Factors Influencing Family Life Satisfaction Among Parents in Malaysia

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Outline

1. Introduction
   - Background of the Study
   - Previous Work

2. Methodology
   - Data & Methods

3. Our Results/Contribution
   - Main Results
   - Conclusion & Recommendations
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Malaysia is experiencing a tremendous pace of development since its independence in 1957.

Current social trends in Malaysia reflect ongoing changes for families resulting from major lifestyle changes occurring within the society and a world as a whole (Badaruddin, 2002).

This scenario directly bring an impact on family life such as household composition, marriage patterns, childbearing decisions, and inter-generational relationships.
With nearly 50% of working age women in the workforce coupled with high rates of modernization and economic development, the amount of time spent outside of the home by parents has increased.

With women taking on multiple roles in the home and at the office, role overload has factored in as a stressor for families (Rozumah, Yen & Krauss, 2005).
The working women for example, mediating between the modern demands of career and the traditional demands of family and home, is often hampered by stress and exhaustion.

These imbalance scenario in social and development trends occurring in Malaysian homes are serious. Family strengths as an approach to understanding and working with families can thus provide an important tool for family and researcher.
Subjective well-being is generally considered to be comprised of three interrelated but distinct factors, namely the relative presence of positive effect, absence of negative effect and perceived quality of life, or life satisfaction (Huebner et al., 2004).

Life satisfaction is defined as a cognitive evaluation of one’s life as a whole and/or specific life domains (Myers & Diener, 1995; Huebner et al., 2005).

Family Life Satisfaction can be described as family satisfaction within the family members in all aspects of life (Carver & Jones, 1992) and can be a key indicator of quality of family life (Zabriske & McCormick, 2003).
To examine how Family Life Satisfaction (FLS) among parents in Malaysia is determined by the variable of Parental Involvement, Family Function, Family Resilience and Time with Family.
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The main idea of family systems theory is the stability of the family based on the ability to adapt and react to other family members \textbf{(Zabriske & McCormick, 2003)}. Family also relates to life satisfaction in a very different way.

Focus on the study of FLS not only to examine the variations in the values related to family according to differences in the population, but also to define the values that can affect FLS \textbf{(Bowen, 1988)}.

In terms of FLS among individuals in the family system, several factors interactions and reactions that ultimately have an impact on overall satisfaction should be considered.
According to Olson & Portner (1984), the level of satisfaction with the family system is determined by comparing the "perceived" with the "ideal" across all family members - the less the cumulative discrepancies for family members, the higher the family’s level of satisfaction with their current family system.

Based on literature, several factors have been studied by scholars in determining the FLS among family members such as time factors (Zabriske & McCormick, 2003), religious practices (Abbott et al., 1990), communication technology (Chesley, 2005) and the number of children (Hyken et al., 2010).
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Data for the study were drawn from the study of Indicators of Family well-Being in Malaysia conducted by the National Population and Family Development Board Malaysia in 2011.

The face-to-face interviews involved about 2808 households across the nations.

The stratified random sampling design was employed proportional to the locality and ethnicity.
The Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) was employed to substantiate the proposed theoretical construct, Family Life Satisfaction.

The CFA is a special case of Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) that integrates multivariate techniques similar to regression and factor analysis.

CFA allows the researcher to test the hypothesis that relationship between observed variables and their underlying latent constructs exists based on the suggested model.
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### Respondents Demographic Informations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2808</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gender</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male (Father)</td>
<td>1484</td>
<td>52.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female (Mother)</td>
<td>1324</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ethnicity</strong></td>
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<td>Malay</td>
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<td>Chinese</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others</td>
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<td><strong>Religion</strong></td>
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<td>Muslims</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buddhism</td>
<td>241</td>
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<td>Christianity</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>20.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hinduism</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>11.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0.7</td>
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</table>
## Respondents Demographic Informations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>2808</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Type of Locality</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban area</td>
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<td>62.0</td>
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<td>Rural</td>
<td>1066</td>
<td>38.0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Household Type</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nuclear family</td>
<td>2281</td>
<td>81.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extended family</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>14.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single parent</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>3.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blended family</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0.7</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Household Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Less than RM 1000</td>
<td>692</td>
<td>24.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>RM 1001 – RM 2000</td>
<td>648</td>
<td>23.1</td>
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<td>RM 2001 – RM 3000</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>17.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>RM 3001 – RM 4000</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>12.7</td>
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<td>RM 4001 – RM 5000</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>7.6</td>
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<td>More than RM 5000</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>14.2</td>
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## Mean on the Dependent Variable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dependent Variable (items)</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. Deviation</th>
<th>Overall Mean</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your relationship with your husband/wife</td>
<td>2618</td>
<td>8.46</td>
<td>1.61</td>
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<tr>
<td>Your family relationships</td>
<td>2806</td>
<td>8.38</td>
<td>1.55</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Your family functioning</td>
<td>2801</td>
<td>8.17</td>
<td>1.57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Your family's achievement</td>
<td>2800</td>
<td>7.87</td>
<td>1.66</td>
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<tr>
<td>Your family's economic situation</td>
<td>2799</td>
<td>7.54</td>
<td>1.85</td>
<td>7.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your family's standard of living</td>
<td>2797</td>
<td>7.61</td>
<td>1.81</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Your family's health</td>
<td>2801</td>
<td>7.93</td>
<td>1.69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Your family's safety</td>
<td>2804</td>
<td>8.08</td>
<td>1.68</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Your family's relationship within the community</td>
<td>2801</td>
<td>7.93</td>
<td>1.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Your family's spiritual practices</td>
<td>2794</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic amenities in housing area</td>
<td>2799</td>
<td>7.53</td>
<td>2.03</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Confirmatory Factor Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLES</th>
<th>NUMBER OF ITEMS</th>
<th>NUMBER OF ITEMS AFTER CFA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parental Involvement (<strong>X1</strong>)</td>
<td>4 Items</td>
<td>3 Items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Functioning (<strong>X2</strong>)</td>
<td>7 Items</td>
<td>7 Items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Resilience (<strong>X3</strong>)</td>
<td>10 Items</td>
<td>9 Items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time with Family (<strong>X4</strong>)</td>
<td>5 Items</td>
<td>5 Items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Life Satisfaction (<strong>Y</strong>)</td>
<td>12 Items</td>
<td>12 Items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Structural Equation Modeling
(Standardized Regression Weight)

- The standardized regression weight estimate beta values in standardized unit.

- The definition of standardized regression coefficient represents the amount of change in Y given a standard deviation of unit change in X.

- *e.g.* When Family Functioning goes up by 1 standard deviation, FLS goes up by 0.42 standard deviation.
Factors Influencing Family Life Satisfaction Among Parents

Rahim M.A.R.A., Shafie S.A.M., Ishak I., Shafiai R.M.
Structural Equation Modeling (Unstandardized Regression Weight)

- The unstandardized regression weight estimate beta values in its actual unit.

- The corresponding unstandardized regression coefficient represent the amount change in Y given a single actual score unit change in X.

- *e.g. When Family Functioning goes up by 1 unit, FLS goes up by 0.42 unit.*
Structural Equation Modeling (Unstandardized Regression Weight)
Factors Influencing Family Life Satisfaction Among Parents
Conclusion & Recommendations

- Parental Involvement does not influence the state of Family Life Satisfaction among parents.

- The FLS is viewed as a multidimensional concept consisting of variables: Family Functioning, Family Resilience, and Time with Family (in the Family Relationship point of view).

- The study of FLS can be an approach to understanding the family institutions and can provide an important tool for family research field and practitioners.

- Another aspect that can measure the FLS could be determined which may help the practitioners, researcher and policy maker in understanding the state of FLS among parents.
Conclusion & Recommendations

- can be a resources for overcoming deficits in other areas of FLS.

- Future research focus to identify the relationship patterns and other related family values among family members towards FLS.

- Important to focus on other family related values across different population groups and subgroups.
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Rozumah, B., Yen, C. M., Krauss, S., E.
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Zabriske, R., and McCormick, B.
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