

ABSTRACT

Achievement motivation refers to individuals' motivation to face challenges and strive accomplishments (McClelland, 1985). Previous researches have shown that achievement motivation is one of the important predictors of both academic and work performances (Bing, 2003; Collins, Hanges, & Locke, 2004). Marriage and child-born are two key lifetime events in early adulthood, will these events result in different level of achievement motivation among individuals? In the current study, the relationship between marriage and parenthood with level of achievement motivation is examined. The gender difference in achievement motivation is also studied. Results have indicated that marriage did not result in significant difference in achievement motivation among participants. While people with children have significantly lower achievement motivation. Gender differences were found to be insignificant. The potential psychological processes involved were discussed.