

Personality Similarities and Marital Satisfaction Between Husband and Wife

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This study aimed to examine whether there is a relationship in personality similarities and marital satisfaction between husband and wife. The subjects were 50 married working couples (50 husbands and 50 wives) with one or more children under the age of 12, obtained through accidental sampling. Data were collected through questionnaires consisting demographic and open questions, marital satisfaction, and personality. The personality questionnaire was adapted from the Big Five Personality Inventory. The data were analysed with Cramer's V statistical test method as well as the Eta statistical test method to verify the consistency of the results. The results reveal no relationship between couples' personality similarity to marital satisfaction.

Keywords: marital satisfaction, personality similarity, working couple, family with young children, big five personality

Tujuan studi ini adalah mencari hubungan antara kemiripan kepribadian suami-istri dan kepuasan pernikahan. Para subjek adalah 50 pasangan suami istri (50 suami dan 50 istri) yang bekerja dan memiliki satu atau lebih anak berusia di bawah 12 tahun, yang diperoleh melalui *accidental sampling*. Data diperoleh melalui kuesioner yang terdiri atas pertanyaan demografis dan pertanyaan terbuka, kepuasan pernikahan, dan kepribadian. Kuesioner diadaptasi dari *Big Five Personality Inventory*. Data dianalisis dengan uji statistik Cramer's V maupun dengan uji statistik Eta untuk verifikasi konsistensi hasil. Hasil menunjukkan tidak adanya hubungan antara kesamaan kepribadian pasangan dan kepuasan pernikahan.

Kata kunci: kepuasan pernikahan, kemiripan kepribadian, pasangan bekerja, keluarga muda dengan anak (-anak), ekstrasversi, keterbukaan

At certain moments in adulthood, most people get married and since then the life cycle is closely associated with marriage (Saxton, 1986). Article 1 in the Indonesian law on marriage in 1974 ("Undang-undang Republik Indonesia") stated that marriage is the emotional and physical bonds between a man and a woman as husband and wife in order to establish a happy and eternal family (house-hold) by belief in God Almighty. Marriage involves the selection of someone with whom someone will build a relationship that is emotionally and sexually intimate, and often, with whom someone will be raising children. In addition, marriage contains a covenant that an individual will build a relationship that is permanent, loving, and supportive with the selected partner (Lamanna & Riedman, 2009).

Entering a marriage, any person would wish to live a

happy and satisfying household life. Marital satisfaction is a positive feeling that a couple expect from a marriage (Ponzetti, Jr., 2003). According to Snyder (1979), marital satisfaction covers nine dimensions, namely: (a) affective communication, (b) problem solving communication, (c) time spent together, (d) financial arrangements, (e) sexual satisfaction, (f) role orientation, (g) family background, (h) satisfaction with children, and (i) conflicts over child rearing. These dimensions play a role in the formation of the overall partner marital satisfaction. Several dimensions affect marital satisfaction in an indirect way, i.e. not through the couple's direct interaction. These dimensions are family background and satisfaction with children. Affective communication and problem-solving communication are thought to be most responsible for the marital satisfaction of a couple. This is because communication is the way in which many other dimensions affect marital satisfaction. Problems arising in the other dimensions may originate from the more fundamental

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