

SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND PERSONALITY TRAITS AS CORRELATES OF MARITAL SATISFACTION IN RIVERS STATE

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Abstract

This study investigated the extent of relationship that exists between social intelligence, personality traits and marital satisfaction among couples in Rivers State. Correlational design was adopted for the study. A sample of 1130 married men and women was selected for the study using cluster and simple random sampling techniques. Three instruments were used for data collection. They include Social Intelligence Competences Scale, NEO-Five Factor Personality Inventory, and Marital Satisfaction Scale. The reliability coefficients of NEO-Five Factor Personality Inventory and Marital Satisfaction Scale were 0.82, 0.81 and 0.90 respectively. Pearson product moment correlation and multiple regressions were used for data analysis at 0.05 alpha levels. Results showed that; social intelligence components taken together significantly predict marital satisfaction; social awareness and social facility components of social intelligence have positive significant relationship with marital satisfaction, personality traits taken together significantly predict marital satisfaction; each of the personality traits (extraversion, conscientiousness, agreeableness, openness) has a positive significant relationship with marital satisfaction except neuroticism which has a negative relationship with marital satisfaction. Based on the findings, five recommendations were made among which is that married couples should be assertive, emotionally mature, as well as maintain positive connectedness with their spouse.

Key Words: Social, intelligence, personality, traits, marital, satisfaction

Introduction

Unarguably, the family remains one of the most important parts of every society in the history of mankind and in all countries of the world. That is why it has not failed to play an indispensable and active role in the progress and stability of the society. However, the formation of any family may depend largely on marriage. Agha, Mokhtaree, Soyadi, Nazor and Mosari (2012) stated that marriage is a mutual, delicate, and very complicated relationship between two humans which has a basic role in meeting man and woman's emotional-psychological and physical demands. Haghighi and Khalilzadeh (2012) posited that marriage is a symbiosis of a man and a woman, who have made a commitment and takes an oath, and accordingly have changed themselves. According to Haghighi and Khalilzadeh (2012), with the

cultural changes, marriage has become a religious as well as sacred rite and tradition and those who fail martially are socially labeled. This is why couples make a lot of sacrifice to ensure that they remain in their marital relationship.

However, not all marriages are necessarily successful and prosperous. There are also some that result in separation and divorce. While some married men and women solve their sense of dissatisfaction and grievances via separation and divorce, others sweep theirs under the carpet for fear of being noticed by the society and also to avoid being socially stigmatized or labeled. According to Rauer and Volling (2006), from the second half of the 1970s, marital satisfaction has been declining but many couples prefer to stay in a state of conflict or mere indifference. In spite all the discouraging information about marriage, many people still opt to marry.

Marital satisfaction is the state in which there is an overall feeling in husband and wife of happiness and satisfaction with their marriage and with each other (Sinha & Mukerjee in Ilyas & Habi, 2014). Snyder (2010) defined marital satisfaction as a special case of relationship satisfaction, and it is the degree to which partners in marriages assess their approval of different aspects of their marital relations. Ilyas and Habib (2014) defined marital satisfaction as a person's subjective assessment of the overall nature of marriage that mirrors the degree to which a person's expectations towards marriage are exhibited in his or her own marriage. However, marital satisfaction refers to the judgment made by the spouse that indicates the sense of well-being or satisfaction he/she experiences in the marital relationship. Marital satisfaction is synonymous with marital stability.

The researcher's personal experience has shown that a successful and harmonious marriage will cause people to have a healthier and happier life. According to the researcher, when there is no marital satisfaction, the resultant effect is marital instability which may likely constitute a major challenge in the raising and nurturing of the children, leading to an increase in the rate of delinquency in the society. More so, the death of either of the couple or both could be another consequence of marital dissatisfaction.

In order to ascertain the elements which influence the level of satisfaction and persistence in interpersonal relationships including marriage, Ghafari, Shahi, and Ghasemi (2011) found that components of emotional intelligence can be very influential on marital satisfaction. According to them, couple's intimate relationship needs communication skills such as paying attention to other person's viewpoint, being able to empathize perception with what one's partner has experienced, and also being sensitive and aware of his/her needs.

Working on marital satisfaction and emotional intelligence among different professionals Ilyas and Habib (2014) found that significant relationship exists between marital satisfaction and emotional intelligence. In a study conducted by Levalekar, Kulkarni and Jagtap (2010) on emotional intelligence and marital satisfaction in India, results showed that there is positive association between both emotional intelligence and marital satisfaction.

Ortese and Tor-Anyiin (2008) carried out a study aimed at investigating the effects of emotional intelligence on marital adjustment of couples in Nigeria. It was revealed that emotional management, social relationship skills and emotional sensitivity skills have significant effect on marital adjustment. Lavalekar (2007) in his own study examined and compared the marital satisfaction and emotional intelligence of people between ages 25 – 65. The findings concluded a considerable gender difference on different areas of emotional intelligence; for example, openness to criticism, self-management and empathy. A significant gender difference was also observed on two areas of marital satisfaction, sexual relations and sharing household responsibilities, that can be traced to social and cultural impact.

Based on the foregoing, the researchers hold the conviction that apart from emotional intelligence as correlate of marital satisfaction, social intelligence and some personality

characteristics may play a very vital role in achieving marital satisfaction among married couples. Goleman (2007) described social intelligence as interpersonal effectiveness which results in successful relationship with people. This implies the ability of a person to relate with others smoothly and successfully both at the verbal and non-verbal level. It can be organized into two broad categories which include social awareness, which refers to what we sense about others, and social facility, which refers to what we do with that awareness. This means that social intelligence is the ability to possess social skills that facilitate or produce desirable relationship with others. People who possess such social skills are able to interact freely both at the verbal and non-verbal levels thus, facilitate and maintain cordial relationship with others anywhere they find themselves.

According to Erkman (2010), social intelligence refers to the ability to have and maintain positive relationship with others in any environment one finds himself. In his own view, Adi (2011) added that socially intelligent people tend to be more assertive and that one's level of social intelligence influences his/her level of awareness, the amount of information he/she receives, how he/she manages information, his connectedness and skills in relating to with others which advertently affects success at school, workplace, home, etc. This implies that social intelligence is the act of having and maintaining positive relationship with oneself and with other people. Learning about oneself and others boosts maintaining effective relationship with them. Components of social intelligence are social awareness and social facility.

Social awareness refers to a range that runs from instantaneously sensing another's inner state, to understanding the person's feelings and thoughts, to getting into more complex social situations. Social awareness cluster includes the following; primal empathy (that is, the ability to detect or sense the emotions of another person), attainment (that is, attention that goes beyond momentary empathy to a full sustained presence that facilitates rapport), empathic accuracy (that is, understanding another person's thoughts, feelings and intentions) as well as social cognitive (that is, knowing how the social world actually works).

Social facility which is the second broad category of social intelligence refers to the ability to simply sense how another person feels or knowing what they think or intend, which guarantee fruitful interactions. The spectrum of social facility includes synchrony (interacting smoothly at the non-verbal level), self-presentation (presenting oneself effectively in ways that make a desired impression), self-control (that is the ability to control and mask the expression of emotions), influence (that is shaping the outcome of social interactions using self-control) as well as concern (that is caring about others' needs and acting accordingly).

Morris and Maisto (2007) viewed personality as the unique pattern of thoughts, feelings and behaviours that seems to persist overtime and across various situations. The unique differences referred to above refer to aspects of distinguishing an individual from others. Kappagoda (2012), as well as Organ, Podsakoff and Mackenzie (2006) posited that the personality of a person has directly correlated with many work outcomes and attitudes. Kumar and Bakhshi (2010) explained that the dispositional factors are always referring to the five-factor model of personality which include; extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, openness to experience, as well as neuroticism.

The personality of agreeableness means the degree to which an individual is affable, tolerant, sensitive, trusting, kind and warm (Kumar & Bakshi, 2006). To them, those who are high in agreeableness are likeable people who get along with others. According to Ilies, Scott and Judge (2006), agreeable persons help others at work consistently; a helping behaviour which does not depend on their good mood.

Conscientiousness refers to the degree to which an individual is organized, systematic, punctual, achievement – oriented and dependable. According to Barrick and Mount (2009), conscientiousness is one personality trait that uniformly predicts how high an individual's

performance will be across a range of occupations and jobs as well as marriage. Erdheim, Wang and Zickar (2006) stated that conscientiousness personality trait can be referred to as self-discipline and ability to act obediently.

Openness to experience refers to the degree to which an individual is curious, original, intellectual, creative, and open to new ideas. Persons high in openness seem to thrive in situations that require them to be flexible as well as provide them the opportunity to learn new things. Persons high in openness to experience are highly motivated to learn new skills, and they do well in trading settings (Lievens, Harmis, Van-Keer & Bisqueret, 2009). To Teng (2008), the most prominent part of openness personality is originality and creativity whereby this type of person is mostly innovators and initiators.

Extraversion is the degree to which an individual is outgoing, talkative, sociable, and enjoys socializing. Persons with this type of personality characteristic have the tendency to have more friends and spend more time relating or discussing with people in social circumstances. Those who are extraverts have an easier time than introverts do when adapting to life's demand. According to Wandberg and Kammeyer – Mueller (2010), extraverts actively seek information and feedback and build effective relationships, which help them in their adjustment.

Neuroticism refers to the degree to which an individual is anxious, irritable, temperamental and moody. Teng (2008) explained that it is considered the only big five dimension where scoring high is undesirable. To Klein, Beng-Chong, Salktz and Mayer (2006), people very high in neuroticism experience a number of problems at work and in marriage. They have trouble forming and maintaining relationships and are less likely to go for advice and friendship.

From the foregoing therefore, the researchers envisaged that social intelligence and personality traits may correlate with marital satisfaction among couples. Hence, this research investigated the extent of relationship between social intelligence, personality traits and marital satisfaction among couples in Rivers State.

Empirical Review

Iruloh and Ukaegbu (2015) studied big five personality traits as predictors of emotional intelligence of secondary school teachers in Rivers State of Nigeria using a sample 770 teachers drawn from public secondary schools using cluster sampling technique. Two instruments such as emotional intelligence behaviour inventory and NEO five factor inventory were used for data collection. Multiple regression analysis was used for data analysis at 0.05 level of probability. Results of the study showed that; big five personality predicted emotional intelligence of secondary school teachers; the relative contributions of agreeableness and extraversion personality traits in the prediction of emotional intelligence was significant at 0.05 level of significance while the reverse was the case for others (conscientiousness, openness and neuroticism).

In another study of personality variables as correlates of marital adjustments among married persons in Delta State of Nigeria by Ebinuwa-Okoh (2008), it was found that emotional expression, financial management, communication flow, works involvement are significant correlates and predictors of marital adjustment 2561 married persons were selected via the use of purposive sampling method. Marital adjustment and personality type inventory were used for data collection while Pearson correlation and multiple regression analysis were used for data analysis at 0.05 levels of significance.

Another study was conducted by Fisher and McNulty (2008) on neuroticism and marital satisfactions using 72 couples drawn through simple random technique. Index of sexual satisfaction and neuroticism subscale of the big five personality inventory were used for data

collection. Descriptive statistics were used for data analysis. Result showed that husbands and wives who were higher in neuroticism were less satisfied with their sexual relationships and, controlling for that, husbands with wives who were higher in neuroticism were less satisfied with their sexual relationships.

Manesh and Arefi (2015) examined the role of personality traits, attachment styles and emotional intelligence in predicting marital satisfaction. Cluster sampling technique was employed to select a sample of 384 participants based on Morgan table Kahrizak area. Enrich marital satisfaction scale, five-item personality scale, Adult attachment scale and Mayer and Salovey emotional intelligence scale were used for data collection. Pearson correlation and stepwise regression were employed for data analysis at 0.05 level of probability. Result showed that personality traits impacted on predicting marital satisfaction.

A study was conducted by Esmat, Alireza and Hamdolla (2012) on the relationship of personality traits with marital satisfaction in women using 100 participants chosen through random sampling method. NEO-P1-R personality traits and marital satisfaction were utilized for data collection. Mean, standard deviation, Pearson product moment correlation as well as multiple regressions were used for data analysis at 0.05 level of probability. The results revealed that each of the personality components has a significant relationship with marital satisfaction. Kaufman (2011) found that there is no significant relationship among the main five personality traits (neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, conscientiousness, and agreeableness) and marital satisfaction.

Mahbobe, Elham and Negar (2016) undertook a study aimed at investigating the relationship between personality traits and sexual self-esteem and its components. Results showed a significant relationship between neuroticism personality dimension ($r = 0.414$), extraversion ($r = 0.363$), agreeableness ($r = 0.420$) and conscientiousness ($r = 0.364$) with sexual self-esteem ($P < 0.05$). The relationship between openness and sexual self-esteem was not significant ($p < 0.05$). In addition, based on the results of the stepwise regression model, three dimensions of agreeableness, neuroticism and extraversion could predict 27% of the women's sexual self-esteem variance. The sample was 127 married women. NEO personality inventory dimensions and Zeanah and Schwarz sexual self-esteem scale were used for data collection while Pearson correlation and regression analyses were used for data analysis at 0.05 alpha levels.

Farzane, Mohammad and Ali (2016) investigated the relationship existing between the personality traits defense mechanisms and marital satisfaction of elementary school students' parents using 300 participants drawn through multistage sampling technique. NEO-Five factor inventory, Defense Style Questionnaire and Enrich marital satisfaction scale were used for data collection. Multiple regression, ANOVA and Pearson correlation were used for data analysis. Result showed that there was meaningful relationship between neuroticism, extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness and marital satisfaction. Dildar, Bashir, Shoab, Sultan and Saeed (2012) had found that there is a significant relation between emotional intelligence and its components such as managing emotions, emotional self-awareness and marital satisfaction.

Javaneh, Bahram and Ramezan (2015) investigated the relationship that exists between components of emotional intelligence and marital satisfaction among English teachers using 97 participants. Bar on emotional intelligence scale and enrich marital satisfaction scale were used for data collection. Pearson correlation and multivariate regression were used for analysis. The results indicated a positive relationship between components of emotional intelligence with marital satisfaction of teachers.

Agha, Mokhtaree, Sayadi, Nazer & Mosari (2012) studied emotional intelligence and marital satisfaction in academic members of Rafsanjan University of medical sciences using 122 participants Bar on emotional intelligence scale and enrich marital satisfaction questionnaire

were used for data collection. Pearson, spearman correlation coefficients and t-test were used for data analysis. Result revealed that all the variables of emotional intelligence and marital satisfaction had a statistical meaningful relationship. Furthermore, it was found that 37% of marital satisfaction was predictable by emotional intelligence.

Alaba (2013) studied the influence of social intelligence on marital stability. Using Pearson correlation, a coefficient of 0.63 was obtained. Test of significance with z test statistics showed z calculated value of 3.43 which indicated that there was significant relationship between social intelligence and marital stability. A sample of 80 couples was randomly selected for the study. Data were obtained using social intelligence profile. Cob (2004) found no significant relationship between social intelligence and job performance using a sample of 101 volunteer school teachers. A researcher designed demographic survey named Job description index and social intelligence self-report scale were reasonably utilized to collect data. Pearson product correlation revealed that $r = 0.45$ while application of z test statistics for test of significance revealed z calculated value of 0.87 showing that there was no significant relationship between social intelligence and job performance. Walsh (2009) found an inverse relationship between social intelligence and job performance using a sample of 120 bank staff in 20 financial institutions in New York. Social intelligence scale and job performance index were used for data collection from the participants. Using Pearson product moment correlation a coefficient of 0.58 was obtained. Test of significance with z test statistics was 1.21 which indicated that there was significant negative relationship between social intelligence and job performance.

Jackie (2010) investigated the how social facility influence job performance in New York employing a sample of 508 participants (Female = 225; male = 283) drawn through simple random technique. Independent sample t-test, Pearson correlation and multiple regression were employed for data analysis. The result indicated that social facility with 0.248 was significant. Shuaib (2013) investigated the influence of social facility on achievement striving using a sample of 100 secondary school principals randomly drawn from school principals in Benin City. Emotional social intelligence scale was used for data collection. Using Pearson correlation, a coefficient of 0.33 was secured. Test of significance with z-test statistic revealed z-calculated of 8.32 which indicated that there was significant relationship between social facility and achievement striving among secondary school principals. More so, result showed that there was significant relationship between social awareness and achievement striving among secondary school principals.

Research Methodology

Correlational design was used for the study. Nwankwo (2013) explained that the correlational type of relationship study usually involves finding out the magnitude and direction of the relationship between two or more variables, by correlating the scores from the variables involved. The population of this study consisted of 116,276 married men and women in Rivers State. This figure was obtained from Independent National Electoral Commission Website (INEC, 2015). A sample size of 1130 married men and women in Rivers State was selected for the study through cluster and simple random sampling methods. Three instruments were utilized in this study. They are: NEO-Five factor personality inventory by McCrae and Costa (2003), social intelligence competencies scale developed by Chadha and Singh (2009), and marital satisfaction scale developed by Azize (2013).

The face and content validities of the instruments were established. However, for the purpose of the present study, the reliabilities of the three instruments were determined by the researcher through the test-retest method. The stability coefficients obtained for the five (5) sections of NEO five-factor personality inventory were: neuroticism 0.81; extraversion = 0.83;

openness = 0.81; agreeableness = 0.80; conscientiousness = 0.81. The overall reliability of NEO five-factor personality inventory was 0.81. The reliability coefficients obtained for the two sections of social intelligence competencies were as follows: Social awareness = 0.83 and social facility = 0.81. The overall reliability of the social intelligence competence scale was 0.82. The reliability for marital satisfaction scale was 0.90. However, the reliability coefficients obtained were high enough to justify the use of the instruments for this present study. Multiple regression, ANOVA associated with multiple regression and Pearson correlation were used for data analysis at .05 alpha level.

Presentation of Data and Results

Research Question 1: To what extent do social intelligence components taken together predict marital satisfaction?

Hypothesis 1: Social intelligence traits taken together do not significantly predict marital satisfaction.

Table 1: Multiple Regression Analysis of Social Intelligence Components (social awareness and social facility) and Marital Satisfaction among Couples

R = .581 R ² = .338 Adjustment R ² = .342 Std. Error of Estimate = 10.96773					
Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Sq.	F	P-Val
Regression	57.594	2	28.797		
Residual	137372.462	1127	120.291	.047	.006
Total	137430.056	1129			

Table 1 shows that R = .640 indicating that there is a positive relationship between the criterion and predictor variables. More so, using the value on Table I, R² x 100 equals .338 x 100, which is 33.8%. This means that social intelligence components of (social awareness and social facility) taken together account for 33.8% of the total variance in marital satisfaction. Finally, Table I shows that social awareness and social facility components of social intelligence taken together significantly predict marital satisfaction since P < .05.

Research Question 2: To what extent do personality traits taken together predict marital satisfaction?

Hypothesis 2: Personality traits taken together do not significantly predict marital satisfaction

Table 2: Multiple Regression Analysis of Personality Traits (extraversion, agreeableness, openness to experience, conscientiousness and neuroticism) and Marital Satisfaction among Couples

R = .640 R ² = .409 Adjustment R ² = .471 Std. Error of Estimate = 10.97991					
Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Sq.	F	P-Val

Regression	113.998	5	22.800		
Residual	137316.058	1124	120.558	.009	.000
Total	137430.056	1129			

Table 2 shows that $R = .640$. This indicates that there is a positive relationship between personality traits (extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, openness to experience and neuroticism) and marital satisfaction. More so, using the value on Table 2, $R^2 \times 100$ equals $.409 \times 100$, which is 40.9%. This means that all the five personality traits taken together can account for 41% of the total variance in marital satisfaction. Finally, Table 2 shows that all the five personality traits taken together significantly predict marital satisfaction since $P < .05$.

Research question 3: To what extent does social awareness component relate to marital satisfaction?

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant relationship between social awareness, component of social intelligence and marital satisfaction.

Table 3: Pearson’s r for the Relationship between Social Awareness Component of Social Intelligence and Marital Satisfaction among Couples

Variables	N	r-value	Critical value	P-Val	Decision
Social Awareness (x)	1130	.691	.05	.026	Rejected
Marital Satisfaction (Y)					

* $p < .05$ *

Table 3 shows a correlation coefficient (r – value) of .69. The result is that there is a positive relationship between social awareness component of social intelligence and marital satisfaction. Furthermore, it shows that the p-value (.026) is less than .05 which is the significance level. Hence, hypothesis three is rejected while the alternative hypothesis is retained. This implies that there is a significant relationship between social awareness component of social intelligence and marital satisfaction.

Research Question 4: To what extent does social facility component of social intelligence relate to marital satisfaction?

Hypothesis 4: There is no significant relationship between social facility component of social intelligence and marital satisfaction.

Table 4: Pearson’s r for the Relationship between Social Facility Component of Social Intelligence and Marital Satisfaction among Couples

Variables	N	r-value	Critical value	P-Val	Decision
Social Awareness (x)	1130	.545	.05	.763	Accepted
Marital Satisfaction (Y)					

P > .05

Table 4 shows a correlation coefficient (r-value) of .54. The result is that there is a positive relationship between social facility component of social intelligence and marital satisfaction. Furthermore, analysis of data in table 4.4 shows that the p-value (.763) is greater than .05 which is the critical value. Hence, hypothesis four is accepted. This implies that there is no significant relationship between social facility component of social intelligence and marital satisfaction.

Research Question 5: To what extent does extraversion relate to marital satisfaction?

Hypothesis 5: There is no significant relationship between extraversion and marital satisfaction.

Table 5: Pearson's r for the Relationship between Extraversion and marital Satisfaction among Couples

Variables	N	r-value	Critical value	P-Val	Decision
Extraversion (x)	1130	.453	.05	.022	Rejected
Marital Satisfaction (Y)					

P < .05

Table 5 shows a correlation coefficient (r-value) of .45. The result is that there is a positive relationship between extraversion and marital satisfaction. More so, it shows that the p-value (.022) is less than .05 which is the significance level. Hence, hypothesis five is rejected while the alternative hypothesis is upheld. This means that there is a significant relationship between extraversion and marital satisfaction.

Research Question 6: To what extent does openness to experience relate to marital satisfaction?

Hypothesis 6: There is no significant relationship between openness to experience and marital satisfaction.

Table 6: Pearson's r for the Relationship between Openness to Experience and Marital Satisfaction among Couples

Variables	N	r-value	Critical value	P-Val	Decision
Openness (x)	1130	.683	.05	.012	Rejected
Marital Satisfaction (Y)					

P < .05

Table 6 shows a correlation coefficient (r-value) of .68. The result is that there is a positive relationship between openness to experience and marital satisfaction. Additionally, analysis of data shows that the p-value (.012) is less than .05 which is the critical value. Hence, hypothesis six is rejected while the alternative hypothesis is retained. This means that there is a significant relationship between openness to experience and marital satisfaction.

Research Question 7: To what extent does agreeableness relate to marital satisfaction?

Hypothesis 7: There is no significant relationship between agreeableness and marital satisfaction

Table 7: Pearson’s r for the Relationship between Agreeableness and Marital Satisfaction among Couples

Variables	N	r-value	Critical value	P-Val	Decision
Agreeableness (x) Marital Satisfaction (Y)	1130	.998	.05	.000	Rejected

P < .05

Table 7 shows a correlation coefficient (r-value) of .99. The result is that there is a positive relationship between agreeableness and marital satisfaction. Furthermore, it shows that the p-value (.000) is less than .05 which is the critical value. Based on the result, hypothesis seven is rejected while the alternative hypothesis is upheld. This means that there is a significant relationship between agreeableness and marital satisfaction.

Research Question 8: To what extent does conscientiousness relate to marital satisfaction?

Hypothesis 8: There is no significant relationship between conscientiousness and marital satisfaction.

Table 8: Pearson’s r for the Relationship between Conscientiousness and Marital Satisfaction among Couples

Variables	N	r-value	Critical value	P-Val.	Decision
Conscientiousness (x) Marital Satisfaction (Y)	1130	.645	.05	.014	Rejected

P < .05

Table 8 shows a correlation coefficient (r-value) of .64. The result is that there is a positive relationship between conscientiousness personality trait and marital satisfaction. Furthermore, analysis of data in 4.8 shows that the p-value (.014) is less than .05 which is the critical value. Based on the result, hypothesis eight is rejected while the alternative hypothesis is retained. This means that there is a significant relationship between conscientiousness and marital satisfaction.

Research question 9: To what extent does neuroticism relate to marital satisfaction?

Hypothesis 9: There is no significant relationship between neuroticism and marital satisfaction.

Table 9: Pearson’s r for the Relationship between Neuroticism and Marital Satisfaction among Couples

Variables	N	r-value	Critical value	P-Val.	Decision
Neuroticism (x) Marital Satisfaction (Y)	1130	-.232	.05	.035	Rejected

P < .05

From Table 9 a correlation coefficient (*r*-value) of $-.23$ was obtained. The result is that there is a negative association between neuroticism personality trait and marital satisfaction. Furthermore, result shows that the *p*-value ($.035$) is less than $.05$ which is the critical value. Based on the result, hypothesis nine is rejected. This implies that there is a significant relationship between neuroticism and marital satisfaction.

Discussion of Findings

Social Intelligence Components (Social Awareness and Social Facility) and Marital Satisfaction

Table 1 showed that $R = .581$, $R^2 = .338$, $p < 0.05$. The result is that social intelligence components (social awareness and social facility) taken together significantly predicted marital satisfaction among couples. Result further indicated that there is a moderate positive relationship between the criterion and predictive variables. Table 1 also revealed that $R^2 = .338$ which means that all the social intelligence components jointly accounted for 33.8% of the variance in marital satisfaction, and this is significant ($p < 0.05$). The positive relationship between social intelligence components (social awareness and social facility) and marital satisfaction means that as the scores on social intelligence components increase there is a corresponding increase in marital satisfaction scores and vice-versa. This means that most couples whose scores are high on social intelligence components earned high scores on marital satisfaction, while some whose scores are low on social intelligence components earned low scores on marital satisfaction. Finally, table 1 revealed *F* – ratio of $F(2, 1127)$ that is, $F = .047$ and $p < 0.05$ which was found to be significant. The result therefore, is that social intelligence components (social awareness and social facility) taken together significantly predict marital satisfaction of couples.

The present finding is in agreement with that of Alaba (2013) who in his study of influence of social intelligence on marital stability found that there was a significant relationship between social intelligence and marital stability. This present finding could be due to the fact that social intelligence affords an individual the ability to have and maintain positive relationship with others in any environment one finds himself. This means that a spouse's ability to have and maintain positive relationship with his/her partner in the marriage relationship will lead to marital satisfaction.

However, the present finding is dissimilar with Cob (2004) who found no significant relationship between social intelligence and job performance employing a sample of 101 volunteer school teachers. Walsh (2009) in his study also found that there was a significant negative relationship between social intelligence and job performance.

Personality Traits (extraversion, agreeableness, openness to experience, conscientiousness and neuroticism) and Marital Satisfaction

Table 2 showed that $R = .640$, $R^2 = .409$, $p < 0.05$. The result is that personality traits taken together significantly predicted marital satisfaction among couples. Result further indicated that there is a moderate relationship between the criterion and predictive variables.

Table 2 also revealed that $R^2 = .409$ which means that all the personality traits jointly accounted for 40.9% of the variance in marital satisfaction, and this is significant ($p < 0.05$). The positive relationship between personality traits (extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness, conscientiousness and neuroticism) means that as scores on personality traits increase, there is a corresponding increase in marital satisfaction scores and vice-versa. This means that most couples whose scores are high on personality traits earned high scores on marital satisfaction, while some whose scores are low on personality traits earned low scores on marital satisfaction. Finally, table 2 revealed *F* – ratio of $F(5, 1124)$ that is, $F = .009$, and $p < 0.05$ which was found to be significant. The result therefore, is that personality traits taken together significantly predict marital satisfaction of couples.

The finding of this present study lends credence to Manesh and Arefi (2015) who in their study found that personality traits impacted on predicting marital satisfaction. However, the present finding disagrees with Kaufman (2011) whose study revealed that there is no significant relationship among the main five personality traits (extraversion, agreeableness, openness to experience, conscientiousness and neuroticism) and marital satisfaction. This finding is not surprising owing to the fact that marital satisfaction if couples employ self-discipline, tolerance, forgiveness in their marital relationship. No matter what the personality traits of couples are, willingness and ability to resolve marital conflicts amicably is a key to marital satisfaction. Marital satisfaction cannot be achieved if couples are anxious and unwilling to forgive each other.

Relationship between Social Awareness Components of Social Intelligence and Marital Satisfaction among Couples

The result of analysis in table 3 showed that there is a positive relationship between social awareness and marital satisfaction among couples. The positive relationship between social awareness and marital satisfaction among couples means that as scores on social awareness increase, there is a corresponding increase in marital satisfaction scores, and vice-versa. This means that most couples, whose scores are high on social awareness earned high scores on marital satisfaction, while some whose scores are low on social awareness earned low scores on marital satisfaction. Coefficient r-value of 0.69 was found to be significant at .05 level of probability (Table 3). The result therefore is that there is a significant positive relationship between social awareness and marital satisfaction among couples.

The finding of the present study is in agreement with that of Alaba (2013) who also found that there was significant relationship between social intelligence and marital stability. However, finding disagrees with the present one was found by Cobb (2004). Using a sample of 101 volunteer school teachers, he found that there was no significant relationship between social intelligence and job performance. The coefficient obtained was 0.45 while application of z-test statistics for test of significance revealed z-calculated value of 0.87. The divergent results for the present and past studies may be attributed to the fact that while the present study was carried out among married couples, volunteer school teacher were used in the past study and it is possible that all of them were not married.

Relationship between Social Facility and Marital Satisfaction among Couples

Result of analysis in table 4 showed that there is a positive relationship between social facility component of social intelligence and marital satisfaction among couples. The positive relationship between social facility and marital satisfaction among couples means that as scores on social facility increase, there is a corresponding increase in marital satisfaction scores and vice-versa. This means that most couples whose scores are high on social facility earned high scores on marital satisfaction, while some whose scores are low on social facility earned low scores on marital satisfaction. Coefficient r-value of 0.54 was not found to be significant at 0.05 level of probability (Table 4). The result therefore is that there is a positive relationship between social facility and marital satisfaction but the relationship is not significant at 0.05 level of probability.

The finding of the present finding agrees with Cob (2004) but disagrees with that of Alaba (2013) whose study revealed that there was significant relationship between social intelligence and marital stability. Alaba's study employed a sample of 80 couples in which data were obtained using social intelligence profile developed by Kihstrom (2014) which could have led to the divergent results obtained for the present and previous studies.

Relationship between Extraversion and Marital Satisfaction among Couples

Result of analysis in table 5 showed that there is a positive relationship between extraversion and marital satisfaction among couples. The positive relationship between extraversion and marital satisfaction among couples means that as scores on extraversion increase, there is a corresponding increase in marital satisfaction scores and vice-versa. This means that most couples whose scores are high on extraversion earned high scores on marital satisfaction, while some whose scores are low on extraversion earned low scores on marital satisfaction. Coefficient r-value of 0.45 was found to be significant at 0.05 level of probability (Table 5). The finding of the present study lends credence to the studies conducted by Eбенуwa Okoh (2008) and Manesh and Arefi (2015), but disagrees with Kaufman (2011). The divergent results could be due to the fact that while the present study was carried out in Rivers State, Nigeria, the previous study was carried out in a foreign country six years ago.

Relationship between Openness to Experience and Marital Satisfaction among Couples

Result analysis in table 6 indicated that there is a positive relationship between openness to experience and marital satisfaction among couples. The positive relationship between openness to experience and marital satisfaction among couples means that as scores on openness to experience increase, there is a corresponding increase in marital satisfaction scores and vice-versa. This means that most couples whose scores are high on openness to experience earned high scores on marital satisfaction, while some whose scores are low on openness to experience earned low scores on marital satisfaction. Coefficient r-value of 0.68 was found to be significant at 0.05 level of probability (Table 6). The result therefore is that there is a positive significant relationship between openness to experience and marital satisfaction among couples. The magnitude of relationship between two variables was moderate. The finding of the present study is in agreement with Esmat, et al. (2012) but disagrees with Kaufman (2011). While the present study was carried out in Rivers State, Nigeria, the previous study was carried out six years ago in a foreign country. This may have caused the divergent results.

Relationship between Agreeableness and Marital Satisfaction among Couples

Result of analysis in table 7 showed that there is a positive relationship between agreeableness and marital satisfaction among couples. The positive relationship between agreeableness and marital satisfaction among couples means that as scores on agreeableness increase, there is a corresponding increase in marital satisfaction scores and vice-versa. This means that most couples whose scores are high on agreeableness earned high scores on marital satisfaction, while some whose scores are low on agreeableness earned low scores on marital satisfaction. The magnitude of relationship between the two variables was found to be very high. The finding of the present study agreed with Farzane, et al. (2016) but disagreed with Kaufman (2011). The divergent results for the present and past studies may be attributed to many reasons. First, while the present study was carried out in Nigeria, the previous study was carried out in a foreign country. More so, while the present study used a sample size of 1145 couples, the past study used a sample size of 127 couples.

Relationship between Conscientiousness and Marital Satisfaction among Couples

Result of analysis in table 8 showed that there is a positive relationship between conscientiousness personality trait and marital satisfaction among couples. The positive relationship between conscientiousness and marital satisfaction among couples means that as scores on conscientiousness increase, there is a corresponding increase in marital satisfaction scores and vice-versa. This means that most couples whose scores are high on

conscientiousness earned high scores on marital satisfaction, while some whose scores are low on conscientiousness earned low scores on marital satisfaction. The magnitude of relationship between the two variables was found to be very high.

This present finding is not surprising since conscientiousness is the degree to which a person is systematic, organized, punctual, achievement oriented and dependable. This present finding corroborates Barrick and Mount (2009) who stated that conscientiousness is a personality trait that uniformly predicts how high a person's performance will be across a variety of occupations and jobs as well as marriage.

Relationship between Neuroticism and Marital Satisfaction among Couples

Result of analysis in Table 9 showed that there is a negative relationship between neuroticism and marital satisfaction among couples. The negative relationship between the two variables means that as scores on neuroticism increase, there is no corresponding increase in marital satisfaction scores and vice-versa. This means that most couples whose scores are high on neuroticism, earned low scores on marital satisfaction, while some whose scores are low in neuroticism earned high scores on marital satisfaction. Coefficient r-value of -0.23 was found to be significant at 0.05 level of probability (Table 9). The result therefore is that there is a negative significant relationship between neuroticism and marital satisfaction among couples. The magnitude of relationship between the two variables was found to be very low.

This present finding supports those of Fisher and McNulty (2008) but disagrees with Mahbobe et al. (2016) who in their study which investigated the relationship between personality traits and sexual self-esteem and its components found that there is a significant positive relationship between neuroticism personality dimension with sexual self-esteem.

Conclusion

The following conclusions were drawn:

1. Marital satisfaction can be predicted from the knowledge of social intelligence by 33.8%.
2. Marital satisfaction can be predicted from the knowledge of personality traits by 40.9%

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made based on the findings of the study:

1. The study revealed that social intelligence components (social awareness and social facility) taken together significantly predict marital satisfaction among couples. Therefore, it is recommended that married couples should be assertive, emotionally mature, as well as maintain positive connectedness with their spouse.
2. Since personality traits (extraversion, agreeableness, openness to experience, conscientiousness and neuroticism) taken together significantly predict marital satisfaction among couples, it is recommended that married couples should endeavour to have an indepth understanding of the personality make up of their spouse. Such understanding will help them (couples) live harmoniously and peacefully.
3. In this study, it was found that a significant positive relationship exists between social awareness and marital satisfaction. It is recommended that married couples should embark on programmes that will enhance their social awareness for a satisfactory marriage relationship.
4. More so, this study revealed that there is a positive relationship between social facility and marital satisfaction, though the relationship is not significant. It is therefore recommended that married couples should employ effective communication techniques in their marital relationship. Lack of communication can be very destructive in a marriage relationship.
5. The study also revealed that there is a significant positive relationship between all the personality traits (except neuroticism) and marital satisfaction. Based on the finding

therefore, it is recommended that guidance counselors should emphasize more on personality traits of individuals during pre-marital and marital counseling sessions.

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