

The Developmental Course of Marital Satisfaction:  
Contribution of Socioeconomic Changes or Age-related Changes

Abstract

The study examines the relationship between age, marital satisfaction (MS) and marital communication in Hong Kong. 107 married people with age ranging from 23 to 85 years completed a questionnaire including the Marital Communication Inventory, Kansas MS scale and the Idealistic Distortion Scale (ID). A negative linear relationship was found between age and MS, which was different from the curvilinear pattern found in the West. Moreover, with increasing age, people had more aversive communication in marriage. Results also suggested that communication was a stronger predictor of MS than sociological factors such as occupational status, economic factors and parental responsibility. Limitations for this study and suggestions for future direction are discussed.

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