

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MARRIAGE SATISFACTION AND AFFECTIONATE COMMUNICATION, DURATION OF MARRIAGE, NUMBER OF CHILDREN, AND CHILDREN'S AGE

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ABSTRACT_ *The study examined the relationship between marriage satisfaction and affectionate communication, and the differences in marriage satisfaction and affectionate communication as related to marriage duration, number of children, and the ages of children. Marriage Satisfaction Scale and Affectionate Communication Scale were administered to 203 married female university students and staff, from Umm Al-Qura University in Makkah, between the age 20-60. The results of the study showed that there was a significant positive relationship between marriage satisfaction and affectionate communication. The study also found significant differences in the subjects' scores on the marriage satisfaction scale related to marriage duration, in favor of wives that were married for more than 8 years. Significant differences in the score of marriage satisfaction scale were found in favor of wives who had less than 6 children; and also in favor of wives whom their children are 3 years of age or less. The results also revealed significant differences in the level of affectionate communication based on the duration of marriage in favor of (17-25 or more) years, and in favor of childless couples. The study also found significant differences in level of affectionate communication according to children age in in favor of (10 and less) years. (200 words)*

KEY WORDS: *Marriage satisfaction, affectionate communication, duration of marriage, number of children, children ages.*