

Factors Influencing Family Relation Stress in Married Immigrant Women

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to provide basic data for a program or policy proposals to relieve stress occurring in a family, through checking the family relation stress of immigrant women and the factors that affect stress. The target of this study was 538 immigrant women who marry Korean husbands and live in South Korea, and the method was narrative research. This study has validated significant difference in staying term in Korea, national origin, educational level of husband, expected and actual information about husband, and language used in conversation with husband. And the major factor affecting the family relation stress appeared couple satisfaction and life satisfaction in Korea. Developing and providing a program to increase couple satisfaction and life satisfaction in Korea according to the results of this study will help the stable settlement of multicultural families in Korea.

Keywords: *immigrant women, family relation stress, life satisfaction, couple satisfaction, family stress*

1. Introduction

In Korea, year of 2000, there is significant change in low birth rate, increasing elderly population and increasing international marriage [1]. Since 1990, increasing international marriage with hundred thousand couple therefore, foreign population with one million in Korea. There is eight in the hundred women have undocumented situation therefore, there are many socio-economic and emotional problems.

International marriage in Korea, In 1990, 4,710 and in 2000 12,319, international marriage increased therefore 2.6 times and 23,316 in 2014. About 10% is the international marriage [2]. Since middle of 1990, Korean man and immigrant woman's marriage is increasing remarkably; therefore, international marriage is more than Korean man and Korean woman's marriage. In 2000 international marriage is increasing 11% now. Immigrant women's country are from China(Korean), Main land China, Vietnam, Japan, Philippine, Mongol, Thailand, Russia. Most of the married immigrant women came from East Asian country because of their economical, racial, class. And gender problems in their country [3].

International marriage is only immigrant women married to Korean men, women face adjustment problems due to the cultural differences, language barrier therefore, women face increased stress [4]. Immigrant women live with husband and mother in law with patriarchal system, therefore husband and mother in law are superior and immigrant women are inferior, immigrant woman has to obey husband and mother in law and

support the family. In addition immigrant women have undocumented problems too in Korea [5].

Immigrant women came to Korea to marry Korean men to have happy and successful life with husband and children in Korea. Therefore, we have to help immigrant women for them better adjust in new situation in Korea [6].

If one of the family members has stressful problem which influence to other family members, therefore family members cannot solve the problems with family members' problems that cause crisis such as break the family [7]. Therefore, we have to identify their problems and understand their problems while transaction and help them coping plan to solve the problems.

Based on the current study mentioned that family stress is the biggest problems than other socio-economic problems [8]. A study mentioned that immigrant women face family and family relation problems. In the family relation problems such as spousal relation, raising children problems, and family relation problems are influenced on women's adjustment problems [9, 10].

When immigrant women perceive lower the family stress then spousal adjustment level was very good [11].

Main focus of the research is to identify baseline data and supportive plan. Number of immigrant women is increasing, there are many various cultural, family relation problems therefore, and health problems occur [12].

Purpose of this research is to identify factors relate to family relation stress. Try to understand family relation stress and to decrease stress and make policy and plan.

2. Method

2.1. Research Outline

To identify factors influencing family relation stress in married immigrant women.

2.2. Participants

Subjects are from S city, H city, J city, and P city, who understand purpose of study and signed on written consent form. Selection criteria for participants who are married Korean men, no other limitation. Survey questionnaires are distributed in Korean, Chinese, English, and Vietnam versions. Subjects should understand the questionnaires.

Researchers selected convenient sample based on the G power version 3.1.2. Based on the multiple regression analysis and drop rate number of participants from Vietnam 324, Chinese 243, Korea 131, English 52 total 750 but researcher used 538 data.

2.3. Data Collection Method and Ethical Consideration

Researcher got IRB approval (No 2009-09) from H University. In 2010 from Feb-June distributed questionnaire, researcher explained the purpose of research, and explain benefit, harm, and incentives. It is anonymous, subjects can drop anytime. After subjects understood the purpose, they agreed to participate in this study and they signed on the consent form.

Researcher collected data in Seoul, Gyeonggi-do (Hanam city, Yongin city), South Kyung nam (Jinju) Pusan, migrated women's center and *etc.*

Researcher and assistant researcher visited centers, explained purpose of the research to the directors who introduced subjects. Researchers distributed questionnaires to the Korean, Vietnam, Chinese, English and it took 40m-90m to complete the questionnaires.

2.4. Research Tools

1) Characteristics of Socio-Demographic

Age, husband age, age difference from husband, birthing place, length of stay in Korea, reason for coming to Korea, marital status, motivation of marriage, educational status, husband educational status, religion, family monthly income, occupational status, before and after marriage husband' difference and what language use with husband.

2) Characteristics of Immigration and Marriage Related Problems

Researcher used Seol (2005) modified international married immigrant women baseline survey, modified items based on content structure

* Capacity of Korean language of immigrant women such as speaking, hearing, reading, writing, 4 areas, very poor 1 point, very well 5 point, 5 point liker -type scale.

* Capacity of husband about wife's country language such as speaking, hearing, reading, writing, 4 areas, very poor 1 point, very well 5 point, 5 point liker -type scale.

* Satisfaction of the spousal relation: Trust of husband and understand of husband, spousal intimacy, sexual life, husband role sharing of house-hold tasks, conversation with spouse, socio-cultural life with spouse, general spousal relationship 7 areas, poor satisfaction 1 point, very satisfied 5 point, 5 point liker-type scale.

* Satisfaction of life in Korea Life in general in Korea, relationship with neighborhood, relation with mother and father in law, relation with husband sister and brother and relatives, adjustment to Korean life, relationship with workers at the work site, relationship with husband 7 items, not satisfied 1 point, very satisfied 5 point, 5 point liker-type scale.

3) Stress from Family Relation

To measure stress from family relation used McCubbin, Wilson and Patterson (1983). File (family inventory of life events and changes) based on Choi (1990). To measure stress from family relationship with 28 items used, each item 6 liker-type scale 0 no experience, 5 very severe, ranges from 0-140. If the points are higher, then they have higher stress.

Conversation with husband, drinking, opinion differences, 6 items. To educate children, raise the children 5 items Opinion differences with mother and father in law. Interfere, compare with other people 6 items, health related 5 items, and home maintenance fee and economical difficulties 6 items.

2.5. Data Analysis

The data were collected, coded and entered into a computer data file using SPSS win 18.0.

* Characteristics of women's socio-demographic, marriage, related characteristics and stress from family relation, frequency distributions were calculated.

* Characteristics of women's socio-demographic, stress from family relation used T-test ANOVA later Scheffe method.

* Stress from family relation were tested using multiple regression.

3. Result

3.1. Difference of Family Relation Stress to Socio-Demographic Factors

Average age of the women was 29.67, ranges of age from 20-60. 34.4% age of women 25-30. Average age of the husband was 41, 92. Difference of wife and husband age was 12.23 years. Highest numbers of participants were from Vietnam, next Chinese, and Philippine. 85.2% of the women came to Korea to marry; average length of stay in Korea

was 49.02 months. 41.2% women had middle school graduated and high school graduated. 58.2% of the husbands were graduated from high school. 53.5% of the women had religion and 71% of the husbands had same religion. 47.6% of the women think that husband personality some different after marriage and 6% of the women think that husbands personality has been changed a lot. 89.6% use Korean language.

Characteristics of socio-demographic stress from family relation age of subjects ($F=3.730, p=.005$), age difference with husband ($F=5.227, p<.0001$), native country ($f=8.700, p<.0001$), length of stay in Korea ($f=8.705, p<.0001$), educational status of husband ($f=6.747, p<.001$), knows husband real life before marriage and current life ($f=10.669, p<.0001$), language use with husband ($f=2.662, p<.047$), showed statistically significant results.

Table 1. Difference of Family Relation Stress to Socio-Demographic Factors

characteristics	categories	N	%	Mean±SD	Family relation stress		
					M±SD	F(p)	Scheffe
Age range: 20 ~ 60(y)	20 ~ 24	125	23.2	29.67±6.56	2.20 .80	3.730 (.005)	a<d
	25 ~ 29	185	34.4		2.35 .89		
	30 ~ 34	116	21.6		2.43 .91		
	35 ~ 39	67	12.5		2.63 .93		
	over 40	45	8.4		2.63 .89		
Age gap(y)	below husband	19	3.7	12.23±7.26	2.65 1.05	5.227 (.000)	b>c, b>d, b>e
	same ~ 5	77	14.8		2.82 .87		
	6 ~ 10	106	20.4		2.27 .87		
	11 ~ 15	146	28.1		2.34 .89		
	16 ~ 20	117	22.5		2.25 .86		
	over21	54	10.4		2.30 .83		
Native country	China	171	32.6		2.67 .99	8.700 (.000)	a>b. a>c
	Vietnam	303	57.7		2.29 .82		
	Philippines	25	4.8		2.02 .58		
	Other	26	5.0		2.34 .72		
Length of residence in korea(months)	1 ~ 12	65	12.8	49.02±39.79	2.00 1.05	8.705 (.000)	a<d,e,f, b<f, c<f
	13 ~ 24	80	15.7		2.20 .85		
	25 ~ 36	103	20.3		2.18 .69		
	37 ~ 48	76	15.0		2.57 .94		
	49 ~ 60	59	11.6		2.61 .78		
	over 61	125	24.6		2.68 .89		
Education(husband)	Middle school	91	17.6		2.69 .76	6.747 (.001)	a>b,c
	High school	301	58.2		2.37 .90		
	College	125	24.2		2.25 .91		
Religion	none	247	46.5		2.51 1.00	2.778 (.006)	
	yes	284	53.5		2.29 .78		
Job	none	178	38.2		2.66 .84	-5.100 (.000)	
	yes	288	61.8		2.24 .86		
Difference	not difference	94	18.2		1.96 .88	10.669 (.000)	a<b, a<c, a<d
	little difference	246	47.6		2.43 .86		
	almost difference	146	28.2		2.55 .88		
	many difference	31	6.0		2.72 .85		
Language	Korean	448	89.6		2.37 .89	2.662	

English	18	3.6	1.85 .92 (.047)
Native language	17	3.4	2.60 .92
Almost no dialogue	17	3.4	2.56 .82

3.2. Characteristics of Women's Socio-Demographic Level of Satisfaction of Spousal Life, Satisfaction of Korean Life and Association with Stress

To identify the stress from the family relation Characteristics of women's socio-demographic satisfaction of level of spousal satisfaction, satisfaction of life in Korea with stress to test association result showed that length of stay in Korea ($r=.184, p<.001$), satisfaction life in Korea ($r=.134, p<.011$) the result showed that statistically significant result. Longer they stay in Korea, lower the satisfaction. Lower the satisfaction of Korean life, they have more stress from the family relation (Table 2).

Table 2. Family Relation Stress and Related Variables

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
A	1								
B	.383**	1							
C	-.579**	.532**	1						
D	-.045	-.241**	-.187**	1					
E	.469**	.011	-.410**	-.032	1				
F	-.041	-.106	-.069	.095	.031	1			
G	-.052	-.170**	-.100*	.193**	-.063	.140*	1		
H	.003	-.048	-.039	.103*	.057	-.008	.579**	1	
I	-.055	.004	.055	.047	-.184**	.127	-.012	-.134*	1

- A. Age
- B. Age of husband
- C. Age gap
- D. Education(husband)
- E. Length of residence in Korea
- F. Family's monthly income
- G. Couple satisfaction
- H. Life satisfaction
- I. Stress

**p<.001, *p<.01

3.3. Influential Factors on Family Relation Stress

To identify stress from family relation Characteristics of socio-demographics and stress differences to test association utilized the regression analysis, there is a significant results variables are length of stay in Korea ($t=3.178, p<.002$) and satisfaction of Korean life

($t=2.639$, $p=.009$) therefore this results explained 4.8% (Table3).

Table 3. Regression Equation Values for the Prediction of Family Relation Stress

Model		B	SE	β	t	p	Collinearity statistics				
							Tolerance	VIF	Adj. R ²	F	p
Model1	(Constant)	109.452	2.067		52.962	< .001			.031	14.223	< .001
	Length of residence Korea	in-.121	.032	-.184	-3.771	< .001	1.000	1.000			
Model2	(Constant)	126.918	7.163		17.718	< .001			.048	9.458	< .001
	Length of residence Korea	in-.109	.034	-.170	-3.178	.002	.990	1.010			Durbin-Watson
	Life satisfaction	-.754	.286	-.141	-2.639	.009	.990	1.010			=1.464

4. Discussions

To identify influence on family relation stress such as relate to the factors of satisfaction of spousal relation and satisfaction of life in Korea therefore, researcher develop plan and policy for them.

Age difference between husband and wife is 12 years, if age difference is high then husband use power treat wife badly then unequal spousal relation increase and spousal stress increase [13]. If husband age is higher than family stress is higher with relation with husband, health and economical related stress was high [14]. If age of women is younger than husband health was increased therefore women and husband felt different idea in Korea.

Demographic characteristics family related stress are length of stay in Korea, native country, educational level of husband, real life of the husband before marriage, and language use with your husband showed statistically significant [15]. If husband educational level is higher than husband real life is true then husband family's health is good same as our result [14].

The other hand husband motivation about marriage, educational level, religions there was no significant result [13, 14]. Some of the husbands telling a lie about their job and economical ability therefore wife were disappointed about wrong information but motivation of marriage was not relate to family stress [16]. If they have higher educational level then level of stress was high this result is not same as this research [13]. If women have religion then they better adjust to new life but in this research showed that religious belief does not influence.

If women age is high, educational level is high and they have health problems they tend to have stress and dissatisfaction of life because they hear other women's life and they compare with other women's life, sometimes they tend to have lower self-esteem [16].

Chinese women tend to have more stress with relation with husband, economical problems than Vietnam and Philippine relation with mother in law, father in law, health related problems, they have more stress than Vietnam and in general area Chinese women have more stress than Vietnam and Philippine, Hong [17] in the research showed that Chinese women more satisfied with their life than Japanese women. Yang [18] Chinese women were more satisfied with their life than Japanese and Philippine but this result is

not consistency in our study. Chung [19] satisfaction of spousal relation, Chinese women are more satisfied than other country women and Japanese women' satisfaction is lower than other women. Especially husband role sharing of house-hold tasks, were not satisfied from all women. Japanese women face more adjusting problems than other unknown problems.

Most of the husbands are graduated from middle high school than senior high school and college, there was lower stress, If husbands had lower than junior high education they tend to have more stress with their children than college graduates, if women graduated from junior high school they tend to have more stress with mother and father in law and stress related to health problems.

Real life of the husbands before marriage was not same, results showed the statistically significant results. Real information of husbands such as income, personality, property, occupation was not correct and women were very disappointed with wrong information [20, 21], Some marriage center provide more wrong information about husbands and they paid center, they had health related problems in similar results as our study [14].

After they identified satisfaction of spousal life and satisfaction of Korean life and stress showed that family relation stress related to length of stay in Korea and satisfaction of Korean life had a significant association, If women stayed in Korea longer, if they have dissatisfaction of Korean life, they tend to have more family relation stress was high.

If they married less than five years, they tend to have family health was very good [11], If they married 10-20 years family members perceive value system was high and husband perceive that family health was high [22], another study showed not same results.

A study mentioned that lack of conflict on concern was lower, lower of laws conflict, lower the conflict with children, then they tend to have high life satisfaction. If they have low life satisfaction, they tend to have high family relation stress [6].

Results showed that international married immigrant women have communication problems, spousal adjusting problems, and economic problems, especially, researcher try to identify stress from the family relation and make a plan and policy for them better adjust to Korean life.

5. Conclusions

This is the descriptive study to identify factors relate to family stress. Results of this study showed that stress relate to the family relation such as satisfaction of the spouse relation, satisfaction of the life in Korea showed that statistically significant relationship but it explained only 4.8% the researcher should find 95% factors.

In conclusion of this study showed that satisfaction of the spouse relation and satisfaction of the life in Korea influence on the family stress, researcher should increase satisfaction of the spouse relationship programs and satisfaction of the life in Korea. Women decrease family relation stress and adjust well in Korea so that women can settle in Korea.

Meaning of this study women's level of adjust can check the stress of family relation so that researcher identified satisfaction of spouse relation and satisfaction of life in Korea but it explained only 4.8% therefore, researcher should find 95% factors, Further research should investigate stress relate to family relation except satisfaction of spouse relation and satisfaction of life in Korea.

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