

Marital Satisfaction and Depression: A Longitudinal Dyadic Analysis

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This study was to examine the longitudinal relationships between marital satisfaction and depression over first 3-year of marriage. A total of 128 newlywed couples from Taipei city area provided 3 waves of data. Hierarchical linear modeling confirmed a linear decline in the newlywed's marital satisfaction. When couples' marital satisfaction and educational level were controlled, results revealed no systematic changes in the husband's depression and yet appeared a quadratic change in the wife's depression. The results also indicated that the mean marital satisfaction (or depression) of husbands and wives were associated with their own depression (or marital satisfaction). The bidirectional association between trajectories of changes in marital satisfaction and depression was confirmed for both couples. Gender differences were significant. The time-invariant relations between marital satisfaction and depression were stronger for wives than for husbands. However, the magnitudes of effects in time-varying relations were different due to the direction of prediction. Time-varying depression affected wives' marital satisfaction more than husbands'; time-varying marital satisfaction affected husbands' depression more than wives'. Significant partner effects revealed that time-varying depression of the spouse affected wife's marital satisfaction and this partner effect was weakened when the wife was college educated.

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