UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

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

SOUDABEH GHOROGHI

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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 sub-scales 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

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Rekabentuk kajian quantitative korrelasi telah digunapakai. 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 kolerasi di antara bilangan anak dan penyesuaian
perkahwinan. Demikian pula korelasi antara tempoh perkahwinan dengan
penyesuaian perkahwinan adalah tidak signifikan. Pengalaman keluarga asal
menunjukkan kolerasi 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.

Members of the Examination Committee were as follows:

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Date: 28 June 2012
This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

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Date
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

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