



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***FAMILY-OF-ORIGIN EXPERIENCES AND MARITAL ADJUSTMENT
AMONG MARRIED IRANIAN POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS
IN MALAYSIA***

SOUDABEH GHOROGHI

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IN MALAYSIA**

BY

SOUDABEH GHOROGHI



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

April 2012

I'd dedicate each of the 142 pages of this thesis to:

Mylate **father**,

My loving **mother**, and

My supportive **siblings**



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

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April 2012

Chairman: Siti Aisha Hassan, PhD

Faculty: Educational Studies

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationships between family-of-origin experiences and marital adjustment in a sample of married postgraduate Iranian students in Malaysia. The sample consisted of 220 married students (92 Master's degree and 128 Doctoral degree) including 117 females and 107 males aged 25-60. Students were randomly recruited to participate in the study through their email addresses, obtained from School of Graduate Studies at Universiti Putra Malaysia. The respondents completed demographic information and two questionnaires online including Family-of-Origin Scale (FOS; Hovestadt, et al., 1985) and the Locke-Wallace Marital Adjustment Test (LWMAT; Locke & Wallace, 1959).

A quantitative correlational survey design was utilized in the present study. The researcher was interested to investigate the relationship between family of origin experiences and marital adjustment. This study sought to determine the relationships

of number of children and duration of marriage with marital adjustment. Additionally, the relationship between experiences in family-of-origin scale and subscales with marital adjustment was investigated. Differences of male and female married students in terms of association between family-of-origin experiences and marital adjustment were examined. Finally this study identified marital adjustment influences by family-of-origin dimensions. Data analysis, using SPSS version 19, included frequencies, percentages, mean scores, Pearson correlation, Fisher r-to-z transformation and multiple linear regression.

The results indicated that there was no correlation between number of children and marital adjustment. Similarly, the correlation between duration of marriage and marital adjustment was not significant. Family-of-origin experiences were positively and significantly correlated with marital adjustment. Men and women did not show any significant difference in association between their family-of-origin experiences and marital adjustment. Finally, family-of-origin dimensions had significant influence on marital adjustment.

The result of this study established the relationship between family-of-origin experiences and marital adjustment among married postgraduate Iranian students. Therefore, it has clear implications for clinicians, family educators and counselors and couple therapists. The result of the study can benefit those who may involve in various family-related challenges such as premarital counseling, educating couples, marital separation, marital relationship quality and divorce predicting.

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

**PENGALAMAN KELUARGA ASAL DAN PENYESUAIAN ERKAHWINAN
DALAM KALANGAN PELAJAR-PELAJAR PASCA
SISWAZAH IRANDI MALAYSIA**

Oleh

SOUDABEH GHOROGHI

April 2012

Pengerusi: Siti Aishah Hassan, PhD

Fakulti: Pengajian Pendidikan

Tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk menguji hubungan antara pengalaman keluarga asal dan penyesuaian perkahwinan dalam kalangan pelajar pasca siswazah Iran di Malaysia. Sampel terdiri daripada 220 pelajar yang sudah berkahwin (92 pelajar Master dan 128 pelajar PhD), termasuklah 117 perempuan dan 107 lelaki berumur di antara 25-60 tahun. Pelajar telah direkrut secara rawak untuk terlibat dalam kajian ini melalui alamat e-mel yang diperolehi dari Sekolah Pengajian Siswazah, Universiti Putra Malaysia. Responden telah mengisi maklumat demografi dan dua soal selidik secara atas-talian iaitu Family-of-Origin Scale (FOS; Hovestadt, et al., 1985) dan Locke-Wallace Marital Adjustment Test (LWMAT; Locke & Wallace, 1959).

Rekabentuk kajian quantitative korrelasi telah digunakan. Kajian ini adalah untuk mengenalpasti hubungan antara pengalaman keluarga asal dan penyesuaian perkahwinan. Ianya juga untuk menentukan hubungan antara bilangan anak dan

tempoh perkahwinan dengan penyesuaian perkahwinan. Selain itu, hubungan antara skala serta sub skala pengalaman keluarga asal dan penyesuaian perkahwinan juga telah diterokai. Perbezaan antara responden lelaki dan perempuan dari segi hubungan di antara pengalaman keluarga asal dan penyesuaian perkahwinan telah dikaji. Akhirnya kajian ini juga telah mengenalpasti pengaruh dimensi hubungan di antara pengalaman keluarga asal dan penyesuaian perkahwinan. Analisis data dengan SPSS 19.0 merangkumi, frekuensi, peratusan, skor purata, korelasi Pearson, *transformasi Fisher r-to-z*, serta pelbagai regresi linear.

Hasil kajian ini menunjukkan tiada korelasi di antara bilangan anak dan penyesuaian perkahwinan. Demikian pula korelasi antara tempoh perkahwinan dengan penyesuaian perkahwinan adalah tidak signifikan. Pengalaman keluarga asal menunjukkan korelasi positif dan signifikan dengan penyesuaian perkahwinan. Lelaki dan perempuan tidak menunjukkan perbezaan signifikan korelasi antara pengalaman keluarga asal dan penyesuaian perkahwinan. Akhirnya didapati bahwa dimensi keluarga asal mempunyai pengaruh signifikan terhadap penyesuaian perkahwinan.

Hasil daripada kajian ini menunjukkan hubungan antara pengalaman dalam keluarga asal dan penyesuaian dalam perkahwinan di antara pelajar Iran yang telah berkahwin dan sedang melanjutkan pengajian siswazah. Oleh sebab itu, kajian ini memberikan implikasi kepada doktor, pendidik keluarga dan kaunselor serta ahli terapi pasangan. Hasil kajian ini boleh memberikan manfaat kepada mereka yang terlibat dengan pelbagai cabaran kekeluargaan seperti; kaunseling praperkahwinan, mendidik

pasangan , pemisahan perkahwinan, kualiti hubungan perkahwinan dan ramalan
penceraian.



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Lastly, I offer my regards and blessings to all of those who supported me in any respect during the completion of the project.



I certify that an Examination Committee has met on date of viva voce to conduct the final examination of Soudabeh Ghoroghi master science of philosophy thesis entitled “Family-of-Origin Experiences and Marital Adjustment among Married Postgraduate Iranian Students in Malaysia” in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the master of science.

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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotation and citation which have been dully acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

SOUDABEH GHOROGHI

Date: 3 April 2012



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