

Abstract

Women have increased desire and ability to take control of their lives, so it is believed that their personal sense of marital power is shaped by these internal states. This paper aims to study marriage quality by (1) exploring changes and gender difference in personal sense of marital power, (2) revealing the importance of perception of power and absolute value in power in study of marriage by studying personal sense of marital power and marriage quality, and (3) investigate interactive factor in shaping partners' personal sense of marital power and marriage quality. In the present study of 62 pairs of married couples, we cannot find any difference in personal sense of marital power between husbands and wives which proved that personal sense of marital power is determined by ones' internal status instead of objective indicators like education level and income level. The finding which revealed the positive correlation between personal sense of marital power and marriage quality has confirmed the needs in further studying absolute value of power in marriage. Relational self-construals is identified to be an individual factor for affecting partners' marital quality by influencing partners' personal sense of marital, yet this association only existed in wives but not husbands.

Keywords: Personal sense of marital power; Relational self-construals; Marriage Quality