CROSS–CULTURAL VALUES AMONG MARITAL PARTNERS IN THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF HYDERABAD CITY

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SUMMARY

Six interpersonal values relating to marital partners were studied by Reiko Schwab & Edward Schwab[1] between two cultures of Japan and the United States. Replication of a similar study was conducted in Pakistani culture. The results showed a significant difference relating to the three different cultures. In the former study i.e. in Japan and the United States, interpersonal values were studied with the use of SIV (Survey of Interpersonal Values). These were:

— Support (receiving kind and considerate treatment);
— Conformity (doing what is socially acceptable & proper);
— Recognition (being admired, considered important, receiving recognition);
— Independence (being free to do what one wants to do; doing things in one's own way);
— Benevolence (doing things for others, being generous);
— Leadership (being a leader, having authority over others).

Employing the open-ended questionnaire method, three more significant values pertinent to Pakistani marital culture were added to the above six values in the present study. These were:

— Tolerance (willingness to tolerate, endure person's/ doings)
— Compromise (settling dispute by mutual concession, meeting half-way)
— (Family) prestige (family honour, family reputation achieved due to past associations).

The results obtained from the three cultures were

(a) compared cross-culturally
(b) within each culture
(c) by sex.

In the previous study, the wives of both the cultures (Japanese & American) scored significantly higher on ***support*** (mean 20.07) and ***conformity*** (mean 19.43) scale; whereas the present study (Pakistani culture) revealed higher score on ***benevolence*** and ***tolerance*** scale (mean 20.07 & 19.43) respectively).

From the American couples point of view, wives also scored higher on the benevolence scale (mean 18.70).

Japanese couples, on the other hand, showed less dissimilarity with one another on the overall values in question, as opposed to American and Pakistani couples.

Leadership seems to be the only unanimous scale on which husbands scored highest among the three cultures (means Japanese: 17.97; American: 17.63 and Pakistani 18.67).

INTRODUCTION

One important determinant that draws man and woman to each other and one that is universally accepted is the similarity of values found present among couples. Similarity of values has attracted couples to each other as observed in the American society. [1,2] Shared value among partners help derive more satisfaction in their relationships and facilitate better communication which sustains continued relationship. Consequently it would not be illogical to deduce that marital compatibility enhances marital adjustments,[5,3,4] while value conflicts result in marital strain. Though it is difficult to correlate the two without enough empircal evidence.

However, it is far easier to accept that sexual-gratification subconsciously enhances compatibility and marital adjustments.[6] The root cause of satisfaction still lies in the unconsciousness among spouses of healthy marital relations, while non-gratification may be one of the chief causes of dispersion among them.

The findings of the above referred to study show that Japanese couples are more similar to one another in interpersonal values than the American couples, while American couples are more inclined towards closeness than the Pakistani couples. The big means and dispersion in standard deviations show that Pakistani couples have got a little bit different marital values in themselves inspite of the fact

that the Pakistani couples show on an average more or less same degree of satisfaction as do the Americans and the Japanese. This is due to the fact that the virtue of endurance (i.e. tolerance value) among the Pakistani wives and ***benevolence*** are basic resources of resolution of conflicts among the spouses. Having compatibility of interpersonal values does not necessarily imply that the importance which a husband and wife attaches to interpersonal values may be similar with all the values. In other words, it is equally possible that values of husband and wife may be of differing degrees.

Regrading the value: 'independence', interesting results are achieved which deserve a mention. This is among husbands and wives personally as well as cross culturally. Japanese wives are seen more independent in their marital dealing than among both sexes in the other two cultures. They are more or less identical to American husbands in that respect.

In the case of Pakistani culture, the following variables affect healthy marital relationships:

(a) girls in the Pakistani Culture, throughout the period of their upbringing, are strictly kept away from acquiring knowledge of sex. They are in fact kept ignorant of sex until the time of their marriage. As a result they generally suffer from several inhibitions.

(b) the divorce - ratio in Pakistan is generally lower than most foreign countries.

(c) second - marriage, particularly among the educated, is disapproved from social and/or religious point of view.

(d) usually inter-marriages are preferred

(e) separation among spouses is disregarded and disapproved from family's prestige point of view.

However, variations in degree of satisfaction by holding similar or differing marital values apply equally here as in the case of foreign countries. The hypotheses of marital adjustments and value compatibility is seen working in every culture and in every country.

PROCEDURE

Fifteen Pakistani couples whose marriages were reported to be satisfactory were given the list of nine interpersonal values, alongwith a sheet of personal demographic data showing sex, age, religion, and class. The subjects were also requested to

indicate the degree of marital satisfaction on five point scale 5 being the highest point of satisfaction and 1 being the lowest. Points accordingly were to be given to any of the following:

(a) It is ideal marriage
(b) It is an average marriage
(c) It is a so-so marriage, just dragging on. . .
(d) It is a v. miserable marriage
(e) Separation is the best solution than the present position.

The list of nine values (support, conformity, recognition, independence, benevolence, leadership, tolerance, compromise, family prestige) was given to 30 Pakistani respondents (15 couples). They were requested to choose one statement representing one particular value:

'most of the time which is applicable to you?'
or 'mostly it is non-applicable to you'.

All the wives were working women serving in the profession of education. Among these included seven college lecturers and eight school teachers. Their husbands were working in different fields - teachers, doctors, engineers and administrative positions. The age of husbands ranged from 30 to 47 years, mean being 38.5, the wives age ranged between 25 to 47 years, a mean of 36. The couples had 2 to 5 children. The years of marriage ranged between 3 to 12 years, mean 7.5.

As observed, a majority of the Pakistani wives lived under the extended - family system (where parents, brothers and sisters and grandmother/grandfather all live together). The wives could not afford living independently either economically or socially.

Results & Discussion

In the previous study (comparison of two cultures) and in the present study (including Pakistani culture) the means obtained for the nine values were compared cross - culturally, within each culture and by sex. Curicously enough American Japanese and Pakistani husbands scored significantly higher on ***'leadership'*** scale. American and Japanese wives, on the other hand scored higher on ***support*** and ***benevolence*** scale, while Pakistani wives scored significantly higher on ***tolerence*** and ***benevolence*** scale, though Pakistani wives scored lowest on the independence scale individually as well as cross-culturally. This scale also received a lower scale for Pakistani husbands as compared with the Americans and Japanese. (i.e. in ranking order of values, 5th among males.and the 9th among females).

TABLE 1

INTRA – AND CROSS–CULTURAL COMPARISONS OF VALUES AMONG MARRIED COUPLES

Value	American Husband	American Wife	Mean difference	Japanese Husband	Japanese Wife	Mean difference	Pakistanies Husband	Pakistanies Wife	Mean difference
Support									
M	14.63	20.07	-5.44*	10.67	14.57	-3.90*	12.97	18.67	-5.7
SD	5.52	3.96		4.64	4.51		5.74	6.96	
conformity									
M	14.07	12.97	-1.10	19.07	19.43	-.36	14.57	14.07	-0.5
SD	5.98	5.74		4.78	5.95		4.51	5.98	
Recognition									
M	9.90	11.37	-1.47	8.60	8.63	-.03	11.37	12.97	-1.6
SD	4.16	4.49		3.79	2.97		4.49	5.74	
Independence									
M	18.67	16.63	-2.04	16.83	-1.47	9.90	8.60		-1.3
SD	6.69	5.65		6.77	5.63		4.16	3.29	
Benevolence									
M	15.07	18.70	-3.63*	16.87	18.13	-1.26	10.37	20.07	-9.7
SD	5.85	5.06		5.90	5.16		4.49	3.96	
Leadership									
M	17.63	10.27	-7.36*	17.97	10.90	-7.07*	18.67	14.63	-4.04
SD	8.08	5.92		5.57	4.95		6.96	5.52	
Tolerance									
M							12.97	19.43	-6.46
SD							5.74	5.95	
Compromise									
M							15.07	17.97	-2.27
SD							5.85	5.57	
Self Prestige									
M							10.27	18.13	-7.86
SD							5.92	5.16	

'compromise' and family prestige' scored in between the higher and lower scales of tolerance and independence respectively among Pakistani wives.

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