Relationship between Families of Origin and Differentiation Level on Marital Intimacy of the Teachers

Sedigheh Sedarattalab
Department of Psychology, Rasht Branch, Islamic Azad University, Rasht, Iran

Farhad Asghari*
Department of Counseling, University of Guilan, Rasht, Iran
Corresponding Author: Farhad.asghari@gmail.com

Abstract

This study aims to investigate the effect of characteristics family of origin and differentiation level on the marital intimacy of the teachers. This study was correlational. The statistical population consisted of all teachers of elementary, middle and high schools in the academic year 2015 in Astaneh Ashrafieh city. Using the multi-stage cluster sampling method 206 persons was selected. Then, using the family of origin questionnaire, differentiation and marital Intimacy were evaluated. Data was analyzed using Pearson correlation and multivariate regression. The results showed that there is no relationship between the features of the family of origin and the total score of the differentiation level and marital intimacy. Moreover, there is no relationship between features of the family of origin and marital intimacy. There is a negative relationship between the features of the family of origin and the total score of differentiation level, and emotional aspects of emotional reactivity and fusion with others at P<0.05, but there is a negative relationship with I-position at P<0.01). There was no emotional relationship between features of family of origin and romantic gateway. There is a negative relationship between marital intimacy and I-position at P<0.01 (r=- 0.148). Nevertheless, there was no relationship between marital intimacy and the total score of differentiation and aspects of emotional reactivity, emotional fusion, and romantic gateway. There is a negative relationship between marital intimacy and duration of the marital life. There is no relationship between the duration of marital life and the total score of differentiation level and its aspects (emotional reactivity, I-position, romantic gateway, and emotional fusion). There is no relationship between the age and total score of the differentiation level and its aspects. Results of regression analysis showed that duration of the marital life significantly explains the variance of the dependent variable (marital intimacy) (10.8%). However, the characteristics of the family of origin, differentiation level, and chronological age have no meaningful contribution in explaining the variance of the dependent variable (marital intimacy).

Keywords: Family of Origin, Differentiation Level, Marital Intimacy, Teachers.


Introduction

Family is one of the main foundations of societies. Developing healthy communities is dependent on healthy families, their mental health, and having a good relationship with each other (Bernstein and Bernstein, 1994, translated by Pourabedi Naeini and Monshi, 2015). Families are the smallest social groups. Societies in which all members are healthy, certainly, are healthy. Therefore, improving the healthy families lead to the healthy societies and therefore, experiences of those who have taken this path, should not be ignored (Rajaei et al., 2006).

Family is a kind of social life, with healthy and constructive interaction between people, altruism, intimacy, and empathy. People satisfy their physical, rational, and emotional needs within their families. Recognizing the biological and psychological needs and the way to satisfy them, and using the techniques for recognizing the biological and psychological needs is essential. Personal satisfaction with life indicates the people’s satisfaction with their families and this shows their satisfaction with their lives and facilitates the material and spiritual development of the societies (Edalati, 2010). According to Bagarozzi (2010), intimacy, closeness, similarity and a romantic or emotional personal relationship needs to recognize and understand people’s needs in order to show the emotions and thoughts as the origins of the closeness and similarity. According to this definition, components of intimacy can be divided into nine areas: emotional intimacy, psychological intimacy, intellectual intimacy, sexual intimacy, physical intimacy, aesthetic intimacy, social and recreational intimacy and time intimacy (Zolfaghari, 2008).

Marital intimacy is valuable, because it improves the marital commitment, adjustment, and satisfaction. Intimacy is a real need that grows in the framework of survival need for attachment. The need for intimacy as growth, maturity, differentiation, and advanced manifestation of the need to connect is conceptualized. Since the need for the intimacy includes the early need for attachment, investigating the basic relationships of the individuals with their primary care providers is important. Early attachment patterns can be considered as the effective covert cognitive structures that mainly affect the personal life. The process growth of separation, individuality, creating a healthy balance between separation and connection in childhood are as the foundation for future intimate relations (Etemadi, 2006).

Psychologists define intimacy as the ability to communicate with others, express the emotions, and consider it as the undeniable right and of natural states of the people. Sternberg (1989) in their three-dimensional model of love considers intimacy as the close relationship with other and believes that fair participation in family life leads to intimacy. Intimate relationships are as one of the main aspects of the marital life has a long history. Its classification is traced back to the time of Aristotle and nowadays, a part of existing knowledge, confirms his observations. However, related scientific studies have been started in the 1990s. Interpersonal relationships in family psychology and intimacy marital relationships as one of its important types, this relationship has become important in marital life. So that theories focus on the importance of intimate bond between the spouses and consider it as the important element for family identity. Intimacy has a
positive effect on the marital life and mental health of the family members, and protects them from the individual and social problems. Emphasis on intimate marital relationships compared to the individual perspectives, help to understand and recognize the problematic behaviors and interpret them. Intimacy is to recognize the variety in family structures. For this reason, family therapist does not consider individual problems as the consequences of the individual development and transformation by regarding the individuals in intimate relationships in the family. In addition, help the couples to increase their intimacy and understand the intimate styles (Burnez, 2008).

Differentiation level of the people is observable in stressful situations and the extent to which people can control their behaviors based on the correct principles in spite of the intense anxiety, shows their differentiation level. Therefore, people with lowest levels of this characteristic, are less precise and receive less positive results (Lamient et al., 2006). People with positive attitudes classify their life information so that it leads to desirable consequences but people with negative attitudes tend more to the negative aspects of life (Shirvani, 2011).

Cordova et al. (2013) investigated the ability to identify and express emotions, intimacy, and marital satisfaction. The sample included 92 couples. Results showed that the ability to detect and express emotions was moderated by marital intimacy. Hikman et al (2012) studied the impact of enrichment training in marital satisfaction, marital intimacy of thirty-seven couples who participated in two enrichment programs and another pattern of enrichment entitled adventure, before and after participation in groups by Waring’s intimacy questionnaire (WIQ). Results showed that interpersonal relationships of the couples in both groups had a significant improvement compared to the control group and participants showed no significant difference in improving the marital satisfaction.

Oliver and McDonald (2012) proposed a model the exchange of loneliness and marital satisfaction and emotional intimacy and showed that there is no significant relationship between a sense of loneliness and marital satisfaction. There is a negative and significant relationship meaningful work the sense of loneliness and emotional intimacy. Liu and Guo (2014) examined loneliness and emotional intimacy and marital satisfaction among compatible and incompatible couples. They concluded that as the sense of loneliness in incompatible couples increases, satisfaction and life satisfaction and quality of life decreases physically, mentally and socially.

Review of previous studies indicates a high number of studies on the relationship between the characteristics of the family of origin and the differentiation level of marital intimacy of the teachers, individuals, and groups. In most of these studies, the relationship between these variables has been investigated in pairs, but no study has been done yet on the impact of these variables on marital intimacy of the teachers. Therefore, this study is effective in identifying the marital problems of the teachers and in this way, it helps to increase the marital satisfaction. Although, conducting only one study is not enough for identifying and knowing this kind of problems, the shortage of this kind of studies will be little compensated by this study. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct this study in order to enrich the scientific literature on the subject of
study, fill the academic gap, solve the problems, and increase the marital satisfaction. This study aims to answer the following question: Is there any significant relationship between the family of origin and differentiation level and marital intimacy of the teachers?

Method

This is a correlational study. The statistical population in this study consists of all 474 (male and female) teachers of primary, secondary, and high schools of Astaneh Ashrafieh City in the academic year 2015, of whom 204 in elementary schools, 110 middle schools, and 160 high schools were selected. Multi-stage cluster sampling was used for selection of sample. The sample size was about 230 (43.03 percent of elementary schools, 24.26 percent of middle schools, and 32.07 percent of high schools). This sample was selected based on Morgan and Krejcy. After reviewing missing data, 209 people remained for data analysis. After analyzing the outliers, the scores of three persons showed a significant difference with other data and therefore, they were excluded from the analytical data. Eventually, 206 people as healthy data were prepared for analysis.

Research Instruments

Differentiation of Self-Inventory (DSI): This questionnaire was developed by Scorn (2000) with 45 questions that are used for measuring the differentiation level of the people and with four subscales including emotional reactivity, I-position, romantic gateway, and the emotional fusion. Each question is scored on a scale of 6 points. The validity was confirmed by experts and Scorn's studies (2000), and Scorn and Smith (2003). Scorn and Smith (2003) showed the reliability of the test using the Cronbach's alpha as 0.92 and reliability of the subscales of emotional reactivity, I-position, romantic getaway, and emotional fusion as 0.89, 0.86, 0.81, and 0.84, respectively.

Marital Intimacy Scale:
This scale was developed by Thompson and Walker (1996) with 17 questions for measuring the intimacy of couples. Range of scores for each question is from 1 (never) to 7 (always). High score shows the rate of intimacy. This scale has a good internal consistency with Cronbach’s alpha coefficient 0.91-0.97. Subject score is obtained by adding the scores of the questions and dividing it by 17. Questionnaires were distributed to 100 couples in Isfahan that had been randomly selected and reliability coefficient of the total scale using Cronbach's alpha was reported as 0.97 (Etemadi et al., 2006). In the present study, its reliability and validity was 0.93.

Family of origin scale:
This is a questionnaire of 40 questions for measuring the people’s perception and the inference about the health of their family of origin. This questionnaire was developed by Havstat et al. (1990). This scale is based on independence and intimacy as two key concepts on the life of a healthy family. In this model, healthy families give their members independence by focusing on clarity of expression, responsibility, respect for others, and openness to others, acceptance of separation and lack of being. Total score of the test is at least 40 and at most 200 that higher scores show the inference on healthy family or healthy family's functionality. Gonis showed the
reliability of this questionnaire using the Cronbach's alpha as 0.93. Safapour (2006) reported it as 0.89 using the Cronbach's alpha. Farahbakhsh (2001) using a sample of 80 persons, obtained the internal consistency for the family of origin test as 0.83, intimacy as 0.72, and independence as 0.84. In this study, the reliability and validity were obtained as 0.69.

Findings

Data from 231 subjects were studied in several stages as follows:
a) The accuracy of data entry;
b) The missing data;
c) Preparing 206 people as healthy data for the final analysis.
Before examining the research hypotheses, mean, standard deviation, Cronbach's alpha coefficient, skewness and kurtosis of the variables of marital intimacy, characteristics of the family of origin and dimensions of differentiation level (emotional reactivity, I-position, romantic getaway, and emotional fusion) were analyzed and reported in Table 1.

Table 1. Mean, standard deviation, Cronbach's alpha coefficient, skewness and kurtosis of the variables of marital intimacy, characteristics of the family of origin and dimensions of differentiation level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>variables</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>skewness</th>
<th>kurtosis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marital intimacy</td>
<td>5.97</td>
<td>0.873</td>
<td>-1.28</td>
<td>1.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>characteristics of the family of origin</td>
<td>3.13</td>
<td>0.267</td>
<td>0.319</td>
<td>1.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>emotional reactivity</td>
<td>3.27</td>
<td>0.865</td>
<td>0.226</td>
<td>0.412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-position</td>
<td>3.11</td>
<td>0.823</td>
<td>0.029</td>
<td>0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>romantic getaway</td>
<td>3.71</td>
<td>0.846</td>
<td>-0.155</td>
<td>-0.323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>emotional fusion</td>
<td>2.91</td>
<td>0.826</td>
<td>0.425</td>
<td>0.632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total score</td>
<td>3.23</td>
<td>0.647</td>
<td>0.166</td>
<td>0.729</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research hypotheses

Main hypothesis:
There is a relationship between the characteristics of the family of origin and differentiation level of marital intimacy.
Research sub-hypotheses:
1- There is a relationship between the characteristics of the family of origin and marital intimacy.
2- There is a relationship between the characteristics of the family of origin and differentiation level.
3- There is a relationship between the differentiation level and marital intimacy.
4- There is a relationship between duration of mutual life and marital intimacy.
5- There is a relationship between duration of mutual life and differentiation level.
6- There is a relationship between marital intimacy and age of couples.
7- There is a relationship between differentiation level and age of couples.
8- Each of the variables of characteristics of family of origin, differentiation level, duration of marital life and chronological age can significantly predict marital intimacy.

Table 2. shows the correlation matrix between the variables.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Duration of marital life</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Chronological age</td>
<td>**0.877</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Marital intimacy</td>
<td>**-0.236</td>
<td>**-0.267</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>characteristics of the family of origin</td>
<td>0.126</td>
<td>0.146</td>
<td>-0.009</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Emotional reactivity</td>
<td>-0.114</td>
<td>-0.042</td>
<td>-0.099</td>
<td>**-0.154</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>I-position</td>
<td>0.048</td>
<td>0.054</td>
<td>*-0.148</td>
<td>**-0.234</td>
<td>**-0.499</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Romantic gateway</td>
<td>-0.094</td>
<td>-0.049</td>
<td>*-0.137</td>
<td>**-0.109</td>
<td>**0.677</td>
<td>**0.586</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Emotional fusion</td>
<td>-0.114</td>
<td>-0.044</td>
<td>0.010</td>
<td>**-0.156</td>
<td>**0.709</td>
<td>**0.389</td>
<td>**0.654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Total score</td>
<td>-0.124</td>
<td>0.056</td>
<td>0.069</td>
<td>**-0.156</td>
<td>**0.865</td>
<td>**-0.557</td>
<td>**0.856</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

P<0.05* and P<0.01**

Table 2 shows the correlation coefficients between the variables of marital intimacy, the characteristics of the family of origin and dimensions of differentiation level (emotional reactivity, I-position, romantic getaway, and emotional fusion).

The research hypotheses

Inferences resulting from Pearson correlational test concerning the research hypotheses are as follows:

The main hypothesis:

There is a relationship between the characteristics of the family of origin and differentiation level of marital intimacy. Results show that there is no a relationship between the characteristics of the family of origin and differentiation level of marital intimacy of teachers in Astaneh Ashrafieh city.

There is a relationship between the characteristics of the family of origin and marital intimacy. The results show that there is no relationship between the characteristics of the family of origin and marital intimacy. Therefore, this hypothesis is not confirmed (r=-0.009).

There is a relationship between the characteristics of the family of origin and differentiation level. The results show that there is a negative relationship between the characteristics of the family of origin and total score of the differentiation level, emotional reactivity at P<0.05, but with I-position at P<0.01. There was no relationship between the characteristics of the family of origin and romantic gateway.

There is a relationship between the differentiation level and marital intimacy. The results show that there is a negative relationship between marital intimacy and I-position at P<0.01 (r=-0.148), however, there is no relationship between the marital intimacy and total score of the differentiation level and emotional reactivity, emotional fusion and romantic gateway.
There is a relationship between duration of mutual life and marital intimacy. The results show that there is a negative relationship between duration of mutual life and marital intimacy \((r = -0.267, P<0.01)\). Therefore, this hypothesis is not confirmed.

There is a significant relationship between duration of mutual life and differentiation level. The results show that there is no relationship between the duration of mutual life and total score of the differentiation level and its dimensions (emotional reactivity, I-position, emotional fusion, and romantic gateway). Therefore, this hypothesis is not confirmed.

There is a relationship between marital intimacy and age of couples. The results show that there is a negative relationship between marital intimacy and age of couples \((r = -0.236, P<0.01)\). Therefore, this hypothesis is confirmed.

There is a relationship between differentiation level and age of couples. The results show that there is no relationship between age of couples and total score of the differentiation level and its dimensions (emotional reactivity, I-position, emotional fusion, and romantic gateway). Therefore, this hypothesis is not confirmed.

Based on the research literature and theoretical principles in this study, marital intimacy as the dependent variable and the characteristics of family of origin, differentiation level, and duration of mutual life and chronological age of the individuals are considered as the independent variables or predictors.

By introducing the hypotheses of the linear regression, they were tested. If these assumptions are confirmed regression test can be used for analyzing the data in this study:

There is no correlation between the errors of the mode. For analyzing this assumption, Watson-Durbin test was used. Since the Durbin-Watson statistic \((1.78)\) is located at 1.5 and 2.5, we conclude that there is no correlation between errors and regression can be used.

The dependent variable is normally distributed. For analyzing this assumption, a linear graph was used. The results showed that dependent variable is approximately normally distributed. Therefore, regression can be used.

The errors are normally distributed. For analyzing this assumption, histograms were used. Analyzing the normal distribution chart show the normal distribution of errors, therefore, regression can be used.

There is no correlation between the independent variables. To investigate the linearity, the detection statistic of co-linearity was calculated in the regression. With respect to the statistics of co-linearity of tolerance 1 (minimum: 0.249 and maximum: 0.910), the tolerance rate is low and causes the standard error of the regression coefficients. Moreover, variance inflation statistic 2 (minimum 1.098 and maximum: 4.011) shows that the rate above 2 is problematic. Concerning to the collinearity between the predictor variables for solving this problem, factorial scores are used. After establishing the assumptions of regression analysis, for answering the research hypothesis #8, it can be said that ‘all variables of family of origin, differentiation level, and duration of mutual life and chronological age of people can significantly predict the marital intimacy.’ For these, regression analysis was used and results were reported in table 3.
Table 3. Table multivariate hierarchy regression coefficients of the predictors of marital intimacy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>predictor variables</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>R2</th>
<th>β</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>SIG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration of mutual life</td>
<td>0.108</td>
<td>0.328</td>
<td>-0.254</td>
<td>-3.76</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronological age</td>
<td>-0.077</td>
<td>-1.13</td>
<td>0.258</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Characteristics of family of origin</td>
<td>-0.126</td>
<td>-1.86</td>
<td>0.064</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Differentiation level</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional reactivity</td>
<td>0.028</td>
<td>0.416</td>
<td>0.678</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position</td>
<td>0.067</td>
<td>0.999</td>
<td>0.319</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romantic gateway</td>
<td>0.115</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>0.090</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional fusion</td>
<td>-0.053</td>
<td>-0.791</td>
<td>0.430</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As shown in above table, the results of multivariate regression analysis show that 10.8% of the dependent variance (marital intimacy) by the predictor variable is explained. In response to the research hypothesis #8, it can be said that ‘all variables of family of origin, differentiation level, and duration of mutual life and chronological age of people can significantly predict the marital intimacy.’ Findings show that variable of duration of mutual life significantly explains the dependent variable (marital intimacy). However, characteristics of the family of origin, differentiation level, and chronological age of people can significantly explain the marital intimacy as the dependent variable.’

Discussion and Conclusion

This study aims to investigate the effect of characteristics of family of origin and differentiation level on the marital intimacy of the teachers. The results showed that there is no significant relationship between the characteristics family of origin and total score of differentiation level on the marital intimacy. These results are consistent with those of Ghafari et al. (2010), Green (2009), Hunler and Genc (2015), Tason and Lander (2005), Liu and Guo (2014). Results show that there is no relationship between the characteristics of family of origin and marital intimacy. These results are consistent with those of Stowze and Ferry (2009) and Piro (2006). These results are not consistent with those of Epsten et al. (1983), Tason and Lander (2005) and Hikman et al. (2012).

In explaining the above result, it can be said that in the modern societies, couples experience severe problems when communicating and maintaining the intimate relationships and satisfying their needs. Establishing the intimate relationships and satisfying the emotional and mental needs in mutual life is skill that needs the logical attitudes of couples in addition to the mental health and early healthy experiences. Therefore, the family of origin is not effective without necessary training from the education organization, national media, and other information resources. All these should focus on using the correct, appropriate, and logical strategies for life.
Results show that there is a negative relationship between the characteristics of original family with a total score of differentiation level, emotional reactivity, emotional fusion at P<0.05, but with I-position at P<0.01. There is no significant relationship between the characteristics of original family and romantic gateway. Results are consistent with those of Green (2009), Ameri Islami (2012), Mullins et al. (2011). Motavali et al. (2009) investigated the marital satisfaction and marital intimacy in pregnant working and non-working women, showed that working does not affect the satisfaction and intimacy of the pregnant women in research samples, and suggested that strengthening the women through training and counseling is effective in increasing the marital satisfaction.

Therefore, human life is formed in childhood. In families with stability, there are close relationships and people help each other to be successful by providing the opportunities and can form the emotional reactions of others. Knowledge about the way people behave with each other, show their most important collective observations about interactions with the parents or other members of their families. Results show that there is a negative relationship between the research variables; therefore, people’s relationships play an important role in stabilizing and maintaining the emotions, because this kind of relationship helps the children to be social. Thus, personality pattern of the family forms the main framework for analyzing the interactions, emotions, and relationships in the family. Families who have no a certain pattern, may have undifferentiated members that are affected by the environmental systems and emotions with weak patterns of decision-making and therefore, they have no strong I-positions.

Results show that there is a negative significant relationship between marital intimacy and I-position on the level (P<0.01) (r=-0.148). However, there is no relationship between the marital intimacy and total score of the differentiation level and dimensions of emotional reactivity, emotional fusion, and romantic gateway. The results of this study are consistent with those of Stowze and Ferry (2009), Lie and Guo (2014). These results are not consistent with those of Coroda et al. (2013), Hikman et al. (2012), Tason and Lander (2005). According to Islami (2011), there is a significant relationship between the structure of the family interactions (family performance) and differentiation level. In addition, there is a relationship between the use of differentiation level by men and women and family members and the score of certain dimensions can predict the score of differentiation level of men and women.

Results show that there is a negative relationship between the marital intimacy and duration of marital life (r=-0.267; r=-0.267). The results are consistent with those of Green (2009), Hunler and Genc (2015), Stowze and Ferry (2009). Findings are not consistent with those of Tason and Lander (2005), Oliver and McDonald (2012).

This shows that some people tend to separate themselves from others and emotions, they deny the importance of the family and show a radical overview of independent. On the other hand, families with low levels of intimacy, transfer their mental pressure to each other that are undifferentiated than others in stressful situations. In sum, it can be concluded that couples who
face with projection use many strategies in their adulthood or before it to escape from the unsolved emotional bonds. These strategies can include physical distance from the families or creating the barriers such as not talking with one of the members of family.

Results show that there is not relationship between the duration of mutual life and score of differentiation and its dimensions (emotional reactivity, I-position, romantic gateway, and emotional fusion). Therefore, hypothesis # 5 is not confirmed. These results are not consistent with those of Coroda et al. (2013), Hikman et al. (2012), Amiri et al. (2014), Green (2009), Stowze and Ferry (2009), Eptian et al. (1983) and are consistent with those of Oliver and McDonald (2012) and Tason and Lander (2005). According to Islami (2011), there is a significant relationship between the structure of the family interactions (family performance) and differentiation level.

In explaining this result, it can be said that differentiation level shows that couples keep their balance in stressful situations. They like to hear each other before decision-making; they are concerned with the sickness or being injured of each other. Therefore, the couples who use affection strategy are respectable and accepted by society. They give enough opportunity to the children to express themselves and show their skills and talents.

Results show that there is a negative relationship between the age amd marital intimacy (\( r = -0.236, \ P<0.01 \)). These results are not consistent with those Hikman et al. (2012), Hunler and Genc (2015), Tason and Lander (2005), Oliver and McDonald (2012), Stowze and Ferry (2009), Piro (2006), Orathinkal and Vansteewegen (2011). The results of this study are not consistent with those of Konjaf et al. (2005). These results show that family survival is dependent on a network formed by its members. In family system, element of relationship is the most determinant factor. Growing families have learned how to communicate and convey their meanings and therefore have healthy patterns and there is low rate of unfaithfulness in this kind of families.

Results show that there is no relationship between the age of the people and the total score and its dimensions (emotional reactivity, emotional fusion, and romantic gateway, I-position). These results are not consistent with Amiri et al. (2014), Green (2009), Hunler and Genc (2015), Tason and Lander (2005), Oliver and McDonald (2012), Stowze and Ferry (2009), Liu and Guo (2014), Oliver and McDonald (2012) and is consistent with those of Etemadi et al. (2011), Ghalili et al. (2012). Results indicate that family is the core of child rearing, maintaining the social traditions, and human relationships. The bonds between family members differ from the relationships in the societies. People from their birth are affected by these relationships and most of mental and material needs are satisfied in the families. It helps people to become familiar with social life. Therefore, it plays a more important role than other environmental factors. Traits such as responsibility, love, stability, independence only belong to the couples with positive self-esteem who experienced the positive relationship between the members of their families, look for the good relationships, and provide a secure environment for mutual life and interactions to develop their identity.
Results show variance of duration of mutual life significantly predicts the dependent variable (marital intimacy). Nevertheless, the characteristics of family of origin, level of differentiation and chronological play a significant role in explaining the variance of the dependent variable (marital intimacy). The results are consistent with those of Ortinkal and Wenstiogen (2011), Jirigan and Nak (2013), Graner (2011), Mullins et al. (2011), Epstein et al. (1983).

The findings are not consistent with those of Etemadi et al. (2011), Tason and Friedlander (2005), Oliver and McDonald (2012). This shows that nowadays, one of the main factors of the divorce notably in Iran with its religious and cultural characteristics is the lack of understanding of each other among the young couples. Marital relationships have emotional aspects, mental and sexual and in this context, awareness of their role in creating a safe and productive relationship is of special importance. The fact that couples know their marital duties and do them well, can improve the family bonds and core of the social life. Sample drop in responding the questionnaires, high number of the questions and focusing on the teachers are of limitations of this study that should be considered in future studies.
References


