

THE LEVELS OF SATISFACTION BETWEEN LOVE
AND ARRANGED MARRIAGES: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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DEDICATION

To my parents, Giti and Ali, who for past 38 years of my life have been a constant source of strength and inspiration. To my beautiful wife, Forouz, for motivating and supporting me all the time. Thanks for being part of this journey and loving me through it all.

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ABSTRACT

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THE LEVELS OF SATISFACTION IN LOVE MARRIAGES VERSUS ARRANGED MARRIAGES

Stable and satisfying marriages provide the foundation for cohesive, prosperous societies across time and cultures. Despite the need for marital satisfaction to create a stable home life and the evolution from arranged to love marriages around the world, little research exists on differences in marital satisfaction between love and arranged marriages. The purpose of this quantitative comparative study was to compare arranged and love marriages in terms of passion, intimacy, commitment, and marital satisfaction. Human ecology theory and family development theory provided the theoretical frameworks for the study. The following research questions were the basis for the study: RQ1. Are there differences in passion, intimacy, and commitment between arranged marriages and love marriages? RQ2. Are there differences in marital satisfaction between arranged marriages and love marriages? A sample of 90 married couples (58 arranged marriages and 32 love marriages) was recruited from Collin County in Texas, resulting in a total sample size of 180 individuals. Study variable data were collected using the Marriage Satisfaction Inventory-Revised (Snyder, 1997) and Sternberg's Triangular Love Scale (Sternberg, 1997) hosted on a PsychData® portal. Mann-Whitney U tests, independent t tests, and generalized linear models were calculated to test study hypotheses. The results of the data analysis

determined that there was a significant difference between arranged and love marriages for intimacy, passion, and commitment. In terms of wives, results concluded that there were significant differences in the areas of *global distress, affective communication, problem-solving communication, sexual dissatisfaction, and role orientation*. Significant differences were found between husbands of both arranged and love marriages in the categories of *global distress, affective communication, problem-solving communication, sexual dissatisfaction, and family history of distress*. Examining the couples together between the two groups of arranged and love marriages, there was also significance reported in the areas of *global distress, affective communication, problem-solving communication, disagreement about finances, sexual dissatisfaction, role orientation, and family history of distress*.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Marriage is a union that creates a long-term relationship involving two partners and can be critical to directing people's lives. In order to have a successful married life, one must select the right partner and maintain the relationship by practicing understanding and acceptance (Lamanna, Riedmann, & Stewart, 2014). People choose to marry for different reasons including love, desire for children, desire to fulfill expectations, happiness, physical attraction, or even companionship (Allendorf, 2012). While the choice of a marital partner is critical when it comes to marriage, there are different criteria for choosing a partner. Choosing a marriage partner can be accomplished by falling in love or by an arranged marriage (Allendorf, 2013). Identifying the types of marriages that promote the needs of modern societies is necessary to improve family wellbeing. Both kinds of marriages have their advantages and disadvantages.

Love marriages involve situations where partners are free to select spouses they are compatible with and have ample time to get to know one another before entering into a marriage. Occasionally, arranged marriages create a situation where people find themselves in relationships with individuals not of their choice, but selected based on wealth, family status, and other criteria. An arranged marriage consists of two people

who do not know a lot about one another before entering into a marriage (White & Klein, 2008). The purpose of this quantitative comparative study was to compare arranged marriages and love marriages in terms of passion, intimacy, commitment, and marital satisfaction.

Statement of Problem

In spite of the need to enhance the quality of intimate relationships, insufficient literature has been conducted to compare and contrast the levels of satisfaction between love marriages and arranged marriages (Allendorf, 2013; Kagitcibasi, 2013). In essence, at the heart of family studies is the need to foster marriages that support society as a whole. Consequently, this study attempted to differentiate between the two marriage paradigms with a view of improving relationships in order to strengthen the family unit.

Purpose

The purpose of this quantitative comparative study was to compare arranged marriages and love marriages in terms of passion, intimacy, commitment, and marital satisfaction. Marriage satisfaction is an essential aspect of marital quality as it influences peoples' wellbeing and health (Allendorf, 2013). In essence, it is associated with positive life outcomes, including less depression, less physical illness, and better self-rated health. Given the value of marriage satisfaction, it is critical to explore its determinants, including whether arranged or love unions lead to better marriages. Essentially, marriage satisfaction refers to the quantity of the "good" elements of the marriage (White & Klein, 2008). It is unknown which marriage type predicts marital satisfaction. This research is essential as it could help to establish a better marriage type, which in turn may help

policymakers, religious groups, and other stakeholders, to recommend the best union for better individual and societal outcomes.

Research Questions and Hypotheses

The following research questions and hypotheses guided the study.

RQ1. Are there differences in passion, intimacy, and commitment between arranged marriages and love marriages?

H₀1. There are no significant differences in passion, intimacy, and commitment between couples in arranged marriages and couples in love marriages.

RQ2. Are there differences in marital satisfaction between arranged marriages and love marriages?

H₀2. There are no significant differences in marital satisfaction between couples in arranged marriages and couples in love marriages.

Theoretical Framework

Family development theory (Ryan & Deci, 2017) and the human ecology theory (HET) (Rodgers & White, 2009) provided the theoretical frameworks for this study. The family development theory provided a context system of explaining change as a family moves through successive stages (Kagitcibasi, 2013). The stages are often marked by the ages of the children. Using the family development theory, the movement of arranged versus love marriages through the successive stages could be contrasted. More importantly, as the family unit moves through each stage, individual, interactional, and societal factors affect it, increasing or decreasing marriage satisfaction. Human ecology theory provided a method of analyzing the interactions of human behavior within the

contexts in which they exist and their relationships as a system. Essentially, the social, physical, and biological aspects of the individual are part of his or her environment and influence differently arranged and love marriages. Human ecology and family development theories played an important role in explaining the concept of marriage.

Human Ecology Theory

HET describes and predicts relationships that human beings have with their social, familial, natural, and manufactured environments (Bennett, 2017; Boss, Doherty, LaRossa, Schumm, & Steinmetz, 1993). The key premise of HET is that families interact with different environments to create ecosystems. Families undertake activities such as economic maintenance, biological sustenance and nurturance, and psychosocial functions to promote their wellbeing and that of society. A major key assumption of the theory is the fact that the family and environment are interdependent. Another assumption is that families can change and respond to their environment as they strive to adapt. The third assumption is that the main control process for families is decision making, as this directs actions necessary to attain family and individual goals.

Family Development Theory

The family development theory explains the different levels of development that occur within the life cycle of a family unit and analyzes the various patterned and systematic changes that families experience over their lifetimes. Rodgers and White (2009) explained that families transition into new stages of development based on the time that lapsed from their current stage of development. For instance, newlyweds may allow an adjustment period to lapse before they decide to have their first child. Another

example is childless marriages that span five years are unlikely to bear children in the future. According to the theory, social norms usually guide the behavior of families during the different developmental stages.

Marital Concepts in Love Versus Arranged Marriages

Marital satisfaction. Marital satisfaction indicates the levels with which partners to a marriage are satisfied with the marriage relationship. HET is relevant to this aspect of marriage. This is because marriage partners perform roles such as economic maintenance, biological sustenance and nurturance, in order to increase their satisfaction levels within marriage. In love marriages, the level of satisfaction is usually relatively high in the initial stage as partners are passionate towards each other (Niehuis, Reifman, Feng, & Huston, 2016). This is because in love marriages, partners choose their spouses and make a commitment of marriage with each other. In arranged marriages, however, initial satisfaction levels may be low since partners may not possess emotional and physical connections. This is due to the reason that they may not have the opportunity to select partners with whom they are compatible, as spouses are chosen by family or close friends. This may reduce the marital satisfaction levels.

Passion. In most relationships, passion decreases over time. The main reason is that during the initial stages of the relationships, partners in love marriages experience happiness that comes from passionate love. However, over time they learn each other's weaknesses, and love metamorphoses to companionate love, which has a lower level of affection. The family development theory explains this metamorphosis as couples move from a developmental stage of passionate love to companionate love, over time (White &

Klein, 2008). Couples in love marriages therefore experience a decreasing level of passion over time, as they have high expectations regarding the relationship. These expectations may not be realistic and may affect their familiarity and passion.

Couples in arranged marriages may face an increase in levels of passion over time since they do not have very high expectations of each other. Since the relationships are usually arranged and couples have a limited say in the choice of their partners, their low expectations may yield positive returns if partners are compatible. This will ultimately result in increased levels of passion over time (Bromfield, Ashour, & Rider, 2016).

Intimacy. Intimacy represents sexual and emotional connections between partners in a relationship. In many relationships, intimacy increases over time, since sexual and emotional connection grows stronger as people develop a relationship. According to HET, human beings increase intimacy over time to maintain biological processes such as reproduction and economic stability that is needed to meet a family's needs (Boss et al., 1993). In love marriages, even though passion decreases with time, intimacy grows in the beginning of the relationship as partners create sexual and emotional connections; however, passion will tend to ebb and flow throughout the entire relationship (Girme et al. 2018). In arranged marriages, there is a low level of intimacy as individuals may not necessarily be compatible with each other. When third parties choose partners as experienced in arranged marriages, the relationships may have low levels of sexual and emotional connections.

Commitment. This is an interpersonal relationship that originates from a mutually agreed commitment to a relationship. It encompasses values such as trust, love, openness,

and honesty. HET may explain commitment in a relationship. Couples are likely to pursue commitments that further their economic, social, and biological goals such as child bearing and wealth creation (Boss et al., 1993). In love marriages, levels of commitment are high as partners choose their spouses and commit to a long-term relationship through marriage. However, arranged marriages may have low commitment as spouses may feel that they have been pressured to marry a partner that one does not have an emotional or physical connection with. Their commitment to the union of marriage may therefore be low (Grover, 2017).

Communication. Conflict is present in both arranged and love marriages when partners have different viewpoints about an issue. However, effective communication helps in addressing conflict. The family development theory by White and Klein (2008) may explain how communication and conflict affects marriages. In the initial stages of marriage, partners are more willing to compromise and listen to each other since they have higher levels of passion. Over time when passion decreases, they find it challenging to communicate effectively and sometimes conflicts arise. In love marriages, there are higher levels of conflict since partners may have higher expectations of each other. In arranged marriages, partners typically have low expectations of each other since they do not have strong emotional connections, and levels of conflict are likely to be low (Allendorf & Pandian, 2016). However, research has also shown that divorce rates are high in love marriages as compared to arranged marriages (Allendorf & Ghimire, 2013). Some of the reasons for this may include cultural factors and gender power imbalances in such marriages.

Happiness. HET may explain happiness and empathy in marriage. According to the theory, partners undertake activities such as economic maintenance, biological sustenance, and nurturance, to attain the goal of happiness in life (Boss et al., 1993). Nurturance involves aspects of empathy where both partners relate to each other's experiences. In love marriages, there are higher levels of happiness and empathy since each partner has made a commitment towards marriage (Gottman & Silver, 2015). Therefore, the strong physical and emotional bonds motivate spouses to be empathetic towards each other. However, in arranged marriages, partners have low levels of empathy since their emotional connection is not strong (Grover, 2017). This may ultimately lead to low levels of happiness.

Conclusion

The human ecology and family development theories play an integral role in explaining the concept of marriage. There are various benefits and costs of arranged versus love marriages. Love marriages have high expectations, and these sometimes lead to conflict among partners. However, arranged marriages may feature low levels of physical and emotional connection, and this may affect levels of intimacy and happiness for the couple (Epstein, Pandit, & Thakar, 2013). Generally, arranged marriages have lower divorce rates than love marriages. However, it should not be assumed that happiness is the cause of low divorce rates in arranged marriages. This may be due to cultural factors and gender power imbalance may discourage divorce in cultures that practice arranged marriages. Love marriages may have higher levels of happiness and satisfaction since partners are usually compatible, have strong connections and make a

commitment to preserve their relationships through the institution of marriage (Bessey, 2015).

Definition of Terms

Arranged marriage. An arranged marriage refers to a marriage chosen by parents or family members (Ghimire & Axinn, 2013). Arranged marriage also refers to two people do not know a lot about one another when their marriage is arranged.

Commitment. Commitment refers to an interpersonal relationship with trust, love, openness, and honesty among other positive human emotions (Hatfield, Bensman, & Rapson, 2012).

Family Development Theory. Family development theory describes and predicts patterned and systematic changes that families experience over their lifetime (Ryan & Deci, 2017).

Happiness. Happiness is a mental or emotional state where individuals experience positive and pleasant emotions, including contentment and extreme joy (Bhattacharyya, Burman, & Paul, 2019).

Human Ecology Theory. Human ecology theory describes relationships that human beings have with their social, natural, and manufactured environments (Bennett, 2017).

Intimacy. Intimacy represents sexual and emotional connections between partners in a relationship (Hatfield et al., 2012).

Love. Love is an intense feeling of deep romantic or sexual attachment to another person (Beck & Beck-Gernsheim, 2015).

Love marriage. A love marriage involves people who chose a partner based on love. Furthermore, love marriage involves two people who marry only after knowing and loving each other (Holland, 2013).

Marriage. Marriage is a union or commitment between two people who agree to live together as husband and wife (Holland, 2013).

Marital quality. Marital quality refers to the subjective evaluation of a married couple's relationship on a number of dimensions (Spanier & Lewis, 1980).

Marital satisfaction. Marital satisfaction is the level with which partners in a marriage are content and happy with the relationship (Shackelford, Besser, & Goetz, 2008).

Multicultural family. A multicultural family refers to a family with international backgrounds and cultures (Ingoldsby & Smith, 1995).

Passion. Passion is the intense emotion or compelling enthusiasm and desire between partners. Passion is also the experience of strong love or infatuation and sexual desire between partners (Hatfield et al., 2012).

Delimitations

The study is delimited to the following factors. Study variables are delimited to an examination of marital satisfaction in love and arranged marriages. The study sample is geographically delimited to a purposeful sample of married couples living in Collin County in Texas. The research questions are delimited to a comparison of marital satisfaction between love and arranged marriages.

Summary

While people choose to marry for a variety of reasons including love, desire for children, desire to fulfill expectations, happiness, and physical attraction; marriage is maintained by understanding, patience, and acceptance (Lamanna et al., 2014). Marriages are primarily love or arranged marriages. Love marriages involve situations where partners are free to select spouses they are compatible with and have ample time to get to know one another before entering into a marriage. Arranged marriages usually involve selection of spouses by third parties, who may include family and friends, where both partners may have little input on the matter. Few studies address differences in the levels of satisfaction between love marriages and arranged marriages. The purpose of this quantitative comparative study was to compare love and arranged marriages in terms of passion, intimacy, commitment, and marital satisfaction. Family development theory and the human ecology theory provided the theoretical frameworks for this study. The research questions addressed the reasons for marriage, marital satisfaction and the indicators: passion, intimacy, and commitment.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

People marry for a variety of reasons, whether it is love, children, fulfilling expectations, happiness, or physical attraction (Lamanna et al., 2014). From a worldwide perspective, marriages are almost evenly divided between love marriages and arranged marriages. In India, virtually all marriages are arranged marriages, regardless of education, region, or class (DeVita, 2016). In the United State and western democracies, nearly all unions are love marriages. The literature on differences in marital satisfaction and quality between arranged and love marriages is inconclusive (Allendorf & Ghimire, 2013). Allendorf and Ghimire (2013) found that higher education and love marriage predicted marital satisfaction and quality as individuals experienced increased communication skills along with greater job satisfaction . On the other hand, India enjoys one of the lowest divorce rates of any country at approximately 4% (Pryor, 2014). Few studies address differences in the levels of satisfaction between love marriages and arranged marriages. The purpose of this quantitative comparative study is to compare arranged marriage and love marriage in terms of passion, intimacy, commitment, and marital satisfaction.

Literature Search Strategy

The literature search involved searches in the following scholarly databases: Google Scholar, MEDLINE, PsycINFO, PubMed, and the Walden University Library Research Database. Keyword and search term development was an iterative process.

Initial journal article results revealed new opportunities that continued until new keyword possibilities converged. Initially, scholarly databases and related websites were searched using the following keywords: *arranged marriage, love marriage, marital satisfaction, marital satisfaction survey, human development theory, and human ecology theory*. The resulting literature review includes primarily peer-reviewed journal articles; however, books, dissertations, and government websites contributed to background, theory, and history. The period reviewed was from 2000 to 2017; however, certain earlier works regarding family development theory and HET historical elements were reviewed. The literature review referenced 81 individual works, of which 86% were quantitative studies or qualitative research, and the remaining 14% related to the historical elements or theory.

Arranged Marriages

Arranged marriage refers to two people who do not know a lot about one another. Holland (2013) argued that in a marriage that is arranged, the two people might take some more time to know each other after the wedding. There is no dating involved in arranged marriages since the partners may have not known each other in the first place (Holland, 2013). Almost all marriages in India are arranged marriages, regardless of education, region, or class (DeVita, 2016). Arranged marriages are the default for individuals in India, and the term “love marriage” arose as a special term designed to specifically describe the marriages that were not arranged. The bride and groom rarely meet before an arranged marriage; if these meetings do occur, it is only for brief conversations. This occurs only after the parents of both the bride and the groom agree

that the pairing will be beneficial. While this generally characterizes arranged marriage, such marriages can take on many forms depending on the region under study (Moore, 2014).

In southern India, the bride and groom are often of equal status (Moore, 2014). However, the Rajput clans of the United Provinces privilege the male, and the bride's family is always of a lower status than the groom's. In some cases, marriage within an entire clan is forbidden. Gift giving is also a common practice throughout India as part of the arranged marriage process but takes on unique contours depending upon the region it occurs within (Moore, 2014). In northern India, there is a larger emphasis on lavishing the men with gifts so that the wife is not made helpless in the relationship; dowry is of high importance in these cases. In southern India, where family status is more often equal, the bride's family feels less pressure to offer large sums as part of the arranged marriage process (Moore, 2014).

The concept of arranged marriages may be difficult to accept for individuals from countries where these marriages are uncommon. This can create conditions where attempts at such marriages would require far more effort than in nations where arranged marriages are common (Batabyal & Yoo, 2016). When the cultural conditions are in place, they facilitate successful arranged marriages. Individuals involved in arranged marriages do not have to exhibit similar levels of energy or effort as individuals involved in love marriages. Consequently, the success of arranged marriages is dependent on the cultural context and the associated support, which facilitates a lower level of effort to successfully coordinate and engage in such marriages.

Even where arranged marriages are acceptable, it should not be assumed that these marriages would continue to produce successful outcomes in future generations (Rubio, 2014). For example, in Indonesia and Turkey, there is an increase in the divorce rate among arranged marriages, while at the same time the divorce rate within love marriages has decreased. Therefore, changes in society and the times, wields an influence on the success of different types of marriages. Research indicates that the motive for some arranged marriages is financial security (Rubio, 2014).

Arranged marriage circumstances vary from nation to nation; however, outcomes in India, despite increasing education levels among women, revealed little decline in arranged marriages (Banerji, Martin, & Desai, 2013). What has changed is the level of participation young women engaged in, with regard to setting up the marriage. Not all arranged marriages occur with the participation of the daughter. Rising levels of education revealed that these young women were more likely to be active participants than those less educated. Research found parents in India were still arranging most marriages and going to extensive levels to do so. This phenomenon occurred regardless of education levels (Banerji et al., 2013).

Banerji et al. (2013) noted there was little evidence in India of Western style dating, and that arranged marriages remained the custom. Many women continued to meet their future husbands for the first time on the day of their weddings, or only knew them due to brief conversations held over the course of the year prior to the wedding. However, educated young women were more likely to coordinate with their parents in the selection of a suitable spouse.

Changes may have a negative impact on arranged marriages, as studies in sub-Saharan Africa have revealed that shifts in socioeconomic factors have been associated with higher levels of divorce in those marriages (Clark & Brauner-Otto, 2015). Arranged marriages remained traditional in the region, and still relatively stable in longevity and not prone to divorce. However, an increase was found in urbanized circumstances and among females who were employed. Consequently, it could be said that larger shifts in societies in that region of the world were contributing to a rise in divorces within arranged marriages for a specific demographic, while overall trends were consistent with the historic stability of such marriages.

Marital quality and satisfaction among love and arranged marriages are key areas of focus in literature. Arranged marriages make up to 55% of all marriages around the world (Ghimire & Axinn, 2013) and are common in India, the Middle East, parts of Asia, and America. Love marriages are the norm in America, Europe, and other parts of the westernized world. The concept of marital quality remains vague within love and arranged marriages (Allendorf & Ghimire, 2013). A study in Nepal established the determinants of marriage quality and found five key dimensions: satisfaction, togetherness, communication, disagreements, and problems (Allendorf & Ghimire, 2013). As a result, Allendorf and Ghimire's (2013) study established that men with higher educational levels who married the spouse of their choice, and had been married for extended periods, had increased levels of marital quality. In the western cultures, love marriages, marital satisfaction, and longevity are associated with education and freedom.

Love marriages in the western culture enjoy more satisfaction as education generally improves communication skills and income between couples (Allendorf, 2012).

It does appear that many individuals from non-Western countries are moving towards specific aspects of love marriage, in conjunction with traditional components. Pande (2015) highlighted this transformation by discussing how some women from South Asia arrange their own marriage, removing traditional component of parents, family members, or friends taking part in their mate selection. Pande purported that women are able to utilize the traditional terms of arranged marriages, negotiating with family members a mate selection choice that works for them, coining a post-colonial approach to feminism within countries that do not typically push for feministic behaviors.

Love Marriages

Love marriage involves two people who marry only after knowing and loving each other (Holland, 2013). The partners have ample time to know one another and explore the good and the bad things concerning them before entering into a marriage. In most cases, the couple dates for some time before deciding to settle down. Love marriages in nations such as India, are a recent phenomenon, which only allowed its first civil marriage in 1872 (Black, 2017). India's decision on this issue allowed for couples to join in civil marriages, even though those marriages ignored traditional religious and community expectations, thereby opening the door for love marriages. In India, love marriages are a violation of tradition. While the marriage might be technically legal, it is frowned upon many respects from both the community perspective and the religious perspective. Love marriage was associated with Western customs and practices, while

arranged marriage was perceived as part of the identity of India. It defined itself and its nation through its arranged system of marriage, which elevated the role of the parent in giving consent to the marriage arrangement.

Arranged marriages are associated with caste systems and socioeconomic status. As a result, arranged marriages were deeply rooted in multiple aspects of the country's society. Love marriages faced far more pressure than simply family pressure, but rather an entire society that did not look favorably upon their practice (Black, 2017). While love marriages are common in western societies, their place in India is still fragile and complicated by regional circumstances (Halder & Jaishankar, 2017). India is filled with many different religious, cultural, and caste groups, not all of which are positively disposed to one another. When inter-caste, inter-religious, or inter-cultural love marriages occur, there can be a high degree of pushback from family members and the surrounding community (Das, Das, Roy, & Tripathy, 2011). Acceptance of these types of marriages is slow, and as such, there can be a significant amount of negative feelings toward the couple. Feelings also affect couples wanting to start a family, not only impacting the wedded individuals themselves, but also their children. Social ostracism of children may arise, which may form a barrier toward individuals who might otherwise want to pursue this type of marriage (Das et al., 2011).

Outright violence has sometimes occurred among the families of inter-caste love marriages (Halder & Jaishankar, 2017). In recent years, this has resulted in courts becoming active in punishing individuals who might harass husbands and wives who are partners in a love marriage. Such actions revealed that there is a role for the courts to

protect love marriage, but that the barriers to such marriages are still high in some countries.

Allendorf (2013) conducted an ethnographic fieldwork study of changing attitudes regarding arranged marriages and elopements using semi-structured interviews for a sample of 30 married couples living in one rural village in India. Respondents categorized marriages into two main types: arranged marriages and elopements, also called love marriages. While arranged marriages were common in the past, love marriages are now dominant. Both types of marriages have positively perceived elements, and respondents suggested that the ideal marriage was a hybrid of both. Respondents believed that the increase in love marriages was based on education, technological change, and foreign influence and they envisioned the shift as the inevitable process of global socioeconomic changes.

A study of attitudes from Asian countries revealed that 30 individuals believed education to be a driving force behind why love marriages were increasingly popular (Allendorf, 2013). However, they also ascribed the rise of love marriages to foreign influences and changes in technology, both which they felt promoted and facilitated the ability for individuals to marry without needing parental oversight. The attitudes of those studied also revealed that they strongly believed the rise of love marriages was a part of socioeconomic changes; reinforcing traditional cultural approaches to marriage were influenced and destigmatized by global influences.

Banerji et al. (2013) conducted a quantitative cohort study of 33,481 ever-married women in the age group of 15-49 years old, living in India, to explore marriage trends in

partner selection. The study used data drawn from the India Human Development Survey (IHDS), a nationally representative dataset containing detailed information on marriage processes. The IHDS conducted a survey of 41,554 households across 33 states and 383 districts in India. Participants were selected using stratified random sampling to represent the full range of nationwide, socioeconomic conditions. Villages, urban centers, and households were selected using a cluster sampling technique. Ever-married women, in the age group of 15-49 years, were asked, “Who chose your husband?” using the following four choices: (1) arranged by the respondent herself (love marriages), (2) arranged by the respondent and parents together, (3) parents arranged marriages, and (4) a miscellaneous category of “other,” which refers to cases where extended family members or members outside the family played a role in the choice of spouse. The independent variable, marriage type, was classified in terms of degree of participation in marriage choice from no participation (lowest) to self-arranged marriage (highest). Ordinal regression analysis was used to regress marriage type against outcomes variables, such as income, education, and divorce rate.

Banerji et al. (2013) found that parent-arranged marriages, with no daughter participation, declined 5% from the oldest to the youngest cohort. The largest difference between the educated and their less educated counterparts was between parent-arranged marriages with no participation (22%) and parent arranged marriages with participation (36%). No significant differences existed for outcome variables of income and marital divorce rate.

Sheth (2015) and Myers, Madathil, and Tingle (2005) presented two different analyses comparing love marriages in the United States to arranged marriages in India; opposite trends were found. Choice marriages experienced an abundance of initial passion, and less passion after some time. Arranged marriages experienced a little passion in the initial stages but increasing compassion as time went on. In addition, arranged marriage partners were virtually twice as compassionate as love marriage couples 10 years into the marriage. Sheth's studies concluded that couples married as a result of arranged marriages were more likely to have a successful marriage than those in love marriages (Sheth, 2015).

Research has also focused on the perception of marital quality among genders. Ng, Loy, Gudmunson, and Cheong (2009) conducted a study in which they assessed gender disparities in life and marital satisfaction among Chinese Malaysians. Study results revealed the gender roles theory correctly predicted the levels of satisfaction. While controlling the level of education and age, the study found that men were likely to be more satisfied in marriages. Although the Chinese Malaysian society has a considerable number of arranged marriages, the study failed to capture the level of satisfaction among couples in arranged versus love relationships. This raises the important aspect of gender roles that are more pronounced in cultures that practice arranged marriages.

There is a gap in the literature concerning which type of marriage exhibits better outcomes. The available literature takes a broad view of factors that increase the quality of marriages. In order to study the difference, it is critical to analyze the key determinants

of marriage satisfaction. The triangular theory establishes the key indicators of love marriage as intimacy, commitment, and passion (Hatfield et al., 2012). The combination of any two of these indicators results in a different type of love (Hatfield et al., 2012). Consummate love occurs when all the three factors of commitment, passion, and intimacy are present.

Love marriages can frequently start steamy but quickly simmer down resulting in disappointed families and sad people (Pryor, 2014). A large number of arranged marriages could be linked to a lack of options for young people and could be oppressive to women. Although arranged marriages appear to be more stable, it is not a gauge of success since some people are bound to them unwillingly (Allendorf, 2013). Supporting this, the number of divorces is rising in countries such as Korea and India where parents have had a strong hand in the relationships of their adult children (Pryor, 2014). Although India boasts one of the lowest divorce rates around the globe, the 3% divorce rate is still a high percentage, as divorce is not an alternative for Indian women (Pryor, 2014).

The beauty of love marriages lies in the freedom of selecting a marriage partner according to the desires of an individual (Goldman, 2014). The love between partners helps them understand one another and assists in choosing a marriage partner for a long-term relationship. The achievement of love marriages is anchored on the maturity and honesty of the partners (Regan, Lakhanpal, & Anguiano, 2012). However, a couple that is not mature lacks the ability to make the right decision (Goldman, 2014). The partners may feel physical attraction, but in time, the love may diminish leading to a break up. The disintegration of marriage can affect one's life and career.

Khandelwal (2014) argued that love marriages have the same benefits as arranged ones. Time spent together allows couples to understand one another during the love affair. An arranged relationship, in some cases, can allow the partners time to develop a better understanding of each other (Batabyal, 2016). The time factor may not be the main reason behind the success of marriages. Any marriage can experience both advantages and disadvantages, not necessarily dependent on the type of marriage, but by the type of partner (Khandelwal, 2014).

Research suggests that arranged marriages are more stable than love marriages (Allendorf & Ghimire, 2013). Arranged marriages are commonly decided by family members in Africa, India, and the Middle East, with a low divorce rate of 4%, while 40-55% of couples in the United States and Canada divorce. (Akhtar, Khan, & Batool, 2017). It is critical to note that cultures that believe in arranged relationships are not in support of divorce. Arranged marriages can be successful, however they argue that love cannot be manufactured by employing these beliefs and rules (Allendorf & Ghimire, 2013).

Research conducted in 2005 comparing couples in arranged marriages in India, to couples in love marriages in the United States, showed no evidence of differences in marital satisfaction (Foreman-Peck, 2011). Additionally, the studies showed no differences in love between the two types of marriages. There is a need for further studies on the connections between cultural values and features of marriages in order to explain the relationships and provide information on how to counsel cross-cultural couples (Tili & Barker, 2015).

Nasser, Dabbous, and Baba (2013) argued that arranged marriages differed greatly from forced marriages as they involved people who are ready to marry partners with the help of their parents or friends. Muslims, for instance, do not date in the same manner as individuals in Western cultures. Their expectation is that love will begin and grow during marriage. Forced marriage occurs when couples are compelled to marry a particular person by using threats and emotional blackmail. In arranged marriages, the couples learn to understand each other in time, and love follows (Allendorf, 2013). At one time, most Western cultures embraced arranged marriages (Nasser et al., 2013). With advancements in society, cultures changed and embraced love marriages, as they were more democratic. Research has shown that arranged marriages could help to reduce the high level of divorce witnessed in Western countries (Nasser et al., 2013).

Other research suggests that arranged marriages, in comparison to love marriages, attract more social and family support, and this may improve marital satisfaction (Dehle, Larsen, & Landers, 2010). When parents and families participate in choosing a spouse, they are more likely to approve the marriage partner and provide the support a marriage needs to thrive. Dehle et al. (2010) also considered social support critical in marriage as it ensures the couple that they are cared for, valued, and belong to a network of people who really matter. Since love marriages undermine the role of parents and families in choosing a spouse, they are likely to offer less or no support.

When discussing love marriages compared to that of their arranged counterparts, it is equally important to discuss the concept of love between couples marrying under these two different milieus. McCutcheon et al. (2016) highlighted different attitudes of

love between the countries of the United States and India. McCutcheon et al. (2016) studied students from both the United States and India and presented them with both the Celebrity Attitude Scale and the Love Attitudes Scale and found that there were some similarities between the two groups. The study concluded that students from both countries who were found to be needy and dependent lovers, tended to be attracted to parasocial relationships with celebrities. This is an important aspect to the topic of love marriages, simply because it demonstrates how students from India are moving away from the more traditional aspects of arranged marriages and focusing on love aspects of relationships from the Western world (Allendorf & Pandian, 2016). There has been a wide change in attitudes towards marriage in the country of India, with a decrease in arranged marriages. Allendorf and Pandian (2016) discussed how arranged marriages could be decreasing due to a modernization theory, converging non-western familial values with those of its western counterparts.

Love and Arranged Marriages versus Divorce

When creating discussions that focus on the comparison of love and arranged marriages, it is equally important to discuss the aspect of divorce. Central Kerala is a region of India that has seen an increase in divorce over a five-year period (Kodoth, 2008). Varying reasons for divorce included of physical, psychological, and sexual abuse, addictions, and adjustment problems at the forefront of the divorce upsurge (Vasudevan et al., 2015). It was determined that within this region, only 11.6% of couples divorcing were in a love marriage, and 79.1% were living with extended family. Vasudevan et al. (2015) concluded that when examining reasons for divorce within this region, adjustment

problems with extended family members combined with instances of alcoholism and physical abuse, were the main determinants of divorce. In contrast to these issues leading to divorce, the woman in the majority of divorce cases was the first individual of the couple to move forward with the proceedings.

Fifty-five percent of marriages in the world are arranged, with only 6% of these marriages resulting in divorce (Fischer, 2016). This appears to be a lower number compared to that of love relationships, mainly found in Western countries. The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) corroborates low divorce rates among arranged marriages citing that only 1.1% of arranged marriages in India end in divorce. Alternatively, love marriages have reached a staggering 55% in divorce rates (Hotiana, 2016). Throughout the Western World, a plethora of research studying divorce rates and love marriages have concluded that couples growing apart and decreasing communication skills are the main reasons for divorce (Hawkins, Willoughby, & Doherty, 2012). Outside of these traditional factors, wrong mate selection, unmet emotional needs, interference of family members, and dependency on family members are other reasons why couples divorced (Barikani, Ebrahim, & Navid, 2012).

Summary

People marry for a variety of reasons, whether in arranged or love marriages. Worldwide, marriages are almost evenly divided between love marriages and arranged marriages. Nearly all marriages in India are arranged marriages, regardless of education, region, or class. In Western democracies, nearly all marital unions are love marriages. The literature on differences in marital satisfaction between arranged and love marriages

is inconclusive. Few studies address differences in the level of satisfaction between love marriages and arranged marriages. There are statistically significant differences in courtship practices between love marriages and arranged marriages. Whether individuals choose spouses on their own, or their parents or families choose spouses on their behalf, marital satisfaction is based on love, passion, intimacy, commitment, and marital quality. Much of the literature highlights love marriages and arranged marriages in both Western and non-Western cultures. Because love marriages are dominant in Western culture and arranged marriages are common in non-Western culture, marital satisfaction and longevity can differ between individuals and cultures.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this quantitative comparative study was to compare arranged marriage and love marriage in terms of passion, intimacy, commitment, and marital satisfaction. Chapter III subdivides as follows: research questions, hypotheses, and research design. The research design section includes a description of the study population, sampling technique, data collection, data analysis, and instrumentation.

Research Questions and Hypotheses

The following research questions guided this study:

RQ1. Are there differences in passion, intimacy, and commitment between arranged marriages and love marriages?

H₀1. There are no significant differences in passion, intimacy, and commitment between couples in arranged marriages and couples in love marriages.

RQ2. Are there differences in marital satisfaction between arranged marriages and love marriages?

H₀2. There are no significant differences in marital satisfaction between couples in arranged marriages and couples in love marriages.

Research Design

Population

The study population was the approximately 104,000 married couples living in the two major cities in Collin County in Texas (U.S. Census Bureau, 2016). Participants

were recruited from churches located in Plano and a marital counseling clinic located in McKinney.

Sample

Ninety married heterosexual couples, 58 couples in arranged marriages, and 32 in love marriages were recruited for a sample of 180 individuals. The inclusion criteria for participation was: (a) age 21 and over, (b) legally married men and women, (c) met the definition for either an arranged or love marriage, and (d) attended either the New Horizons Center for Healing counseling center in McKinney, Texas, or (e) worship members residing in Collin County in Texas. A purposive sampling technique was employed to identify and recruit participants. The sample size of 102 married couples was determined using the G*Power statistical application and the following assumptions: (a) Pearson correlation and t test statistical analyses: (b) $\alpha = .05$, effect size = 0.3, and (c) 80% power using one-tailed tests (Faul, Erdfelder, Lang, & Buchner, 2007; Leedy & Ormrod, 2015). Effect size refers to the magnitude of the difference detected, and 0.3 represents a medium effect. Statistical power refers to the probability of a false-positive acceptance of the null hypothesis. The G*Power calculation and assumptions are typical for social sciences experiments (Faul et al., 2007). Two major cities located in Collin County in Texas were selected due to the availability of potential participants.

Based upon the results of the G*Power calculation, the sample size was indicated to be that of 204 individuals; however, only 180 respondents were included in this study due to 24 participants being rejected. The participants' responses were rejected due to both item non-response and unit non-response in the corresponding survey, which could

have altered the validity of the results. Only those participants (58 couples in arranged marriages and 32 couples in love marriages) who had completed the survey in full were considered in the data analyses.

Instruments

Demographic survey. A demographic survey was utilized to collect information regarding the participants in the areas of age, race, religion, type of marriage, year of marriage, country of origin, education level, income level, number of children and stepchildren, number of people living in the household, and number of adults living in the household. The demographics aided in determining whether the participants in this study were a representative sample of the target population and were used for generalization purposes.

Sternberg's Triangular Love Scale (STLS). The STLS is a 45-item survey used to collect dependent variable data on passion, intimacy, and commitment, while assessing the dimensions of love, intimacy, passion and commitment (Sternberg, 1997). The three components of love interact with each other. For example, greater intimacy may lead to greater passion or commitment, just as greater commitment may lead to greater intimacy, or with lesser likelihood, greater passion. In general, then, the components are separable, but interactive with each other. Although all three components are important parts of loving relationships, their importance may differ from one relationship to another, or over time within a given relationship. Indeed, different kinds of love can be generated by limiting cases of different combinations of the components. The 45-item STLS subdivides into three 15-item subscales for intimacy,

passion, and commitment. Cronbach's alpha coefficient was 0.90 for the total scale; intimacy = 0.94; passion = 0.93; commitment = 0.96. An example of an STLS item is "I strongly like physical contact with _____," requiring a Likert scale response detailing a numerical value from one to nine.

Intimacy. The intimacy dimension measures feelings of closeness, warmth, connectedness, and bondedness in loving relationships (Sternberg, 1997). The following 10 clusters defined intimacy: "(a) desire to promote the welfare of the loved one; (b) experienced happiness with the loved one; (c) high regard for the loved one; (d) being able to count on the loved one in times of need; (e) mutual understanding with the loved one; (f) sharing of one's self and one's possessions with the loved one; (g) scores between 1-3 or 1-8 indicate what each score means in terms of the receipt of emotional support from the loved one; (h) giving of emotional support to the loved one; (i) intimate communication with the loved one; and (j) valuing of the loved one in one's life" (Sternberg & Grajek, 1984, p. 349).

Commitment. The commitment dimension measures the degree of certainty that one has made the correct choice in a mate for the long-term. Commitment manifests itself through sexual fidelity, personal engagement, attention, and so on. An example of an item from the commitment subdimension is ["I can't imagine ending my relationship with ---"].

Passion. The passion dimension measures drives that lead to romance, physical attraction, sexual consummation, and related phenomena in loving relationships. The passion dimension measure the degree to which one is in "a state

of intense longing for union with the other” (Sternberg, 1997, p. 327). In a loving relationship, sexual needs may well predominate in this experience. Passion also relates to feelings of succorance, nurturance, affiliation, dominance, submission, and self-actualization.

When scoring the STLS, the researcher added participants’ scores in the components of intimacy, passion, and commitment to determine the degree of love within each component. Participants experiencing significantly above average scores in the area of intimacy would produce a score higher than the numerical value of 129; significantly above average scores in the area of passion would produce a score higher than the numerical value of 123; and significantly above average scores in the area of commitment would be a score higher than the numerical value of 131. It is important to note that high scores in all components indicated consummate love (Sternberg, 1997).

Sternberg’s Triangular Love Scale has a high level of reliability ($\alpha = 0.98$), as demonstrated by the scales’ three-factor structure that is heavily focused on theory and complex items. The combination of the three-factor structure and complex items ensures that the scale maintains a reliable measure of love (Cassepp-Borges & Pasquali, 2012).

Marriage Satisfaction Inventory-Revised (MSI-R). The MSI-R is a 150-item questionnaire comprising 12 subscales important to romantic relationships, including communication, satisfaction, and specific areas of the relationship, such as sex, finances, and time together (Snyder, 1997). The MSI-R was validated on people above the age of 18, and takes approximately 20-25 minutes to complete (Stroud, Durbin, Saigal, & Knobloch-Fedders, 2010). The questions on the MSI-R are written at a 6th grade level to

ensure for easier comprehension by all individuals who take the inventory. Additionally, the items in the tool refer to “relationship” and “partner” rather than “marriage” and “spouse”, which make it ideal for use with couples in arranged and love marriages. The tool contains 150 true/false items that both individuals of the couple must respond to and reduced to 129 items if the couple does not have any children.

A unique feature of the MSI-R is that it can provide useful feedback to the individuals or couples. The use of the MSI-R helps to enhance the validity and reliability of the questionnaire by highlighting two additional scales that help in illustrating the tendency and inconsistency to respond in an unrealistically positive manner (Stroud et al., 2010). Reliability is the extent to which a tool consistently measures the construct and the time points. In contrast, validity is the extent to which it measures that which it is required to measure. The MSI-R has both high internal and external consistency; high internal consistency is demonstrated between scales by the Cronbach’s alpha coefficient that ranges from 0.70 (Dissatisfaction with Children [DSC]) to 0.93 (Global Distress Scale [GDS]), and high external consistency is demonstrated between scales by test-retest reliability over a period of six weeks yielded stability coefficients ranging from 0.74 to 0.88. Evidence of validity of the MSI-R scales derives from previous studies of the group (discriminant validity) and correlational studies of the scales (convergent validity).

The responses are scored on 13 scales of the inventory, which encompass two validity scales (conventionalism and inconsistency), one global distress scale (the level of

satisfaction and happiness), and 10 other scales measuring the dimensions of distress in relationships.

After scoring has been completed, raw scores are obtained from each scale. When reading the results of the MSI-R, high raw scores indicate higher distress while lower raw scores indicate lower distress. One main benefit of the MSI-R is that the results compare partners' results to each other as well as to the results of couples.

MSI-R scales. There are 13 scales identified in the MSI-R:

- **Inconsistency (INC):** A validity scale assessing the individual's consistency in responding to item content (20 item pairs with high scores reflecting greater inconsistency).
- **Conventionalization (CNV):** A validity scale assessing individuals' tendencies to distort the appraisal of their relationship in a socially desirable direction (10 items with high scores reflecting denial of common relationship shortcomings; $\alpha = .83$).
- **Global Distress (GDS):** This measures individuals' overall satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the relationship and is the best indicator of global relationship affect. The GDS scale's item content reflects general satisfaction, dissatisfaction or unhappiness in the relationship (22 items; $\alpha = .93$).
- **Affective Communication (AFC):** This evaluates individuals' dissatisfaction with the amount of affection and understanding expressed by their partner. The AFC scale provides the best single measure of emotional intimacy experienced in the relationship (13 items; $\alpha = .85$).

- **Problem-Solving Communication (PSC):** This assesses the couple's general ineffectiveness in resolving differences. The three aspects to the content covered by this scale are failure to resolve even minor differences, lack of specific problem-solving skills, and overreacting of partner and inability to discuss sensitive topics (19 items; $\alpha = .89$).
- **Aggression (AGG):** This measures the level of intimidation and physical aggression experienced by respondents from their partners (10 items; $\alpha = .81$).
- **Time Together (TTO):** This evaluates the couple's companionship as expressed in time shared in leisure activity (10 items; $\alpha = .80$).
- **Disagreement about Finances (FIN):** This measures relationship discord regarding the management of finances (11 items; $\alpha = .79$).
- **Sexual Dissatisfaction (SEX):** This assesses dissatisfaction with the frequency and quality of intercourse and other sexual activity (13 items; $\alpha = .84$).
- **Role Orientation (ROR):** This evaluates the respondent's advocacy for a traditional versus nontraditional orientation toward marital and parental gender roles (12 items with high scores reflecting a nontraditional, more egalitarian orientation; $\alpha = .83$).
- **Family History of Distress (FAM):** This reflects the disruption of relationships within the respondent's family of origin (9 items; $\alpha = .78$).
- **Dissatisfaction with Children (DSC):** This assesses the relationship quality between respondents and their children as well as parental concern regarding one or more child's emotional and behavioral well-being (11 items; $\alpha = .70$).

- **Conflict Over Child Rearing (CCR):** This evaluates the extent of conflict between partners regarding childrearing practices (10 items; $\alpha = .78$).

Data Collection Procedures

The researcher requested email addresses for potential participants residing in Collin County in Texas who were attending the New Horizons Center for Healing Counseling Center located in McKinney, Texas, and worship members residing in Plano, Texas, or by the SurveyMonkey Audience® database. Potential participants received the Recruitment Email (see Appendix B). New Horizons Center for Healing counseling center in McKinney, Texas granted permission (see Appendix F) to recruit clients' using emails for recruitment, and the SurveyMonkey Audience® database was a commercially available email database available for rental. SurveyMonkey Audience® database is acceptable for dissertation participant recruitment. SurveyMonkey was used to collect the data by identifying participants that met the criteria to participate in the study. Once the interested individuals completed the SurveyMonkey questionnaire, they were redirected to PsychData to complete the survey for data collection.

Participants selected an active link embedded in the Recruitment Email and were directed to a Psych-data® portal page for data collection. On the initial landing page was the Informed Consent Form (see Appendix A) where participants were required to select "I agree" to continue to the survey. Individuals who selected "I do not agree" were thanked for their time and the portal closed. Participants were then required to complete the Demographic Survey (see Appendix C), which served to screen individuals who did not meet the inclusion criteria, while collecting demographic data to characterize the study

sample. Individuals who did not meet the inclusion criteria were thanked for their interest and the portal closed. Both individuals of the couple were required to complete the MSI-R and STLS.

The PsychData® portal did not require participants to answer every question to minimize the probability of attrition and allow for some discretion in answering uncomfortable questions. Each couple was assigned a unique code from the PsychData portal, as unique codes served to connect couple data. The first individual of the couple who completed the MSI-R and the STLS was randomly provided with a unique code from the PsychData portal. The first individual of the couple then provided this same code to his or her spouse, who then entered this code before completing the MSI-R and the STLS. This allowed the researcher to connect the couple's data when preparing for and completing the data analyses. Both individuals of the couple were asked in the demographic survey if they were the first person to complete the survey. If they were the first individual of the couple, they received a generated code from PsychData. If they were the second individual of the couple, they copied the same code provided by the first individual into the survey. The researcher utilized question logic in order for participants to skip any unnecessary questions.

Data Analyses

The research was completed in a quantitative manner to allow for easy statistical analysis, which was essential for making inferences. The independent variable was marriage type and the dependent variables included intimacy, passion, commitment, and marital satisfaction. As shown in Table 1, Hypothesis 1 was tested using skewness and

kurtosis statistics to test for the statistical assumption of normality for the three subscales of *Intimacy*, *Passion*, and *Commitment*. When the assumption was violated, non-parametric Mann-Whitney U tests were used to compare the subscale scores of arranged and love marriages. Medians and interquartile ranges were reported for the findings. Statistical significance was assumed at p value of 0.05 and all analyses were conducted using SPSS Version 25.

With Hypothesis 2, normality was assessed using skewness and kurtosis statistics. If either statistic was above an absolute value of 2.0, then the assumption was violated. Levene's Test of Equality of Variances was used to test for the statistical assumption of homogeneity of variance. When both statistical assumptions were met, independent samples t -tests were used to compare arranged and love marriage groups on MSI-R subscales. Means and standard deviations were reported for each group. Generalized linear models were conducted to compare arranged versus love marriage groups on nested continuous data for marriage couples (husband and wife). Wald chi-square tests were used to test the between-subjects groups. Marginal means and 95% confidence intervals were reported and interpreted for the models. Statistical significance was assumed at p value of 0.05 and all analyses were conducted using SPSS Version 25.

Table 1

Statistical Tests for Null Hypotheses

Hypothesis	Variables	Statistic
Ho1: There are no significant differences in passion, intimacy, and commitment between couples in arranged marriages and couples in love marriages.	STLS sub-scores for passion, intimacy, and commitment.	Non-parametric Mann-Whitney U tests
Ho2: There are no significant differences in marital satisfaction between couples in arranged marriages and couples in love marriages.	MSI-R score for marital satisfaction.	t test, Levene's Test of Equality of Variances, Generalized linear models, Wald chi-square tests

Summary

This chapter presented the quantitative comparative research design that was used in this study. This was the most appropriate design as the purpose of this study was to compare arranged marriage and love marriage in terms of passion, intimacy, commitment, and marital satisfaction. Ninety currently married heterosexual couples, 58 couples in arranged marriages, and 32 in love marriages for a sample of 180 individuals participated in this study, and all respondents were required to complete the demographic survey, and the MSI-R and the STLS. During the data analyses, Hypothesis 1 was tested using non-parametric Mann-Whitney U tests, and Hypothesis 2 was tested using an independent samples *t*-tests to compare arranged and love marriage groups on MSI-R subscales and generalized linear models to compare arranged versus love marriage

groups on nested continuous data for couples. This chapter also discussed data sources, research questions and hypotheses, and data collection methods. The results and conclusions of the study will be discussed in Chapters IV and V.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS

The purpose of this quantitative comparative study was to compare arranged marriage and love marriage in terms of passion, intimacy, commitment, and marital satisfaction. When collecting the data, the researcher utilized both the MSI-R and STLS. The MSI-R is a 150-item questionnaire that assesses the nature and extent of conflict in marriages, and the STLS is a 45-item survey that collects data from married couples, describing love in terms of three components: intimacy, passion, and commitment. The analysis was guided by the following two research questions and hypotheses.

RQ1. Are there differences in passion, intimacy, and commitment between arranged marriages and love marriages?

H₀1. There are no significant differences in passion, intimacy, and commitment between couples in arranged marriages and couples in love marriages.

RQ2. Are there differences in marital satisfaction between arranged marriages and love marriages?

H₀2. There are no significant differences in marital satisfaction between couples in arranged marriages and couples in love marriages.

Hypothesis 1 was tested using skewness and kurtosis statistics to test for the statistical assumption of normality for the three subscales of Intimacy, Passion, and Commitment. When the assumption was violated, non-parametric Mann-Whitney U tests were used to compare the subscale scores of arranged and love marriages. Medians and interquartile

ranges were reported for the findings. Statistical significance was assumed at p value of 0.05 and all analyses were conducted using SPSS Version 25.

With Hypothesis 2, normality was assessed using skewness and kurtosis statistics. If either statistic was above an absolute value of 2.0, then the assumption was violated. Levene's Test of Equality of Variances was used to test for the statistical assumption of homogeneity of variance. When both statistical assumptions were met, independent samples t -tests were used to compare arranged and love marriage groups on MSI-R subscales. Means and standard deviations were reported for each group. Generalized linear models were conducted to compare arranged versus love marriage groups on nested continuous data for marriage couples (husband and wife). Wald chi-square tests were used to test the between-subjects groups. Marginal means and 95% confidence intervals were reported and interpreted for the models. Statistical significance was assumed at p value of 0.05 and all analyses were conducted using SPSS Version 25.

Response Rate

The study observed an 88.2% of the original sample size due to both item non-response and unit non-response in the corresponding surveys, which could have altered the validity of the results. Only those participants (58 couples in arranged marriages and 32 couples in love marriages) who had completed the survey in full were considered in the data analysis. Therefore, the final sample size was 180 participants, or 88.2% of the original sample size, still providing the ability to draw conclusions from statistically viable data (Fuller, Simmering, Atinc, Atinc, & Babin, 2016).

Demographic Information

The study considered specific background information of the participating respondents. This information was required in order to provide the basis of establishing the characteristics of the sample. The background information consisted of gender, age, primary ethnicity, religion, year of marriage, country of origin, parents' country of origin, education level, income level, number of biological children, number of stepchildren, number of people living in the household, and number of adults living in the household. This is highlighted as demonstrated in Table 2, Frequencies and Percentages of Demographic Variables.

Table 2

Frequencies and Percentages of Demographic Variables

	<i>n</i>	%
Gender		
Male	90	50
Female	90	50
Age		
21 - 30	116	64.4%
31 - 40	48	26.7%
41 - 50	8	4.4%
51 - 60	5	2.8%
61 - 70	3	1.7%
Race		
White	24	13.3%
Black	12	6.7%
Hispanic	14	7.8%
Middle Eastern	114	63.3%
Other	16	8.9%
Religion		

Muslim	105	58.3%
Christian	44	24.4%
Atheist	4	2.2%
Hindu	10	5.6%
Non-Denomination	10	5.6%
Non-Religious	7	3.9%
Type of Marriage		
Arranged	116	64.4%
Love	64	35.6%
Year of Marriage		
1981 - 1990	5	2.8%
1991 - 2000	21	11.7%
2001 - 2010	38	21.1%
2011 - 2018	116	64.4%
Country of Origin		
USA	54	30.0%
Mexico	4	2.2%
China	9	5.0%
Dubai	2	1.1%
Pakistan	4	2.2%
Europe	2	1.1%
India	101	56.2%
Africa	4	2.2%
Education Level		
High School Diploma	54	30.0%
Some college	59	32.8%
Bachelor's Degree	42	23.3%
Graduate Degree	25	13.9%
Income Level		
\$0k - \$50k	104	57.8%
\$50k - \$100k	52	28.9%
\$100k or more	24	13.3%
Number of Children		
0	116	64.4%
1	17	9.4%
2	32	17.8%
3	8	4.5%
6	7	3.9%

Number of Stepchildren		
0	136	75.6%
1	8	4.4%
2	29	16.1%
3	7	3.9%
Number of People Living in the Household		
2	122	67.8%
3	34	18.9%
4	16	8.8%
5	4	2.2%
6	1	0.6%
7	2	1.1%
8	1	0.6%
Number of Adults Living in the Household		
2	140	77.8%
3	31	17.2%
4	6	3.3%
5	2	1.1%
6	1	0.6%

Age. In terms of age, 116 of respondents (64.4%) indicated that they were in the age bracket of 21 to 30 years. They were seconded by 48 respondents (26.7%) who indicated they were between 31 and 40 years. Eight respondents (4.4%) indicated that they were in the age bracket of 41 and 50, while five respondents (2.8%) were in the age bracket of 51 and 60. Finally, three (1.7%) of the respondents indicated that they were in the age bracket of 61 and 70 years.

Gender. The findings indicated that 50% of the respondents were female and 50% were male.

Race and ethnicity. Findings also indicated that the majority of participants' (63.3%) primary ethnicity was Middle Eastern. This was seconded by 13.3% of the respondents who were white. Additionally, 8.9% of participants were classified as other ethnic/racial groups, and 7.8% of participants were Hispanic and 6.7% of the respondents were black.

Religion. The findings established that the majority 58.3% of the respondents were Muslim, seconded by 24.4% being Christians. A tying 5.6% of respondents were Hindu and non-denomination, respectively. Finally, 3.9% of the respondents were non-religious and 2.2% were atheist.

Type and year of marriage. The majority 64.4% of the respondents identified as being in arranged marriages and 35.6% of respondents were in love marriages. From the results, it was evident that the majority 64.4% of the respondents were married between the years of 2011 and 2018. This was seconded by 21.1% of the respondents who were married between the years of 2001 and 2010. Further, 11.7% of the respondents indicated that they were married between the years of 1991 and 2000 and 2.8% of the respondents were married between the years 1981 and 1990.

Country of origin. Data indicated that 56.2% of the respondents' country of origin was India. This was seconded by 30% of respondents who indicated that they were from the United States and 2.2% of respondents respectively were from Africa. Five percent of respondents were from China, 1.1% were from Europe, and 1.1% were from Dubai. The remaining 4.4% of participants were from Pakistan and Mexico, respectively.

Education levels. The data demonstrated that 32.8% of respondents had completed some college, 30% who indicated that they had attained a high school diploma of GED equivalency. Forty-two respondents 23.3% confirmed that they had completed a Bachelor's degree and 13.9% indicated that they had attained a graduate degree.

Income level. The findings indicated that 57.8% of the respondents stated that their income level was between \$0k to \$50K, which was seconded by 28.9% of the respondents who indicated that their income levels ranged from \$50k to \$100k. Finally, 13.3% of the respondents indicated that their income level was \$100K or more.

Number of biological children. Findings indicated that 64.4% of respondents had no biological children. This was followed by 9.4% of the respondents who indicated that they had one biological child. Thirty-two respondents 17.8% indicated they had two biological children, whereas 4.5% indicated that they had three biological children. Finally, 3.9% of the respondents indicated that they had six biological children.

Number of stepchildren. The majority of respondents 75.6% had no stepchildren. This was followed by 16.1% indicating that they had two stepchildren. Eight respondents 4.4% indicated that they had one stepchild and 3.9% confirmed that they had three stepchildren.

Number of people living in the household. The majority of respondents 67.8% indicated that they were the only two people living in their household. Meanwhile, 18.9% of the respondents indicating that there were three people living in their household. Sixteen respondents 8.8% indicated that there were four people living in their household and 1.1% of respondents indicated that there were seven people living in their household.

Finally, 0.6% of respondents stated that there were six people living in their household and the remaining 0.6% indicated that there were eight people.

Number of adults living in one household. From the findings presented in Table 2, it was established that 77.8% of the respondents indicated that there were only two adults living in their household. This was seconded by 17.2% of the respondents who indicated that there were three adults living in their household. Six respondents 3.3% indicated that there were four adults living in their household and 1.1% stated that there were five adults living in their household. Finally, 0.6% of the respondents indicated that there were six adults living in their household.

Findings of Hypothesis 1

Statistical methods. Skewness and kurtosis statistics were used to test for the statistical assumption of normality for the three subscales of Intimacy, Passion, and Commitment. When the assumption was violated, non-parametric Mann-Whitney U tests were used to compare the subscale scores of the arranged and love marriage. Medians and interquartile ranges were reported for the findings. Statistical significance was assumed at p value of 0.05 and all analyses were conducted using SPSS Version 25.

Statistical results. Normality was violated for each subscale outcome. Statistically significant differences were detected between the arranged and love groups for Intimacy ($p < 0.001$), Passion ($p < 0.001$), and Commitment ($p = 0.024$). Medians and interquartile ranges for the comparisons can be found in Table 3.

Table 3

Arranged Marriages and Love Marriages

Subscale	Arranged Marriage	Love Marriage	<i>p</i> -value
	Median (Range)	Median (Range)	
Intimacy	119.0 (6.25)	115.0 (15.5)	0.001
Passion	119.0 (6.0)	114.0 (31.0)	0.001
Commitment	120.0 (6.25)	117.50 (13.0)	0.024

When using non-parametric statistics, medians and interquartile ranges were reported instead of means and standard deviations. As highlighted, arranged marriages were significantly higher for all three dimensions. Higher median in each components indicates higher level of passion, intimacy, or commitment. Participants experiencing significantly above average scores in the area of intimacy would produce a score higher than the numerical value of 129; significantly above average scores in the area of passion would produce a score higher than the numerical value of 123; and significantly above average scores in the area of commitment would be a score higher than the numerical value of 131. It is important to note that high scores in all components indicated consummate love (Sternberg, 1997).

Findings of Hypothesis 2

Statistical methods. Normality was assessed using skewness and kurtosis statistics. If either statistic was above an absolute value of 2.0, then the assumption was violated. Levene's Test of Equality of Variances was used to test for the statistical assumption of homogeneity of variance. When both statistical assumptions were met, independent samples *t*-tests were used to compare arranged and love marriage groups on MSR-I subscales. Means and standard deviations were reported for each group.

Generalized linear models were conducted to compare arranged versus love marriage groups on nested continuous data for marriage couples (husband and wife). Wald chi-square tests were used to test the between-subjects groups. Marginal means and 95% confidence intervals were reported and interpreted for the models. Statistical significance was assumed at p value of 0.05 and all analyses were conducted using SPSS Version 25.

Statistical results. Statistical assumptions for the independent samples t -test analyses for wives and then husbands were met. The between-subjects results found that there were statistically significant differences between arranged and love marriages, for wives, for the global distress scale ($p = 0.002$), affective communication ($p < 0.001$), problem-solving communication ($p < 0.001$), sexual dissatisfaction ($p < 0.001$), and role orientation ($p = 0.04$) subscales of the MSR-I. The other comparison of subscales yielded no statistically significant differences between the types of marriages in wives. For husbands, the t -test analyses found statistically significant differences between the two marriage types for global distress ($p = 0.004$), affective communication ($p = 0.001$), problem-solving communication ($p < 0.001$), sexual dissatisfaction ($p < 0.001$), and family history of distress ($p < 0.001$). No other significant findings were detected for husbands when comparing the marriage types. Means and standard deviations for the between-subjects findings can be found in Table 4.

Table 4

Means and Standard Deviation of MSI-R Subscales for Wives and Husbands in Love and Arranged Marriages

Partner	Subscale	Arranged	Love	
		M (SD)	M (SD)	<i>p</i> -value
Wives	Global Distress	4.40 (4.24)	8.06 (5.54)	0.002
	Affective Communication	3.84 (2.20)	6.19 (2.65)	< 0.001
	Problem-Solving Communication	6.07 (3.18)	9.78 (4.36)	< 0.001
	Aggression	0.62 (0.97)	0.69 (0.90)	0.75
	Time Together	4.17 (2.13)	4.66 (2.64)	0.35
	Disagreement about Finances	1.95 (1.72)	2.72 (2.17)	0.07
	Sexual Dissatisfaction	5.40 (2.46)	2.78 (2.54)	< 0.001
	Role Orientation	7.76 (2.97)	6.06 (3.96)	0.04
	Family History of Distress	3.48 (2.62)	4.56 (2.93)	0.08
	Dissatisfaction with Children	0.84 (1.67)	1.00 (1.87)	0.69
	Conflict over Child Rearing	0.91 (1.88)	1.00 (2.03)	0.84
Husbands	Global Distress	2.91 (3.45)	5.31 (4.19)	0.004
	Affective Communication	2.67 (1.91)	4.72 (2.81)	0.001
	Problem-Solving Communication	5.69 (3.29)	9.44 (3.97)	< 0.001
	Aggression	0.93 (1.27)	1.16 (1.39)	0.44
	Time Together	3.86 (1.93)	4.16 (2.19)	0.51
	Disagreement about Finances	1.90 (1.68)	2.72 (2.20)	0.05
	Sexual Dissatisfaction	7.59 (2.76)	4.72 (3.61)	< 0.001
	Role Orientation	7.00 (2.97)	6.13 (3.92)	0.28
	Family History of Distress	2.86 (2.12)	4.66 (2.43)	< 0.001
	Dissatisfaction with Children	0.90 (1.88)	1.00 (1.92)	0.81
	Conflict over Child Rearing	0.59 (1.42)	0.81 (1.67)	0.50

The generalized linear models used to assess the nested data of marriage pairs (husband and wife), statistically significant differences were found between the arranged and love marriages for global distress ($p < 0.001$), affective communication ($p < 0.001$), problem-solving communication ($p < 0.001$), disagreement about finances ($p = 0.006$), sexual dissatisfaction ($p < 0.001$), role orientation ($p = 0.013$), and family history of

distress ($p < 0.001$) subscale of the MSR-I. Marginal means and 95% confidence intervals are reported for each subscale analysis of the marriage types in Table 5.

Table 5

Means MSI-R subscales for Arranged and Love Marriages

Subscale	Arranged	Love	<i>p</i>
	Marriages	Marriages	
	M	M	
Global Distress	3.66	6.69	0.001
Affective Communication	3.26	5.45	0.001
Problem-Solving Communication	5.88	9.61	0.001
Aggression	0.78	0.92	0.41
Time Together	4.02	4.41	0.25
Disagreement about Finances	1.92	2.72	0.006
Sexual Dissatisfaction	6.49	3.75	0.001
Role Orientation	7.38	6.09	0.013
Family History of Distress	3.17	4.61	0.001
Dissatisfaction with Children	0.87	1.00	0.64
Conflict over Child Rearing	0.75	0.91	0.56

*Confidence intervals 95%

It should be noted that the MSI-R also scores for consistency and conventionalization (validity scales). Consistency assesses the individual's consistency in responding to item content, whereas conventionalization assesses individuals' tendencies to distort the appraisal of their relationship in a socially desirable direction. In this study, when examining both the husbands and wives separately, and then as a couple together, there was no significance in the inconsistency p -value= 0.30 (wives); p -value= 0.36 (husbands); p -value= 0.86 (couples), demonstrated that the answers were consistent among all individuals. Furthermore, in terms of conventionalization, not all participants appeared to distort the appraisal of their relationship in socially desirable directions, as there was no significance in this area p -value = .56 (wives); p -value = .18 (husbands); p -

value = .23 (couples). Table 6 and Table 7 highlight the female and male scoring guide for the MSI-R.

Table 6

Female Scoring Guide for MSI-R

Global Distress (GDS)	Good	0-1
	Possible Problem	2-11
	Problem	12-20
Affective Communication (AFC)	Good	0-3
	Possible Problem	4-8
	Problem	9-12
Problem-Solving Communication (PSC)	Good	0-5
	Possible Problem	6-12
	Problem	13-17
Aggression (AGG)	Good	0-1
	Possible Problem	2-4
	Problem	5-8
Time Together (TTG)	Good	0-2
	Possible Problem	3-6
	Problem	7-9
Disagreement about Finances (FIN)	Good	0-2
	Possible Problem	3-6
	Problem	7-9
Sexual Dissatisfaction (SEX)	Good	0-3
	Possible Problem	4-7
	Problem	8-11
Role Orientation (ROR)	Good	1-12
	<i>Higher score indicates more traditional view</i>	
Family History of Distress	Good	0-1

	Possible Problem	2-5
	Problem	6-9
Dissatisfaction with Children (DSC)	Good	0-1
	Possible Problem	2-4
	Problem	5-7
Conflict over Childrearing (CCR)	Good	0-1
	Possible Problem	2-5
	Problem	6-8

Table 7

Male Scoring Guide for MSI-R

Global Distress (GDS)	Good	0-1
	Possible Problem	2-8
	Problem	9-17
Affective Communication (AFC)	Good	0-2
	Possible Problem	3-6
	Problem	7-11
Problem-Solving Communication (PSC)	Good	0-5
	Possible Problem	6-12
	Problem	13-17
Aggression (AGG)	Good	0-1
	Possible Problem	2-4
	Problem	5-8
Time Together (TTG)	Good	0-2
	Possible Problem	3-6
	Problem	7-8
Disagreement about Finances (FIN)	Good	0-2
	Possible Problem	3-5
	Problem	6-9
Sexual Dissatisfaction (SEX)	Good	0-4
	Possible Problem	5-9

	Problem	10-12
Role Orientation (ROR)	Good	1-12
	<i>Higher score indicates more traditional view</i>	
Family History of Distress	Good	0-1
	Possible Problem	2-5
	Problem	6-8
Dissatisfaction with Children (DSC)	Good	0-1
	Possible Problem	2-4
	Problem	5-7
Conflict over Childrearing (CCR)	Good	0-1
	Possible Problem	2-4
	Problem	5-6

CHAPTER V

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this quantitative comparative study was to compare arranged marriage and love marriage in terms of passion, intimacy, commitment, and marital satisfaction. Two research questions guided this study.

RQ1. Are there differences in passion, intimacy, and commitment between arranged marriages and love marriages?

H₀1. There are no significant differences in passion, intimacy, and commitment between couples in arranged marriages and couples in love marriages.

RQ2. Are there differences in marital satisfaction between arranged marriages and love marriages?

H₀2. There are no significant differences in marital satisfaction between couples in arranged marriages and couples in love marriages.

Research Design

The study adopted a quantitative comparative research design, which was appropriate as the study compared arranged marriages and love marriages in terms of passion, intimacy, commitment, and marital satisfaction for a sampled population of 180 respondents. According to Lieberman (2005), comparative research design is

characterized by great flexibility, openness, and variety, positioning it as the best design for dealing with questions aiming at developing valid theoretical concepts for delineating empirical phenomenon and questions aiming at identifying explanations in a social context.

Ninety married heterosexual couples, 58 couples in arranged marriages, and 32 couples in love marriages, for a minimum sample of 180 individuals participated in this study. All respondents were required to complete a demographic survey that allowed those aged 21 and older to proceed with participation in the study, completing both the MSI-R and the STLS. During the data analysis, Hypothesis 1 was tested using skewness and kurtosis statistics to test for the statistical assumption of normality for the three subscales of *Intimacy*, *Passion*, and *Commitment*. When the assumption was violated, non-parametric Mann-Whitney U tests were used to compare the subscale scores of arranged and love marriages. Medians and interquartile ranges were reported for the findings. Statistical significance was assumed at p -value of 0.05 and all analyses were conducted using SPSS Version 25.

With Hypothesis 2, normality was assessed using skewness and kurtosis statistics. If either statistic was above an absolute value of 2.0, then the assumption was violated. Levene's Test of Equality of Variances was used to test for the statistical assumption of homogeneity of variance. When both statistical assumptions were met, independent samples t -tests were used to compare arranged and love marriage groups on MSI-R subscales. Means and standard deviations were reported for each group. Generalized linear models were conducted to compare arranged versus love marriage groups on

nested continuous data for marriage couples (husband and wife). Wald chi-square tests were used to test the between-subjects groups. Marginal means and 95% confidence intervals were reported and interpreted for the models. Statistical significance was assumed at p value of 0.05 and all analyses were conducted using SPSS Version 25.

Demographic Findings

The findings indicated that the 64.4% of the respondents were young adults between the ages of 21 and 30 years of age with 67.8% identifying a primary ethnicity of Middle Eastern. This explained how 58.3% of participants identified their religion as being Muslim, since Islam is considered the dominant religion in the Middle East.

Over 64% of respondents were married between the years of 2011 and 2018 identifying their involvement in an arranged marriage. A study by DeVita (2016) highlighted how India identifies virtually all marriages as being arranged in nature, regardless of education, religion, or class. In comparison, the United States and other westernized countries, nearly all unions are considered love marriages. These findings provide different results confirming a significant change in marriage practices from a majority of participants who primarily originated from India. This could be coupled with the participants shifting away from traditional beliefs and values due to living in the United States. Findings also suggested that all participants had at least attained education in different ranges; 13.9% attained a graduate degree and 32.8% identified as having some college qualifications. These findings are in alignment with Allendorf and Ghimire (2013) who found that higher education and love marriages predicted marital satisfaction.

The majority of participants' parents' country of origin was India, with most individuals of the couples earning a gross income of less than \$50,000 per year.

The findings further indicated that the majority of participants had no biological children or stepchildren. This can potentially be explained by their short duration that they have been in marriages combined with low incomes earned, which may be a factor of deciding to not have children, due to high financial obligations. Also, it was established that the majority of participants had only two individuals residing in their household.

Hypothesis 1: Differences between passion, intimacy, commitment between arranged marriages and love marriages. The results of the data analysis indicated that there was a significant difference between arranged and love marriages for intimacy, passion, and commitment; therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected as all variables were higher in arranged marriages compared to love marriages. In terms of passion, the *p*-value was < 0.001 , intimacy found a *p*-value of < 0.001 , and commitment found a *p*-value that was equal to 0.024. Rejecting the null hypothesis found that arranged marriages experienced higher levels of passion, intimacy, and commitment to that of their love marriage counterparts.

In relation to Sheth's (2015) study that focused on arranged marriages, the author indicated that arranged marriages experienced little passion in the initial stages but increasing compassion as time went on. In addition, arranged marriage partners were virtually twice as compassionate as love marriage couples ten years into the marriage. The psychologist's study concluded that couples who married as a result of arranged

marriages were more likely to have a successful marriage than those in love marriages (Sheth, 2015). The results of this current study appear in alignment with Sheth (2015), as all variables of passion, intimacy, and commitment were higher compared to love marriages.

It is important to note that the results of Hypothesis 1 is not in alignment with Foreman-Peck's (2011) study that compared couples in arranged marriages in India, versus couples in love marriages in the United States. The author purported that there was no evidence of differences in marital satisfaction, and additionally, the study demonstrated no differences in love between the two marriage types. Although this current study did not particularly investigate the aspect of love in marriages, it did concentrate on variables of love; specifically intimacy, passion, and commitment. The results demonstrated higher levels in arranged marriages versus that of love marriages.

Understanding these results in relation to the success of arranged marriages is also important, as Fischer (2016) reported that 55% of marriages in the world are arranged, with only 6% of these marriages resulting in divorce. It is through current study that can be concluded that divorce may occur less frequently in arranged marriages versus that of love marriages, simply because the couples might experience higher levels of passion, intimacy, and commitment in relation to their love marriage counterparts. However, it is also important to note that divorce is typically not an option when it comes to arranged marriages as it goes against social norms (Allendorf & Ghimire, 2013). In the Western world, divorce rates can be as high as 55% in love marriages, which poses an interesting

observation considering that this study demonstrated lower levels of intimacy, passion, and commitment in marriages of love.

McCutcheon et al. (2016) highlighted important differences between love and arranged marriages, purporting that arranged marriages are declining due to the increasing exposure to the Western world and corresponding values. Therefore, mate selection is an important topic of discussion, simply because individuals who move into an arranged marriage are people who are ready to marry partners with the help of their parents or friends. Nasser, Dabbous, and Baba (2013) discussed how dating rituals are different between arranged and love marriages, providing an example of how Muslims expect that love might begin and grow during marriage. This is in stark contrast to love marriages in the Western world, where it is assumed that areas of intimacy and passion are stronger at the beginning of the relationship and tend to decrease over time (Goldman, 2014). An interesting comparison in this present study is the fact that the majority of participants identified their religion as Muslim (58.3%), with the majority being involved in an arranged marriage. In alignment with Nasser et al. (2013), it was that the results indicated in current study that levels of passion, intimacy, and commitment were higher in the sample of arranged marriages versus that of love marriages.

Hypothesis 2: Differences in marital satisfaction between arranged marriages and love marriages. Hypothesis 2 focused on investigating the differences in marital satisfaction between arranged marriages and love marriages and concluded that there were statistically significant differences between the wives, the husbands, and then the couples together. In terms of wives, results concluded that there were significant

differences in the areas of *global distress, affective communication, problem-solving communication, sexual dissatisfaction, and role orientation*. In terms of *global distress*, the wives of arranged couples indicated a mean score of 4.40, which, according to the author of MSI-R instrument, demonstrates a “possible problem” in relation to the wives’ overall dissatisfaction with their marriage. In comparison, the wives involved in love marriages received a mean score of 8.06, which, according to the author of MSI-R instrument, demonstrates a “problem” in relation that indicating a higher level of dissatisfaction in their marriage. This indicated that the wives of love marriages experienced lower levels of marital satisfaction and intimate relationship compared to the wives of arranged marriages.

Affective communication also appeared significant with the wives of the couples, as wives in arranged marriages experienced a mean score of 3.84 “possible problem”, compared to that of wives in love marriages who experienced a mean score of 6.19 “Problem”. According to the MSI-R scoring, these scores indicate that the wives of arranged marriages experienced less problems in terms of how they view the level of affection and understanding that is expressed by their husbands. Furthermore, these scores indicated that the wives of love marriages experienced lack of affection, support, and empathy compared to the wives of arranged marriages.

Problem-solving communication is another area that demonstrated significance between the wives of arranged and love marriages. Wives in arranged marriages experienced a mean score of 6.07 “possible problem”, compared to the mean score of wives in love marriages at 9.78 “possible problem”. According to MSI-R scoring, wives

in arranged marriages reported “possible problems” when it came to the couples’ effectiveness in resolving differences. In contrast, wives of loved marriages scored higher on the scale, still residing in the “possible problems” category. These scores indicated that wives of love marriages experience more conflicts in their relationships due to ineffective problem-solving skills compared to the wives of love marriages.

Sexual dissatisfaction also found significant differences between wives in arranged and love marriages, as wives in arranged marriages received a mean score of 5.40 “possible problem”, compared to 2.78 “good” of their love marriage counterparts. This indicated that the wives in arranged marriages perceived a “possible problem” when it came to the frequency and quality of sexual practices with their husbands. On the other hand, the wives in love marriages scored ‘good’ when it came to the frequency and quality of sexual practices with their husbands, indicating minimal to no problems in this area. These scores indicated that wives of love marriages experienced higher levels of sexual satisfaction compared to the wives of arranged marriages.

Role orientation is the final area that demonstrated significance between wives in arranged and love marriages. The wives in arranged marriages received a mean score of 7.76, whereas the wives in love marriages received a mean score of 6.06. The results indicated that the wives in arranged marriages experienced an MSI-R score of “good” in the area that evaluates the respondent’s advocacy for a traditional versus nontraditional orientation toward marital and parental gender roles. Alternatively, the wives in love relationships also received an MSI-R score of “good”; although lower than wives in

arranged marriages. This indicated that wives of arranged marriages carry expressed egalitarian views compared to the wives of love marriages.

When analyzing the data for the husbands of both arranged and love marriages, significant differences were found between the two groups in the categories of *global distress, affective communication, problem-solving communication, sexual dissatisfaction, and family history of distress*. In terms of *global distress*, husbands in arranged marriages received a mean score of 2.91 “possible problem”, whereas husbands in love marriages received a mean score of 5.31 “possible problem”. Although both are scored by the MSI-R indicating “possible problems”, husbands in love marriages indicated a higher reporting of overall dissatisfaction and unhappiness within their relationships than their arranged marriage counterparts. These scores indicated that the husbands of love marriages experienced lower levels of marital satisfaction and intimate relationship compared to the husbands of arranged marriages.

Affective communication between the husbands of both groups also appeared significant, as husbands in arranged marriages received a mean score of 2.67 “good”, compared to love marriages 4.72 “possible problem”. The MSI-R scoring indicated a score of “good” for the husbands in arranged marriages, depicting that there were little to no problems when it came to viewing the level of affection and understanding that is expressed by their wives. Alternatively, the husbands in love marriages received an MSI-R score of “possible problem” when it comes to measuring the level of affection and understanding expressed by their wives. Furthermore, this indicated that the husbands of

love marriages might experience lack of affection, support, and empathy compared to the husbands of arranged marriages.

The husbands in arranged marriages received a mean score of 5.69 “good”, compared to love marriages with a means score of 9.44 “possible problem”, when it came to *problem-solving communication* with their wives. The MSI-R revealed that husbands in arranged marriages scored “good” when it came to the couples’ effectiveness of resolving differences, whereas the husbands in love marriages scored “possible problems”. This indicated that husbands in arranged marriages experienced little to no problems in the effectiveness of resolving differences within their relationship, whereas husbands in love marriages experienced possible problems in the same area.

Sexual dissatisfaction was another area of significance between the husbands of arranged and love marriages, with mean scores reported as 7.59 in arranged marriages and 4.72 in love marriages, respectively. MSI-R reported that the husbands in arranged marriages scored “possible problem” compared to the husbands in love marriages scored “good”, when it came to the frequency and quality of sexual practices with their wives. These scores indicated that husbands of love marriages experienced higher level of sexual satisfaction and having a better sexual life compared to the husbands of arranged marriages.

Finally, *family history of distress* demonstrated significant differences between the husbands of both groups. Husbands in arranged marriages received a mean score of 2.86, whereas husbands in love marriages received a mean score of 4.66. This indicated that the MSI-R provided them both with a score of a “possible problem”; however,

husbands in love marriages reported a higher level of disruption of their relationships due to their family of origin.

When examining the couples together between the two groups of arranged and love marriages, there was also significant differences reported in the areas of *global distress, affective communication, problem-solving communication, disagreement about finances, sexual dissatisfaction, role orientation, and family history of distress.*

Couples in arranged marriages received a mean score of 3.66 on *global distress* compared to the mean score of couples in love marriages who received 6.69. The MSI-R indicated that both couples experienced a “possible problem” when it came to the overall dissatisfaction within their relationship; however, couples in love marriages experienced a higher levels of dissatisfaction and unhappiness in their relationship. This indicated couples in arranged marriages experienced higher levels of marital satisfaction in their relationship compared to couples in love marriages. Also, this indicated that couples in arranged marriages described their relationships as satisfying and viewed their partners as good friends; they may depict their relationship as a major source of gratification. Any relationship conflicts, if present, were likely to be relatively minor or of recent onset. This score in arranged marriages also indicated a strong commitment to the relationships.

In terms of *affective communication*, couples in arranged marriages received a mean score of 3.26 whereas couples in love marriages received a mean score of 5.45. This indicated an MSI-R score of a “possible problem” for couples in love marriages and little to no problem, or “good” for couples in arranged marriages, when examining the level of affection and understanding that is expressed by the partners of the couples. This

indicates that couples in arranged marriages might describe their relationship as happy and fulfilling, and their partners as loving and supportive compared to couples in love marriages. Furthermore, this indicated that the couples of love marriages might experience lack of affection, support, and empathy compared to the couples of arranged marriages.

Problem-solving communication also demonstrated significant differences between the couples, with arranged marriages receiving a mean score of 5.88 and love marriages receiving a score of 9.61. Through MSI-R scoring, this indicated that individuals in love marriages experienced a “possible problem” when it came to the level of effectiveness of resolving differences within their relationship. Couples in arranged marriages scored “good” on the MSI-R scale, indicating little to no problems when it came to effectively resolving differences in the marriage. This indicated couples in arranged marriages were likely to be committed to resolving differences when they occur, and to be reasonably effective in doing so. Couples in arranged marriage are likely to describe their partners as fair and receptive to compromise.

Disagreement about finances also was significantly different between the two groups, with couples in arranged marriages receiving a mean score of 1.92 and couples in love marriages receiving a mean score of 2.72. According to the MSI-R, couples in love marriages experienced a score of “possible problems” when it came to discussing the relationship discord regarding the management of finances, whereas couples in arranged marriages scored “good”, depicting little to no issues in this area. This indicated that finances constituted an area of relative agreement in the arranged marriage couples’

relationships. Also, this indicated that couples in arranged marriages might describe their partners as being good providers, generous, and adept at managing money.

Couples in arranged marriages received a mean score of 6.49 in the area of *sexual dissatisfaction*, being higher than their love marriage counterparts who received a mean score of 3.75. This indicated that couples in arranged marriages received an MSI-R score of a “possible problem” when it came to the frequency and quality of sexual practices with their relationship, whereas couples in love marriages scored “good”, indicating little to no problems in the area of sexuality within their relationships. This indicated couples in love marriages had generally positive attitude toward the overall quality of their sexual relationship.

Role orientation also demonstrated significance between the two groups, with couples in arranged marriages receiving a score of 7.38 and couples in love marriages receiving a score of 6.09. This indicated that couples in both arranged and love marriages scored “good” on the MSI-R, indicating little to no problems when evaluating the couples’ advocacy for a traditional versus nontraditional orientation toward marital and parental gender roles. It is important to note that although both marriages scored “good” on the MSI-R, scores were higher for arranged marriage couples than that of their love marriage counterparts. This indicated that couples in arranged marriages expressed higher traditional orientation towards marital and parental gender roles.

Family history of distress also demonstrated significant differences between the two groups. Arranged marriage couples received a mean score of 3.17 and love marriage couples received a mean score of 4.61. Although both scored “possible problems” on the

MSI-R, couples in a love marriage scored higher than their arranged marriage counterparts. This indicated couples in arranged marriages have a higher history of satisfying relationships within their families of origin. They are likely to describe a fairly happy childhood and positive feelings toward their siblings and parents compared to couples in love marriages.

Comparison of Findings in Relation to the Literature

It is important to discuss these findings in relation to the literature to demonstrate the differences between both wives and husbands, and also the couple as a whole. Wives demonstrated significance in the areas of *global distress*, *affective communication*, *problem-solving communication*, *sexual dissatisfaction*, and *role orientation*. Since global distress examines the overall dissatisfaction within a relationship, with wives in love marriages receiving a higher score than their arranged marriage counterparts. According to the author of this instrument, lower scores mean experiencing higher levels of overall satisfaction in the relationship. Therefore, these scores indicated that couples in arranged marriages experienced a higher level of satisfaction and might describe their relationship as more satisfying and view their partners as good friends; they may depict their relationship as a major source of gratification. Any relationship conflicts, if present, are likely to be relatively minor or of recent onset.

Interestingly, Pryor (2014) highlighted how arranged marriages experienced a lower level of divorce, and the results of global distress highlighted how wives in love marriages experience a higher level of dissatisfaction in their relationships than that of their arranged marriage counterparts. Ng, Loy, Gudmunson, and Cheong (2009)

conducted a study in which gender disparities in life and marital satisfaction were assessed among Chinese Malaysians. Ng et al. (2009) determined that men were generally more satisfied in marriages than women. The current study found that men in arranged marriages demonstrated lower levels of dissatisfaction than that of men in love marriages; however, it should be noted that the scores of wives were higher in the area of global distress in both arranged and love marriages, being in alignment with Ng et al.'s (2009) study. The study by Ng et al. (2009) also did not address gender roles. It should be noted that in this study, role orientation appeared to be significantly higher in husbands in arranged marriages, wives in arranged marriages, and the couple as a whole in arranged marriages. In essence, individuals and couples in arranged marriages opted for a traditional versus nontraditional orientation toward marital and parental gender roles, bridging the gap identified by Ng et al.'s (2009).

Hawkins, Willoughby, and Doherty (2012) discussed how decreasing communication patterns are the main reasons for divorce. In this study, it should be noted that the results are in alignment with Hawkins et al. (2012), as both wives and husbands in arranged marriages reported less experiences of levels of affection and understanding that was expressed by the partners of the couples. Additionally, couples together reported a decreased issue with affective communication skills than couples in love marriages, which in turn could aid in the decreasing level of divorces amongst couples in arranged marriages (Fischer, 2016).

Sheth (2015) compared love marriages in the United States to arranged marriages in India, finding opposite trends. Love marriages experienced an abundance of initial

passion, and less passion after some time, whereas arranged marriages experienced the opposite. In this study, the findings did not align with Sheth's (2015) research, as individuals in love marriages experienced lower scores with *sexual dissatisfaction* than that of their arranged marriage counterparts; however, this might be due to the majority of participants had been married between the year of 2011 and 2018, still might experience the throngs of a new relationship. However, it should be noted that individuals in a love marriage, typically might experience more intimacy and passion at the beginning stages of their relationship, versus opposite trends for individuals in arranged marriages.

Family history of distress is another important aspect to discuss in relation to the literature review. In this study, individual wives, individual husbands, and both individuals as a couple, received lower scores in arranged marriages when it came to reviewing any disruptions of their relationship due to their families of origin. It should be noted that arranged marriages are commonly decided by family members in Africa, India, and the Middle East, thereby providing more familial support than their love marriage counterparts (Allendorf & Ghimire, 2013). Individuals who are moving into a love marriage do not necessary require their family's approval as they have selected their mate based on their own merits, versus that of the family unit. The majority of participants in this study were from the geographical regions of Africa, India, and the Middle East, thereby possibly demonstrating lower levels of distress caused by their family of origin due to entering into an arranged marriage. It should also be noted that in the results of the study, couples in an arranged marriage scored lower than their love marriage counterparts

when it came to disagreeing about finances. This indicated that couples in arranged marriages had less disagreement about finances. Arranged marriages can appear as more stable in terms of finances, simply due to both parents of the couple being involved in mate selection, and typically marrying within their socioeconomic status or an above-level caste (Allendorf & Ghimire, 2013; Black, 2017; Halder & Jaishankar, 2017). Rubio (2014) claimed that arranged marriages were typically more financially stable compared to love marriages.

The MSI-R indicated that although both couples experienced a “possible problem” when it came to the overall dissatisfaction within their relationships, couples in love marriages scored higher than individuals in arranged marriages. This indicated that couples in arranged marriages experienced higher levels of satisfaction in their relationships compared to couples in love marriages. Allendorf and Ghimire (2013) highlighted that arranged marriages are typically more stable than love marriages, which is supported by the findings in this current study. Furthermore, Nasser et al. (2013) argued that individuals who enter into an arranged marriage are readier to get married than those entering into a love marriage; therefore, these results could highlight how arranged marriage couples experience lower levels of dissatisfaction in their marriage compared to their love marriage counterparts.

Dehle, Larsen, and Landers (2010) also highlighted that arranged marriages are typically more successful than love marriages as couples entering arranged marriages experience higher levels of social and family support, improving marital satisfaction and communication skills. It is argued that individuals who are cared for, valued, and belong

to a network of people who really matter, such as the environment of an arranged marriage, have easier times communicating and experiencing higher marital satisfaction (Dehle et al. 2010).

In terms of role orientation, couples who are in arranged marriages tended to follow more traditional aspects of their culture compared to love marriages. For example, Moore (2014) discussed that in arranged marriages the couple rarely meet before the marriage, occurring only after the parents of both the bride and the groom agree that the pairing will be beneficial. This demonstrates strong cultural customs that are oftentimes passed down through the generations, making arranged marriages more successful. However, it is also important to note that arranged marriages are typically more successful if the couples are marrying within their caste system or socioeconomic status. However, Rubio (2014) argued that this is not always the case, as changes in society and the times can wield an influence on the success of different types of marriages.

Theoretical Implications

This study was guided by two theories; the human ecology theory (Rodgers & White, 2009) and family development theory (Ryan & Deci, 2017). HET assumes that the family and environment are interdependent. Another assumption includes that families can change and respond to their environment as they strive to adapt. The final assumption highlighted how the main control process for families is decision making, as this directs actions necessary to attain family and individual goals.

In relation to the first assumption, the findings of this study were supported, as in both types of marriage environmental factors surrounding either type of marriage

influence the couples' marital satisfactions. Issues such as parents, culture, country of origin, number of children, level of education, and religion can determine the type of marriage that is engaged in and the level of marital satisfaction.

The final assumption in the human ecology theory is also supported in both types of marriage, as in decisions affecting the marriages are either discussed by the couples themselves in love marriages, or the responsibility of the elders/parents found in arranged marriages. This affects the satisfaction of the marriage.

The family development theory emphasizes the different stages of development that occur over the life cycle of a family unit, while analyzing the various patterned and systematic changes that families experience over their lifetime. The study's findings indicated that in arranged marriages, marital satisfaction tends to improve throughout the longevity of the marriage, whereas in love marriages the study established that marital satisfaction tends to deteriorate over time. The author of current study is wondering that this might be due to the majority of participants in this study had only married over the past seven years, and the couples in arranged marriages reported lower areas of global distress and affective communication versus that of their loved marriage counterparts.

Limitations

The underlying factor for this study was that the majority of participants were young and had not been involved in marriage for a long period of time. This could also highlight how affection can be experienced in relationships at different lengths, as affection can occur in different stages of a marriage and can change as people age. Hence, passion, intimacy, commitment, and marital satisfaction may vary with different

stages of marriage depending on the age of the couples and individual characteristics, versus that of the type of marriage entered into (Khandelwal, 2014).

The use of MSI-R and STLS questionnaires is a further limitation in this study as actual behaviors may be different from the self-reported behaviors since the information collected was inherently subjective in nature (Schwarz, 1999). For instance, a respondent may be intimate with his or her partner once every two weeks, which, according to the participant, could be quite frequent in nature. Other participants, however, may deem this level of intimacy to be infrequent.

Intimacy and Passion are closely linked to Sternberg's Theory of Passion in the Triangular Theory of Love (Sternberg, 1997). Hence, the appropriate instrument for collecting respondents' feedback could include semi-structured interviews and observations to obtain substantial qualitative findings for better judgment on the effects on the different type of marriages. However, this would violate a participant's privacy and would also border on unethical practices. Hence, the STLS was used; however, the information obtained may be circumstantial depending on the respondent's mood at the moment in which they answered the question, resulting in an inaccurate or response.

This study was also limited in the fact that it did not analyze longevity of the marriage. This could be a recommended area for future studies, including that of analyzing the length of marriage in relation to satisfaction levels. In this study, the majority of the participants were new to their marriage relationship, where these variables would have been difficult to assess or analyze.

A final limitation of this study was the recruitment procedures of the participants. Participants were recruited from worship places located in Plano, and a marital counseling clinic located in McKinney. Individuals recruited from a marital counseling clinic could address limitations of this study, as the participants may have been in counseling to work through marriage issues they are experiencing and may not be reflective of a current healthy relationship. Further research should recruit participants from outside of marital counseling clinics and perhaps utilize additional screening tools to ensure that their marriage is considered healthy in order to create a stronger baseline of both arranged and love marriages.

Recommendations

Considerate attention should be given to the fact that both love and arranged marriage groups consisted of couples whose relationships differed in length of time. The relationship length ranged from a few years to a few decades. Although the analyses of this study placed the effects of such variations into account, more rigorous investigations are needed in order to compare the relationship processes among married couples in both arranged and love relationships. Future studies may be able to ensure eligibility of the sample by employing screening procedures before data collection. To replicate the current study, volunteering couples from the community sample may need to be asked to complete a relationship satisfaction questionnaire first, with their eligibility determined based on their reported levels of satisfaction and provision of a marriage certificate.

Measures of the variables (intimacy, passion, commitment, and marital satisfaction) may also have had limitations. One possibility is that the community

couples' responses may be positively inflated due to social desirability bias. Clinical couples who sought therapy under stress might have described their relationship in more negative ways. Although the tested model was theory-driven, in this study findings may have suggested limited empirical evidence for causal inferences between the variables due to its use of cross-sectional data. Future studies should consider using longitudinal data with different time points of data collection. By doing so, causal associations between intimacy, passion, commitment, and marital satisfaction can be more clearly determined than in the current study.

In the field of mental health and marital counseling, it is recommended that this study could be used in order to identify levels of passion, intimacy, commitment, and marital satisfaction when working with patients. Alternatively, results of this study could aid in guiding the therapist in creating and following treatment plans that outline any areas that may need attention in a couples' marriage. Furthermore, this study could aid mental health and marriage and family therapists in a greater understanding of how to work effectively with different types of marriages. For example, the results of this study could aid therapists in understanding how passion, intimacy, commitment, and marital satisfaction differs in arranged marriages versus love marriages, while also providing trends in different variables of marriage, including global distress, affective communication, role orientation, and sexual dissatisfaction. This in turn, can help identify needed areas of treatment that the clients may not otherwise acknowledge difficulties in when presenting to therapy.

Furthermore, this research could aid family studies professionals to identify different types of marriages to recommend the best union for better individual and societal outcomes. At the heart of family studies is the need to foster marriages that support society as a whole. It is important for family studies professionals to have resources about marital satisfaction and its indicators between the two marriage paradigms with a view of improving relationships in order to strengthen the family unit.

This study could also help educators in better understanding how the constructs of global distress, affective communication, role orientation, child rearing issues, sexual dissatisfaction, and family history of distress can play a role in the different relationships of arranged and love marriages. From an educational standpoint, the results of this study can aid educators in understanding how different variables or constructs of a marriage can affect passion, intimacy, commitment, and the overall level of satisfaction in a marriage, assisting in creating curriculum or teaching assignments that better focus on the differences found in arranged marriages and love marriages. Furthermore, this study can act as a catalyst for future studies that can delve deeper into the different constructs from a qualitative standpoint, better understanding each variable in greater detail.

Recommendations to Future Studies

An area of future research would include a replication of this study that would involve a more diverse sample. More specifically, the sample should include subjects with greater ranges in age, larger numbers of married people depicting a love marriage, as well as greater ethnic diversity. Future studies could attempt to establish how immigration has affected love marriages and arranged marriages in terms of passion,

intimacy, commitment, and marital satisfaction in relation to relocating to the Western world and being exposed and influenced by the existing culture and values (Foreman-Peck, 2011).

Summary

The purpose of this quantitative comparative study was to compare arranged marriage and love marriage in terms of passion, intimacy, commitment, and marital satisfaction. The results of the data analysis determined that there was a significant difference between arranged and love marriages for intimacy, passion, and commitment; therefore, the null hypothesis of Hypothesis 1 was rejected as all variables were higher in arranged marriages compared to that of love marriages. Hypothesis 2 focused on investigating the differences in marital satisfaction between arranged marriages and love marriages and concluded that there were statistically significant differences between the wives, the husbands, and then the couples together. In terms of wives, results concluded that there were significant differences in the areas of *global distress, affective communication, problem-solving communication, sexual dissatisfaction, and role orientation*. When analyzing the data for the husbands of both arranged and love marriages, significant differences were found between the two groups in the categories of *global distress, affective communication, problem-solving communication, sexual dissatisfaction, and family history of distress*. Examining the couples together between the two groups of arranged and love marriages, there was also significant differences in the areas of *global distress, affective communication, problem-solving communication,*

disagreement about finances, sexual dissatisfaction, role orientation, and family history of distress.

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APPENDIX A
INFORMED CONSENT FORM

TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY
TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY
CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

Study Title. *The Level of Satisfaction in Love Marriages versus Arranged Marriages*

Contact Information. If you have any questions regarding this study or have concerns, please contact the primary researchers, Leza Kazemi-Mohammadi, at (214)529-6953, or Lkazemimohammadi@twu.edu, or the TWU Institutional Review Board at (940) 898-3378, or irb@twu.edu .

Description of the Research. You are kindly invited to contribute in a research study conducted by Leza Kazemi-Mohammadi, a dissertation candidate at Texas Women's University. The purpose of the study is to compare arranged marriage and love marriage in terms of passion, intimacy, commitment, and marital satisfaction. Your participation will involve responding to survey via a web link requiring an estimated 45 minutes.

Potential Risks. There is a risk that personal data regarding responses to standardized surveys could be hacked and responses used to embarrass participants. However, survey responses are not intrusive and the risk of nefarious use by a 3rd party hacking the data is minimal. Other potential risks can include:

Emotional discomfort. You may take breaks at any time or withdraw from the study without question or penalty. The researchers will provide a list of counseling resources in the consent information. Resources include the APA therapist locator, <https://locator.apa.org/>, and the AAMFT therapist locator, <https://www.therapistlocator.net/iMIS15/tl/>.

Loss of confidentiality. No identifiable data will be collected. You and your spouse will be provided with the same unique code in order to connect spousal responses. All data will be kept in a password protected data management site, PsychData. Only the researcher and his advisor will have access to the data. Confidentiality will be protected to the extent allowed by law. There is a potential loss of confidentiality during any and all email or internet transactions. The data will be destroyed five (5) years from the date of collection.

Coercion. Your participation is completely voluntary. You may take breaks at any time or withdraw from the study without question or penalty. Participation will in no way impact your relationship with the New Horizons Center for Healing Counseling Center allowing recruitment/data collection.

The researchers will try to prevent any problem that could happen because of this research. You should let the researchers know at once if there is a problem and they will help you. However, TWU does not provide medical services or financial assistance for injuries that might happen because you are taking part in this research.

Potential Benefits. The study may help to inform individuals considering an arranged marriage versus a love marriage, or to inform those who counsel others regarding the relative benefits of each. No compensation will be paid for participation in this study.

Voluntary Participation. Your participation in this study is voluntary. You are free not to participate. Participants can withdraw their consent to participate at any time. No harm or penalty will be inflicted on you if you elect not to participate in this study or decide to withdraw from this study.

Research Procedures. Both you and your spouse are required to participate in the study. Upon agreeing to the consent form, it is understood that the PsychData portal will assign a unique seven-digit numerical code for you and your spouse, allowing for the connection of the data that is collected through the PsychData portal. The first individual who completes the survey will be assigned the unique numerical code, so it is imperative that you provide this code to your spouse, so that he/she can enter the exact same code into their survey before completing the questionnaires. Both you and your spouse are required to complete the Marriage Satisfaction Inventory-Revised (MSI-R), and the Sternberg's Triangular Love Scale (STLS).

Consent

The return of your completed questionnaire constitutes your informed consent to act as a participant in this research.

APPENDIX B
RECRUITMENT EMAIL

To: Potential Study Participant

From: Leza Kazemi-Mohammadi

Date:

Re: Participation in a study on arranged and love marriages

You are kindly invited to contribute in a research study conducted by Leza Kazemi-Mohammadi, a dissertation candidate at Texas Woman's University. The purpose of the study is to compare arranged marriage and love marriage in terms of passion, intimacy, commitment, and marital satisfaction. Your participation will involve responding to a survey via a web link requiring an estimated 45 minutes. The title of the study is *The Level of Satisfaction in Love Marriages versus Arranged Marriages*. The study may help to inform individuals considering an arranged marriage versus a love marriage, or to inform those who counsel others regarding the relative benefits of each. No compensation will be paid for participation in this study.

The first person of your couple completing the survey will be assigned a unique seven-digit numerical code from the PsychData portal. Before starting the survey, please write down this seven-digit code and provide it to your spouse so that they can enter the exact same code into their survey before taking the questionnaires. It is imperative that both of you have the same code, as this will allow the researcher to connect the data compiled from the surveys you are taking.

You have been contacted because you have been married for at least two years and your marriage was either arranged or a love marriage. As with all research studies, there are potential risks involved. A complete list of risks and steps to minimize are provided in the consent to participate information. *Confidentiality will be protected to the extent that is allowed by law.* Your privacy will be protected. No personally identifiable information will be collected. We will not reveal your identity in any publication that is associated with this study. Upon completion of the research, your data, including completed questionnaires, will be stored offline in a safe accessible only by the researcher for five years and then destroyed. Your participation in this study is voluntary. You are free not to participate. Participants can withdraw their consent to participate at any time. No harm or penalty will be inflicted on you if you elect not to participate in this study or decide to withdraw from this study.

If you wish to participate in the study, Please select the following link xxxxxxxx psych-data.com. If you have any questions regarding this study or have concerns, please contact the primary researchers, Leza Kazemi-Mohammadi, at (214)529-6953, or Lkazemimohammadi@twu.edu, or the TWU Institutional Review Board at (940) 898-3378, or irb@twu.edu .

APPENDIX C
DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY

Age: _____

Gender: Male _____ Female _____

Primary ethnicity: White _____ Black _____ Hispanic _____
Middle Eastern _____ Other _____

Religion: _____

Date of marriage: _____

Type of marriage**: Love _____ Arranged _____

Spouses email used to participate: _____

Country of origin _____

Parents' country(s) of origin _____

Marriage history
 ___ First time marriage
 ___ 2nd or more marriage

Education level
 ___ HS, ___ Some college, ___ BA, ___ Graduate Degree

Income level
 ___ \$0k to \$50k, ___ \$50k to \$100k, ___ \$100k+

Number of biological children _____

Number Stepchildren _____

Children

 First child gender (female or male) age _____

 Second child gender (female or male) age _____

 Third child gender (female or male) age _____

 Fourth child gender (female or male) age _____

of people living in the household _____

of adults living in household _____ grandparents, _____ in laws, _____ sibling, _____ other family

**** Love Marriage.** A marriage that involves people who chose a partner on the basis of love. Furthermore, love marriage involves two people who marry only after knowing and loving each other.

Arranged Marriage. A union that involves a spouse or partner who is chosen by parents or family members. Meanwhile, arranged marriage refers to when two people do not know a lot about one another when their marriage is arranged.

PLEASE SELECT A 5 DIGIT CODE FOR USE BY YOUR SPOUSE STARTING WITH YOUR INITIALS

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APPENDIX D

MARRIAGE SATISFACTION INVENTORY-REVISED

APPENDIX E

STERNBERG'S TRIANGULAR LOVE SCALE

- _____ 27. I cannot imagine life without _____.
- _____ 28. My relationship with _____ is passionate.
- _____ 29. When I see romantic movies and read romantic books, I think of _____.
- _____ 30. I fantasize about _____.
- _____ 31. I know that I care about _____.
- _____ 32. I am committed to maintaining my relationship with _____.
- _____ 33. Because of my commitment to _____, I would not let other people come between us.
- _____ 34. I have confidence in the stability of my relationship with _____.
- _____ 35. I could not let anything get in the way of my commitment to _____.
- _____ 36. I expect my love for _____ to last for the rest of my life.
- _____ 37. I will always feel a strong responsibility for _____.
- _____ 38. I view my commitment to _____ as a solid one.
- _____ 39. I cannot imagine ending my relationship with _____.
- _____ 40. I am certain of my love for _____.
- _____ 41. I view my relationship with _____ as permanent.
- _____ 42. I view my relationship with _____ as a good decision.
- _____ 43. I feel a sense of responsibility toward _____.
- _____ 44. I plan to continue my relationship with _____.
- _____ 45. Even when _____ is hard to deal with, I remain committed to our relationship.

APPENDIX F

NEW HORIZONS CENTER FOR HEALING PERMISSION



February 7, 2018

Dear Leza Kazemi-mohammadi, PhD candidate

Please accept this letter as permission to conduct your dissertation research for Texas Woman's University at New Horizons Center for Healing. I understand your research study, entitled *The Level of Satisfaction in Love Marriages Versus Arranged Marriages*, will be conducted on married couples in the center.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amir Abbassi", is written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Amir Abbassi, LPC-S, LMFT-S
Clinical Director