

Case Study: Analysis of Factors Affecting Marriage Satisfaction in Married Couples During Pandemic

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Abstract

Marriage is a sacred moment because it is considered a symbol of the transformation of parent's responsibility to the husband who is the head of the household. Marriage adjustment during the pandemic and the division of roles of gender in family life must be well intertwined in order to create a sense of satisfaction in marriage, especially for married couples during the pandemic. The study aims to analysis the marriage satisfaction of married couples during the pandemic. The study is a qualitative study using an impressive type of case study. sampling technique with the wife of the couple who conducted a wedding during the pandemic as the subject. The data retrieval technique involves semi-structured interviews using the interview guidelines and analysis through the three-grooved technique of data reduction, data presentation, deduction/verification. Research has shown that marriage satisfaction of married couples during the pandemic is affected by internal factors such as family relationships, social and external environments, free time between couples, preparations for childbirth, and parenting. The relationship between the spouse and the family of both spouses works well, which promotes satisfaction in the marriage.

Keywords: couples married during the pandemic, marriage satisfaction, pandemic period

Abstrak

Pernikahan merupakan momen sakral karena terucap akad sebagai simbol peralihan tanggung jawab orangtua kepada suami sebagai kepala rumah tangga. Penyesuaian pernikahan selama pandemi dan pembagian peran gender dalam kehidupan rumah tangga harus terjalin dengan baik agar tercipta kepuasan pernikahan, terutama pada pasangan yang menikah di masa pandemi. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis kepuasan pernikahan pasangan yang menikah di masa pandemi. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif dengan jenis penelitian case study menggunakan teknik purposive sampling dengan responden istri dari pasangan yang menyelenggarakan pernikahan di masa pandemi sebagai subjek penelitian. Teknik pengambilan data dilakukan dengan

wawancara semi-terstruktur menggunakan pedoman wawancara dan dianalisis melalui teknik tiga alur yaitu reduksi data, penyajian data, penarikan kesimpulan/verifikasi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan kepuasan pernikahan pada pasangan yang menikah di masa pandemi dipengaruhi oleh faktor internal seperti hubungan dengan keluarga dan lingkungan sosial dan faktor eksternal seperti waktu luang bersama pasangan, kesiapan memiliki anak dan pengasuhan anak. Kepuasan dalam pernikahan didorong oleh adanya hubungan antara suami istri dan keluarga kedua belah pihak yang terjalin dengan baik.

Kata kunci: kepuasan pernikahan masa pandemic, pasangan yang menikah di masa pandemic

Introduction

Marriage is one of the sacred moments that serve as a gateway to married life. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has brought uncertainty to society (Ng, De Deyn, Loke, & Chan, 2020), and married couples are no exception. The decision to get married during the pandemic is undoubtedly full of challenges and considerations. Indonesia is known for its cultural value in wedding parades, such as holding akad and receptions and a series of traditional tribal rituals, in addition to the family, it must also solve the problems of the surrounding community (Alfiatin, 2018). On the other hand, the government has issued policies to restrict public movement and activities to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Many brides have to modify the concept of marriage to the extent that it deems it. But few couples get married during the pandemic. Even so, the question remains as to how satisfactory the marriage of married couples during the pandemic is in a new life that requires society to stay at home.

A coronavirus is a group of viruses originating from the subfamily Ortho Coronaviridae in the Coronaviridae family and the order Nidovirales (Yunus & Rezki, 2020). The potential for the Covid-19 pandemic poses potential dangers to people's lives in various fields, including the economic, social, health, and psychological fields. A social vulnerability becomes a real reality that grows in society, causing shocks that affect their immunity. Therefore, the government has taken a stand to reduce the transmission rate of the coronavirus by issuing policies. The policies made by the government include the procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE) for referral hospitals for Covid patients, buying Covid test kits, social distancing, schools and work being carried out from home through applications, activity restrictions, calls to always maintain personal hygiene, physical distancing, large-scale social restrictions (PSBB), to restrictions on human mobility from one region to another (MS & Rizaldi, 2020).

In addition, Law Number 6 of 2018 concerning Health Quarantine Article 9 states that the purpose of quarantine is to keep the public safe from disease and other causes of public health risks. This policy creates positive and negative attitudes for the community, especially families. The positive impact can be seen from more time at home so that it has the potential to strengthen togetherness. However, the negative impact can be seen from the existence of domestic conflicts that lead to divorce. The main factors why wives prefer to separate from their husbands during a pandemic are economic factors that affect social relations and continuous quarrels, infidelity due to disharmony in partners, and dispute factors that trigger household conflicts (Wijayanti, 2021).

Economic difficulties and financial pressures hurt health and interactions among family members, including a decrease or increase in the quality of marriage, dissolution of the family, and marital instability. In addition, high psychological pressure will result in low quality of marriage and have implications for marital satisfaction (Lincoln & Chae, 2010). According to Alfaruqy, Putri, & Soedibyoy (2021), indirectly, this Covid-19 pandemic event influences marital satisfaction due to stressors that suppress the danger of the virus and government policies regarding health protocols so that it hinders the implementation of marriage as it should, which has implications for marital satisfaction. Furthermore, the rejection and dissolution of the marriage contract and the reception trigger the dominance of negative emotions, including anxiety, fear, and sadness before the wedding.

Marital satisfaction is a person's subjective evaluation of the level of happiness, pleasure, and experience in a marital relationship or the extent to which a person feels fulfilled and fulfilled his static needs. Aspects of marital satisfaction include communication, leisure activities, religious orientation, conflict resolution, financial management, sexual orientation, family and friends, children and parenting, personality, and role equality (Sari, Yuliadi, & Setyanto, 2016).

Marriage is a union of two people who miss each other, want each other to be together, need each other, give encouragement and support, and serve each other, which are manifested together in life. Marital satisfaction is influenced by self-disclosure and the wife's perception of the husband's self-disclosure which cannot be separated in achieving marital satisfaction, especially the provision of sufficient love and attention from the husband to his wife which cannot be separated from the factors of marriage age, religion, income level, place of residence, and wife's work (Wardhani, 2013). The age gap of a partner that is too far will also affect satisfaction and commitment in living the household (Utami, 2018). Every couple who enters married life expects a happy married life. But in reality, not all married couples can achieve satisfaction in marriage, fulfilling the needs of family members that cause dissatisfaction. The marriage quality is determined by the barriers to one's marital satisfaction, determined by three types of attachment: secure attachment, avoidance attachment, and anxiety attachment (Soraiya, Khairani, Rachmatan, Sari, & Sulistyani, 2016).

Factors that affect marital satisfaction are the relationship with the spouse's family, intense interaction with the in-laws, parenting factors that will impact the balance of sharing roles, financial factors, and residence factors, whether with in-laws or living at home alone (Surya, 2013). According to Olson et al. (1983), some aspects that determine marital satisfaction are personality issues, problem-solving, communication, leisure activities, financial management, sexual relations, children and caregivers, role equality, family and friends, and religious orientation. The sources that most influence the satisfaction and dissatisfaction of a relationship are the partner's personality and the partner's life circumstances related to intimacy and communication (Oluwole & Adebayo, 2008). An important factor in the quality of communication in marriage is a person's willingness to tell each other about their thoughts and feelings to their partner. The couple's personality characteristics determine how the couple accepts each other, evaluates and explains the events in marriage (Bradbury & Fincham, 1988). Khalatbari, Ghorbanshiroudi, Azari, Bazleh, and Safaryazdi (2013) study showed that emotional stability affects marital satisfaction. The higher the satisfaction felt in marriage, the more stable a person's emotions will be.

Newly married couples will feel marital satisfaction when their husbands are open to themselves, such as openness to his thoughts and feelings (Wardhani, 2013). For newly married couples, the first and second years of marriage are an adjustment phase for married couples (Hurlock, 1994). During the adjustment period, emotional tension dominates the husband or wife due to the occurrence of problems (Wardhani, 2013). The quality of marriage is often related to positive interactions and behaviours. The more positive interactions and behaviours, the higher the quality of the marriage. In addition, successful adaptation will strengthen and maintain the relationship and reduce the possibility of losing the quality of the marriage (Parker, 2002; Dewi, Puspitawati, & Krisnatuti, 2018).

After entering domestic life, the stages of marriage experienced by married couples are the early, middle, and mature periods (Walgito, 2000). The early phase of marriage tends to be happier than couples who have been married for a long time. However, newly married couples are more often involved in conflict so that it affects the marital satisfaction felt by married couples (Hayati, 2017). Newlyweds who fail in the adjustment process are likely to encounter problems at all stages of family development and have a greater chance of divorce (Sumbulah & Jannah, 2012).

In addition, the factors of marriage readiness according to young adults are emotional readiness (emotional control and empathy skills), social (social skills, social cognition, and tolerance), roles, communication skills, age, financial, and sexual affect marital satisfaction. The research result of Sari and Sunarti (2013) found that there is a difference in marriage readiness between men and women. Financial readiness is the most important marriage readiness for men, while emotional readiness is for women. The ideal age for marriage for men is 26.3 years, while for women, it is 23.9 years. The age for marriage for men is 26.1 years and for women at the age of 24.2 years. According to Nindyasari and Herawati (2018) study shows age at marriage, length of the marriage, and family interactions having a positive impact on marital satisfaction.

Therefore, there is still relevance for research to find out more about marital satisfaction in married couples during the pandemic. During this period, the scope of research on marriage satisfaction in the pandemic was very wide, but only focused on families that had been married for a long time. To fill in the gaps, researchers are trying to study the marital satisfaction of young couples who got married during the pandemic. The research aims to understand the factors that influence marriage decisions during the pandemic and the marital satisfaction of couples during the pandemic

Methods

Participants

This study tries to explore marital satisfaction in married couples during the Covid-19 pandemic using a qualitative approach. According to Creswell (2012) definition, qualitative research methods used as an approach or search to explore and understand a central phenomenon. The type of research used is a case study, namely the method used to study deeply one of the real symptoms in social life. According to Sri and Mulya (2007), the object groups in society, community institutions, and individuals in society.

The participants in this study used a purposive sampling technique with the characteristics of participants being married during the pandemic. Participants in this study were women who got married during the Covid-19 pandemic and lived in several

areas in Indonesia, namely West Java and Lampung. The age range of participants is 21 to 25 years with employment status as college students, private and civil servants. The data retrieval in the study lasted from March 2021 to June 2021.

Measurement

Data collection techniques in this study using semi-structured interviews using interview instruments, namely interview guidelines. The purpose of researchers using semi-structured interview techniques is to dig up information from the subject and informants. The interview process begins with an informed consent request for participants to be involved in the study (informed consent). After obtaining the consent of the participants, then the interview process was carried out on the agreed time with the respondents. The interview process is carried out online through the Zoom Meeting application.

Marital satisfaction includes personality issues, role equality, communication, conflict resolution, financial management, free time, sexual relations, child-rearing, family and friends, and religious orientation (Fowers & Olson, 1989). The questions in the research are formulated by the researchers based on the marriage decision, marriage problems, and marriage satisfaction.

Analysis

The data analysis technique used refers to Miles and Huberman (1992), namely three-way analysis, data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing/verification. These three activities are intertwined before, during, and after data collection in parallel forms to build general insights called analysis. The developed interactive model by Miles and Huberman (1992) consists of three types of analysis activities and data collection activities cyclical and interactive processes. The data obtained from the interviews were analyzed using descriptive analysis to determine the factors that influence marital satisfaction is in married couples during the pandemic.

Findings

The interviewees in this study included three women who were married during the pandemic, SK is a 25-year-old woman who is a civil servant, IS is a 25-year-old woman who is currently a private employee, and RNT is a 21-year-old woman who is still studying at a state university. In this study, the researchers revealed three themes, namely (1) The decision to get married during the Covid-19 pandemic; (2) Problems before marriage; and (3) Factors influencing marital satisfaction.

The Decision to get Married during The Covid-19 Pandemic

Marriage is long worship that every couple goes through. Getting married during a pandemic is certainly not an easy task, as it is restricted by various rules to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus. However, this will not affect the kindness of couples who want to prove their relationship right away, one of which is a couple who gets married through the *ta'aruf* process. The *ta'aruf* process is a momentum to hasten the marriage and to avoid adultery.

“Because there is a momentum of the process (ta'aruf) that must be hastened, in the end, yes, Bismillah at that time (we got married).” (IIS)

"The consideration is because I got acquainted with my husband through the process of ta'aruf which is taken only in 2 weeks and Alhamdulillah a month after that we decided to get married." (RNT)

Apart from the ta'aruf process, the various factors underlying marriage at the time of the pandemic include parents who do not allow the process of courtship, the fears of having other options, and the long-overdue process of courtship.

"My family didn't allow me to date anyone but if there is someone come to propose me and is suitable, they stated there is no reason to postpone the marriage". (RNT)

At that time, as a result of consultation with candidates, families and spiritual teacher (ustadz), we decided to hasten the marriage because it was like being given a warning by him." (IIS)

"First, I know that this pandemic will not end anytime soon. Second, because this year (2021) I want to focus on work, I don't want to think about wedding preparations. And third, we're already dating for a long time, so what else are we waiting for? Well, let's just get married." (SK)

Problems Before the Wedding

As one of the sacred moments in life, marriage must be prepared in the best way. The most important thing to prepare carefully before the wedding is mental readiness.

"As for the mental aspect, both bride and groom to be should be more mature. Because the marriage is held 3 weeks after the khitbah (engagement), I still didn't know my partner well. We only communicated via WhatsApp (WA) group chat." (IIS)

"Maybe it's just I'm lack confidence, who often wonder whether I will be able to carry out all of this or not? Will I be able to do the dual role? Am I ready? Will I be able to keep chasing my dreams? But in the end, after the akad (Muslim's marriage settlement) and officially became his wife, I just realized that marriage is one way of a worship to God and could peace my mind." (RNT)

Apart from mental readiness, financial readiness, and communication, there are rare obstacles that the bride may go through in preparing for the wedding. Especially during a pandemic like today, it can increase the risk of delaying the planned marriage.

"The biggest challenge is when I want to hold a wedding party but didn't really know my partner would agree or not and about the cost because it's happened so suddenly. And I didn't have any savings for that." (IIS)

"Initially, I wanted to get married in March, but then it was postponed to August, and lastly to December. Not to mention when there was the PSBB, so it was delayed. Besides that, because the leave is being pushed back, I feel bad for the boss, the decorations, the makeup and others, I don't want to keep putting it off." (SK)

Factors that Affect Marital Satisfaction

The marital satisfaction of married couples during the pandemic is influenced by several things, such as changes after marriage, the distribution of household roles, and their relationship with their family and social environment.

Changes after Marriage

After entering married life, the respondents felt that respondent felt that there was no obvious change in the other person. But he feels that his sensitivity and dependence on husband and wife are increasing. In addition, changes in management and the division of roles between marriage partners in the family have also changed.

"I still feel the same as before. Maybe the problem is that after marriage, we are too dependent on our partners. Maybe it's because he's married, so his sensitivity level is higher. Because that's why it's like demanding that your partner is always there." (SK)

"At the beginning of marriage, it was a very adaptation period, a time to get to know each other. Of course, we want to clean up work first, but homework is also waiting. It affects me." (IIS)

The Division of Household Roles

After marriage, the husband and wife's balance of roles is important in the home. The distribution of roles in the household is not a written rule, but something that is done spontaneously.

"When it comes to the distribution of roles and duties of husband and wife, Alhamdulillah, we help each other. For example, if I am busy with college, my husband doesn't demand that the same thing has to be done by me. On the other hand, my husband is also very helpful. For example, I am busy studying but have not cooked yet, and the husband can cook himself. Understanding each other is the key." (RNT)

IIS explained that how the roles distributed between her and her husband was done spontaneously. According to IS, marriage requires collaboration between husband and wife.

"The distribution is done spontaneously. For example, it's not written; you're party A, and I'm party B, it's not like that. Spontaneously, for example, I wash the dishes, my husband sweeps the house. So the division still exists, yes, but I call it collaboration. So what part am I, what do you mean? And that's what we always talk to since the beginning of our marriage, it must be collaborative, backing up each other."

Time Management

The division of time between work, study, and quality time with a partner is often forgotten by most couples. However, during the current pandemic, according to RNT, the time-division between work, college and family is quite flexible.

"When it comes to the division of time between work and family, my husband and I are flexible. But, for now, we spend more time at home because my husband works online, and I also study online, so we spend more time together at home."

The pandemic is making almost everyone more time with their partner. SK also feels this with her partner who spends more time together at home.

"For the time together, maybe because we are already married, so we are always together when we are at home. The two of us are also together, sometimes WFH WFO. The best thing is really quality time, if it's not at night, it's on the weekend. If I'm on vacation and he's working, I'll accompany him even if it's through a video call."

Although the pandemic has made people spend more time at home, it is not uncommon for this to cause problems or conflicts in the household. IIS explains that working from home makes working hours erratic and makes IIS extra in managing time.

"At that time, I was in WFH, maybe if I went to the office my working hours would be more measured, I left at 8 and came home at 5. After that, my mind, body, and heart are there for my family, but when WFH time, it felt like a full day' work. It's like there's no time limit. In the end, it's psychologically affecting the way, the Sundanese language is rarungsing."

The Decision to Have Children

Almost all married couples have the hope of having children. But having children also requires careful preparation. So RNT and her partner agreed to achieve their respective goals before deciding to have children.

"About having children, Alhamdulillah, we have committed since the beginning. We agreed to achieve each other's goals. But, first, I will finish my study first and my husband can focus on his work. Well, only then we will think about having children."

SK also expressed the hope about having children. However, she believed that God will give her children at the right time. According to her, it is not that problematic if a couple has not given a child.

"It's not that I don't want to have children at this age. But it's because God hasn't given me one yet, I'll just accept that. It doesn't matter that a married woman having a child or not. Everyone has their own way."

Meanwhile, IIS tries to keep her healthy, save money, and other important things to prepare herself to be a parent.

"We're the type that will always trying hard but fateful to God. This means that we prepare ourselves in terms of health, economy, and others that we can do. Although we know that having children during pandemic era can be more complicated than having them in normal times. But we are still trying while hoping God to trust one for us."

Conflict and Conflict Management

Miss-communication this is one of the factors that often cause conflict in marriage that RNT feels due to feeling often ignored by their partner. However, so far, RNT feels that she has never experienced a serious conflict in his marriage.

"For the conflict so far, Alhamdulillah, nothing happened. At the very least, my husband and I often had miss-communication because he thought that he didn't care for."

RNT explained that in dealing with minor conflicts in the household, one needs to apologize first to prevent the conflict from dragging on.

"At that time, I was busy studying and doing assignments, and then my husband came home from outside, the laundry was still piled up and then he asked why did I haven't wash his clothes. But suddenly I felt annoyed then kept quiet and didn't say anything until he apologized. And after that, I explained the reason why I hadn't done the housework."

Similar to RNT, in resolving conflicts or problems in the household, IIS explained that someone had to initiate communication first to apologize.

"We're the type that waiting each other to start the communication. Whether asking if there is something wrong or dare to apologize first. Because it is undeniable that humans must have an ego and have their own nature. That's what we have to minimize when there is a conflict. If it's me, I usually give a reward when the conflict has passed. For example, if we have a conversation about something like that, then we will give small rewards, like hang out together."

SK also experienced the conflict in the household. According to her, the conflict that is occurred after marriage is almost the same as that happened when they were still dating.

"Actually, conflicts or problems after marriage and before are the same. Yes, maybe when we are both tired from work, then your partner does things that make you emotional, right?"

In dealing with conflicts or problems that arise in the household is to be alone (self-healing) and stay away from your partner for a while.

"From our courtship, if there is a problem, we'll take some me time. Healing, yes, we need time to relieve emotions. After that, I often forget why I was so bad or what were we doing. That's it."

Relationship with Spouse's Family

A relationship with the partner's family that is well established gives a person its own happiness. RNT explained that her relationship with her husband's big family is well established, and vice versa. RNT feels grateful to have in-laws who understand and understand their shortcomings.

"Alhamdulillah, the relationship between our big families are very good. Moreover, my parents-in-law really understand my shortcomings. They taught me how to cook or how to be a good wife. I felt grateful that I have got married."

SK also has a good relationship and gets support from her parents-in-law. Her mother-in-law always supports whatever SK and her husband's decisions in living the household.

"Alhamdulillah, my husband's parents always support our decisions and do not demand that we have children immediately."

Efforts to Maintain Health during a Pandemic

The growing Covid-19 case against is something to be aware of. Efforts are being made to prevent infection from the virus. Applying health protocols and safeguarding the family's health during the current pandemic is one of the most important things to do. Communities, especially those who get married during the pandemic, adopt a healthy pattern of life not only physical but psychological.

The application of 3M (washing hands, wearing a mask, and Keeping a distance). RNT implemented the implementation of the health protocol to maintain the health of the family and keep the family safe from the virus.

"Usually, during this pandemic, me and my husband's big families always trying to keep applying the 3M rules such as washing hands with soap, wearing the mask, and keeping the distance with others when we're outside home."

In addition to implementing 3M, RNT also prepares healthy food for the family and changes clothes immediately after leaving the house.

"Preparing and serving healthy food. Don't forget to eat vegetables and fruits. And the clothes we wore along the day or not must be taken off once we arrived home."

SK also applies health protocols to maintain her family health. In addition to implementing 3M, SK always brings hand sanitizer, changes clothes and takes a shower after coming from outside, and cooks more herself than buying food from outside. SK explains that cooking your own food is more efficient and more hygienic.

"At this time, it is very important to maintain health. Yes, if you leave the house, always wear a mask, bring hand sanitizer, and immediately take a shower and change clothes"

when you leave the house. Besides that, I also prefer to cook myself and rarely buy outside food. In my opinion, apart from being more economical, it is also more hygienic in my opinion.

Discussion

The decision to get married during the pandemic is influenced by several factors, namely marriage through the ta'aruf process, family rules that do not allow dating, and the introduction period with a partner who has been long enough. In addition, there are internal and external factors that hinder the marriage process. The internal factor comes from the interviewees, that is, they feel unable to communicate openly with potential partners, thus worrying about poor communication in the family. Meanwhile, external factors are due to the restrictions on people's mobility so that the marriage must be delayed. However, in the end, by implementing a health agreement, the marriage can continue.

In marriage, marital satisfaction is one of the key factors for both spouses to experience happiness. However, married life is not always happy, and problems may arise for various reasons. Research shows that there are several factors that affect marital satisfaction in married couples during the pandemic, including changes after marriage, changes in family roles, time management, decisions to have children, conflict, and conflict management and relationships with the couple's family.

Entering married life, couples will discover new things that are different from their pre-marital life. SK respondents found that the level of sensitivity and sense of dependence with a partner after marriage has increased. Ilmi (2018) showed that people who are emotionally dependent on their partners tend to show attitudes and behaviors that require a partner. In addition, for IIS and RNT respondents who married through the ta'aruf process, the early marriage period was a period of adaptation and a process of getting to know each other more closely with their partners. Research by Borualogo and Rahmatinna (2011) shows that couples who get married through the ta'aruf process commit to build a happy household life based on religious values. Marital satisfaction is also affected by marital expectations. Sari, Yuliadi, and Seyanto (2016) show that the more satisfied the expectation of marriage, the higher the satisfaction with marriage.

The balanced distribution of roles in the family is a factor that affects marriage satisfaction. The three respondents (SK, IIS, and RNT) showed a fairly balanced division of roles between husband and wife. The division of roles between husband and wife is not a written rule and is carried out spontaneously. In marriage, there needs to be a collaboration between husband and wife in order to create harmony in the household. The inability of individual men and women in the family to complete work and family affairs can lead to work-family conflicts. (Nwanzu & Bojehre, 2016). McElwain, Korabik, and Rosin (2005) pointed out that men and women have no big or significant differences in how they feel about work-family conflict. However, if further research is conducted, women are more likely to have work-family conflicts than men. Beham and Drobnic (2010) The balance of roles in the family affects marital satisfaction. Rahmaita (2015) states that a good division of roles among family members will achieve optimal marital satisfaction. The involvement of family members in doing and managing household chores can increase the satisfaction of married couples (Galovan, Holmes, Schramm, & Lee 2013; Kwok, Cheng, & Ling, 2015; Yucel & Koydemir, 2015).

The pandemic has an impact on the existence of rules that require people to carry out all activities from home. This issue makes most people spend more time at home. Respondents SK and RNT felt happy because they had more time with their partners. At the same time, IIS feels that it must add additional time management so it doesn't get stuck. Being close to your partner will certainly create a feeling of comfort and security when you are together Soraiya, Khairani, Rachmatan, Sari, and Sulistyani (2016) attachment has a significant positive relationship with marital satisfaction. In addition, attention to partners, such as giving gifts can strengthen the relationship between husband and wife. Komiya, Ohtsubo, Nakanishi, and Oishi (2019) conducted a secondary analysis of their survey data and found that married couples who often give gifts to their partners have a closer relationship with their partners.

Happiness in the household is often associated with the presence of children. Respondents SK and IIS did not delay or rush in planning a pregnancy, but they left it back to God. At the same time, RNT agreed to postpone possession of the ball and focus on achieving its goals. Kristanti and Soetjningsih (2017) The absence of children in a marriage does not make husbands and wives dissatisfied with their marriage. Marital satisfaction is obtained from other factors, such as mutual respect, acceptance of the partner's strengths and weaknesses, and mutual trust. More than that, a good relationship with the spouse's family also affects satisfaction in marriage.

Every family must have problems in family life. In the SK family, the feelings of conflict before and after marriage are the same. However, when conflicts occur in the family, SK resolves them through self-repair. Respondents IIS and RNT who got married through the ta'aruf process experienced miscommunication problems because they did not dare to express their feelings to their partners. However, if there is a conflict in the family, the husband will be the first to compromise and apologize to reduce the conflict. Research by Muhid, Nurmamita, and Hanim (2019) shows that there is a relationship between conflict resolution and marital satisfaction.

The ability of couples to deal with and resolve conflicts in the household is influenced by the couple's perception of marriage. Strong and Cohen (2011) state that conflict resolution in marriage is an important factor in determining relationship satisfaction and well-being. In line with Veroff et al. (1997) states that there are three strategies used to deal with constructive engagement conflicts, for example, compromise, negotiation, problem-solving characterized by open and direct communication that considers and takes into account the interests of both partners; further destructive involvement, e.g., aggression, coercion, i.e., "attacks" against a partner involving criticism, hostility, and domination; and avoidance as evidenced by ignoring or denying problems and avoiding confrontation, especially those that have a negative effect on the relationship. Saputri (2020) states that a conflict resolution style that is in accordance with the conflict at hand can resolve conflicts well, which has an impact on satisfaction in marriage.

The limitation of this study is that it only selects wives as the main respondent. It is expected that the next research will be able to see from the husband's point of view related to marital satisfaction in married couples during the pandemic. It is expected that further research will dig deeper into the factors that affect marriage satisfaction.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Conclusion

Considering the various challenges that must be faced when preparing for a wedding, getting married during a pandemic is not an easy task. The government's rules for restricting public mobility to prevent the spread of the virus have an impact on the decision to postpone the wedding. Confusion and feeling unprepared for the role of the wife are internal factors that influence the decision to marry. Prolonged courtship, the avoidance of adultery, and parental drive have been factors affecting the decision to marry during the pandemic. Aspects of marital satisfaction in couples at the time of the pandemic have been fulfilled. Changes in spouses after marriage, more role changes in the family, more time with the spouse, more conflict resolution with the spouse, deals with decisions about having children with the spouse, good relationships with the spouse and the family of the couple, became factors that affected marital satisfaction in the pandemic. It can be concluded that married couples during the pandemic are satisfied with their married life. This research has implications for compliance with the rules set by the government related to the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, this research has implications for individual personal expectations, including about marital satisfaction in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic situation that is still hitting today.

Recommendation

Based on the results of the study, it was found that there was still a miscommunication in married couples through the *ta'aruf* process. This is because the wife is afraid to talk openly with her partner. It's good for the husband to try to talk to his wife and make the wife feel comfortable to talk freely. The advice to policymakers in this regard is that, considering that the pandemic does not affect the decision to marry, the government will strengthen the supervision of marriage during the pandemic to maintain the safety of both parties. The government can also enrol brides-to-be in courses on the preparations that must be made for marriage during the pandemic, such as economic management, mental health, and birth planning.

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