



Relationship Between Communication Skills and Childbearing Motivation Among Couples of Reproductive Age at Health Centers in Karaj, 2023-2024

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Based on the recent changes in fertility patterns and the role of motivation, the motivation to have children can be considered the primary driver of reproductive behavior and an important part of fertility decision-making in humans. Since relationships between couples can affect their decision to have children, this study aims to investigate the relationship between communication skills and childbearing motivation in couples during reproductive age in Health Centers, Karaj, in 2023-2024.

Methods and Materials: The present study was a descriptive-analytical method conducted on couples of reproductive age referring to comprehensive health centers in Karaj in 2023-2024. The sample size was 300 (150 couples). A random sampling method was also used. The research instruments (demographic characteristics, Dastan's communication skills questionnaire, and Miller's childbearing motivation questionnaire) were provided to the study participants to complete in print. Data were analyzed using SPSS software version 26. Central indexes, scattering, tables, and charts were used to describe the data. Bivariate correlation (Pearson or Spearman) was used to analyze the data.

Results: The average age of participating women in the study was reported as 36.54 (7.155), and the average age of men was 40.75 (7.782). Additionally, 80.7% of couples reported having a moderate economic status. The educational level of 72% of participating women and 65.3% of men was reported to be higher than a high school diploma, with the remainder having a diploma or lower. 33.3% of couples had one child, 48% had two children, and 18.2% had three or more children. The results showed a significant negative relationship between communication skills and negative childbearing motivation scores among female participants ($p = 0.002$; $r = -0.246$) and male participants ($p = 0.003$; $r = -0.240$), indicating that an increase in communication skills was associated with a decrease in negative childbearing motivation scores. Additionally, a significant positive relationship was found between communication skills and positive childbearing motivation scores among female participants ($p = 0.005$; $r_s = 0.230$), while a non-significant positive relationship was observed among male participants ($p = 0.840$; $r_s = 0.017$). Increased communication skills were associated with increased positive childbearing motivation scores.

Conclusion and Discussion: Communication skills were among the factors affecting the couples' childbearing motivation. Therefore, implementing counseling programs to improve communication skills may be an effective measure to help increase motivation and ultimately increase the decision to fertility of couples.

Citation:

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