

# Husband's Marital Satisfaction: Does Education Matter?

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**Keywords:** Marital Satisfaction, Husband's Education Level, Wife's Education Level.

**Abstract:** This study was a comparative quantitative study. This study aimed to determine the husband's marital satisfaction with a working wife based on the husband's education and the wife's education. The study involved 48 husbands who had an active wives as respondents at several tribes and regions in Indonesia. The sampling technique used random sampling. Data collection used a marriage satisfaction scale from Hermaleni's (2018). Data were analyzed using two-way ANOVA analysis techniques. The results showed significant differences in the husband's marital satisfaction based on the husband's education and wife's education ( $F = 2.808$ ,  $p = 0.028$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). The husband's education level contributes more to marital satisfaction than the wife's.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Marriage is a social institution consisting of two people committed to social and sexual relations that are legalized and legally recognized (APA dictionary of psychology, 2007). One of the main things interested in marriage is happiness and marital satisfaction. Marriage satisfaction is a person's perception of the level of need in the marriage relationship he lives in (Giblin, 1994). Marriage satisfaction is a mental condition that reflects the benefits and costs that a person feels in his marriage (Lenthall, 1977). Many things contribute to achieving marital satisfaction (Angeles, 2000). One is the level of one's education while undergoing marriage. Education level refers to the highest level of school completed by someone. Education can be formal and informal. According to UU No. 20 Tahun 2003, formal education is a type of education obtained in formal environments such as schools, while informal education refers to education received in informal settings such as homes (Indonesia, 2003).

Couples with equal levels of education have a lower tendency to divorce than couples whose husbands have higher education than their wives. Cruz, Abalos, & Cruz (2013) argue that differences in education level are not too significantly affect marital satisfaction. But Schwartz & Han's (2014) research found that for decades, wives who had higher

education from their husbands faced a higher risk of divorce than husbands who had higher education.

Differences in the level of education at marriage are common in Indonesia. In Indonesia, most weddings have a situation where the husband's education is higher than the wife's, still taboo when the husband's education is lower than the wife's. But in the last five years, the level of education of Indonesian women has increased (Rochmi, 2016). It shows many types of husband and wife education levels in marriage in Indonesia. It could be a higher education husband of a wife, husband educational level equivalent to the wife or husband of education even lower than the wife.

Vaijyanthimala, Kumari, & Panda (2004) found that heterogamy (i.e., differences in the level of socioeconomic status of married couples, including education) creates a difference in one's marital satisfaction. Sprecher & Schwartz (1994) also found that differences or inequalities in relationships relate to a lack of commitment to the relationship, decreased happiness and dissatisfaction with the relationship, or even the breakup of a relationship. While the similarity in educational status in a marriage will make a husband and wife have higher marital satisfaction (Tzeng, 1992). But in Indonesia, there is not yet specific studies that examine the level of marital satisfaction in terms of education for husband.

Based on the phenomenon described above, researchers are interested in knowing how husbands marital satisfaction in terms of education level.

## 2 METHOD

This was a comparative quantitative study. The subjects in this study were 48 people. The measuring instrument used was the Marriage Satisfaction Scale, amounting to 43 items. The validity used in this study is the content validity and construct validity. Based on the analysis of product moments on the scale of marriage satisfaction where there are 43 items tested to 105 people with all items valid ( $r \geq 0.3$ ). The scale of marriage satisfaction measurement used is the scale of marriage satisfaction developed in Hermaleni's research (2018) with a range of  $r$  values from 0.263 to 0.832 with reliability of 0.946. The reliability score shows that both measuring instruments have good reliability Data analysis was

performed using the Two Way Anova analysis technique. Two Way Anova analysis is an analysis that examines the differences of two independent variables of a nominal data type with one dependent variable that is of interval data type. The independent variables in this study are husband education and wife education, while the dependent variable is marriage satisfaction.

## 3 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the research that has been done, it is obtained the results of the Levene test with a value of  $F = 1.143$  ( $p = 0.353$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ). So the assumption of homogeneity of marital satisfaction is fulfilled. Then the data analysis is done by two-way ANOVA analysis. The results can be seen in the following table: on the research that has been done, it is obtained the results of the Levene test with a value of  $F = 1.143$  ( $p = 0.353$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ). So the assumption of homogeneity of marital satisfaction is fulfilled.

Table 1: Two Way Anova Test Results.

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected Model	4080.620a	5	816.124	2.808	.028
Intercept	724574.673	1	724574.67	2492.946	.000
Husband's Education	3146.736	2	1573.368	5.413	.008
Wife Education	14.254	1	14.254	.049	.826
Husband Education * Wife Education	626.375	2	313.187	1.078	.350
Error	12207.297	42	290.650		
Total	1147890.000	48			
Corrected Total	16287.917	47			

a. R Squared = .251 (Adjusted R Squared = .161)

Based on the table 1, we know that there is a significant difference in the husband's marital satisfaction based on the husband's education with an  $F$  value of 5,413 and  $p = 0,000$  ( $p < 0.01$ ). Whereas when viewed based on wife's education, it is known that there is no significant difference in husband's marriage satisfaction reviewed based on wife's education with an  $F$  value of 0.49 and  $p = 0.826$  ( $p > 0.05$ ). Then seen from the interaction of husband and wife's education on marriage satisfaction, it is known that there is no significant interaction with the value

of  $F = 1.078$  ( $p = 0.350$ ,  $p > 0$ ) between husband's education and wife's education on marriage satisfaction, so it can be said that husband's education has more role to the satisfaction of his marriage compared to his wife's level of education. More clearly, the interaction between husband's education and wife's education on husband's marriage satisfaction can be seen in the following plot:

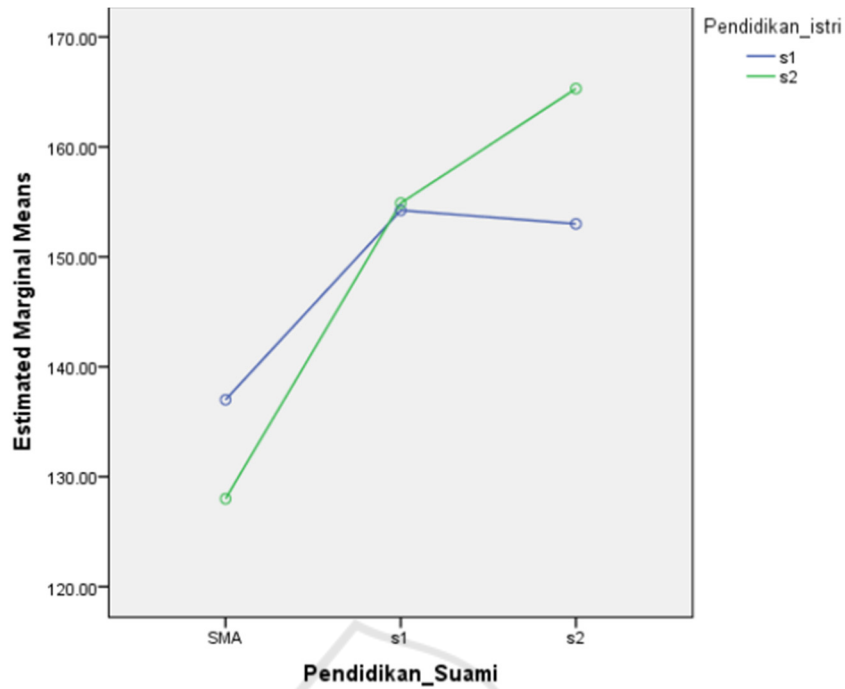


Figure 1: Estimated Marginal Mean Satisfaction of Husband and Wife Marriage.

Furthermore, the comparison of husband's marital satisfaction based on his education level can be seen in the following table:

Table 2: Comparison of Husband Marriage Satisfaction Based on Education Level.

(I) husband's education	(J) husband's education	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
SMA	s1	-20.0714*	7.39816	.026	-38.0452	-2.0976
	s2	-25.0451*	7.53782	.005	-43.3582	-6.7320
s1	SMA	20.0714*	7.39816	.026	2.0976	38.0452
	s2	-4.9737	5.33936	.624	-17.9456	7.9982
s2	SMA	25.0451*	7.53782	.005	6.7320	43.3582
	s1	4.9737	5.33936	.624	-7.9982	17.9456

Based on observed means.  
 The error term is Mean Square(Error) = 290.650.  
 \*. The mean difference is significant at the .05 level.

Based on the table, we know a significant difference ( $p = 0.026$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) in a husband's marriage satisfaction with a high school education level with an undergraduate education level. Then it was also found that there was a significant difference ( $p = 0.005$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) in the satisfaction of husband's marriage with the education level of high school with S2. Finally, there was no difference in the husband's

marriage satisfaction compared to the education level of S1 and S2 ( $p = 0.625$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ).

Comparison of the average value of husband's marital satisfaction based on the level of education of husband and wife can be seen in the following table:

Table 3: Comparison of Husband's Marriage Satisfaction Mean Based on Husband and Wife Education Level.

Husband Education	Wife Education	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
SMA	s1	137.0000	19.96246	5
	s2	128.0000	33.94113	2
	Total	134.4286	21.83924	7
s1	s1	154.2308	10.82554	13
	s2	154.8889	19.10788	9
	Total	154.5000	14.35851	22
s2	s1	153.0000	18.29617	9
	s2	165.3000	16.51969	10
	Total	159.4737	18.02889	19
Total	s1	150.6296	16.20339	27
	s2	157.2857	21.14035	21
	Total	153.5417	18.61589	48

#### 4 CONCLUSIONS

Education contributes to the husband's marriage satisfaction compared with her education level. Based on the analysis, we know that there are significant differences in marital satisfaction husband visits by educational status. Then there is no significant difference in the husband's marital satisfaction based on his wife's education level.

The study found significant differences in the husband's marital satisfaction if the level sees education. The results are consistent with the research results conducted by (Karney, Bradbury, & Karney, B. R., & Bradbury, 1995). Yang found that satisfaction and stability in marriage positively correlate with positive behavior, education, and work. In line with that research, Nwafor (2009) find husbands and wives who have an equal level of education have higher marriage satisfaction than married couples who have differences in education levels. Barongo, Onderi, Kebati, Okwara, and Edward Bantu (2014) also found that marital satisfaction is more significant if the husband has a higher level of education than his wife. The story of education contributes to the husband's marital satisfaction because the higher the level of his teaching, the wider the way he will look at things. Married life is full of conflicts and problems; therefore, an open-minded ability is needed to handle any dispute well. If wars in the household can be adequately overcome, satisfaction in the home can increase.

This study also found no significant difference in a husband's marital satisfaction based on his wife's education level. The results of this study are in line with the results of research conducted by Becker, Landes, and Michael (1977) that a couple's education level has an unclear or still ambiguous effect on marital satisfaction. This is in line with Alder's (2010) study which showed that there was no statistically significant relationship between education level and marital satisfaction. Because the level of education is broken down into the level of education at the time of marriage and the level of education after marriage. Education level does not correlate with marital satisfaction (Barongo, Okwara, Aloka, & Masoka, 2015).

The wife education level does not play a role in the marriage satisfaction of the husband because the marriage satisfaction of the husband is more influenced by the physical attractiveness of the wife, while for the wife, the marriage satisfaction is more influenced by the education and income of the husband than the physical attraction (French and Meltzer, 2019).

These results are not by research conducted by Boertien and Härkönen (2012), who found that high education affects the satisfaction of a husband's marriage because the lower the level of education, the risk of divorce will be higher. In subsequent studies, Boertien and Härkönen (2018) found that taller education women will have higher marital stability and lower divorce potential. This is because women's education levels can improve their social skills (Oreopoulos and Salvanes, 2011) and play an important role in adjusting to a partner.

This study found that the husband's education had more to do with the satisfaction of his marriage than his wife's education level. Husband education level has a more important role because a higher educated husband can provide more economic security for his family, he also has a more egalitarian gender perception (Bonke and Esping-Andersen 2011). He can give non-economic benefits that can improve marriage quality (Becker, Landes, and Michael 1977). The results of this study are consistent with research conducted by Tucker and O'Grady (2001), who found that a husband's education has a positive relationship with his marriage satisfaction. The higher the husband's education, the higher his marriage satisfaction. But if the partner has a higher level of education, then he tends to be less satisfied with his marriage (Tucker and O'Grady, 2001). This is because the level of education of the wife can increase the level of wages and income, which makes women feel more economically independent (than men). When they think incompatible with their husbands, they will more easily decide to divorce, making the husband feel levels insecure and unsatisfied in his marriage. These results are consistent with the findings of previous researchers who showed that higher levels of education were positively correlated with marital instability and problems in sexual adjustment in married life (Cherlin, 1979; Jose & Alfons, 2007; Kalmijn, 1999 ).

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