



Influence of Type of Marriage and Gender on Marital Satisfaction among Couples in Kumasi Metropolis, Ghana

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed at investigating the influence of type of marriage and gender on marital satisfaction among couples in Ghana. The study applied the cross-section design, and used the stratified sampling and simple random, the lottery procedure to select 576 participants for the study. The Marital Satisfaction Inventory (MSI) developed by Essuman (2010) was used to collect data on marital satisfaction and structural equation modelling was used to analyse the data collected. The study revealed that inter-ethnic marriages were more satisfied than those in intra-ethnic marriages were. Also, it was found that female spouses in inter-ethnic marriages were more satisfied than females in intra-ethnic marriages. Based on the results, it was concluded that spouses in inter-ethnic marriages enjoy satisfaction in their marriages than those in intra-ethnic. It is therefore, recommended that marriage counsellors in collaboration with pastors in the various religious organizations such as churches and mosques should focus on such variables in their pre-marital counselling and during the spouses' marriage counselling sessions to help spice up their marriages to bring about marital satisfaction.

Keywords: Counselling, Gender, Implications, Type of Marriage, Marital Satisfaction.

1. INTRODUCTION

Marriage is a union between a man and a woman, in such a way that both parents recognize children born by the woman as legitimate children Nukunya (2003). Furthermore, Nukunya suggested that marriage is the world's accepted and recognized institution for the establishment and preservation of family life. Sarpong (2006) sees marriage as a situation in which people leave their mothers, sisters and other relatives to form an alliance with another person and that the primary purpose of one marrying is to have sexual access to a person who would not be considered acceptable in the case of a relationship. According to Bentil, Boye, Eyah-Bediako, Fia, Dabone, Ayamba, Adom-Mensah, and Lawer (2023), marriage is considered as the lifelong connection that ensures a man and a woman's consent to engage in sexual activity, which is recognized by the cultural and religious beliefs of the community to which they belong.

According to Harris as cited by Acheampong (2010), marriage is the institution through which provision is made for the performance of the tasks concerned with procreation, rearing and transmission of cultural practices and beliefs. It is not just a close personal or intimate relationship with other individuals, but also a social institution that influences people's lives in a particular society. In terms of bringing forth and raising children, it provides the basis for the creation of a family (Ponzetti & Mutch, 2006), as it legally allows sexual relations, companionship and facilitates fidelity between husband and wife (Rao, 2002).

Marriage counselling helps couple of all types to explore, organise and resolve conflicts in an effort to improve upon their marriages and interactions. With marriage counselling, couples are provided with the tools to make thoughtful and intentional decisions about their marriage. Marriage counselling helps couples to enhance their marriage and make sure they are happy in the marriage.

Many a time, satisfaction in life is grounded in the expectations one has and how well these expectations match with what the person experiences. Similarly, satisfaction in a marriage is based on the same grounds (Cox, 2006). In most Western and African societies, including Ghana, people marry at one stage or the other in their lives (Rahmani,

Khoei, Sedeghi & Gholi, 2011). There are several motives behind marrying. These include the need for friendship, social support, economic support, emotional support, love, and sex. People enter into marriage with the hope of having satisfaction in life made up of emotional, physiological and physical wellbeing. Most of these dreams are, however, shattered because of several factors, including satisfying in the union and individual satisfaction. One of the most common and highly researched areas of marital satisfaction is that individuals seek out and marry other individuals who share more similarities than differences in personality, history, culture, interests and behavioural patterns (Bruch & Skovholt, 1985).

According to Lampard (2013), differences in chronological age of married couples were identified as important predictors of the variations in levels of marital satisfaction. Glenn, Uecker, and Love Jr. (2010), in a study found that later marriage led to increased marital survival but only statistically significant until the mid- twenties. Jackson, Miller, Oka, and Henry (2014), stated that as the age of the couples increases marital satisfaction decreases. Lampard (2013) examined the relationship between the age at marriage and the risk of divorce for couples in England and Wales. The study found that the age at marriage has an effect on the divorce rate, but most of the effect comes from relative age at marriage since there is no specific age for marriage that leads to marital satisfaction. The study also found that the individuals who are over the age thirty, are outweighed by the negative effects that absolute age at marriage at later times has on the marriage effects that increased age at marriage has on later marriages, meaning those marriages that occur after age thirty are more satisfied, Lampard (2013). Lehrer (2008) looked at whether the effects that age at marriage has on the success of the marriage reduces as one gets older. Lehrer found that increased age at marriage has a strong effect on the success of the marriage until the late twenties and then the effects tend to level off, as they are counter balance by the increased likelihood of settling for bad matches.

The premise is that this option increases marital satisfaction because the risk of conflict and marital demise is relatively high when partners have little in common (Bruch & Skovholt, 1985). Culture is a way of life or social heritage that includes values, norms, institutions, and artefacts with which people migrate with, preserve it and project some of the elements of their culture in their marriages. Intra-ethnic marriages are marriages that are contracted between two individuals (a man and a woman) with cultural similarities in terms of food they eat, festivals celebrated, language spoken, dressing, inheritance, belief system and values. Couples who share more similarities (intra-ethnic) than differences in culture and personality may engage in fewer disputes, fewer quarrels, fewer misunderstandings, and less overall conflict or negative interactions than spouses who do not share many things or attributes in common (Rao, 2002).

1.1 Gender

According to Meyer (2015), there is a 40-50 percent risk of first marriages resulting in divorce, despite the expectations of the spouse for good marriage. According to Maundeni (2002), suggests that marital unhappiness, dissatisfaction and divorce rates in developing countries such as Botswana, South Africa and Nigeria, of which Ghana is not an exception, are on the rise, leaving mothers and children to face economic challenges. Children in such marriages are often prone to drug abuse, suicidal tendencies and health issues (Gordon & Arbuthon, 2018). A study by Guo and Huang (2005), found that gender was a significant contributor to marital satisfaction. Results from (Simon & Nath, 2014), study revealed that women report negative feelings, such as sadness, more than men. Furthermore, women reported feeling anxious and sad more than men and also men reported feeling excited and calm more than women.

Hess, Senecal, Kirouac, Herrera, Philippot and Kleck (2000), asserted that widely-held gender stereotypes, in Western world's cultures women are generally believed to be more emotionally expressive than men and "are expected to smile more as well as to show more sadness, fear, and guilt." In contrast, the general consensus appears to be that men display their emotions exclusively in terms of physically aggressive anger. Moreover, Jackson, et al. (2014), study shows that more wives than husbands report marital frustration and dissatisfaction; More wives than husbands consider their marriages unhappy, and have considered separation or going their diverse ways.

Researchers suggested that men report being more satisfied with their marriages compared to women in both Western and non-Western (Rostami, Ghazinour, Nygren, & Richter, 2014) cultures. However, gender differences in

marital satisfaction may differ across cultures due to traditional gender roles (Pardo, Weisfeld, Hill, & Slatcher, 2012) and larger scale cultural variables, such as gender egalitarianism (Taniguchi & Kaufman, 2013). Some studies indicated that husbands reported greater marital satisfaction than wives (Gökmen, 2001).

However, some other researchers indicated that level of the marital satisfaction of husbands and wives were similar (Çelik, 1997; Dökmen & Tokgöz, 2002), and correlated with each other's (Brezsnyak, 2001). Research suggests that men report higher levels of marital satisfaction than women (Clements & Swensen, 2000) and that women's experiences of marriage are more negative than those of men (Heaton & Blake, 1999). From their data, Rollins and Feldman (1970) concluded that marriage has very different meanings for husbands than for wives and that very different events within or outside the marriage and/or family influenced the developmental pattern of marital satisfaction in men and women but women had significant satisfaction ahead of men. However, in Blazer's (1963), study on complementary need fulfilments and marital happiness of husbands and of wives, the correlation between marital happiness of husbands and wives was found to be positive.

Thus, when correlation for husbands and wives was computed, it indicated that both husbands and wives had similar view on what gives marital satisfaction. McRae and Brody (1989), found that being in a happy marriage is more important to women than men and they also found that women's overall experiences of marriage are more negative experience than men's (Heaton & Blake, 1999). Clements and Swensen (2000) in their study compared men and women on eight different aspects of marital satisfaction and found that men reported significantly higher satisfaction than women did on four of the eight comparisons (the other four comparisons did not yield statistically significant sex differences). In contrast, Gilford and Bengtson as cited in Wilmoth, Blaney and Smith (2015), found no gender differences with regard to marital satisfaction. Gender differences in marital satisfaction may differ across cultures due to the traditional gender stereotype roles (Pardo et.al, 2012). A comparison study of inter-tribal and intra-tribal dissatisfaction in Hawaii showed that inter-tribal marriages resulted in higher proportion dissatisfaction than it does in intra-tribal marriages, Ho and Johnson (1990).

1.2 Type of marriage (inter-and intra-ethnic)

According to Gaines and Agnew (2003), inter-tribal marriage couples tend to experience disapproval by people outside of the relationship such as friends, relatives and even acquaintances who do not support inter-tribal marriages. This may cause lower level of satisfaction and personal intimacy between couples. Sorokowski, Randall, Groyecka, Frackowiak and Katarzyna, (2017), confirms Gaines and Agnew statements that, where people in the society give disapproving vibes towards in intertribal marriages couples, could cause discomfort and insecurity.

However, inter-tribal marriages are found to have higher risk for failure, stressful obstacles, more often end up in getting divorce and show overall lower marital satisfaction rate as compared to the intra-tribal couples, Okitikpi (2009).

In the Ghanaian context, some studies have been done on marital satisfaction though many of such studies used a quantitative approach (Ahene, 2010; Akpadago & Anovunga, 2018; Arthur-Norman, 2015; Bediako, 2018; Dabone, 2012; Dabone, 2018; Holm, 2018). The current research however sought to use a mixed approach to gather comprehensive and detailed information on the problem under study. The fact that the above-mentioned studies in Ghana only focused on marriage satisfaction demands a further exploration of marriage satisfaction among inter-and intra- ethnic couples.

Also, it is evident from the above-mentioned Ghanaian researchers that marital satisfaction in Ghana has predominantly been investigated in other regions of the country other than Ashanti Region. The need to study, specifically Kumasi Metropolis and more especially, inter and intra-ethnic marital satisfaction of couples in the Kumasi Metropolis is imminent since previous studies in Ghana did not consider the ethnic background as well as inheritance of couples to have any significant impact on their marriage satisfaction. Furthermore, Kumasi Metropolis was selected for this study due to the cosmopolitan nature of its inhabitants. As a hub of many tribes such as Fanti, Ewe, Akwapem, Gongga, Frafra, Asante and many more chances of inter-and intra- ethnic marriages will be high. Indeed, Oduro-Frimpong (2007) has further argued that researchers have rarely paid attention to the association between marriage type and marital satisfaction.

This study sought to find out if marriage type and gender have any influence on marital satisfaction among couples in the Kumasi Metropolis, Ghana. Based on the objectives of this paper, it was hypothesised that:

1. The marital satisfaction of spouses in intra-ethnic marriages will not be significantly different from that of couples in inter-ethnic marriages.
2. There is no significant difference in marital satisfaction between male and female couples of inter and intra-ethnic marriages.
3. The marital satisfaction of couples in intra-ethnic marriages is not significantly higher than those of their counter parts in inter-ethnic marriages in each of the seven scales of the marital satisfaction inventory.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Design

In this study, a cross-sectional design was used. In a cross-sectional study, the researchers examined the outcomes as well as the exposures of the study participants at a specified moment (Privitera & Ahlgrim-Delzell, 2018). Cross-sectional design was used for this study because it offers an advanced level of general capabilities in representing a sizable population (Faulkner & Faulkner, 2018).

Setting

This study focused on the Kumasi Metropolitan Area in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. The Metropolis, covering an area of approximately 214.3 km², may be found about 270 square kilometres north-west of Accra, Ghana's capital. According to the Kumasi Metropolitan Archives (2015), the city has the second highest population in the country. Kumasi is the capital of the Ashanti Region and a major business hub thanks to its strategic location as a major route connecting the entire country.

Population

Approximately 1,218,045 people, or 37.0% of the total population of the Kumasi Metropolitan Area, were included in the survey. Individuals in their early twenties through their late fifties and beyond who are married make up this group. This number includes 593,595 males and 674,095 females (Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly Archives, 2015). In contrast, the intended audience consisted of 2,069,655 married adults.

Participants

Five hundred and seventy-six (576) spouses were selected at random from the general public to serve as the study's sample size. The Krejcie and Morgan (1970) table for determining sample size was used to obtain a sample size from the Metropolitan area's married population. Using a stratified sampling technique, a total of 576 participants were selected for the study. To conduct content analysis and guarantee that the sample is representative of the Kumasi Metropolis in terms of sub-metro size and location, the researchers decided to utilise a stratified sampling approach, drawing individuals proportionately from the various strata and finally used simple random, the lottery method to select the required number for the study. The bulk of the participants (45.6%) were between the ages of 31 and 40, and more than half (50.6%) were male. With regards to academic attainment, 40.6% held at least a bachelor's degree. Finally, 37.5% of people in the study had been married for 6-10 years.

Instruments

The research team employed a questionnaire to gather data. The Marital Satisfaction Inventory (MSI) by Essuman (2010) was used as the standardised questionnaire for this research. The survey had 36 questions split across two halves. Composed of 6 questions about the respondents' personal histories, Part 'A' was the survey's first section. Gender, age, education, marriage length, marriage type (intra- or inter-ethnic), and ancestry were some of the background factors asked about.

There were thirty objects in Section 'B,' all of which had been taken from the MSI. Its purpose was to aid spouses in determining the level of happiness they experience within their union. Both men and women have 30 items, and these have been organised into 7 scales. A scale can have between three (3) and six (6) points of measurement (6). The MSI is scored on a four-point Likert scale, with high scores indicating agreement and low scores indicating disagreement (1). Each of these measures can be used to get a better picture of how content a married person is with

their relationship. Again, because this study aimed to gauge respondents' levels of marital happiness, the study used the SMI cut-off point to do so. The following are some of them: From 30 to 45, 0% were extremely satisfied, 46% were somewhat satisfied, 75% were satisfied, and 80% were very satisfied. Overall, the MSI had a Cronbach's alpha of .85, indicating that it is a very trustworthy instrument for measuring marital satisfaction.

Procedure

Following approval from the University of Cape Coast's Institutional Review Board (IRB), we collected a letter of introduction from the Department of Guidance and Counselling to introduce ourselves as the researchers and verify our identity to the various religious organisations. Those who participated in the study had additional conversations with the researchers about the nature of the research and the required sample size. The researchers reached out to the qualified individuals representing the three (3) different faith communities (Orthodox Church, Charismatic Church, and Ahmadiyya Mission Mosque) and set up initial and follow-up meetings at mutually convenient times and places. To aid in the data collection, we enlisted the help of four graduate students, who understand the theme and were then trained.

A large majority of the returned questionnaires were collected the following day, while the remainder were gathered within 20-30 days. After the information was gathered, responders were given a pen and a notepad as a token of appreciation. The time frame for this data collection was between five (5) and ten (10) weeks. Before respondents filled out the questionnaires, the team spent time explaining the questions to respondents. There was a 30-minute time limit on each response, and those who didn't finish in that time were requested to finish at home and bring it the following Sunday. Each person who took part in the study voluntarily gave their informed consent. Those who took part were likewise guaranteed complete anonymity and confidentiality.

Data analyses

For data collected on Hypothesis 1, independent samples t-test was used to test it. The criterion variable was respondents' scores on marital satisfaction. The predictor variable was type of marriage, and this had two levels: inter-ethnic and intra-ethnic. The mean scores for both inter and intra-ethnic groups were compared after normality and homogeneity of variance assumptions had been checked.

Hypothesis 2 was tested using independent samples t-test. The predictor variable was type of marriage, with two types of marriage: inter-ethnic and intra-ethnic. The criterion variable was the scores for male and female respondents on marital satisfaction. Independent samples t-test was performed after checking the normality and homogeneity of variance assumptions.

Hypothesis 3 was tested using one-way multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA). MANOVA is a statistical procedure that is used to compare mean scores of two or more groups on two or more related dependent variables which are continuous in nature. The criterion (dependent) variables, thus, the seven dimensions of marital satisfaction were four: relationship; affection, love and appreciation; character; temperament; in-law issues; marital roles; and general evaluation, which are measured on continuous (scale). All the assumptions surrounding the use of MANOVA were checked and adhered to. MANOVA was considered appropriate because it is effective in reducing type I error.

3. RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Research Hypothesis 1: The marital satisfaction of couples in intra-ethnic marriages will not be significantly different from that of couples in inter-ethnic marriages

This hypothesis sought to determine differences in marital satisfaction among married couples with regards to those in intra- and inter-ethnic marriages. This hypothesis was tested using independent samples t-test. The independent variable is the type of marriage: intra- and inter-ethnic marriage. The dependent variable is the level of marital satisfaction of the respondents. The variances between the groups were the same, Levene's test, $F = .93$, $p = .336$.

Table 1: Difference in Marital Satisfaction in terms of Type of Marriage

Group	M	SD	T	Df	Sig.
Intra-ethnic	87.56	14.77	-2.93*	555	.003
Inter-ethnic	91.43	16.15			

*Significant, $p < .05$

The result in Table 1 shows a statistically significant difference in the mean score of marital satisfaction of respondents in intra-ethnic marriage, $M = 87.56$, $SD = 14.77$; and those in inter-ethnic marriages, $M = 91.43$, $SD = 16.15$, $t(555) = -2.93$, $p = .003$. The magnitude of the effect was determined using eta squared (η^2).

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Eta squared } (\eta^2) &= \frac{t^2}{t^2 + (N_1 + N_2 - 2)} \\ &= \frac{(-2.93)^2}{(-2.93)^2 + (319 + 238 - 2)} \\ &= \frac{8.5849}{4764.6195} \\ &= .0018 \end{aligned}$$

The effect size, $\eta^2 = .002$ is small. This implies that, practically, the magnitude of the difference is small, thus, 0.2% of the variance in marital satisfaction is accounted for by type of marriage. In effect, it can be said that couples in inter-ethnic marriages were more satisfied than those in intra-ethnic marriages.

Based on the results, the null hypothesis that “The marital satisfaction of couples in intra-ethnic marriages will not be significantly different from that of couples in inter-ethnic marriages” is rejected for its alternative hypothesis.

Research Hypothesis 2: There is no significant difference in marital satisfaction between the male and female couples of inter-ethnic and intra-ethnic marriages

Hypothesis 2 sought to determine differences in marital satisfaction for males and female couples in inter-and intra-ethnic marriages. The hypothesis was tested using independent t-test. Details are presented in Table 2

Table 2: Independent Samples t-test for Difference in Satisfaction in terms of Type of Marriage

				Levene’s Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means		
Gender	Tribe	M	SD	F	Sig.	t	df	Sig.
Male	Intra-tribe	89.90	15.34	.346	.557	-.651 ^a	280	.515
	Inter-tribe	91.17	17.01			-.638 ^b	222.98	.524
Female	Intra-tribe	84.93	13.68	1.939	.165	-3.837 ^{a*}	273	<.001
	Inter-tribe	91.66	15.40			-3.796 ^b	250.50	<.001

*Significant, $p < .05$

a. Equal variances assumed

b. Equal variances not assumed

As shown in Table 2, for males, there was no significant difference in marital satisfaction of couples in inter-ethnic ($M = 91.17$, $SD = 17.01$) and those in intra-ethnic marriage, $M = 89.90$, $SD = 15.34$, $t(280) = -.65$, $p = .515$, $\eta^2 = .002$. However, for females, there was a statistically significant difference in marital satisfaction of couples between inter-ethnic ($M = 91.66$, $SD = 15.40$) and those in intra-ethnic marriage, $M = 84.93$, $SD = 13.68$, $t(273) = -3.84$, $p < .001$, $\eta^2 = .051$. Practically, the magnitude of the effect was medium ($\eta^2 = .051$). It can, therefore, be said that female couples in inter-ethnic marriages were more satisfied than females in intra-ethnic marriages. Table 3 presents differences in males and females for the various types of marriages.

Table 3: Independent Samples t-test for Difference in Satisfaction in terms of Gender

Type of marriage	Gender	M	SD	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means		
				F	Sig.	t	df	Sig.
Intra-tribe	Male	89.90	15.34	6.148	.014	3.036 ^a	317	.003
	Female	84.93	13.68			3.057 ^{b*}	316.99	.002
Inter-tribe	Male	91.17	17.01	1.240	.267	-.236 ^a	236	.814
	Female	91.66	15.40			-.235 ^b	226.94	.815

*Significant, $p < .05$

a. Equal variances assumed

b. Equal variances not assumed

From Table 18, among couples in intra-ethnic marriages, there was a statistically significant difference in the level of marital satisfaction for males ($M = 89.90, SD = 15.34$) and females, $M = 84.93, SD = 13.68, t(316.99) = 3.06, p = .002, \eta^2 = .029$. The magnitude of the effect, as indicated by the eta squared, was small. On the contrary, for couples in inter-ethnic marriages, there was no statistically significant difference in the level of marriage satisfaction between males ($M = 91.17, SD = 17.01$) and females, $M = 91.66, SD = 15.40, t(236) = -.24, p = .814, \eta^2 < .001$. The magnitude of this effect was very small.

Research Hypothesis 3: The marital satisfaction of couples in intra-ethnic marriages is not significantly different from those of their counter parts in inter-ethnic marriages in each of the seven scales of the MSI.

The aim of research hypothesis 3 was to examine differences in each of the seven dimensions of marital satisfaction in terms of the type of marriage. The criterion variables were the seven dimensions of marital satisfaction, namely, relationship; affection, love and appreciation; character; temperament; in-law issues; marital roles; and general evaluation. The predictor variables were type of marriage: intra- and inter-ethnic marriage. This hypothesis was tested using one-way multivariate analysis of variance (one-way MANOVA).

Assumptions such as normality, linearity, were not violated multicollinearity The results of Box’s test for equality of covariance-variance matrices was statistically significant, Box’s $M = 56.03; F(28, 908083.26) = 1.97, p = .002$. Having violated this assumption Pillai’s Trace instead of Wilks’ Lambda multivariate test was performed. Table 4 presents the multivariate results.

Table 4: Multivariate Tests for Difference in Marital Satisfaction in terms of Marriage Type

Effect		Value	F	df1	df2	Sig.	Partial Eta Squared
Intercept	Pillai's Trace	.972	2679.61	7	549	.000	.972
	Wilks' Lambda	.028	2679.61	7	549	.000	.972
	Hotelling's Trace	34.166	2679.61	7	549	.000	.972
	Roy's Largest Root	34.166	2679.61	7	549	.000	.972
Marriage type	Pillai's Trace	.028	2.25*	7	549	.029	.028
	Wilks' Lambda	.972	2.25	7	549	.029	.028
	Hotelling's Trace	.029	2.25	7	549	.029	.028
	Roy's Largest Root	.029	2.25	7	549	.029	.028

*Significant, $p < .05$

The multivariate results in Table 4 show a statistically significant difference in the combined marital satisfaction in terms of marriage type, Pillai’s Trace $V = .03, F(7, 549) = 2.25, p = .029, \text{partial eta squared} = .028$. The results imply that marriage type explained 2.8% of the variance in the combined marital satisfaction. The results of the multivariate test were followed by separate univariate tests using Bonferroni’s adjusted alpha of .007. Table 5 presents the univariate results.

Table 5: Univariate Tests for Difference in Marital Satisfaction in terms of Marriage Type

Source	Dependent Variable	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Partial Eta Squared
Intercept	Relationship	1	163714.021	13137.63	.000	.959
	Affection	1	125988.473	13376.94	.000	.960
	Character	1	166305.840	12494.15	.000	.957
	Temperament	1	44598.476	9670.85	.000	.946
	In-law	1	42771.254	11541.98	.000	.954
	Marital roles	1	45577.323	12458.91	.000	.957
	General evaluation	1	84613.191	14291.48	.000	.963
Marriage type	Relationship	1	69.310	5.56	.019	.010
	Affection	1	30.297	3.22	.073	.006
	Character	1	56.095	4.214	.041	.008
	Temperament	1	50.541	10.959*	.001	.019
	In-law	1	28.087	7.579*	.006	.013
	Marital roles	1	20.340	5.560	.019	.010
	General evaluation	1	47.302	7.989*	.005	.014
Error	Relationship	555	12.461			
	Affection	555	9.418			
	Character	555	13.311			
	Temperament	555	4.612			
	In-law	555	3.706			
	Marital roles	555	3.658			
	General evaluation	555	5.921			
Total	Relationship	557				
	Affection	557				
	Character	557				
	Temperament	557				
	In-law	557				
	Marital roles	557				
	General evaluation	557				

*Significant, $p < .007$ (Bonferroni's adjustment)

The results for homogeneity of variance assumption suggest that all the variables (relationship; affection, love and appreciation; character; temperament; in-law issues; and general evaluation) satisfied the assumption, with the exception of marital roles. From Table 5, among the individual dimensions of marital satisfaction, there is a statistically significant difference in only temperament, $F(1, 555) = 10.96, p = .001$, partial eta squared = .019; in-law issues, $F(1, 555) = 7.58, p = .006$, partial eta squared = .013; and general evaluation, $F(1, 555) = 7.99, p = .005$, partial eta squared = .014. Marriage type accounted for 1.9%, 1.3%, and 1.4% of the variations in satisfaction with temperament, in-law issues, and general evaluation respectively. There are, however, no significant differences in marital satisfaction in relationship ($p = .019$), affection ($p = .073$), character ($p = .041$), and marital roles ($p = .019$). Table 6 presents the descriptive statistics for marriage type in terms of the dimensions.

Table 6: Descriptive Statistics on Dimensions of Marital Satisfaction

	Type of marriage	Mean	SD
Relationship	Same tribe	16.97	3.45
	Different tribe	17.68	3.63
	Total	17.28	3.54
Affection	Same tribe	14.97	3.04
	Different tribe	15.44	3.11

	Total	15.17	3.08
Character	Same tribe	17.14	3.56
	Different tribe	17.79	3.76
	Total	17.42	3.66
Temperament	Same tribe	8.74	2.19
	Different tribe	9.35	2.08
	Total	9.00	2.17
In-law issues	Same tribe	8.63	1.92
	Different tribe	9.08	1.93
	Total	8.82	1.94
Marital roles	Same tribe	8.95	1.84
	Different tribe	9.34	2.01
	Total	9.11	1.92
General evaluation	Same tribe	12.16	2.40
	Different tribe	12.75	2.48
	Total	12.41	2.45

As depicted in Table 6, respondents in inter-ethnic marriage were more satisfied compared to those in intra-ethnic marriage in terms of temperament, issues with in-laws, and their general evaluation of their marital satisfaction.

Based on the results of the study, the null hypothesis that “The marital satisfaction of couples in intra-ethnic marriages is not significantly different from those of their counter parts in inter-ethnic marriages in each of the seven scales of the MSI” was rejected in favour of the alternative hypothesis.

Discussion

Comparison of marital satisfaction between inter-and intra-ethnic couples

With respect to hypothesis one, the finding depicted that there was a statistically significant difference in the mean scores of marital satisfactions between respondents in intra-ethnic marriage and those in inter-ethnic marriages. Meaning that couples in inter-ethnic marriages were more satisfied than those in intra-ethnic marriages. This statement disagrees with Taniguchi and Kaufman (2013) who indicated that couples in inter-ethnic marriages in many societies turn to be dissatisfied in their marriages, hence, the higher prevalence rate of divorce than intra -ethnic marriages.

The findings of the result could be as a results couple’s higher educational background which enables them to choose by loving and appreciating their spouses in all they do in their marriage to bring about happiness and marital satisfaction. Guo and Huang (2005) support the statement that higher educational level was significant contributor to marital satisfaction. Also, the couples’ satisfactory level could be as a result that most of them have been married for longer period so have learnt to live in harmony with each other. This confirms the findings of Lavner and Bradbury (2010) who found out that the longer time couples have spent together has been shown to correlate with marital satisfaction.

Comparison between male and female couples in inter- and intra- ethnic marriages

Among the participants in the intra-ethnic marriage, males were more satisfied with their marriages than females. The findings from this study are in agreement with the findings of Simon and Nath (2014) whose study indicate that women reported negative feelings such as sadness, more than men. Furthermore, women reported feeling anxious and sad more than men and men reported feeling excited and calm more than women.

Also, Jackson, et al. (2014) confirms that more females than males reported marital frustration and dissatisfaction and more females than males considered their marriages dissatisfied. This could be attributed to the reason most that female couples are less satisfied sexually in their marriages. Among those in the inter-ethnic marriage, males and females did not significantly differ in their level of marital satisfaction. Among the females, those in inter-ethnic marriage were more satisfied than those couples in intra-ethnic marriage. Males and females within the

inter-ethnic marriage category did not differ in their satisfaction. In a similar vein, among the males, those in inter-ethnic marriage did not differ from those in intra-ethnic marriage in terms of marital satisfaction. This finding in the study contradicts Pardo, Weisfeld, Hill and Slatcher (2012) whose results indicated that gender in marital satisfaction may differ across cultures due to the traditional gender stereotype roles.

Dimensions of marital satisfaction in Inter-and intra-ethnic marriages that determine marital satisfaction among couples

Among the individual dimensions of marital satisfaction, there is a statistically significant difference in only temperament, in-law issues, and general evaluation. Marriage type accounted for 1.9%, 1.3%, and 1.4% of the variations in satisfaction with temperament, in-law issues, and general evaluation respectively. There are, however, no significant differences in marital satisfaction in relationship, affection, character, and marital roles.

Respondents in inter-ethnic marriages were more satisfied compared to those in intra-ethnic marriage in terms of temperament, issues with in-laws, and their general evaluation of their marital satisfaction. This disconfirms a comparative study of inter-ethnic and intra-ethnic dissatisfaction in Hawaii, which showed that inter-ethnic marriages resulted in higher proportion dissatisfaction than it did in intra-ethnic marriages (Ho & Johnson, 1990).

4. CONCLUSIONS

1. The study found that all the variables mentioned in the study, such as relationship, affection, love and appreciation, character, temperament, in-law problems, marital roles and general evaluation, accounted for the marital satisfaction of the couples in the Kumasi Metropolis.
2. Also, it was found that female couples in inter-ethnic marriages were more satisfied than females in intra-ethnic marriages.
3. Based on the results, it was concluded that couples in inter-ethnic marriages enjoy satisfaction in their marriages than those in intra-ethnic.

Recommendation

It is therefore, recommended that marriage counsellors in collaboration with pastors in the various religious organizations such as churches and mosques should focus on such variables in their pre-marital counselling and during the couples' marriage counselling sessions to help spice up their marriages to bring about marital satisfaction.

Implication for Counselling

Counsellors in various educational institutions and churches should frequently organize talks, and seminars on such variables to improve the marital satisfaction of couples and would be spouses.

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