

Abstract

In order to investigate the predictors of satisfaction with spouse, 61 married Hong Kong Chinese (29 males and 32 females) were recruited in the present study. It is hypothesized that perceived spousal support and its discrepancy with the social norm of spousal support can predict satisfaction with spouse. The more the individuals perceive that their spouses have met the social standard of spousal support, the more they are satisfied with their spouses. Hierarchical stepwise regression analyses are used in to examine the hypothesis. The result shows that both perceived spousal support and discrepancy with the social norm of spousal support have significant positive correlation with the satisfaction with spouse. The result shows that only perceived spousal support can significantly predict satisfaction with spouse. All the interactions of the variables are not significant except the interactions between perceived spousal support and discrepancy with the social norm of spousal support. People who receive little support from their spouse may maintain satisfaction with spouse by placing less emphasis on spousal support or comparing their spouse with the high social standard less. Further study might focus on the individual differences in social comparison orientation in order to examine why some people are more affected by the discrepancy with social norm when evaluating their satisfaction with spouse. Moreover, we can investigate precisely how people who receive low spousal support maintain satisfaction with spouse.