

THE COMPETITIVENESS IN THE COUPLE RELATIONSHIP

Diana Chisălită¹, Teodora Olariu²

¹ Western University of „ Vasile Goldis „ - Faculty of Education Sciences, Psychology and Physical Education and Sports

² Western University of „ Vasile Goldis” – Faculty of Medicine Pharmacy and Dental Medicine

ABSTRACT. The couple, (noting that refers to a heterosexual couple) can be defined as "a bipolar structure, biopsychosocial type, based on mutual interdeterminism" (Mitrofan, Ciuperca, 1997), meaning the partners support each other, are satisfying, develops and realizes like biological individuality, social and emotional, one through the other. From this perspective, the couple may be satisfactory, harmonic, or conversely, disharmony, unsatisfactory and distorted, tending to dissociation. All partners are going through a process of evolution in their relationship as a couple. When a personality type enter interacting with another one, inevitably the two evolves, is not always pleasant, can be difficult, but, because of the relationship they are in, the two are accomplished as human beings, and are eventually able to give back what they have to gave in life.

KEYWORDS: Competitiveness, satisfaction, couple, conflicts, relationship

OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

In this paper I proposed as general objectives to describe how competitiveness can intervene in the couple relationship, as well as highlighting the areas of marriage, which can interfere competitiveness, and explain the relationship established between them and competitiveness.

The specific objectives of this work are:

1. Analysis of the links between competitiveness and conflict marital relations and between competitiveness and marital satisfaction;
2. Check the difference between men and women regarding certain aspects of conjugal life (competitiveness, conflict, marital satisfaction);
3. Highlighting the link between relationship type between partners competitively and professionally successful men;
4. Description of how the number of children affects the competitiveness in relationship;
5. Highlighting the difference between younger couples and older, across marital satisfaction.

In this paper we released the following **assumptions**:

- Competitiveness of the couple's relationship is directly related to the conflict and marital satisfaction;
- No significant differences between men and women in terms of competitiveness and conflicts that occur between them, and in terms of their marital satisfaction;
- There is a link between competitive relations within the couple, and professionally successful men;

- There are differences between couples, opposite the competitiveness and satisfaction, according to certain criteria:

- ✚ Number of children;
- ✚ Length of the marriage.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

To achieve this study, we randomly selected a group of subjects consisting of 30 married couples, with a minimum of three years of marriage and a maximum of twenty-eight years of marriage.

The study group consists of two independent samples, consisting of partners of the dyad :

- ✚ A sample of 30 married men
- ✚ A sample of 30 married women.

The proves used in the research are:

1. Scale for measuring competitiveness
- Mary Laner Competitiveness scales
2. Scale to measure marital conflict
- Kansas marital conflict scale
3. Scale to measure marital satisfaction
- Kansas marital satisfaction scale
4. Scale on male behavior

Statistical methods used:

- Pearson correlation
- Test the difference between the average t

RESULTS

According to the first hypothesis competitiveness of the couple's relationship is directly related to the conflict and marital satisfaction.

Statistical results obtained are as follows:

Correlation coefficients representative for competitiveness:

Correlations between:	No subjects	Correlation coefficient	Materiality threshold	Observations
unpleasant competitiveness - global competitiveness	60	r = .923	p < .01	significant correlation
Aggressive competitiveness - global competitiveness	60	r = .720	p < .01	significant correlation
unpleasant competitiveness - aggressive competitiveness	60	r = .656	p < .01	significant correlation
aggressive competitiveness - conflict	60	r = .351	p < .01	significant correlation

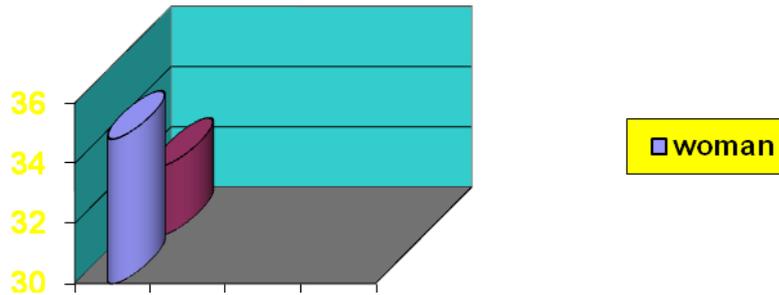
Correlation coefficients representative for competition and marital satisfaction

Correlations between:	No subjects	Correlation coefficient	Materiality threshold	Observations
unpleasant competitiveness - satisfaction	60	r = -.290	p < .05	significant correlation
Aggressive competitiveness - satisfaction	60	r = -.355	p < .01	significant correlation
pleasant competitiveness - satisfactie	60	r = .445	p < .01	significant correlation

According to the second hypothesis I found no significant differences between men and women in terms of how that could affect competitiveness, conflict and marital satisfaction.

Statistical results obtained concerning the differences between men and women in terms of competitiveness:

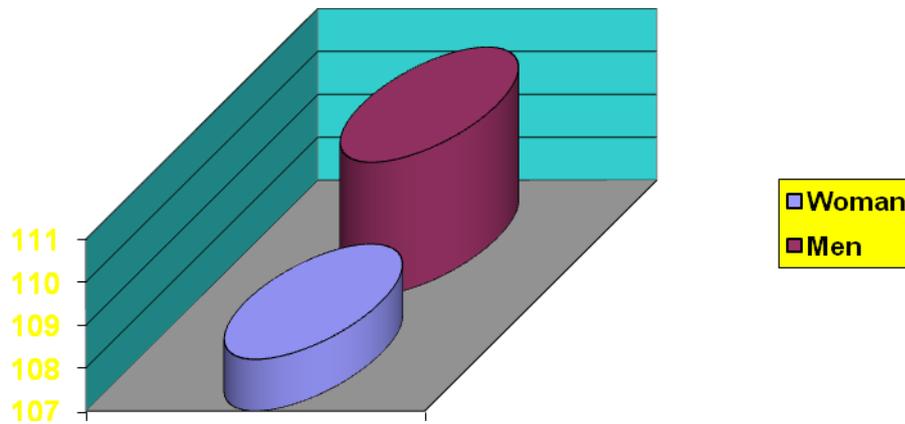
Diferences	No subjects	media	Test t	Sig	Standard deviation
Woman	30	m=34,8	1,70	.09	6,35
Men	30	m=32,3			5,25



Graphic comparison between women and men in terms of competitiveness

Statistical results obtained concerning the differences between men and women in terms of marital conflict:

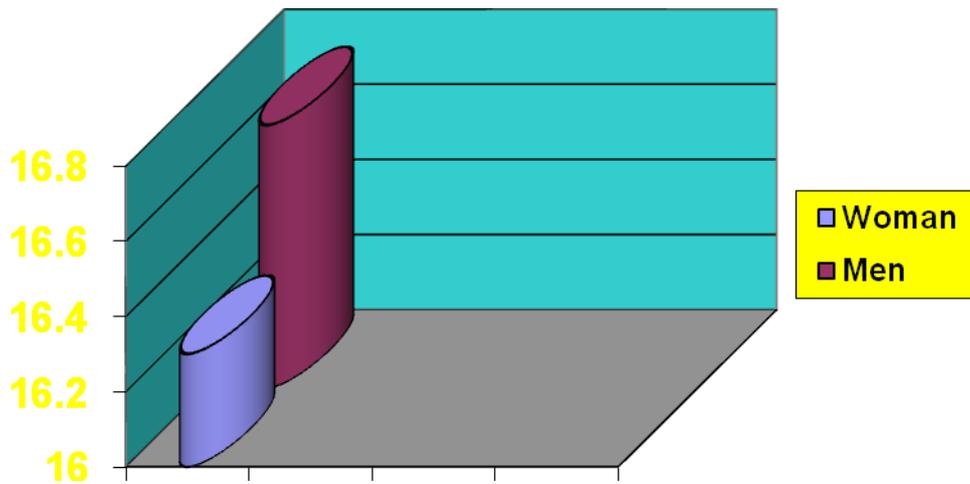
Diferences	No subjects	media	Testul t	Sig	Standard deviation
Woman	30	m=108,2	.705	.48	8,63
Men	30	m=110,1	.705	.48	12,6



Comparative graphic between men and women regarding marital conflict

Statistical results obtained concerning the differences between men and women in terms of marital satisfaction:

Diferences	No subjects	media	Testul t	Sig	Standard deviation
Woman	30	m=16,3	.495	.62	3,45
Men	30	m=16,7	.495	.62	2,76



Comparative graphic between men and women regarding marital satisfaction

According to the third hypothesis there is a link between competitive relations within the couple's marital satisfaction and success in the professional men.

Statistical results obtained are:

Correlations between:	No subjects	Correlation coefficient	Materiality threshold	Observations
pleasant competitiveness - satisfaction	30	$r = .455$	$p < .05$	significant correlation
unpleasant competitiveness - satisfaction	30	$r = -.432$	$p < .05$	significant correlation
aggressive competitiveness - satisfaction	30	$r = -.470$	$p < .01$	significant correlation
aggressive competitiveness - global competitiveness	30	$r = .589$	$p < .01$	significant correlation
global competitiveness - succes	30	$r = -.496$	$p < .01$	significant correlation

According to the fourth hypothesis there is a difference between couples, opposite the competitiveness and satisfaction, according to certain criteria:

- Number of children;
- Length of the marriage.

Differences between couples with few children and couples with more children, in terms of unpleasant type competitiveness

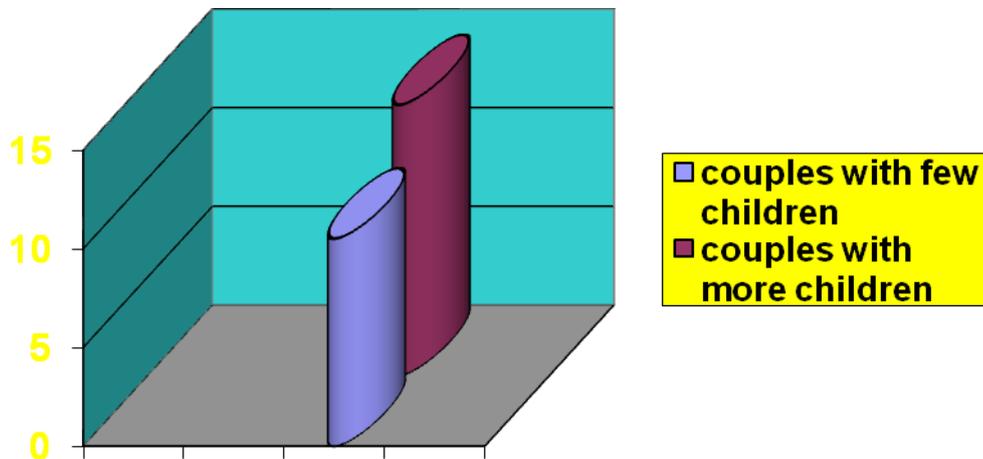


Chart comparing couples with fewer children and more children, in terms of competitiveness unpleasant type

Differences between couples with few children and couples with more children, in terms of aggressive type competitiveness

Differences bettwen	Media	Testul t	Sig.	Standard deviation
Differences bettwen	Media	Testul t	Sig	Standard deviation
Couples with a few children	m=10,5	2,15	.03	5,08
Couples with more children	m=13,07	2,15	.03	3,93
Couples with a few childrens	m=2,75	2,64	.01	1,68

Couples with more childrens	m=3,82	2,64	.01	1,41
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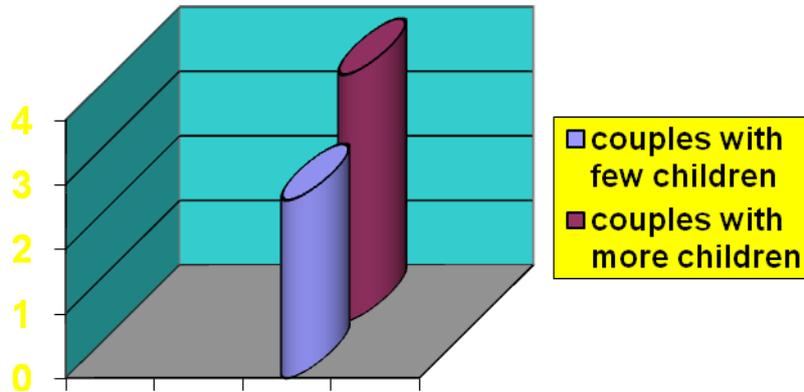
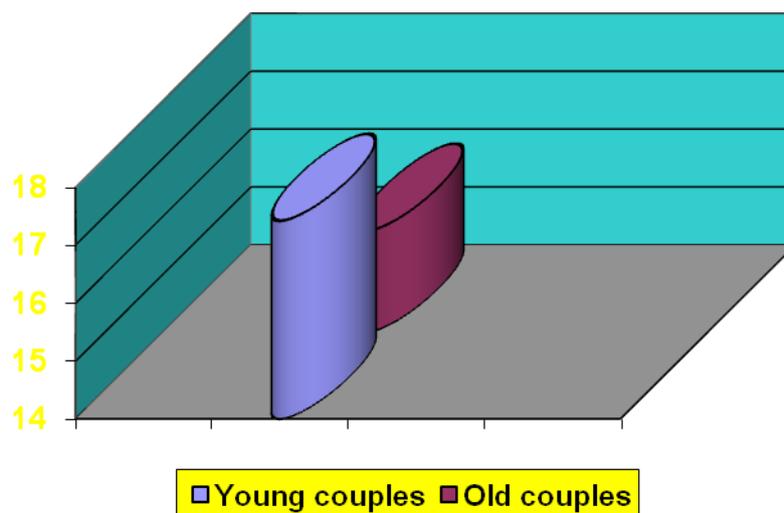


Chart comparing couples with fewer children and more children, in terms of aggressive competitiveness

Differences between younger and older couples in terms of marital satisfaction:

Differences bettween.	Media	Testul t	Sig.	Standard deviation
Young couples	m=17,42	2,14	.03	2,48
Old couples	m=15,75	2,14	.03	3,41



Graphic comparison between younger and older couples in terms of marital satisfaction

CONCLUSIONS

- 1) The first hypothesis advanced in this paper - competitive relations within the couple, is directly related to the conflict and marital satisfaction - was confirmed, therefore it can be said that there is a direct link between the competitiveness of the partners and marital conflicts, on the one hand, and between competitiveness and marital satisfaction, on the other hand.
- 2) And the second hypothesis of the paper - no significant differences between men and women in terms of competitiveness and conflict, and marital satisfaction - and this was confirmed, therefore, women do not differ from men in all these respects of view.
- 3) The third assumption - there is a link between the relationship of the couple's competitiveness and success in the men's professional - and this is confirmed, it can be stated that successful orientation of men, and its production is influenced by competitive relations.
- 4) The last assumption - there are differences between couples regarding competitiveness and marital satisfaction, according to certain criteria (number of children and length of marriage) - was also confirmed.

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