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GENDER FEATURES OF MARRIAGE CONFLICTS

Abstract: This work is dedicated to gender-specific features in marital conflicts. It reveals the characteristics of strategy selection in conflicts depending on gender.

Keywords: conflict, behavior strategies, confrontation, avoidance, compliance, adaptation, cooperation, married couples, interpersonal relationships.

In current realities, the attention of many sociologists and psychologists is focused on intrafamilial conflicts. This increased interest may be due to the fact that during the early years of marriage, the formation of a common model of family relations occurs, and roles and responsibilities of each party in the family are distributed [1]. It is precisely during this period that men and women adapt to each other. Additionally, the nature of the main conflicts and ways of overcoming them are determined at this stage [2].

Studying the interaction of spouses, many specialists believe that compatibility between partners does not always occur immediately. Any incompatibilities that may manifest during married life can appear as behavioral conflicts [5].

In the process of conflict communication, interaction takes place between two spouses, which can take various forms. For example, one spouse may concede in an argument, while the other insists on their correctness; thus, different functions are performed, such as satisfying personal needs [4].

We hypothesize that there are consistent differences in the strategies for behavior in conflict chosen by men and women who are married. In conflicts, men and women may select the following behavior strategies: confrontation, avoidance, compliance (adaptation), and cooperation [3].

The diagnostic tool chosen as an instrument is the "Conflict Style Inventory" developed by K. Thomas, designed to study personality predispositions towards conflict behavior and to identify specific styles of conflict resolution. This method can be used as a guide to studying individual adaptation and communication features, as well as styles of interpersonal interaction.

Let us proceed to discuss the results obtained through empirical research. Using statistical analysis with the Mann-Whitney U test, we identified which conflict behavior strategies are most frequently chosen by spouses depending on gender. To confirm the selected method and establish connections, a normality distribution analysis was conducted.

The sample consisted of 34 individuals. In the methodology, 18 women and 16 men who are married participated.

According to the results of the methodology, we found that spouses most frequently choose the behavior strategy of compromise (6.94 points), meaning that spouses more often mutually concede to each other or agree to partially satisfy their own interests, thereby relinquishing the pursuit of their own goals. They also frequently choose strategies such as cooperation (6.59 points), which involves a desire to integrate the interests of all conflict participants; and avoidance (6.5 points), which entails ignoring or essentially denying the conflict, during which there is almost zero



persistence in satisfying one's own interests. Slightly less often, spouses opt for the strategy of compliance, where one party in the conflict renounces their own interests in favor of the other party. The least frequently chosen strategy is confrontation (3.85 points), where one or both sides seek dominance and ultimately eliminate one of the parties, demonstrating maximum persistence and satisfying only their own interests.

The obtained data also indicate the presence of certain conflict behavior strategies within the sample that spouses tend to use more frequently depending on their gender. Additionally, we can identify further information reflecting the preferred conflict strategies among spouses. For example, compliance is higher among men (by 1.8 points), which means that men are much more likely to make concessions. No significant differences are observed in other strategies. Moreover, this methodology allows us to determine that women more often use the strategy of compromise (7.3 points), which involves reaching an agreement between conflict participants through mutual concessions. Men, on the other hand, more frequently choose compliance (7.1 points), where participants come to an alternative that fully satisfies the interests of both sides. Confrontation is more commonly observed among women (by 0.7 points), indicating that women more often stand their ground and less frequently make concessions in conflict situations.

Based on the results, we can conclude that there are no significant differences in the choice of conflict behavior styles. However, according to the findings, women more frequently exhibit confrontation in conflicts compared to men, as well as cooperation, compromise, and avoidance. Conversely, men more often employ compliance.

The study results indicate that women tend to be more conflict-prone compared to men, primarily because they more frequently use confrontation as a conflict strategy.

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