Abstract

**Research Title:** The impact of the styles of thinking, the partner selection criteria and some demographic variables in Achieving marital harmony among a sample of Saudi society: a perception of the determinants of the marital choice.

**Objective of the study:** This study aims at forming a perception about the correct marital choice by determining the styles of thinking, the partner selection criteria. And some demographic variables that have an important impact in achieving marital harmony.

**Sample of the study:** The sample of the study consists of 372 married (males) Saudi citizen in Riyadh.

**Instrument of the Study:**
- The personal and Demographic variables Questionnaire (The researcher)
- The marital Harmony Scale . (The researcher)
- The styles of Thinking list. (Sternberg & Wagner,1991)

**Result of the study:**
- 16.9% of the sample have a low level marital harmony, 15.3% of the sample have a hi level marital harmony, 67.8% have a medium level of marital harmony.
- there are significant statistical difference ( at $\alpha = 0.01$ ) between those who have a high level of marital harmony and those who have a low level in marital harmony due to the ways of thinking.
- the most common methods of the used in the selection of the partner are: family selection , matchmaker selection , personal selection , friend selection.
- the most common criteria used in the selection of the partner are: religious commitment , family reputation , beauty , ethics , money and low expenses.
- there are significant statistical differences in the level of the marital harmony due to the criteria used in the selection of the partner.
- there are no significant statistical differences among the age groups in favor of the spouses who are ten years older than their wives.
- there are significant statistical differences in the level of the marital harmony due to the differences in the degree of kinship and the country of origin of the spouses in favor of those who are married to a relative or a woman from the same country.
- there are significant statistical difference ( at $\alpha = 0.05$ ) in the level in marital between the group of husbands who have a lower or higher level of education than their wives and the group of husbands who have the same level of education as there wives in favor of those who have the same level.
- there are significant statistical differences in the level of the marital harmony due to the economic differences between spouses.
**Recommendations:**

1. Specialized centers should be established to offer family and marital counseling.
2. Oriented programs should be designed to offer the methods and techniques of achieving the marital harmony.
3. Specialized courses should be offered to people who are going to marry. These courses should be considered as a prerequisite to obtain the marriage contract.