



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

***INVESTMENT MODEL OF MARITAL COMMITMENT AMONG MARRIED  
POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS IN TEHRAN, IRAN***

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POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS IN TEHRAN, IRAN**

By

**SHIDEH SEYEDSALEHI**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,  
in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science**

**March 2021**

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

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**Chairman : Professor Rumaya binti Juhari, PhD**  
**Faculty : Human Ecology**

Family is not only the place to meet the emotional, material, evolutionary and spiritual needs of its own members, but it is also the origin of human emotions and the main focus of the most traditional intimate relationships and interpersonal interactions, including marriage. A marital relationship has always been an emphasized area. It also has been closely related to commitment as one of the key role players in either the success or the failure of marriages. Rusbult's Investment Model emphasized that increasing in satisfaction level, decreasing in the level of the quality of alternatives, and increasing in investment size would strengthen individuals' marital commitment, and it can contribute to marital stability. This study used Rusbult's Investment Model to investigate the relationship between marital satisfaction, the quality of alternatives, investment size, and marital commitment due to the increase in the rate of divorces in Iran over the last decade.

The current cross-sectional study determined and evaluated the relationships between the satisfaction level, quality of alternatives, investment size, the demographic factors with the marital commitment, and finding the predictors of marital commitment among the married individual postgraduate students in Iran. Based on the convenience sampling method, 473 respondents have been chosen to cover the aim of the study. The Farsi translated version of a standard self-administrated Web-based questionnaire was adopted. The reliability of the questionnaire was tested by Cronbach's alpha in both pilot and the actual study. All Cronbach's Alphas were above 0.80; therefore, all subscales were reliable.

Accordingly, the findings of the study revealed significant bivariate correlations between satisfaction level, quality of alternatives, investment size, gender and having children with marital commitment; also, no significant correlation has been found between age, marital duration, family income and spouse's educational level with marital commitment

among respondents. Moreover, Bootstrap multiple linear regression on the relevant variables revealed gender as the strongest predictor of marital commitment, followed by marital satisfaction, the quality of alternatives and the investment size among respondents. The predictor model explained 59.5 percent of the variance in respondents' marital commitment in the study. Therefore, the results lend support to the use of Rusbult's Investment Model that explains significant factors that increase an individuals' marital commitment in the context of Iran society. This study shed light on the stability of marriage's contributors to help the policymakers and professionals to provide more efficient policies and programs. Further studies on Rusbult's Investment Model might assist in generalizing findings for greater benefit.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

## **MODEL PELABURAN KOMITMEN PERKAHWINAN DALAM KALANGAN PELAJAR PASCA SISWAZAH DI TEHRAN, IRAN**

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Keluarga bukan sahaja tempat untuk memenuhi keperluan emosi, material, evolusi dan kerohanian ahlinya sendiri, tetapi juga merupakan asal-usul emosi manusia dan fokus utama hubungan intim dan interaksi interpersonal yang paling tradisional, termasuk perkahwinan. Hubungan perkahwinan selalu menjadi tumpuan. Ini juga berkait erat dengan komitmen sebagai salah satu peranan penting dalam kejayaan atau kegagalan sebuah perkahwinan. Model Pelaburan Rusbult menekankan bahawa peningkatan pada tahap kepuasan, penurunan pada tahap kualiti alternatif, dan peningkatan ukuran pelaburan akan memperkuat komitmen perkahwinan individu tersebut, dan sangat menyumbang kepada kestabilan perkahwinan. Kajian ini menggunakan Model Pelaburan Rusbult untuk menyelidik hubungan antara kepuasan perkahwinan, kualiti alternatif, ukuran pelaburan, dan komitmen perkahwinan kerana peningkatan kadar perceraian di Iran selama satu dekad terakhir.

Kajian keratan rentas semasa menentukan dan menilai hubungan antara tahap kepuasan, kualiti alternatif, ukuran pelaburan dan faktor demografi dengan komitmen perkahwinan, juga menemukan peramal komitmen perkahwinan di kalangan pelajar pascasiswazah yang sudah berkahwin di Iran. Berdasarkan kaedah pensampelan kemudahan, 473 responden telah dipilih untuk merangkumi tujuan kajian. Versi terjemahan Farsi dari borang soal selidik berasaskan Web sendiri standard yang diguna pakai. Kebolehpercayaan soal selidik diuji oleh Cronbach's alpha dalam kedua-dua pilot dan kajian sebenar. Semua Cronbach's alpha berada di atas 0.80; oleh itu, semua subskala boleh dipercayai.

Oleh itu, penemuan kajian menunjukkan korelasi bivariat yang signifikan antara tahap kepuasan, kualiti alternatif, ukuran pelaburan, jantina dan mempunyai anak dengan komitmen perkahwinan; juga, tidak ada hubungan yang signifikan antara usia, tempoh perkahwinan, pendapatan keluarga dan tahap pendidikan pasangan dengan komitmen

perkahwinan di kalangan responden. Lebih-lebih lagi, regresi linear berganda Bootstrap pada pemboleh ubah yang relevan menunjukkan bahawa jantina adalah peramal kuat komitmen perkahwinan, diikuti oleh kepuasan perkahwinan, kualiti alternatif dan ukuran pelaburan di kalangan responden. Model peramal menjelaskan 59.5 peratus varians komitmen perkahwinan responden dalam kajian. Oleh itu, hasilnya menyokong penggunaan Model Pelaburan Rusbult yang menjelaskan faktor penting yang meningkatkan komitmen perkahwinan seseorang dalam konteks masyarakat Iran. Kesimpulannya, kajian ini menjelaskan kestabilan penyumbang perkahwinan untuk membantu pembuat dasar dan profesional untuk menyediakan dasar dan program yang lebih efisien. Kajian lebih lanjut mengenai Model Pelaburan Rusbult dapat membantu dalam membuat generalisasi penemuan untuk keuntungan yang lebih besar.



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This thesis was submitted to the Senate of the Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

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## Declaration by Members of Supervisory Committee

This is to confirm that:

- the research conducted and the writing of this thesis was under our supervision;
- supervision responsibilities as stated in the Universiti Putra Malaysia (Graduate Studies) Rules 2003 (Revision 2012-2013) are adhered to.

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the background of the current study in relation to variables including marital satisfaction, quality of alternatives, investment size, marital commitment, and relationship stability, and statement of the problem, and significance of study followed by research questions, research objectives, research hypotheses, the definition of terms, theoretical and conceptual frameworks.

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Today's world is shifting to be modernised and developed. However, the marriage value continues to be appreciated and practiced significantly in most people's lives. From a traditional social point of view, it is evident that society is made from the perspective of families (Wardle, 2016), particularly when the majority of people pass their principal psychological and emotional life in the unit of their families (Sexton & Lebow, 2015). "Family" is the central nucleus of every community and the centre of various aspects of health and wellbeing also it is the origin of human emotions and the focus of the most traditional intimate relationships and interpersonal interactions; however, it is not the only place to meet the emotional, material, evolutionary and spiritual needs of its own members. Furthermore, marriage is mostly identified as the base of society while it is meaningfully cooperating in shaping the culture and foundation of the society (Yektafar-Hooshvar, 2016). Families are progressively seen as organisations where the partners potentially came to practice demonstrative contentment and satisfy their mutual requirements in relation to their children (Sexton & Lebow, 2015) as well. These traditional highlighted concepts have been affected in the modernisation transition along with many other concepts in social and individual levels.

The process of transition from traditional to modernise system has culturally changed peripheral countries by creating the division splitting and weakening the factors of traditional society (Hezarjaribi et al., 2017). Therefore, the family-centred culture has been partially transformed to the person-centred system, and this process has altered the structure of marriage from entity-centred to relationship-centred, which might potentially cause several social complications in families (Hezarjaribi et al., 2017). For instance, as the number of highly educated Iranian women has dramatically increased, it encouraged more participation in social activities and more independence. In a greater sense, mortality rates reduced, fertility rates declined, the age of marriage raised, the expectations of marital life increased, and the freedom in selecting the spouse enhanced in the Iranian women category. These shifts have evolved in Iranian families as a result of the transition. The research revealed the divorce rate had increased dramatically in Iran, especially among postgraduate students (Hezarjaribi et al., 2017). Ghoroghi et al. (2015) reported the divorce rate is relatively high among graduate students.



Being a married postgraduate student is not a laidback role to be due to its multiple progressive facets. Each partner as a single unit of society faces a genuinely different life experience at their personal, working, and academic levels, and shaping cumulative challenges in the student's life and the marriage consequently (Ghoroghi et al., 2015). Postgraduate study years seem an important period in an individual's life, especially in married couple cases, while potentially encourages more marital disagreement and even divorce (Ghoroghi et al., 2012). Hassan and Al Horany (2011) also mentioned, being married and pursuing graduate study initiates a considerable amount of personal effort to balance between work and marriage, marital commitment, financial management, parenting, and handling the relationship itself.

Marital commitment plays a vital role in either the success or the failure of marriages while assisting in the interpretation of the potential reasons contributing to relationship breakdowns or survivals (Weigel & Ballard-Reisch, 2014). Furthermore, Clements and Swensen (2000) also consider the spouse's commitment as the strongest predictor of quality of life in marriage. Another study done by Tang and Curran (2013) nominated marital commitment as the strongest predictor of the quality of marital life based on its relation to more meaningful communication, greater happiness, and constructive behaviour, particularly in the presence of complications. A high level of marital commitment is profoundly associated with greater love expression, higher marital compatibility, stability, better problem-solving skills, and marital satisfaction (Olson et al., 2013). Marital commitment also indicates long-term and durable relationships (Adams & Jones, 1997), and high levels of commitment predict the stability of relationships for more than five years (Sprecher & Fehr, 2005). Even in a recent study, marital commitment has been shown to be a good predictor of a stable long-term marriage (e.g., more than 15 years) (Mehdizadegan & Renani, 2016).

A legal and culturally accepted family is solely identified through a registered marriage in Middle Eastern societies, particularly in Iran. Sexual relations are religiously and culturally permitted by marriage, and unregistered relations are lawfully forbidden, follows by legal penalties; therefore, early age marriage for both males and females has been encouraged during the long history of Iranian tradition. Recently, the transition of traditional society to modern society and adaptive changes in law and society dismiss an alteration on marriage age and consequently increased the marriage age. Growth in the age of marriage, an increasing number of divorces, less offspring, and higher levels of education for females change the traditional families' interaction model. Some significant partner's traditional role changes in relation to noted variations are imposing a great quantity of stress on Iran society in the current social transition (Edalati & Redzuan, 2010). Alongside socio-cultural differences, married couples must encounter battles regarding their personal differences. In relation to personal differences, married couples with the capability of managing fights, mutual understanding, and avoiding criticising each other have higher stability and satisfaction in their marital lives (McCoy et al., 2017).

Marital commitment, as the highlighted point, was investigated in various models, including Rusbult's Investment Model of Commitment (1980). Rusbult's Investment Model of commitment (1980) depicts the theory of interdependence and interconnects structures to analyse the tendency to maintain a relationship, based on the theory of interdependence to predict the marital commitment and stability of romantic relationships. According to Rusbult's Investment Model of Commitment, marital commitment is affected by the three key elements; the level of satisfaction with the relationship, the quality of the alternatives, and the amount of investment in the relationship (Rusbult, 1980).

Even though marriage and marital commitment have got their own specific depth in each context, in Middle Eastern Muslim-based countries, including Iran, the country's rules and regulations along the transitional journey from traditional society to a modern one affects the marital circumstances. The individuals' satisfaction level, quality of alternatives, and investment size in their marriage have been potential predictors of marital commitment's level between spouses and the stability of the marriage and significantly contribute to either staying or leaving their marital relationship (Caryl, 2011).

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Iran, as a developing country, has been affected by its long history, culture, and tradition. The current and new Iranian generations are facing a great conflict between modernisation and culture. Tehran is the capital of Iran, with the largest population contains greater cultural, racial, and religious diversities than other states. Since the 20th century, Tehran, as the capital city, has become the most popular place for immigrants from all over the country (Hezarjaribi et al., 2017). Therefore, the pace of social changes and the population's adaptability are relatively higher in Tehran.

Census organisation of Iran revealed the highest number of marriages (114900), and divorces (24667) happened in Tehran in 2006. According to statistics, 21.46 percentage of marriages in Tehran have been normally ended by divorce. By 2017, still, the highest rate of both marriage and divorce belongs to Tehran (more than twice in percentage= 45.35 %) than other states; meanwhile, the number of marriages decreased and divorced increased, particularly in the university students' group (Registration, 2017).

The divorce rate is still growing daily in contrast with the rate of marriage in Iran, even in the presence of lettered, social, and legitimate restrictions (Registration 2017). According to the Census Organization of Iran, in 2006, the number of marriages was 778291, and the number of divorces was 94039, which means 12.082 percent of marriages got terminated in Iran. Later, by the year 2017, the number of marriages decreased while the divorce cases increased. The number of marriages in 2017 was 608956, and the number of divorced couples was 17457, so 28.66% of marriages got terminated (Registration, 2017). All highlighted statistics revealed the drastic changes in

marital relationships and shed light on the urge of studies, including the impactful factors on the stability and duration of marital relationships in Iran society.

According to the latest data from the Census organisation of Iran (2017), among the 30459 number of recorded divorces in Tehran, the number of university students who got a divorce was particularly increased than other social groups. Consequently, it is important to discover the important factors that affect commitment in marriage among graduate-level students in Iran. Hassan and Al Horany (2011) argumentatively stated that graduate-level study is one important decision in life as it could affect how one's life is shaped, including their marriage. In addition to this, extra challenges are known to be experienced by married students due to the new study environment. Marital lives and study lives are not easy to be handled at the same time (Ghoroghi et al., 2012). Therefore, marital commitment is sensibly needed to be studied among postgraduate students in Iran.

Every successful marriage has survived on three fundamental pillars of commitment, attraction, and understanding. Marital commitment is identified as one of the vital factors in the growth and stability of personal relationships, which plays a crucial role in the success or failure of marriages while helping to interpret the reasons and perceptions related to the marital relationship's break down or survival (Adams & Jones, 1997; Weigel & Ballard-Reisch, 2014). The cumulative stress and disagreement between couples in the marital relationship might lead to less commitment in the relationship and unstable marriage (Zaheri et al., 2016). Karimi et al. (2019), based on a systematic review, noted marital commitment is the most important factor in the stability of marriage in the society of Iran. In other words, lack of commitment is a key issue in unstable marriages in Iran.

The need for a proper tool to identify the impactful components in marital survival is necessary based on the given meaningful reputation to the marital relationships as the core group of society; however, the divorce rate is increasing in Iranian society. There are various available scales to determine commitment levels; however, most of them measure the different types of commitment, such as Levinger's cohesiveness scale model (1965) and three-component model of commitment developed by Meyer and Allen (1991), and these models have not been proven to be used on intimate relationships. The Investment Model of Commitment by Rusbult (1980) is the only available and rigorously proven scale to determine commitment in intimate relationships to find the predictors in various societies. The scale of Rusbult's Investment Model of Commitment is a suitable tool to identify the factors affecting marital relationships since commitment is one of the most important components of keeping a marriage going and avoiding divorce. According to Rusbult's Investment Model of Commitment, commitment is affected by three key elements, the level of satisfaction with the relationship, the quality of the alternatives, and the amount of investment in the relationship (Rusbult, 1980).

The lack of studies and research on the quality of the alternatives and the amount of investment in the relationship, as impactful factors on commitment, is obvious in the context of Iran society and particularly in married postgraduate students. On the other hand, the Marital Investment Scale (Rusbult et al., 1998) has been translated in 2018 for the very first time in Iran (Ghezelseflo et al., 2018), and it has been poorly used in Iran society. Therefore, the current study is focused on exploring and examining Rusbult's Investment Model of Commitment (Rusbult, 1980) among married postgraduate students in the context of Iran society (Tehran) to fulfil the following research questions.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

The following research questions are aimed to be answered in this study:

**Research Question 1:** What are the relationships between demographic factors, satisfaction level, quality of alternatives, and investment size with marital commitment among the respondents?

**Research Question 2:** Are there any differences between female and male respondents and the respondents with or without children in their satisfaction level, quality of alternatives, investment size, and marital commitment?

**Research Question 3:** What factors significantly predict marital commitment?

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

#### **1.4.1 General Objective**

This study aims to determine the relationships between independent variables in Rusbult's Investment Model of Commitment and the commitment among married postgraduate students in Tehran, Iran.

#### **1.4.2 Specific Objective**

Following specific research objectives are aimed to be fulfilled in this study:

**Research Objective 1:** To describe demographic factors (age, gender, marital duration, having children, education level, the field of study, number of semesters, working status, and family income), level of satisfaction, quality of alternatives, investment size, and commitment through the Rusbult's Investment Model of Commitment from the viewpoint of Tehran city married postgraduate students.

**Research Objective 2:** To determine the relationships between demographic factors, satisfaction level, quality of alternatives, investment size with commitment through the Rusbult's Investment Model of Commitment from the viewpoint of Tehran city married individual postgraduate students.

**Research Objective 3:** To compare satisfaction level, quality of alternatives, investment size, and marital commitment between male and female respondents and those with and without children.

**Research Objective 4:** To determine significant predictors of marital commitment among respondents.

### 1.5 Research Hypothesis

In general, it is hypothesised that satisfaction level, quality of alternatives, investment size predicts marital commitment among respondents.

Based on the objectives of this study, the following hypothesis are formulated:

**Ha1:** Higher satisfaction relates to higher marital commitment among the respondents.

**Ha2:** Higher quality of alternatives relates to lower marital commitment among the respondents.

**Ha3:** Larger investment size relates to higher marital commitment among the respondents.

**Ha4:** Younger respondents are more committed to their marriage.

**Ha5:** Respondents with longer marital duration tend to be more committed to their marriage.

**Ha6:** Respondents with higher family income tend to be more committed to their marriage.

**Ha7:** Female respondents are more committed to their marriage than male respondents.

**Ha8:** Respondents with children are more committed to their marriage.

**Ha9:** Marital satisfaction, quality of alternatives, investment size, age, gender, family income, and having children are significant predictors of marital commitment among respondents.

## 1.6 Significance of the Study

This research has been focusing on the role of marital commitment among married postgraduate students and investigated the relationships between the satisfaction level, the quality of alternatives, and the investment size with the commitment level through Rusbult's Investment Model of Commitment. On the other hand, this study aimed to find the predictors of commitment among respondents by examining the relationships between demographic factors and marital commitment. The current study contributed to the enrichment of the gap in the body of literature on marital commitment through Rusbult's Investment Model of Commitment on married postgraduate students in the context of Iran, Tehran society. Moreover, the results of the current study might serve the government, policymakers, community workers, and the individuals contributing to decreasing the divorce rate in Iran, Tehran; as well as the family health centres, pre-marriage education centres, and other relevant organisations including, university counsellors to develop effective intervention programs to promote marital satisfaction and maintenance.

## 1.7 Definition of Terms

### Satisfaction Level

**Conceptual Definition:** According to Rusbult et al. (1998), "Satisfaction level refers to the positive versus negative affect experienced in a relationship. Marital satisfaction is influenced by the extent to which a partner fulfils the individual's most important needs."

**Operational Definition:** Satisfaction Level refers to the respondent's score on the Marital Satisfaction subscale of the Rusbult's Investment Model of Commitment inventory (Rusbult et al., 1998). A high score means a high level of satisfaction, and a low score means a low marital satisfaction.

### Quality of alternatives

**Conceptual Definition:** Results seen as attainable in the best possible alternative to the current relationship. A person has better quality options so as to meet his/her significant requirements outside the current relationship (Tan et al., 2018).

**Operational Definition:** Quality of alternatives refers to the respondent's score on the Quality of Alternatives subscale of the Rusbult's Investment Model of Commitment inventory (Rusbult et al., 1998). A high score means a high quality of alternative, and a low score means a low quality of alternative.

## **Investment size**

**Conceptual Definition:** Magnitude and significance of resources attached to the current relationship that would become lost or marred if the relationship were to cease. The investment by a person is so high that he/she has lots of tangible and intangible resources (Tan et al., 2018).

**Operational Definition:** Investment size refers to the respondent's score on the Investment Size subscale of the Investment Model of Commitment inventory (Rusbult et al., 1998). A high score means a small amount of investment, and a low score means a large amount of investment.

## **Marital Commitment**

**Conceptual Definition:** The intention of a person to maintain a psychological attachment to a relationship and a spouse, and a long-term orientation toward the relationship and the desire to continue the relationship (Arriaga et al., 2006).

**Operational Definition:** Commitment refers to the respondent's score on the Marital Commitment subscale of the Rusbult's Investment Model of Commitment inventory (Rusbult et al., 1998). A high score means a high level of marital commitment, and a low score means a low marital commitment.

## **1.8 Theoretical Background**

One of the most highlights theories related to marital commitment is Rusbult's Investment Model of Commitment (Rusbult, 1980). Rusbult's Investment Model of Commitment portrays the interdependence theory and interconnect's structure to evaluate the inclination to preserve a relationship. Rusbult designed the Investment Model of Commitment based on the theory of interdependence to predict the commitment and stability of romantic relationships.

According to Rusbult's Investment model of commitment, the commitment is affected by three key elements; the level of satisfaction with the relationship, the quality of the alternatives, and the amount of investment in the relationship (Rusbult, 1980). The strong commitment of a relationship in a romantic relationship is related to the sense of people's satisfaction with the relationship (Olson et al., 2013).

### **Satisfaction Level**

In this model, the level of satisfaction means experiencing positive emotions against negative emotions in a relationship. The level of satisfaction depends on the extent to

which the spouse or the other person is meeting other parties' needs (Chitsazzadeh Alaf & Sanai, 2017).

Marital satisfaction is an important factor during postgraduate years among married students, which affects their psychological wellbeing (Ghoroghi et al., 2015). Individuals feel satisfied whenever their relationship has more rewards than costs. Rewards are the provided services by a spouse or the relationship itself (e.g., sexual pleasure or social support). Costs are the disliked components of a spouse or the relationship itself (e.g., ongoing conflicts or financial pressures) (Gettings & Wilson, 2014).

### **Quality of Alternatives**

According to Rusbult's Investment Model of Commitment, the quality of the alternatives is the second most important predictor of commitment. The quality of the alternatives means the perceived utility of the best alternatives for a relationship. It refers to the subjective evaluation of people from the cost and rewards that they derive from the current relationship, including finding another partner, spending time with friends and family, or spending time alone (Gettings & Wilson, 2014; Olson et al., 2013).

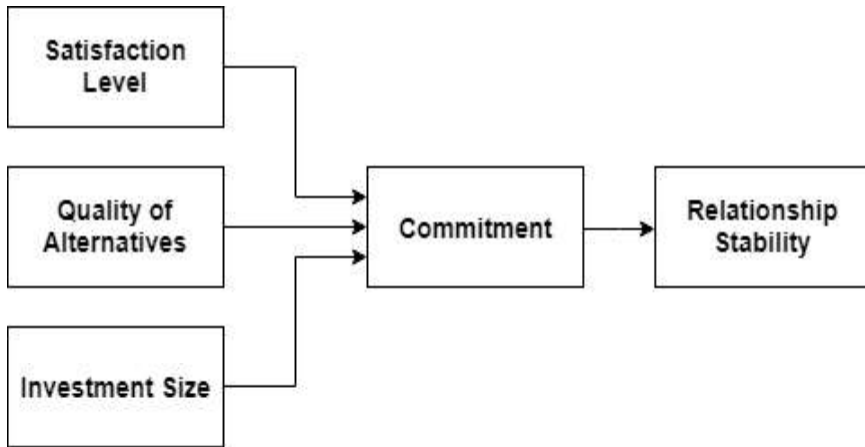
### **Investment Size**

The third factor that affects the commitment according to Rusbult's Investment Model of Commitment is the amount of investment. The amount of investment refers to the size and importance of the sources that depend on the relationship, the sources that are reduced or lost when the relationship ends. For the development of a relationship, spouses invest many resources directly in the hope of developing their relationships (Etcheverry et al., 2013).

However, some indirect investments end when the relationship is terminated, such as mutual friends, personal identities, children, or joint assets that are related to the relationship (Caryl, 2011). The invested resources will increase the commitment because the investment increases the cost of ending the relationship and acts as a psychological power to continue the relationship (Brooks et al., 2018).



## 1.9 The Rusbult's Investment Model of Commitment Scale



**Figure 1.1 : The Rusbult Investment Model of Commitment Scale** (Rusbult, 1983)

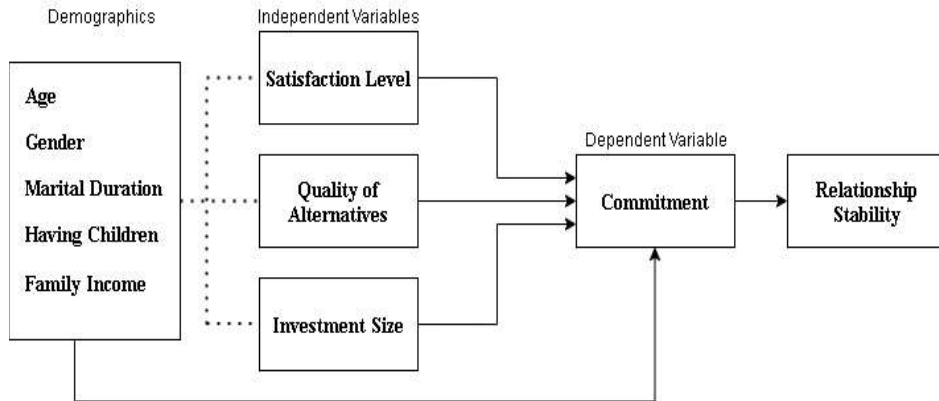
## 1.10 Conceptual Framework

The framework represents a research plan and shows the ideas and variables relevant to the study in summary.

The conceptual framework for this study, shown in Figure 1.2, is based on Rusbult's Investment Model of Commitment. The arrows designate the divisions and relationships between the variables of the research. The demographic variables are related to the dependent variable (commitment) directly, and they are related indirectly to the independent variables, which have been shown by dotted lines in Figure 1.2. Additionally, the satisfaction level, the quality of alternatives, and the investment size directly affect marital commitment (DV). Moreover, relationship stability is the outcome of Rusbult's Investment Model of Commitment that is potentially predicted by marital commitment.

This study aims to determine the relationships between satisfaction level, quality of alternatives, investment size, and commitment of the Rusbult's Investment Model of Commitment among married postgraduate students in Tehran, Iran; while age, gender, marital duration, having children, and family income are considered as demographic variables.

Figure 1.2 refers to the conceptual framework of the current research among married postgraduate students in Tehran, Iran.



**Figure 1.2 : Conceptual Framework**

### 1.11 Limitation of Research

Despite all the respected findings of the study, some limitations were co-existing along the journey.

The absence of literature, including empirical support on the Rusbult's Investment Model of Commitment Scale (Rusbult, 1983), particularly in Iran, improvised some limitations of the study. This study has been a correlational study in nature, so the lack of control on the unpredictable variable is presented. The lack of previous literature and the existence of unpredictable variables might affect the generalizability of the study on larger scales. Therefore, further studies in other communities and groups are required to assist the generalizability of the findings.

The next limitation would be related to the employed data collection technique. Utilising the self-reporting online data collection technique might expose participants to the potential social desirability in self-reporting surveys.

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