

Direct Effect of Problem-Solving Strategies, Communication, and Negotiation Styles towards Marital Satisfaction among Secondary School Teachers in Nigeria

Fasasi Lukman, Aqeel Khan, Ado Abdu Bichi and
Oniye Masud Ibrahim

Abstract--- *This study investigates the direct effect of Problem-Solving Strategies, Communication, and Negotiation Styles towards Marital Satisfaction among secondary school teachers in Nigeria. To achieve the purpose a cross-sectional survey design was adopted with a sample of 385 married couples in Kwara state Nigeria. The instruments used are tagged 'Problem-Solving Strategies, Communication and Negotiation styles towards Marital Satisfaction Scales' contained 80 items spread among the 16 sub-constructs, 4 Likert's type was adopted throughout the scale. The data collected were entered into Microsoft Excel 2016 and SPSS 20 for data cleaning and were filtered to the SmartPLS 3. The data was a check for normality using two indicators of as Skewness and Kurtosis. The data analysis was conducted using Partial least square structural equation modelling approaches with SmartPLS 3 software. The measurement models were evaluated by items loading, composite reliability (CR) and average variance extracted (AVE). The results revealed that the measurement model assessed in this study showed acceptability with validity and reliability test results presented in the preceding sections. The convergent validity examined through the factor loadings, composite reliability (CR), and average variance extracted (AVE). Thus with the effect of all the measurement requirements, it can be concluded that, the direct effect of Problem-Solving Strategies, Communication and Negotiation styles on Marital Satisfaction Scales validated in this study can be used to predict the direct effect of Problem-Solving strategies, Communication and Negotiation Styles towards Marital Satisfaction among secondary school teachers in Nigeria.*

Keywords--- *Problem-Solving, Communication, Negotiation Styles, Marital Satisfaction.*

I. INTRODUCTION

In the African context, a family is recognized as an essential part of marital life. Despite the embracement of Western, culture 1,21, a typical Nigerian man still believed that a strong family bond ensures an individual's survival within the traditional societal norms. This perhaps has contributed to making Nigeria the most populous country in Africa with around 193 million people (but forecast to be 390 million by 2050) and with the existence of 252 officially documented languages or dialects ². In Nigeria, marriage is usually between two families against the concept of just two people in the Western world. When an individual is getting married, the two families come

*Fasasi Lukman, School of Education, Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Skudai, Johor, Malaysia, Department of Educational Psychology, FCE (Tech), Asaba-Nigeria.
Aqeel Khan, School of Education, Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Skudai, Johor, Malaysia.
Ado Abdu Bichi, Faculty of Education, Yusuf Maitama Sule University, Kano-Nigeria.
Oniye Masud Ibrahim, Faculty of Education, University of Ilorin, Ilorin-Nigeria.*

together. On most occasions, the intending couples' parents do the courtship on behalf of their son and daughter 3. In some neighbouring countries (Benin republic, Niger republic, Ghana, Zambia, and Togo), families make inquiries into the family their son/daughter is marrying into. Having satisfied with the family status and attributes, both families are introduced before the traditional wedding day. It was even a forbidden act for the intending couple to meet even on the street before the marriage night talks less having intimate intercourse. This is because it is regarded as social and family dishonour and disgrace for a bride not to be found as a virgin on the night of the wedding 4.

The above explained the marriage system in Nigeria before the advent of the British missionaries. Then, marriage was usually polygamy in nature; women were regarded as subjects to men but due to foreign influence and forces on the peoples' culture with improvement in the quality of life, women are now agitating for equal status with men in national issues 3 Women's liberation from the patriarchal ideology of the Nigerians has led to the dramatic changes in marriage and family system. The marriage system in Nigeria is leaning towards the nuclear type rather than the ancient practice of polygamy. However, many Nigerians still prefer large families and attached a high value to getting married and having children. Hence, marriage practice is daily increasing with its enormous challenges 5

Many marriages have led to divorce because of different reasons. Specific statistics of divorce prevalence in Kwara state, Nigeria is very high 6 because most marriages experience divorce in the state officially registered in the customary court. However, some empirical studies, court, and media reports have documented different cases of divorce among couples.6 stated that divorce rates in northern Nigeria are among the highest in West Africa. It was stressed that one in threemarriages fail within three years, while researcher7 reported that over 80% of Kano marriages were unstable. Kwara state falls within North Central Nigeria, has been recorded among the higher violence and troubled marriages. In the Vanguard Newspaper 8 reported that 80 marriages conducted under the native law and custom were dissolved within three months by customary courts in Ilorin. No fewer than 38 divorce petitions were filed in courts in Omu-Aran, Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara between January and August 2016. Similarly, 15 marriages were dissolved, 11 amicably resolved, while 12 others were still pending. It was also revealed that the incidence of a petition for divorce in the area was on the increase compared to the 46 of such petitions filed within the same period in 2015 9.

Domestic violence is a pressing issue for divorce. In Nigeria, over 65 percent of educated women and 55 percent of low-income women are subjected to domestic violence 10. Domestic abuse and fatal cases of spouse violence are global phenomena. According to the United Nations, their male partners commit 38 percent of murders of women worldwide, and partner violence is the most common type of violence against women, affecting 30 percent of women globally 11. In parts of the third world, generally and West Africa, in particular, domestic violence is prevalent and reportedly justified and condoned in some cultures. For instance, 56% of Indian women surveyed by an agency justified wife beating on grounds like; bad cook, disrespectful to in-laws, producing more girls, leaving home without informing spouse, among others 11.

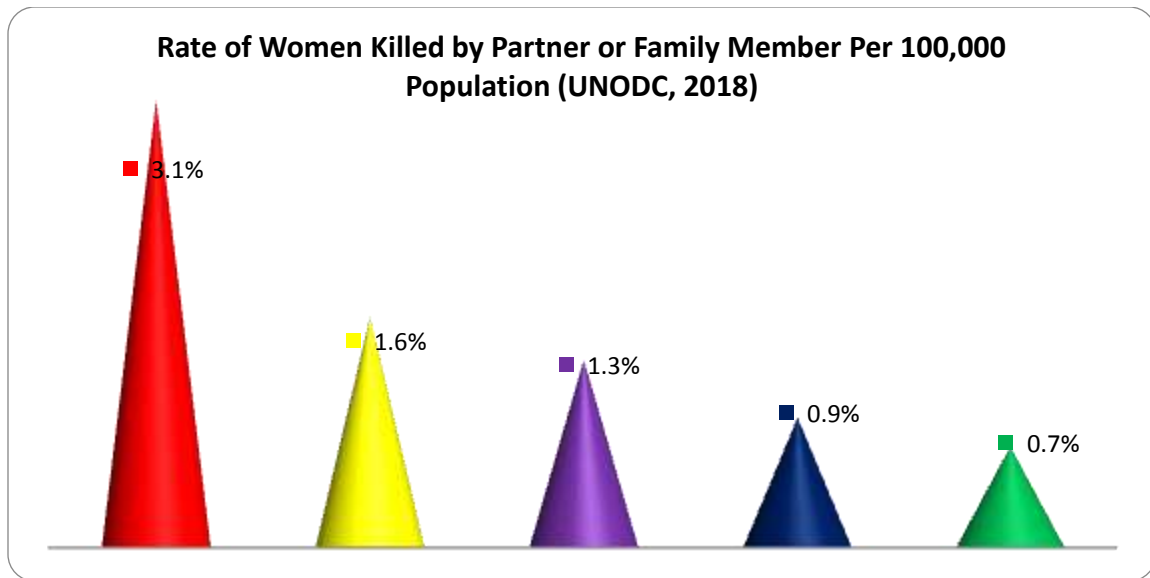


Figure 1: Domestic Violence Across Continents

Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2018).

According to 12, across the globe, Africa has recognized as a continent where women run the highest risk of being killed by their intimate or a family member. It occurs at a rate of 3.1% deaths per 100,000 people compared to continents like the Americas, Oceania, Asia, and Europe with 1.6%, 1.3%, 0.9%, and 0.7% deaths per 100,000, respectively. Figure 1.1 below depicts vividly the rate of domestic violence across continents.

It was also shown that 25% of women in Dakar and Kaolak in Senegal are subjected to physical violence from their spouses and that very few admit that they are beaten. The reports also revealed that a law passed in the Senegalese penal code punishing domestic violence with prison sentences and fines is poorly enforced due to religious and cultural resistance. In Ghana, spousal assaults top the list of domestic violence 11. In Nigeria, reports revealed a high level of violence against women. 13, while reporting the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, stated that around 20 percent of Nigerian women experience physical, sexual or psychological violence from a spouse. Spousal abuse is particularly common in polygynous families and polygyny is practiced widely in Nigeria 13,5 added that more females had experienced physical violence compared with males in Nigeria. 14 added that a large number of cases in the Nigerian customary courts are related to domestic violence against women, and a tendency of a 60% increase may occur yearly.

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The Nigeria goal on marriage relationship is to have a stable and functional family system where integrated citizens can be produced for the overall development of the nation. In order to ensure this, in 2012, Nigeria as a nation joined other world nations at the London Summit of Global Family Planning Vision 2020 aimed at giving support to couples' right to freely make decisions on several children to have, when to have and whether to have for a better living. The larger society can only plan its affairs to achieve meaningful development when all families are properly planned 14. However, daily, many families' day-in-day-out are dissatisfied with their marital life due to a

lack of problem-solving skills as well as communication and negotiation styles towards marital satisfaction⁸. In today's world, there are many ways couples can interact with each other they can interact by singing, dancing, and playing together without any difficulty. However, disputes, divisions and sometimes violence may arise when they discuss family issues that are deep. This kind of situation is pointing to a defect in the human interaction process ¹⁵

Base on literature and daily news report show much dis-heartening information about the killings that are very rampant among the couples in Nigeria. What was rampant in the olden days is divorce among couples, but nowadays it is going beyond that which there is need urgent intervention from various agencies to improve the level of understanding of problem-solving strategies, communication and negotiation styles towards marital satisfaction and stable relationship with good accommodation and tolerance. Several marriages in Nigeria have broken up due to poor problem-solving strategies, communication and negotiation styles of couples. For example, a civil servant in Nigeria divorced his wife due to some questions over the paternity of the two children out of his three children ⁸. ⁹,reported a case of a woman who pleaded with an Agege Customary Court, Lagos, to dissolve her nine-year-old marriage because her husband was irresponsible and in the habit of threatening her life with charms. Another report was a woman (of three children) who filed a divorce suit (for 19 years of marriage) over alleged battering by her husband for her refusal to have more children. The study thus examines the problem-solving strategies and communication styles for marital satisfaction among secondary school teachers in Kwara State, Nigeria

III. OBJECTIVE

The main objective of this study is to identify the direct effect of problem-solving strategies, communication, and negotiation styles on marital satisfaction among secondary school teachers in Kwara State. Three research hypotheses were tested on effect of problem-solving strategies, communication and negotiation styles on marital satisfaction among secondary school teachers in Kwara state Nigeria, thus;

H a 1: There is a significant effect of problem-solving strategies towards marital satisfaction among secondary school teachers in Kwara State

H a 2: There is a significant effect of communication styles toward marital satisfaction among secondary school teachers in Kwara State.

H a 2: There is a significant effect of negotiation styles toward marital satisfaction among secondary school teachers in Kwara State.

IV. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Study Design

This study is descriptive research with a data collection and analysis using a cross-sectional survey design to validate the Measurement Model to predict the direct Effect of Problem-solving strategies, communication, and negotiation Styles on Marital Satisfaction among Nigerian. The validated scale used to assess the Effect of problem-solving strategies, communication and negotiation styles on Marital Satisfaction among couples in Nigeria.

4.2 Instrumentation

The instrument tagged Problem-solving strategies ‘Communication, Negotiation Styles, and Marital Satisfaction Scales’ were developed by the researchers following the established procedures in the literature. The scale contained 80 items spread among the sixteen (16) sub-constructs (4 in Problem –solving strategies) (4 in Communication Styles, 4 in Negotiation styles and 4 in Marital Satisfaction). Four points (4) Likert’s type was adopted throughout the scale. i.e. SD= Strongly Disagree; D= Disagree; A= Agree; SA= Strongly Agree.

4.3 Participants

The participants were the 385 married couple drawn from mostly secondary school teachers, as defined in the study’s population in Kwara state Nigeria. The distribution of the participants includes male and female

4.4 Data Collection

The consent of the respondents was sort by informed them of the consent ofthe designed. After obtaining the consent of the respondents, the scale wasadministered to the selected sample by the researchers; the participants’ responses were coded, scored and used as data in this study.

4.5 Data Analysis

The questionnaires were entered into a spreadsheet file using Microsoft Excel 2016, where the responses were filtered for scoring into a single dataset. Finally, the data were transferred to Smart PLS 3 to create a dataset appropriate for the software for analysis. The two indicators of assessing normality, namely Skewness and Kurtosis was used to assess the normality of the data set as recommended by ¹⁶. The measurement models were evaluated by items loading, composite reliability (CR) and average variance extracted (AVE).

V. RESULTS

To identify the Effect of Problem-solving strategies, Communication, and Negotiation styles, and Marital Satisfaction components, valid measurement models were presented to get the level of significant effect. Figure 5.1 indicated below;

The results of R^2 presented in Figure 2 showed that Negotiation styles (NS) and marital communication (MC) have R^2 values of 0.956 and 0.871 respectively, these values are substantially higher than (0.67). Also, problem-solving strategies, communication and negotiation styles are explained by 0.972% of the variance in marital satisfaction (MS)¹⁷. Thus, marital satisfaction variance can be predicted strongly through problem-solving strategies and communication and negotiation styles approximately by 0.97%. The structural model was further assessed to check whether it reflects valid inter-effect by testing the t-value of the proposed hypothesis. The t-value > 1.96 shows a significant effect of the confidence level of 0.05 between two variables^{16; 18}.

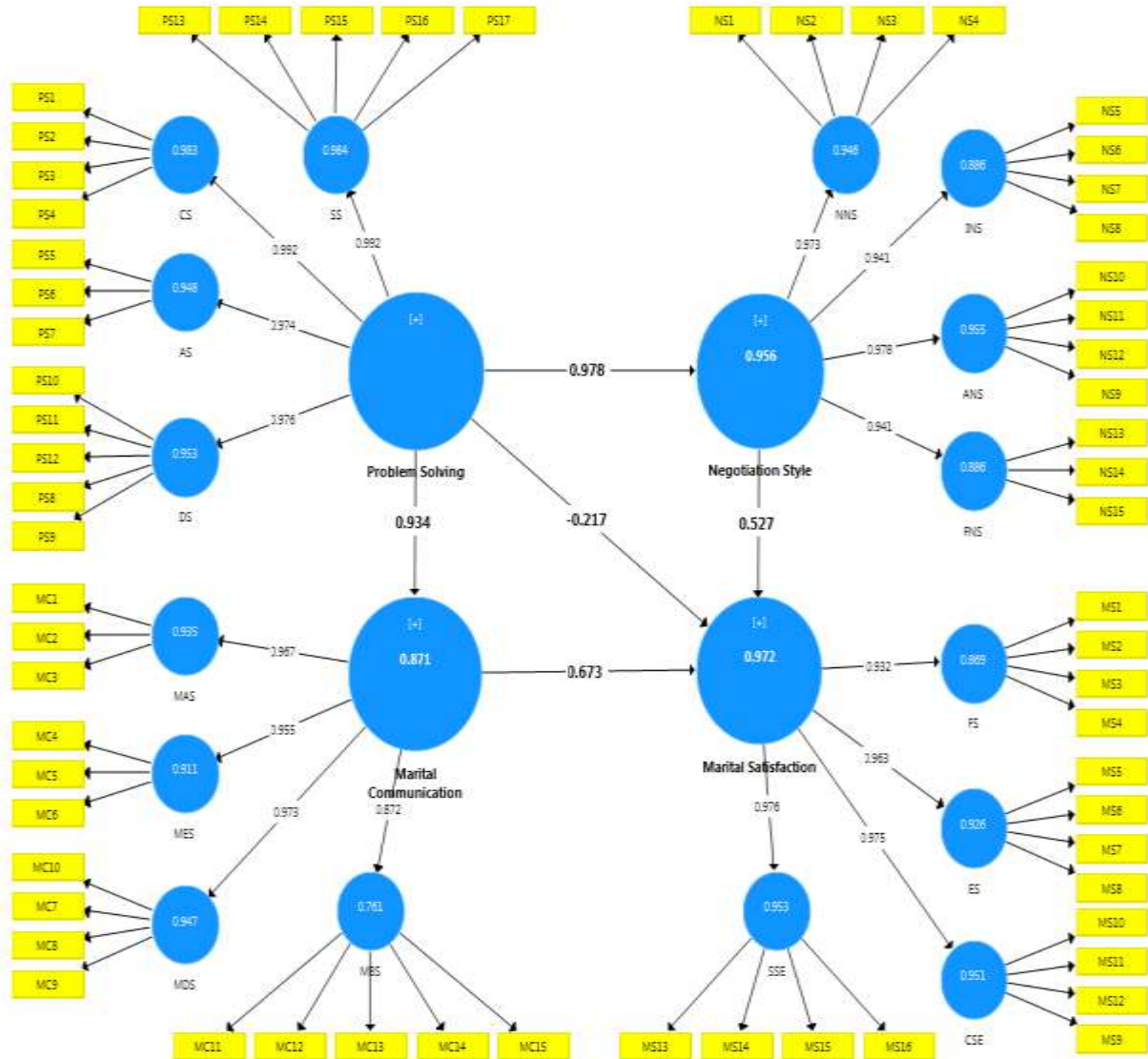


Figure 2: Structural Model

Based on tested hypotheses, the results obtained from the structural model in figure 5.1 were used in line with the ^{19,18} guidelines. To accept or to reject the hypotheses, the proposed study's hypotheses H₁, H₂, and H₃ were evaluated using the results of path analysis presented in Figure 5.1. Based on the literature, path coefficients or beta (β), corresponding t-values, P-values and the effect sizes (R²) are reported to decide on the hypothesis. The β value needs to be at least 0.1 to account for a specific impact within the model, at least at the significance level of 0.05, and the t value should be higher than 1.96 ¹⁹ should.

As presented in Figure 5.1 problem-solving strategies has effect on marital satisfaction(β=-0.217, t= 8.443; p < 0.05). Communication Style has positive and significant effect on marital satisfaction (β =0.673; t=3.725, p < 0.05). Similarly, Negotiation styles has positive and significant effect on marital satisfaction (β= 0.527; t= 2.382; p < 0.05). Therefore, the results revealed that, H₁, H₂ and H₃ were all supported (see Table.1).

Table 1: Structural Estimates (Hypotheses Testing)

No.	Path	Beta (β)	T-Statistics	p-value	Decision	f-Square
H ₁	PSS -> MS	-0.217	8.443	0.017	Supported	2.382
H ₂	CS -> MS	0.673	3.725	0.000	Supported	8.443
H ₃	NS -> MS	0.527	2.382	0.000	Supported	3.725

Notes: Critical t-values. *1.96 (P < 0.05).

VI. DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The study investigates the effect of problem solving, communication and negotiation styles on marital satisfaction among Nigeria. Three hypotheses were tested on the variables, which all were accepted based on the result presented above.

The internal consistency of the constructs was measured using composite reliability (CR), as proposed by Hair J. F 2017. For CR, 0.70 is the threshold criterion and all the latent variables involved in this study exceeded the threshold criterion. Moreover, the convergent validity of the constructs was assessed by assessing the factor loadings as well as the average variance extracted (AVE) 19, the factor loadings are acceptable between 0.6-0.7 for social science studies. Likewise, the AVE value above 0.5 suggests an adequate convergent validity 20. All the latent variables involved in this study were having factor loadings and AVEs above their recommended levels. All validity and reliability tests confirmed the validity of the model. This indicates that a valid and appropriate model. As presented in Table 1 problem-solving strategies has effect on marital satisfaction($\beta=-0.217$, $t= 8.443$; $p < 0.05$). Communication Style has positive and significant effect on marital satisfaction ($\beta =0.673$; $t=3.725$, $p < 0.05$). Similarly, Negotiation styles has positive and significant effect on marital satisfaction ($\beta= 0.527$; $t= 2.382$; $p < 0.05$). Therefore, the results revealed that H1, H2, and H3 were all supported (see Table 1). This supported by 20

Despite the significance of this study, there are some limitations as well. For instance, this study did not include the content validity process through which the selected dimensions have been included in the study. Also, since it was conducted under the context of Nigerian married couples, but it did not examine the differences among the married couple. Thus, to overcome the above study's limitations, this study recommends describing the process of content validity in details through which the researchers can select specific dimensions of Problem Solving Strategies, Communication and Negotiation Styles. Moreover, this study strongly recommends future studies to collect data from different types of respondents in different locations.

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