actually mentioned how they themselves have always pushed their husbands for this purpose as men tend to be more

occupied. Altogether, the passage is indicative of the fact that education empowers women with not only careful and sensible handling of their husbands, but also makes them conscious, informed and mindful for their children.

4.3. Care and Trust in Marriage

Without care and trust, there would be an increased possibility of lack of understanding, which could lead to criticism, defensiveness, and contempt. Aycan and Eskin, (2005) define spousal care and trust as the help, advices, understanding and like which partners provide to one another. Spousal care and trust might be of great value for the individuals because it concludes in many positive impacts on the individuals. For instance, it brings marital satisfaction by mitigating the effects of stress-related problems faced in a married relationship (Cutrona, 1996). Also, Gottman, (1999) especially points out that hatred exists and that there is a complete lack of care and trust in others, leading to married couples being divorced forever.

Participants in their discussion of the theme of care and trust were of the view that mutual care and trust is supposed to be the most desirable part of a marriage. It was commented that both trust and care were a necessity for marital stability. Therefore, having the autonomy or freedom of making decision is a salient feature of care and trust. In response to the query from participants on whether they have freedom of decision-making and mobility, majority of the female revealed that they have the freedom of decision-making and it was found that it was positively affected by their level of education. *“My husband allows me much freedom and I can decide things by myself. As far as my education is concerned, I can say that it gives me the sense to decide better and fruitfully, which ultimately reinforces my husband to trust me more in giving me liberty in the decision making process. So education gives you a better understanding to decide better.”*

The extract suggests that education guides women through decision-making and in turn makes their husbands have faith and confidence in them. Furthermore, educated women have also expressed the ability to comprehend that in some matters, their husbands can make better decisions and appreciate this instead of opposing. For instance, a respondent claimed, *“As far as the household decisions are concerned, I am free to make them but still, very significant family decisions are made by my husband and I know that being a man he is more practical, mature and wise and being an educated woman I am not reluctant to accept this.”*

Helping each other in the household activities is part of care and in response to this particular aspect, participants' representation was weak. It was found that majority of the husbands do not assist their wives as much in their household or domestic work. However, this was not negatively affecting the relationship. Rather they happily do the domestic work.

With respect to having financial freedom, participants' opinions stated satisfactory conditions. They were of the viewpoint that educated women should be given the freedom of expenditures. Their husbands partially allow them autonomy in managing the finance of the house. Nevertheless, do provide for them and cater for all their needs efficiently. A participant maintained that, *“My husband always does more for me than he can do in terms of my financial needs and I am very content and I don't want more than this, and I think that, every wife has that freedom and autonomy. This is part of trust and care. If a wife is not given this autonomy, it means that there is a lack of mutual trust and care in the relationship. She must have this freedom. This is her right. Particularly if she is educated as I believe that education gives you more sense of managing finance.”*

Being looked after in sickness is an empathetic gesture for mutual connection and ultimately marital stability. Regarding this, participants' representation was quite assertive as almost all of them were of the view that they are looked after by their husband when they are ill. Their husbands pay more attention to them, supervise and protect them. An interviewee affirmed, *“My husband becomes really compassionate whenever I am ill. In an ideal marriage, the ability to maintain empathy with each other is a beautiful exercise.”*

4.4. Intimacy, Marriage and Education

Intimacy is characterized by removing the psychological boundaries and sharing the most personal thoughts and feelings with the other people and agreed with the findings of (Nevid et al., 2011). There is a significant positive correlation between sexual gratification and commitment to intimate marriages (Tagier, Mohamed & Zari, 2015). Duffy (2004) also showed that sharing dreams and plans in pairs helps to increase intimacy between couples. Johnson and Anderson (2012) found in their research that intimacy helps them build trust in their marriage, which increases marriage satisfaction.

Respondents agreed that if recognized that for a prosperous marriage, physical and emotional connectedness was significantly influential. Correspondingly, being praised by their husbands on their efforts gave them motivation. An interviewee proclaimed, *“To maintain intimacy me and my husband do fun stuff; long drives, romantic dinners or watching movies together. And his appreciation makes me feel very lucky.”*

Educated women can comfortably share and express their physical and emotional sentiments. A woman revealed, *“This is the soul of the marital relationship, you know, it is a beautiful and soothing feeling to know that you have a person in your life with whom you can share your physical and emotional sentiments. Couples need time together. And we spend ample time together.”*

4.5. Extent of Commitment

Extent of commitment in marital life was another significant theme and this study has the same findings as earlier studies had. It has been concluded that the lack of commitment is related to divorce (Johnson et al., 2002), leading to negatively influence the communication and problem solving skills (Brewer, 1993; Robinson & Blanton, 1993). Johnson and Anderson (2013) found that commitments have a positive impact on the overall success and satisfaction of the marriage.

Commitment and unwavering loyalty with your spouse is one of the basic pillars of a successful marriage. For the subjects, the scope of commitment in marriage determines its stability. Upon inquiry, one of them briefed, *“I think commitment has a great impact on the success of a marriage, but I do not necessarily think that time spent together determines the level of commitment. For me, I involve my husband in everything, especially decision-making. This is what keeps him committed.”*

Commitment becomes more exceptionally powerful when couples spend quality time together. Lack of time and attention tends to create spaces between partners, allowing misunderstandings to fill in the gap. Thus, partners who find time for each other and have faith are prone to stay committed.

Support, be it moral or emotional, is part of commitment and in this regard, participants showed a positive response. They had the outlook that husbands fulfill the desires and wishes of educated. In addition, one particular participant shed light on this notion quite well by implying that, *“I might sound wrong but men tend to desire and adore women who are intelligent, educated, and socially aware. They do not show this inclination but it exists. Therefore, as wives, they consider them equals, not as subordinates. Usually women who are less or uneducated than their husband are mistreated.”*

Sacrificing is extremely meaningful in marital relationships and educated women are aware of this fact. Although, this might and does exist in couples between whom the wife is less or not educated. But educated women develop their relationship in such a way that, not only they themselves make sacrifices but their partners do the same. Participants highly weighed the concept of sacrificing for a joyous relationship. They indicated that sacrificing is the ‘blood’ of marriage and husband and wife make sacrifices for each other while performing the roles they are assigned.

As per the opinion of educated married women, education has also groomed their sense of making sacrifices for the betterment of their relationship and they believe that sacrifices make their relationship more durable, reliable and attractive. A respondent quotes, *“It has made my life easy and beautiful; my education helped me a lot to make my marital relationship better. It helped me to understand myself better, what I want from my life, who I am. Overall, I came to know myself and this helped me a lot in making my marital life smooth. It helped me to understand my husband better.”*

Husbands of educated women respect their wives because of their education. They perceive them as mature and wise. One of the respondent, who was a psychologist, claimed, *“I have a degree in Psychology and my degree helped me understand my husband better as a human being and as a husband, and this has positively affected our relationship. Additionally, education gives wives the sense of becoming more realistic and practical, which makes their marital life easy as education teaches one to be realistic and expect less from life. And this is conducive for a happy marital life.”*

With proceeding years, marriages tend to change; behaviors, expectations, actions, and much more. Regarding this, participants straightforwardly expressed the views that their relationship changed with the passage of time and education became useful in making adjustments. Few participants revealed that at the beginning of their marriage, they were not mature enough mentally, but education helped them deal with their new lives in the finest way. A respondent stated, *“At the start of our marriage, I was not mature enough but gradually I understood many things. Meanwhile, my education and knowledge kept me patient and calm. Things were not good at the start but gradually things started getting better. At first, I was very imaginative, expected unrealistically, and fanaticized stuff but with time, I became realistic and I realized that real life and imagination are two different things.”*

5. Conclusion

Altogether, a few specific conclusions drawn from this study are as follows:

- Women education does play a role in marital lives.
- The role played is positive and it influences husband-wife relationship in several ways.
- A well-educated wife can handle her married life better.
- Children’s upbringing by educated mothers tends to be improved.
- Education gives a woman a sense of herself through which she not only gains self- confidence, but also her strong personality becomes conducive to the family atmosphere.

6. Research Suggestions

The study is not void of certain limitations. The foremost limitation is that the variables under consideration might

have given a truer picture of results if the data had been collected from couples rather than married individuals. The picture of rewards perceived and their relationship to outcome variables can be portrayed with more clarity if the responses of both the sender and the receiver partners are compared. Therefore, further researchers should focus partners rather than individuals.

6.1. Practical Recommendations

The study has important implications for academics, theorists and men-in-street. At theoretical level, it supports the Social Exchange Theory. Whereas, at practical level, the study articulates spousal support and love and its forms that increase marital satisfaction among married individuals. The research further proposes important variables for family counselors who are dealing with the clients having disturbed marital relationships, in a sense that, if they focus on motivating couples to increase levels of support, love, intimacy, passion and above all, trust, they can increase their marital satisfaction, ultimately can dissolving relationship problems.

Similarly, educationists, human rights workers, women empowerment supporters will also realize the need of paying attention to women education and relating issues like child marriage, hindrances in girls' education etc. It will not only be favorable for women in general, but will also in turn be quite comforting for their partners, when educated wives will better handle the marital relationship.

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