

**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES  
INSTITUTE OF PSYCHOLOGY**

**MARITAL ADJUSTMENT COMPARED AMONG EARLY,  
AGE APPROPRIATE-ARRANGED AND LOVE-MATCHED  
MARRIAGE ARRANGMENTS IN MOTTA  
ADMINISTRATIVE TOWN**

**SIMEGN SENDEK**



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## **Abstract**

The main purpose of this research was to compare early, age appropriate-arranged, and love-matched married persons in terms of their marital adjustment. A sample of 210 married individuals (105 males and 105 females) was selected from Motta Administrative Town through purposive sampling technique. The data were collected through rating scale and analyzed statistically. The results showed that the general patterns of marital adjustment scores were found above the average/mid point of the scale. The results also indicated that there were statistically significant differences in marital adjustment among early, age appropriate-arranged, and love-matched married individuals in the sense that love-matched married have significantly better marital adjustment than the two groups. As regards marital adjustment dimensions, early married individuals had significantly lower mean score on consensus and satisfaction dimensions than both age appropriate-arranged and love-matched married individuals. In addition, early married individuals had significantly lower mean score on cohesion dimension than love-matched married individuals. Moreover, love-matched participants had higher mean score than both early and age appropriate-arranged married participants on affectional expression dimension. Concerning demographic factors, marital adjustment was significantly related to age at the present marriage. As regards sex difference in marital adjustment, statistically significant difference was found between early married males and females. That is, males have higher marital adjustment than females. However, significant sex differences in marital adjustment were not found in both age appropriate-arranged and love-matched married individuals. Besides, early married males were significantly higher than females on satisfaction and affectional expression dimensions. Moreover, age appropriate-arranged married males were significantly higher on affectional expression dimension than female counter parts. On the other hand, there were no significant differences observed between love-matched males and females on the four dimensions of marital adjustment. At last, the findings of this research are only paint part of the picture, so in the future in-depth research should be conducted on this very basic issue including other variables that may influence marital adjustment.

# **I. INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1. Background**

It is obvious that most human beings get in to marriage at some point in life, which is a developmental milestone in the life of individuals (Kurdek, 1991) and the most highly valued forms of human association (Bowman & Spanier, 1978). Duvall and Miller (1985, p. 126) also indicated that marriage is 'the critical transition from being single adults to becoming a married pair' that is the most important and fundamental human relationship and rearing generations (Larson and Holman, 1994). It begins with a ceremony called wedding, which formally unit the marriage partners (the husband and the wife).

According to Arlene and Skolnick (cited in Nisa, Rehaman, Alam, & Sofdar, 2006) marriage is a socially recognized and approved union between two individuals who commit to one another with the expectation of a stable and lasting intimate relationship. Most couples that marry are filled up with expectations; some of the expectations are realistic while others are unrealistic (Dinna, 2005). For Dinna happiness, satisfaction and fulfillment of expectations are possible only by mutual adjustment that leads to common concept of marriage.

But these expectations may not be the same for all individuals' in different marriage arrangements across cultures. Because the socio- cultural context of the individual may have a powerful influence on marriage. Santrock (2002) indicated that the age at which individuals marry and the expectation about marriage differs not only across historical time with in a culture but also across cultures. For instance when we take the individuals' age at marriage, there are children and/or adolescents married before the marriageable age (18 years for Ethiopians ) called early married and there are also individuals who

married after the marriageable age through parents/community elders arrangement or through self-choice based on love. All of these marriage practices are present in Gojjam culture specifically at Motta Administrative Town. Previously long in history arranged marriages including early and age appropriate-arranged marriage were dominantly practiced in the Town, but these days it seems that the freedom to make choices about relationship and marriage left to individuals. This indicates marriage is changed from institutional marriage (being largely economic or entailing the provision of basic domestic services, which was much easier to fulfill) to companionship (intimacy, sexual gratification, shared friends and interests) (Giddens, 1992) as a result of modernization. However, in modern society there is the co-existence of both marriage arrangements (Fox, 1975; Mebandiratta, Mebandiratta, & Poul, 2007).



Research conducted by Mehandiratta et al. (2007) and O'Neil (1976) indicated that physical, social and psychological readiness and maturity are very important in marital relationship. But early marriage is practiced violating this fact before the marriageable age of individuals with or without the full consent of spouses. As a result, couples who married as adolescents have had less experience in developing mutuality and social cognitive skills required to maintain a stable and satisfied union than couples who marry as adults (Teti et'al, as cited in Vue, 2000).

Pathfinder International (2006) and Vue (2000) also added that early married couples face financial hardships, communication problems, problems in sexual adjustments and transitioning in to parenthood because couples marry before they have a chance to strengthen their relationships with each other, which is the cause for marital distress and dissatisfaction. On the other hand, Boykin (2004) researched out the presence of successful early married individuals in spite of different problems they faced in their life.

With this regard, many local researchers (e.g. Amsalu, 2007; Belay, 2008; Gage, 2007; Yishak, Workneh, & Asham, 2009) have tried to investigate about the causes and consequences (physical, economical and social) of marriage at early age. However, the influence of marriage arrangements on marital adjustments was left unexplored locally.

Many individuals get married through parents' or community elders' arrangement after they reach at marriageable age which is called age appropriate-arranged marriage. In this marriage the families of both spouses take the leading role in arranging the marriage, but the choice whether or not to accept the arrangement remains with the young people (Dinna, 2005).

However, the patterns of arranged marriage differ from culture to culture. For example in Apache-India, the preference of the individual take in to consideration, on the other hand in some cultures like Japan, the preference of the young is not consulted (Burgess, Locke, & Thomes, 1971). These kinds of experiences are practiced here in Ethiopia too, specifically at Motta Administrative Town. That is, parents or community elders who make the arrangement may or may not consult the preference of their children. In such marriage arrangement, parents or community elders may pressure individuals to marry even if they are at marriageable age (18 years). Being pressured to marry has its own influence on partners' marital relationship that affects the level of marital adjustment.

Age appropriate-arranged marriages are based on the principle that parents or elders have the wisdom to select the appropriate spouse for the individual. In order to select the spouse, parents or elders are more likely to base their decision on non-romantic criteria (like economic, political and social status) in which love, affection, and respect are relatively unimportant before

marriage but assumed to develop after the wedding through years (Bowman & Spanier, 1978). The use of such external criteria of mate selection for their children may influence the level of adjustment in marriage.

Even if it is the case, this type of marriage is very stable, because it is the duty of the whole family to help the new couple until get established in life, so that divorce is almost unheard (Oslon & Defrain, 2000).

The world, in general appears to be moving toward freedom of choice in marriage. This approach is known as love-matched marriage. In love or autonomous marriages the selection of a partner is based on love, friendship, compatibility and interpersonal attractions (Lee & Stone, 1980) rather than focus on non-romantic criteria of the extended family members. In this practice, the partners (the husband and the wife) attracted, loved, knew each other and then get in to marriage rather than considering the political, social, and economic backgrounds of the couple. Which means love precedes and determines marriage and less emphasis is given to the socio-economic aspects of the match. This is why spouses in love or autonomous marriage have more satisfaction and marital adjustment than spouses of arranged marriages (Boykin, 2004; Dinna, 2005; Lev-Wiesel and Al-Krenawi, 1999). On the contrary, traditionalists argue that love-matched married partners involved in a very intense romantic love before marriage and used it as sole criteria to become a partnership disregarding the other aspects of their relationship; as a result, after marriage the many responsibilities of marriage down grade the couples' love and make them maritally poor adjusted than their counterparts in arranged marriages (Xioache & Whyte, 1990). As can be seen from these aforementioned previous research findings, there seem to have inconsistencies and controversies regarding the type of marriage arrangement that contributes for better marital adjustment.

## 1.2. Problem Statement

Whatever the type of marriage arrangements (early, age appropriate-arranged, or love-matched), the successes of marriage is determined by the interaction between the two partners over the time span of their marriage. Researchers Parouty, Markowski, and Barners (2000) demonstrated that the ultimate measurement of successful marriage is the degree of adjustment achieved by the individuals in their marriage roles and interaction of one another. Marital adjustment is the collective outcome of the degree of consensus on matters of importance in marital functioning, marital satisfaction, marital cohesion, and expression of affection and love (Spanier and Cole, cited in Corsini and Ozaki, 1984). Therefore, measuring the level of marital adjustment is very important to know whether spouses in one group of marriage arrangement has better marital adjustment or not in comparison to spouses in other marriage arrangements.

Having all these things in mind, the present researcher tries to explore previous researches conducted in relation to the marital adjustment of early, age appropriate-arranged and love-matched marriage arrangements, is found to be none in Ethiopian context as far as the knowledge of the present researcher concerned. In fact some researchers (e.g. Amsalu, 2007; Belay, 2008; Gage, 2007; Yishak et al., 2009) have conducted research on the causes and consequences of early marriage; Birhan (2006) has investigated the relationship of communication and marital satisfaction; and Tsehay (2006) has examined the relationship of children and marital satisfaction. Hence, none of these studies have shown the marital adjustment of the three marriage arrangements specifically in comparative form. As mentioned in the background part, even in the already existed western literatures there are controversies and inconsistencies to indicate the type of marriage arrangement that partners have better level of marital adjustment. Therefore, the lack of well documented information and the presence of controversies

and inconsistencies in the area initiate the present researcher to investigate the marital adjustment of early, age appropriate-arranged and love-matched married persons of Motta Administrative Town. To this end, attempts were made to address the following basic questions.

- What are the general patterns of marital adjustment among participants?
- Is there a significant difference in marital adjustment among early, age appropriate-arranged and love-match married persons?
- Is there a significant difference in the dimensions of marital adjustment among the three groups?
- Is there a significant relationship between marital adjustment and age at the present marriage, duration of the present marriage, and the number of children in the present marriage among all participants?
- Do males significantly differ from females in their marital adjustment in each group?
- Do males significantly differ from females with specific reference to the dimensions of marital adjustment in each group?

### 1.3. Operational Definitions

Marriage arrangements: - marriage arrangements in this research include early marriage, age appropriate-arranged marriage, and love-matched marriage arrangements.

Early marriage: - is a type of marriage arrangement in which individuals married before 18 years old through parents/elders arrangement with or without the consent of the individual.

Age appropriate-arranged marriage: - is a type of marriage arrangement in which individuals married at or above 18 years old through parents/elders arrangement with or without the consent of the individual.

Love-matched marriage: - is a type of marriage arrangement in which individuals met and selected each other and then married by their own

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## **II. LITERATURE REVIEW**

This section clearly presents the definition and developmental task of marriage; marital adjustment with specific reference to its dimensions; and factors affecting marital adjustment including the three forms of marital arrangement and demographic factors.

### **2.1. Marriage: Definition and as Developmental Task**

According to Duvall & Miller (1985) marriage is "the socially recognized relationship between a man and a woman that provides for sexual relations, legitimize child bearing, and establishes a division of labor between spouses" (p.6). It is the emotional and legal commitment of two people to share emotional and physical intimacy, various tasks, and economic resources (Olson & Defrian, 2000) and Hzashmi, Khurshid, and Hasson (2007). Okoh (2008) also posited out that marriage involves the union between a man and a woman as a husband and a wife which is a foundation for family life and usually formalized by custom, law and occasionally by religion in which physiological, procreational, social, emotional and security needs are satisfied. Pathfinder International (2009) also defines marriage as a social institution that unites people in a special form of mutual dependence for the purpose of founding and maintaining a family.

Developmentally, marriage is considered to be one of the developmental tasks of most individuals in their life time. Regarding this, research grounded that marriage as a developmental process that normally individuals enter during adulthood and that result in the establishment of various marital interactional processes (Dinna, 2005). Duvall (1977) also pointed out that building and maintaining strong and mutually satisfying marriage relationship is the developmental task of individuals during adulthood. Furthermore, Marrey (2005) indicated that, in marriage there are unique

developmental tasks like differentiating self from family of origin or forming a marital system, which will be mastered to insure continued healthy development and to avoid handicapping future stages of growth; and normal tasks like learning to forgive and trust in the face of human failure like accepting the paradox that one is loveable and loving while also being sometimes petty and jealous. Therefore, if the individual successfully achieved the tasks arise at a certain time in life, it leads his/her happiness and to his/her success with later tasks; whereas failure leads unhappiness in the individual, disapproval by the society and difficulty with later tasks (Havighurst, cited in Duvall, 1977). Whether partners are successful or not in this developmental task i.e. marriage, a good indicator is measuring the over all level of adjustment in marriage.

## **2.2. Marital Adjustment: Meaning and Dimensions**

Different investigators define the term marital adjustment in different ways, but to communicate similar idea. To see some of the definitions given by different researchers; marital adjustment refers to the functioning and success of marital partners that includes the concept of marital satisfaction and happiness (Crane, Allgood, Larson, & Griffin, 1990). Spanier (cited in Schneider, 2007) defined as a process, the outcomes of which is reflected by problematic differences and tensions between the partners as well as a dyadic satisfaction, cohesion, affection, and consensus on important matters. In addition, Hashmi et al. (2007) defined as the overall feelings of the husband's and the wife's happiness and satisfaction with their marriages and with each other. Moreover, Graham, Ficher, and Crawford (2000) described it as an individual's subjective evaluation on his/her level of satisfaction towards the marital relationship as well as the sharing of interests, values, objectives, and views.

The evaluation of marital adjustment is found in a continuum ranging from poor to good (Weibelzahl, 1977) or high to low (Henry, 1990), or well-adjusted to maladjusted (Spanier, cited in Graham et al., 2000). The higher score indicates the higher level of marital adjustment and the lower score means the lower level of marital adjustment (Trevino, Wooten, & Scott, 2007).

Most of the questions of marital adjustment focuses on the extent of agreement/ disagreement on matters of importance, how they are satisfied with their marriage and the amount of cohesion or togetherness between spouses, commitment to the marriage, how they manage difficulties that cope up on a day-to-day basis, and how similar or different they are in areas which might influence their ability to get along with each other (Bowman & Spanier, 1978).


The elaborate measures of marital adjustments are those that break the marital relationship in to the four dimensions of marital relationship, namely consensus, satisfaction, cohesion, and affectional expression (Schneider, 2007). These dimensions of marital adjustment have overlapping characteristics.

### **2.2.1. Consensus**

This encompasses the level of agreement between partners in a marital relationship with regard to a variety of basic relationship issues such as finances, recreation, religious matters, friendship, conventionality, proper behavior, philosophy of life, dealing with parents and in-laws, aims and goals, time spent together, making decisions, division of house hold tasks, leisure time activities, and career decisions Prouty et al. (2000). The basic component here is that the interpersonal communication skill that is very important in the conflict resolution process of partners.

Consensus between the husband and wife involves the molding/welding together of their dissimilar behaviors in to common point of views, values and objectives occur most widely through a certain kind of communication, which is intimate, personal, informal, and unrestricted. This leads them to understand each other and to share common values and expectations (Burgess et al., 1971). Consensus of partners in terms of the basic interests, abilities and value orientations is a major force contributing to marital adjustment (O'Neil, 1976). Because similarity facilitates the expression of positive affect (favorable feelings, self-involving interests, acceptance, and esteem) which enhance interpersonal attraction and the desire to continue the relationship (Coombus, 1966).

On the other hand dissimilarity of the partners on the basic issues leads disagreements (Burgess et al., 1971; Huston et al., 2001); and a major obstacle to the mutual sharing of marital life (O'Neil, 1976). Therefore, if the husband's and the wife's disagreements are not handled effectively, unresolved negative feelings start to grow up, fueling destructive patterns of marital interaction and eventually eroding and attacking the positive aspects of the relationship (Bradbury & Karney, 1993) and negativity will become the part of their relationship (Leigh & Clark, 1991). So that the likelihood of the problem remaining unresolved; over the time the accumulated problems make spouses less satisfied with marriage (Bradbury & Karney, 1993) and martially distressed (Huston et al., 2001). The higher score of consensus indicates partners have higher level of consensus on different marital issues and the lower score indicates the lower level of consensus on marital issues (Prouty et al., 2000).



### **2.2.2. Satisfaction**

Many married individuals judge the success or failure of their marriage by the amount of satisfaction they receive from it (Bergess et al., 1971). Marital satisfaction encompasses individual's subjective evaluation of the quality of the relationship (Wolf, 1996). The evaluation of the relationship is with regard to the specific components or issues within the husband/wife marital relationship like discussion about divorce, leaving the house after fight, regretting marrying, quarrelling, getting on each others nerves, doing well, confiding in mate, kissing the mate, degree of happiness, and commitment to the future of the relationship (Prouty et al., 2000).

The degree of marital satisfaction is a valid indicator of each partner's goals and expectations for marriage success are being reached (Birhan, 2006). Satisfaction with marriage is highly related to the overall happiness of a married person. A person who satisfied with his/her relationship perceives many rewards and few costs of being in the relationship, and evaluates the relationship as meeting or exceeding an internal standard of a good relationship (Kurdek, 1991). Moreover, Kurdek pointed out that marital relationship stability is related to high marital satisfaction with the relationship, few attractive alternatives to the relationship, and large investment in terms of time, money, energy and emotional resources (Boykin, 2004).

Here, the commitment to stay and maintain in the course of marriage for an indefinite time or until death in spite of crisis and the inevitable difficulty of navigating life with another person seem a crucial element of any strong marriage (Boykin, 2004). The level of commitment appears to be associated with healthy functioning in an ongoing relationship and it is strongly associated with marital adjustment (Schneider, 2007).

### **2.2.3. Cohesion**

Cohesion indicates the degree of togetherness, connectedness, oneness, closeness and mutual sharing of activities in marriage. That is, individual's perception of the couple regarding engaging in out side interests together, having stimulating exchange of ideas, laughing together, calmly discussing something, and working on a project together (Prouty et al., 2000).

Marital cohesion generally indicates the level of intimacy partners have in marital relationship. In line with this Valenti (1997) indicated that cohesion often describe their feelings of intimacy as feelings of closeness or connectedness, wholeness or oneness with the other. Intimacy can be taken as an important component in marital relationship and considered as a primary dimension that determines marital adjustment (Schneider, 2007).

An intimate relationship is one of the carrying (showing genuine concern for a person's well-being), mutual respect (a feeling that one person will not harmed or hurt by another), and acceptance (recognition or acceptance of each other) (Sheffield, 2004; Stahmann, 2004) which are the foundation for healthy non-sexual and sexual intimacy in marriage (Stahmann, 2004). But lack of intimacy is one of the major causes that make couples break up their marriages (Dinna, 2005). The higher score of cohesion dimension indicates partners have higher level of cohesion on different marital issues and the lower score indicates the lower level of cohesion on marital issues (Prouty et al., 2000).

### **2.2.4. Affectional Expression**

This dimension of marital adjustment pertains individual perceptions about the partner's demonstrations of affection and sexual relationships, the level of showing love, and the level of tiredness in sex (Prouty et al., 2000). Both physical and verbal affections are very important to marital relationship.

Affectionate behaviors including expression of approval or complements like saying "I love you" and showing physical affection in sex and outside sex (Caughlin & Huston, 2002). Affectional expression of love calmly with warmth that symbolizes security, care, protection, appreciation, comfort, and approval are the strongest predictors of marital adjustment (Okoh, 2008). Henry (1990) also supported that exchange of affection, intimacy, and comfort between partners is positively associated with higher marital adjustment. Positive affectional expression encompasses agreement, approval, humor, assent, laugh, positive physical contact, and smile (Gotman, Coan, Carrere, & Swanson, 2003) which are highly related to marital satisfaction which in turn to marital adjustment.

Henry (1990) indicated that affectional expression, emotional interdependence, and love are linked to marital satisfaction. According to him, individuals who report higher affective expression/ exchange with their partner and higher commitment to the continuation of their marriage have higher level of marital satisfaction. Again Mories and Craters (1995) pointed out that individuals who admire, support, and are proud of each other in their respective endeavors and achievements, openly express appreciation and build one another's self-esteem and fulfill emotional needs build a satisfying and enduring relationship. But low level of affectional expression/ exchange between partners would be an indicative of low marital satisfaction, which makes marital adjustment very difficult to achieve (Henry, 1990).

Sexual relationship is one of the components of this dimension and most important aspects of marriage used as a glue that holds spouses together; without it, small problems become large ones, and large problems can result in destroying the marriage (Stahmann, 2004). Fulfillment of sexual needs in terms of quality and quantity is very important in the well-being and happiness of a marriage (Mories & Carters, 1999). Most couples reported that

their sexual relationship as one of a very important component in their overall marital adjustment (Bowman & Spanier, 1978). Individuals with higher scores on this dimension have higher affectional expression in marriage (Prouty et al., 2000).

## **2.3. Factors Affecting Marital Adjustment**

### **2.3.1. Marriage Arrangements**

In this sub section of the literature the three marriage arrangements which include early marriage, age appropriate-arranged marriage, and love-matched marriage are reviewed.

#### **2.3.1.1. Early Marriage**

Early marriage is a form of marital union of boys and girls before they reached at marriageable age (before 18 years in Ethiopian context). Marriageability is the readiness of physical, emotional, and intellectual capacity based on factors such as adaptation, interpersonal competence, preparation for marital roles, and maturity (Duvall & Miller, 1985). However, these children are going to marry by the influence of the third party before they are not developed and ready physically, psychologically, and socially to shoulder the many responsibilities of marriage and the family (Belay, 2008; Pathfinder, 2006; UNFPA, 2008).

According to the revised family code of Ethiopia, the minimum marriageable age of both boys and girls is 18 years old with full informed consent of individuals who gets in to marriage. For example: article 6 says: "a valid marriage shall take place only when the spouses have given their free and full consent" and article 7 states that "neither a man or a woman who has not attained the full age eighteen years shall conclude marriage"(p.4).

Even if the law of the country penalizes parents and other individuals who are practicing early/child marriage, they do it by violating the law and the rights of children. Early marriage is widely practiced in Ethiopia particularly in Amhara and Tigray regions (Amsalu, 2007). Early marriage involves both boys and girls (Amsalu, 2007; Yisak, Workneh, & Asham, 2009), but the rate of marriage before the age of 18 are considerably higher for girls than for boys (Yisak et al.; Youthnet, 2005).

In this marriage arrangement, parents or families play the leading role in mate choice regardless of the age of children getting married, the prospective spouse he/she wanted to marry (Gage, 2007), the full consent of both partners (Amsalu, 2007); and knowing each other before marriage (Kammerlyer, 1987). The parents or persons who did the selection and arrangement in Amhara traditionally believe that the married teenage couples can grow together (Belay, 2008). Growing or mature together and creating good lives is the component of intimacy that is reported by individuals of successful teenage marriage (Boykin, 2004). In this practice the wishes and interests of children are generally overlooked (Vue, 2000) and the marriage is takes place without the free or valid consent of the partner. Therefore early marriage is regarded as a forced marriage (Pathfinder, 2006).

Many researchers have been noted that early marriage arrangement is a harmful traditional practices with a lot of negative consequences and creates many problems on partners like lack of house hold management, bearing many children, stressful living conditions, disagreement with each other and in-laws (Belay, 2008), reproductive health problems (like fistula and HIV/AIDS), rural-urban migration, susceptibility of poverty, physical and sexual abuse (UNFPA, 2008), early pregnancy and child birth; low life expectancy; disrupts education and employment; destroys children's ability to

think, question, and act independently; difficulty to cope up with life and shouldering of the responsibilities (Subramanian, 2008).

Generally, early marriage has physical, intellectual, and psychological impacts for both sexes (UNICEF, 2001) and it affects the overall personality of the child specially the female child (Amsalu, 2007). All these problems may be the contributing causes for distress, discord, separation, and low level of marital adjustment among many early married partners. Coincide with this O'Neil (1976) demonstrated that lack of maturity, preparation, and sexual incompatibility are obstacles of marital adjustment. These lacks also accompanied by insufficient commitment to the relationship, less creative enough in their problem solving abilities, and unable to handle the major problems in marriage (Olson & Defrian, 2000), and poorly developed communication, ill prepared for marital roles and an increase marital distress (Kurdek, 1991).

Specially girls who married early are unable to accept and act as a wife due to physical and psychological immaturity and unreadiness leads to constant disagreement between the couple, loses of happiness and satisfaction with the relationship, and sex related problems (Amsalu, 2000); poor social adjustment, emotional instability, and less stable or intact home (Duvall, 1977). Her first sexual intercourse before maturity and readiness affects the normal sexual relationship with her husband later even when she is fully grown. (Belay, 2008).

Although many researchers reported the negative out come and problems associated with early or teenage marriages which is often end in distress and separation, there are fewer studies, for example Boykin (2004) indicated the presence of early /teen marriages which work out beautifully and successfully despite the challenges they are expected to face.

### **2.3.1.2. Arranged Marriage (Age Appropriate)**

Parents also advocate arranged marriages for their children of marriageable age (Donner, 2002). Although young adults in the western today might view this practice as archaic and uncivilized, many people worldwide prefer parent arranged marriages (Oslon & Defrain, 2000) and still a norm particularly in cultures with strong traditional religious beliefs (Fox, 1975; Valenti, 1997) and occurs in non-industrialized world (Oslon & Defrain, 2000) most of the time. But it is also has been the enduring features of human existence even in most modern countries of the world (Dinna, 2000).

In this marriage arrangement the third party (typically parents or elders) bring the responsibility to select and negotiate for spouses of their marriageable children (Mehndiratta et al., 2007; Dinna, 2005). Unlike early marriage arrangement, parents or elders are not always in a position to decide the whole process of partner selection. But rather, they take in to account the individuals' preferences of those who are being married to some extent (Jennings, 2001; Oslon & Defrain, 2000). Put in other words, even if the parents or elders play an important role in selecting a marriage partner, they partially consult the consent of their children.

When parents/elders select spouses for their marriageable child, they are based on non-romantic criteria like economic, religious, political, and social considerations/prestige, status, and the normative kinship order/(Dinna, 2005; Madathils & Benshoff, 2008; Oslon & Defrain, 2000) like early marriage. Here, there is a complete absence of romantic love and courtship because it is considered to be impractical and unnecessary before marriage but love and respect between partners are expected to develop after marriage (Bowman & Spanier, 1978; Burgess et al., 1971; Jennings, 2001; Madathils & Benshoff, 2008; Oslon & Defrain, 2000). The relationship starts with an empty love with the decision or commitment to love after marriage (Dinna,

2005). For traditionalists, even if partners do not know each other very well or perhaps not at all, and since they do not have romantic feelings for one another prior to marriage, the partners will have the opportunity to know each other and forge common bonds, so that compatibility and mutual concern are likely to lead a mature form of love that provides a more realistic and durable bond that can survive the test of time and difficulties (Xiaohe & Whyte, 1990).

According to the ideology underpinning this practice, Jennings (2001) noted that marriages arranged by older, more experienced members of the family for the younger, less experienced members are better than those that might be initiated by those younger. For Jennings this holding the belief that marriages contracted by elders are more stable; fewer end in divorce; and over time the married partners are more content together than self initiated married partners. Since, the bonds grow after the wedding, that goes from cold relationship to hot relationship, in the long run age appropriate-arranged marriages give more satisfaction than free choice marriages (Xiaohe & Whyte, 1990) and it is perceived as robust/healthy marriages in contrast to love-matched marriages which is regarded as fragile and ephemeral short-lived (Grover, 2009).

Mahathil and Benshoff (2008) conducted a research on Asian Indians in arranged marriages living in India, Asian Indians in arranged marriages living in United States, and Americans in marriages of choice who were married after marriageable age to compare in terms of marital satisfaction. Other factors are constant, the result indicated that Asian Indians in arranged marriages living in India are significantly more satisfied with their marriage and Asian Indians in arranged marriages living in United States are secondly more satisfied with their marriages than Americans in marriages of choice. In other words individuals who were married after marriageable age by the

arrangement of the third party were more satisfied with their marriage than love-matched married individuals.

Contrary to this, there are some findings that were indicated the poor marital adjustment of age appropriate-arranged marriages than love-matched counterparts. For example, Fox (1975) noted that individuals who married after marriageable age through arrangement have a lower level of marital adjustment than love-matched married counterparts. Like early marriages and unlike love-matched marriages, in age appropriate-arranged marriages, there is no equal sharing of house hold tasks in which the wife completed most of the house hold chores and there are very few tasks a husband contributed but he is usually the sole breadwinner and responsible for providing and protecting the family. The absence of house hold division of labor may affect marital adjustment. In line with this, Kingler and Riley (as cited in Dinna, 2005) revealed that marital satisfaction is the highest for couples that have worked out an equal and agreeable division of labor. Partners in arranged marriages are often more reserved; they do not directly or openly communicate their troubles and worries each other; with less equality and sharing of the structure of marriage than love-matched (Xioache & Whyte, 1990). All these affect the level of marital adjustment of partners. Lev-Wiesel and Al-Krenwi (1999) also added that in arranged marriages, couples do not share the same passion and intimacy as couples of autonomous marriages.

### **2.3.3. Love-matched Marriage**

Selecting a partner and entering to a marital contract is considered as both maturational milestone and personal achievement (Hashmi et al., 2007). Moderal et al. (cited in Madathils & Benshoff, 2008) also added that falling in love and selecting a potential mate is considered as a normal developmental task of late adolescents and young adults. This implies that love-matched

married individuals consider marriage after marriageable age. Supporting this Fox (1975) stated that couples in love-matched consider the time of marriage between the age of 21-31 ideally.

Love-matched marriage arrangement is described as in opposition to arranged marriages (Dinna, 2005; Donner, 2002; Swaninthan, 1995). Here the young person has the great amount of freedom shouldering the responsibility in selecting and determining both the marriage partner and the time of marriage (Bowman & Spanier, 1978; Newman & Newman, 1979; Xiaohe & Whyte, 1990). This implies that, the choice of the marriage partner wholly/solely on the hands of the marriage partners who are involved in the union (Fox, 1975; Dinna, 2005). So that in love-matched marriages, partners know each other very well before the wedding is conducted (Dinna, 2005).

Unlike age appropriate-arranged and early marriage arrangements, the selection the prospective spouse is based on the criteria of romantic love (Huston, Niehuis, & Smith, 2001; Lee & Store, 1980; Madathils & Benshoff, 2008), that is friendship, compatibility, and sexual gratification (Dinna, 2005; Bowman & Spanier, 1978), interpersonal attraction (Lee & Store, 1980; Madathils & Benshoff, 2008), affection and their perspective mate as a caring and understanding person (Huston et al., 2001). This is love precedes or prerequisites to determine marriage and less thought is given to socio-economic aspects of the match (Bowman & Spanier, 1978; Huston et al., 2001; Madathils & Benshoff, 2008) and it is seen as a strong binding force capable of fusing two individuals in to one cohesive unit (Fox, 1975). Unlike arranged marriages, in love-matched marriages both the husband and the wife are involved in the house hold responsibilities and caring for their family finances (Wolf, 1996).

Research noted the basic advantage of love-matched marriage is that, when the young people freed from family dictates and controls, they are able to select partners according to the criteria of love and personal compatibility, and the result should be happier marriages (Xiaohe & Whyte, 1990). According to Xiaohe and Whyte the freedom of mate choice contributes to marital stability and quality of intact marriages. So that the chance of finding satisfaction is greater, when individuals are able to choose whom he/she wants to marry (Donner, 2002). If partners are free and independent to choose each other, they express and renegotiate about their feelings openly, they develop their own rules and expectations about marital roles (Boykin, 2004); and partners become very close and rely on each other emotionally than partners of arranged marriages; as a result they have better adjustment than counter parts (Boykin, 2004; Xiaohe & Whyte, 1990). Love-matched marriages tend to significantly more often to have equalitarian and more open structure of marriage than arranged marriages that tends to be a traditional with husband dominate, sex segregation, and construction of the wife's world (Fox, 1975). So that spouses of love-matched feel better about their marriage, more satisfied and have better adjustment with their marital relationship than arranged marriages, regardless of the length of time in marriage (Xiaohe and Whyte, 1990).

The study conducted by Lev-Wiesel and Al-Krenawi (1999) among the Arab in Israel also indicated that age appropriate-arranged marriages showed significantly lower level of marital quality as compared to autonomous marriages since the higher score means higher adjustment. Dinna's, (2005) research result in India also showed that participants from love-matched marriage had higher mean score than participants from age appropriate-arranged marriage for all the four dimensions of marital adjustment. These differences were statistically significant except affectional expression dimension.

On the other hand according to traditionalists, allowing young people to choose their own spouses, they may be blinded by love and overlook the areas of personal incompatibility, and will become apparent and causes a problem latter in the marriage (Xiaohe & Whyte, 1990) and increase marital instability (Bowman & Spanier, 1978). Traditionalists also criticized that the relationship of spouses in love-matched marriage starts out hot and grow cold. Implies, love-matched partners typically involve a very intense romantic involvement before the wedding, after the wedding, the reality sets in and some combination of domestic chores, child care burden, financial anxieties, and mundane life with a less inevitable decline in romantic feelings and satisfaction with the relationship that affects the overall marital adjustment (Xiaohe and Whyte, 1990). Moreover, the love bond between spouses can be loosen or undermine the individual's commitment and alliance to the family unit by replacing with commitment of a spouse (Fox, 1975). As result families have no contact and communication with each other, and they may unable to mediate during marital distress and conflict (Grover, 2009).

### **2.3.2. Demographic Factors**

In this sub-section of the literature the most important demographic factors that influences marital adjustment such as sex, age at marriage, length of marriage, and the number of children are reviewed.

Sex is one of the most important demographic factors that create marital relationship difference. Much of the research in marriage indicated the presence of differences between men and women in their marital relationship. Typically, in many lasting marriages, it is the wife who is unhappy than the husband (Olson & Defrian, 2000). Because many women enter in marriage having completed less work on their identity; having little or no preparation for child bearing and child rearing; and being dependent on their husbands for financial security and social status (Newman& Newman, 1979). Local

study conducted by Tsehay (2005) also indicated that married males had significantly higher level of marital quality than married females.

A number of studies have also been conducted to see whether there are differences in marital adjustment between husbands and wives in different marriage types. For example, Madathil and Benshoff (2008) and Dinna (2005) reported that there were no significant differences found between husbands and wives of age appropriate-arranged marriages whereas there was a significant difference between husbands and wives of love-matches in their marital adjustment (i.e. men had lower total adjustment score than women).

On the other hand, Xiaohe and Whyte (1990) reported that wives of autonomous marriages were happier than husbands whereas husbands of arranged marriages were happier than wives. In the same line Dinna (2005) indicated that females in age appropriate-arranged marriages were scored relatively higher mean score in satisfaction and affectional expression dimensions than males. But males had higher score than females in cohesion dimension and they were equal in consensus dimension. However, these differences were not statistically significant in all dimensions. In relation to early marriage, the researcher did not come across previous research findings that indicate the presence or absence of sex difference(s) in marital adjustment among early married individuals.

Age at marriage has been found to be the other important factor for marital success or failure in most of the literatures surrounding marital relationship. Age at marriage has been an influence on marital quality, stability, satisfaction, and adjustment (Boykin, 2004; Ji & Norling, 2004; Kurdek, 1991; Levine & Hennessey, 1990; Linda & Beard, 1986). According to these researchers people who marry latter in their lives are more likely to have higher marital quality, stability, satisfaction, and adjustment than those who

were married at a younger age. In general, people who married very young had poor marital adjustment than those who married at later age (Burgess, et al., 1978; Bowman & Spanier, 1978). Since, age is related to social and emotional maturity, individuals marrying at especially early ages may find it difficult to cope with the adjustment of early marriage which leads both partners greatly increased stress, marital instability, and lower marital quality (Moris & Carters, 1999); lower marital satisfaction (Levine & Hennessey, 1990); and poor adjustment in marriage (Bowman & Spanier, 1978). Moreover, Lee (1997) indicated the presence of positive correlation between age at marriage and overall score of marital quality i.e. older age married individuals had more marital quality than younger age married individuals. The local study conducted by Tsehay (2005) also demonstrated that older age married individuals have shown significantly higher mean scores of marital satisfaction than younger age married individuals.

Concerning the level of partners' marital adjustment across time, marital adjustment begins to decline during the first years of marriage and appears to be further accelerated by the birth of the first child; and the intensity of the decline in adjustment begins to lessen several years after marriage (Bowman & Spanier, 1978). In addition, other researchers Olson & Defrain (2000) have found out that marital quality tends to decrease over the time. Put in other words, as partners stayed more and more years in marriage, their over all level of marital adjustment goes downwards.

As studies demonstrated that the number of children has been a contributing factor for a decline in marital adjustment. Most researchers have indicated the presence of a negative correlation between the number of children and marital adjustment of partners. For example, Burgess, et al., (1971) suggested that there is an inverse relationship between the number of children and marital adjustment. Burgess, et al. further stated that couples with two or

more children have significantly lower marital adjustment scores than childless or one child couples. Similarly, Eshelman (1991) also indicated that marital quality is lowest for marital partners with many children than for partners with fewer children.

On the contrary local studies conducted by Tsehay (2005) showed that the mean score of married persons who have five and above children were higher followed by those who have one up to four children and in turn by those who have no children on marital satisfaction.

## **2.4. Summary and Implications**

Marriage is the union of a man and a woman as a husband and a wife which is considered to be one of the developmental tasks of most individuals in their life time. To know whether marriage is successful or not, a good indicator is measuring of marital adjustment. Marital adjustment is found on the continuum ranges from low level of adjustment to high level of adjustment. Marital adjustment encompasses four dimensions. These include consensus, satisfaction, cohesion, and affectional expression. The higher score indicates the higher level of marital adjustment and low score indicates the lower level of marital adjustment. The same is true for each of the four dimensions.

In early marriage, parents/elders select a mate and arrange marriage for their children before the spouses reach 18 years old. This is practiced before children develop and ready physically, psychologically, and socially to shoulder the many responsibilities of marriage through the assumption that the partners grow and mature together. Many researchers noted that early marriage arrangements affect the physical, intellectual, psychological, and social domains of the child and causes to become martially distressed and

poorly adjusted. However, some researchers indicated the presence of successful early marriage.

Parents/elders also make an arrangement for their marriageable children based on non-romantic criteria. But partners in this of marriage arrangement have a commitment to love and rely on each other later; this makes marriage more stable and well-adjusted. However, researchers also noted the presence of poorly adjusted individuals who were married in this marriage arrangement.

Love-matched marriage arrangement is described in opposition to age appropriate-arranged and early marriage arrangements because the partners know and love each other before marriage and arrange their own marriage with out the intervention of the third party. So that love-matched married spouses have better adjustment than arranged married spouses. On the other hand, some researchers indicated the presence of love-matched partners who are maritally unhappy, dissatisfied, and poor adjustment than arranged married partners.

Generally, there are differences between husbands and wives in their marital relationships; most of the time wives are unhappy than husbands. Specifically, husbands have low marital adjustment than wives in love-matched marriages whereas there are no differences between husbands and wives of age appropriate-arranged marriages. But the previous researchers were not investigating whether there are differences found between early married husbands and wives. Hence, this research is expected to provide some information in order to fill this gap. Marital adjustment is positively correlated with age at marriage and negatively related to the length of marriage and the number of children.

Having all these in mind, the present researcher was tried to assess the presence of local studies and found out that, there are local studies conducted on marriage but none of these studies dealt with the marital adjustment of individuals. The already existed western literatures are also inconsistent and controversial about the issue. So bearing the limitedness of the studies in this basic area, the present researcher tries to compare the marital adjustment of early married, age appropriate-arranged married, and love-matched married persons of Motta Administrative Town.

### **III. METHODS**

#### **3.1. Data Sources**

##### **3.1.1. Location**

The study was conducted at Motta Kentiba Administrative Town, found in Eastern Gojjam Zone of the Amhara Regional State. The Town is located 370 km north of Addis Ababa and 120 km south of the capital of Amhara Regional State, Bahir Dar. The economic activity of the Town is highly dependent on trade and agriculture. There are Orthodox Christians and Muslims in the Town.

The reason why the researcher wanted to conduct the research in Motta Town is that first and foremost, the researcher has background knowledge about the area and this familiarity would facilitate data collection. Second, the researcher feels that early marriage appears more common in the area than other parts of the rural towns in Ethiopia so that it is easier to get married individuals in all the three marriage arrangements.

##### **3.1.2. Population**

According to the Administrative office, the population size of the Town is approximately 70,739 living in eight Kebeles. Out of this figure 8,811 are married couples and 3,768 are female headed families. The target population included is all married individuals staying in their marriage from three to eighteen years with the present partner. Because the first few years of marriage involve a process of mutual adaptation and these years may prove to be extremely difficult, particularly because the young married partners do not anticipate the strains that are to come (Newman & Newman, 1979). On the other hand, in the later years of marriage (i.e. when partners are old), they may need a great number of adjustments hence; in these times females reach at menopause, children move from home, retirement, and aging. Therefore,

the researcher was interested to investigate the marital adjustment of individuals who have been married and staying in marriage between three to eighteen years with the present partner.

### **3.1.3. Sample**

The researcher decided to include 210 participants with equal numbers from each marriage arrangements. Accordingly, a sample of 210 married individuals (105 males and 105 females) was selected using purposive sampling technique from the population. In the sample, 70 (35 males and 35 females) were early married individuals; 70 (35 males and 35 females) were age appropriate-arranged married individuals; and the rest 70 (35 males and 35 females) were love-matched married individuals. The reason why the researcher used purposive sampling technique is that, the Administrative Town has not documented information on marriage specifically that shows the profile of early, age appropriate-arranged, and love-matched married individuals of the Town, so this makes very difficult to prepare sampling frame and select participants randomly.

### **3.2. Instrument**

The instrument has two parts; the first part consists of researcher developed questionnaire that asked the socio-demographic characteristics of participants including age, sex, age at the present marriage, duration of the present marriage, marriage arrangements and the number of children in the present marriage. The second part encompasses a rating scale to measure the overall marital adjustment of early married, age appropriate-arranged married, and love-matched married participants. It consists of 36 items that cluster in to the four subscales namely: consensus, cohesion, satisfaction, and affectional expression. Half of these items were adapted from Spanier (as cited in Dinna, 2005; Spanier & Bowman, 1978) and the other half items were developed by the researcher. The reason why the researcher added these

items was to increase the number of items and to include more contextualized items. The items of the scale are arranged on the three point rating scales (1 = disagree, 2 = sometimes disagree/sometimes agree, and 3 = agree for some items and 1 = never, 2 = sometimes, and 3 = mostly for the other items) on which data collectors rate based on participants' responses.

The length of the subscales vary in length; consensus has 13 items (scores range from 13 to 39), satisfaction has 10 items (scores range from 10 to 30), cohesion has seven items (scores range from seven to 21), and affectional expression has six items (scores range from six to 18), and the total adjustment scale has 36 items (scores range from 36 to 118).

### **3.3. Procedures**

#### **3.3.1. Construction**

As mentioned before, half of the adjustment scale items i.e. items listed from item number 1-11 and 16-23 (see in the appendix) were adapted from Spanier (as cited in Dinna, 2005; Spanier & Bowman, 1978) and the researcher tried to make these items contextualized with the culture of the society to whom the study was conducted. The other half numbers of the items of the instrument i.e. items listed from item number 12-15 and 24-36 (see in the appendix) were constructed by the researcher based on the literature. Most of the items of Spanier's instrument have five and six scales, but to make the instrument easy and understandable to the participants, the researcher narrow the scales in to three levels. Hence, all the adapted and constructed items are arranged in to three point rating scales. Finally, the instrument was translated from English version to Amharic version for data collection.

### **3.3.2. Validation**

Pilot test was conducted to check the presence of early married, age appropriate-arranged married and love-matched married persons in Motta Administrative Town, and the reliability and validity of the instrument. Twenty married (i.e. eight early married, seven age appropriate-arranged married, and five love-matched married) individuals were selected from Motta Administrative Town. Next, participants were instructed to give their own answer after the researcher read each items of the rating scale to them. After collecting the data, Cronbach Alpha was carried out to check the reliability of the total marital adjustment scale and the four sub-scales. Based on the result, four items which lowered the reliability value of the total instrument were discarded. Hence, the reliability of the total items was found to be .83; and the reliability index of the four sub-scales (i.e. consensus, satisfaction, cohesion, and affectional expression) was found to be .84, .71, .83, .63 respectively. One second year post graduate student from language department evaluated the grammatical coordination, clarity, and readability of the items in the instrument. Besides, the advisor and two second year post graduate students of developmental psychology examined the contextual appropriateness of terms included in the instrument. Consequently, their comments indicated the presence of clarity problems and inclusion of taboo words related to sex on some items of the instrument. Based on their suggestions and the observed understanding difficulties during piloting, some modifications were made and the instrument was constructed to collect the final data for the main study.

### **3.3.3. Administration**

After validating the instrument, the researcher gave detailed orientation to five assistant data collectors who are first degree holders and intimate friends to the researcher that are working in different offices of the Administrative Town. Assistant data collectors were instructed to identify one of the volunteer

partners (i.e. either the husband or the wife) and then give information about the purpose of the research. Then data collectors asked participants' consent, at what age they married the present partner, the type of marriage arrangement, and how many years staying with their present partner in marriage. Accordingly, individuals who were volunteered, married by one of the three marriage arrangements, and staying in marriage with the present partner from three to eighteen years were selected and participated in the study. Individuals who were not fully volunteered and hesitated to participate were not included in the research. Participants were reminded about the confidentiality of the information they were provide.

To make the administration uniform, the instrument was read to all participants by the data collectors and participants were required to hear statements of the readers and then tell their degree of agreement with the item on the mentioned ranging scales, so that the data collectors made a mark based on respondents' choice. Clear explanations were given to those participants who have some difficulties to understand the items during data collection. Data collectors checked whether all the items were answered or not for each participant before they said thank you and good bye. Finally, all the questionnaires were collected and ready for scoring.

#### **3.3.4. Scoring**

After collecting the data, the responses were scored. First, the researcher carefully reviewed whether or not there are skipped questions but there were not. Second, items were grouped under the four subscales of marital adjustment and they got their own code. Scoring for some of the items were reversed prior to scoring because some items were worded in negative forms [(e.g. item 16, item 17, item 19, item 20, item 28, item 29, item 30, item 32, item 33, and item 36) see in the appendix] and the others are worded positively. Data quality was further ensured by double data entry and

immediate rectification of discrepancies found between the two data sets. Third, the total marital adjustment score is generated by summing the scores of each individual item of the subscales which ranging from 36 to 118 with the higher scores reflect the higher level of marital adjustment.

### **3.3.5. Analysis**

In order to analyze the collected data, the following statistical techniques were used.

- Descriptive statistics (i.e. minimum, maximum, mean, and standard deviation) were used to describe the major demographic characteristics of the participants, the general patterns of participants' marital adjustment, and the marital adjustment of the early, age appropriate-arranged and love matched married individuals.
- One Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was applied to identify if there is a significant difference in the level of marital adjustment among early, age appropriate-arranged, and love-matched married individuals. Further, Scheffe Post Hoc comparison was employed to examine the pair wise differences of the study groups.
- Pearson correlation was used to identify whether there is a significant relationship between marital adjustment and age at the present marriage, duration of the present marriage, and number of children in the present marriage.
- Independent sample t-tests were also employed to see whether there are significant differences between male and female participants under each marriage arrangement.

Besides, all quantitative computations were done with the help of the Statistical Package for the Social Science version 12 (SPSS-12) computer program.

## **IV. RESULTS**

The major objective of this study was to compare the marital adjustment of early married, age appropriate-arranged married, and love-matched married individuals. Therefore, this chapter generally deals with the presentation, analysis, and interpretation of data based on the formulated research equations. The results are presented in the following manner. Under the first section, the major background information of the participants is presented. In the second section, marital adjustment by marriage arrangements (early, age appropriate-arranged and love-matched) is analyzed. In the third section, the marital adjustments of the three groups with specific reference to the four dimensions of marital adjustment (i.e. consensus, satisfaction, cohesion, and affectional expression) are compared. Next, the correlations between marital adjustment and age at the present marriage, duration of the present marriage, and number of children are displayed. Then, analyses are made on male and female participants' marital adjustments. Finally, male and female differences with specific reference to the four dimensions of marital adjustment are presented.

### **4.1. Demographic Characteristics of Respondents**

Descriptive statistics (i.e. minimum, maximum, mean, and standard deviations) were used to present summary of demographic characteristics of the participants.

As it is indicated in Table 1 below, the total number of participants for this study were 210, consisting of 105(50%) male and 105(50%) females. Among these participants, 70 were from early marriages; 70 were from age appropriate-arranged marriages; and the other 70 were from love-matched marriages. The table also indicates equal numbers of male and female participants were taken from each type of marriage.

**Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of Respondents**

No	Variables		Marriage arrangements					
			Early marriage		Age appropriate -arranged marriage		Love-matched marriage	
			Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	Age at the present marriage	Minimum	13	9	18	18	20	18
		Maximum	17	17	40	36	37	28
		Mean	16.31	14.57	25.29	21.23	25.66	21.17
		SD	1.05	1.88	5.46	3.61	4.47	2.77
		N	35	35	35	35	35	35
		Total	70		70		70	
2	Duration of the present marriage	Minimum	4	4	3	3	3	3
		Maximum	18	18	18	18	18	18
		Mean	12.14	13.31	9.74	10.37	7.37	8.20
		SD	4.45	3.63	4.75	4.65	4.14	4.95
		N	35	35	35	35	35	35
		Total	70		70		70	
3	Present age	Minimum	20	18	24	24	24	22
		Maximum	35	34	47	43	48	40
		Mean	29.60	26.66	35.66	30.97	33.86	28.54
		SD	4.07	4.65	6.27	4.85	6.85	5.07
		N	35	35	35	35	35	35
		Total	70		70		70	

As mentioned above, all participants of early marriage married before they reach the age of 18 years. So, their minimum and maximum age at the

present marriage were found under this age. As Table 1, number 1 shows, the minimum age of early married male and female participants were 13 and 9 years respectively at the time of marriage with the present partner. However, the maximum ages of male and female participants at marriage were the same i.e. 17 years old. On the other hand, all age appropriate-arranged and love-matched married individuals were married at 18 years or above. The minimum age at marriage for both male and female appropriate arranged married participants were 18 years old at the present marriage while the maximum age at marriage were 40 for males and 36 for females. The same table revealed that 20 and 18 years at marriage were the minimum age for male and female love-matched married participants respectively. In the same group, the maximum ages at marriage were 37 for males and 28 for females.

When we come to the mean age of participants at the time of marriage with the present partner, male and female early married participants had 16.31 and 14.57 respectively while 25.29 for males and 21.23 for females were the mean age of age appropriate-arranged married participants at marriage. The rest 25.66 and 21.17 were the mean age of male and female love-matched married individuals respectively. That is, male participants in all the three marriage arrangements had higher mean age at the time of marriage with the present partner than female participants.

Respondents were asked about how long they have been stayed with their present partner in marriage. As the results presented in Table 1, number 2 above showed that the minimum duration of years, participants stayed in marriage with the present partner were 4 for early married individuals and 3 for both age appropriate-arranged and love-matched married individuals. However, for all the three group of participants the maximum years they have been married was 18 years. In general, early married participants have been stayed longer (i.e. male  $M=12.14$  and female  $M=13.31$ ) years in the present

marriage followed by age appropriate-arranged (i.e. male M =9.74 and female M= 10.37) and then in turn by love-matched (i.e. male M= 7.37 and female M = 8.20) married participants.

In the same Table, number 3 indicates that the minimum present age of early married participants were 20 and 18 for males and females respectively. While the minimum present age for age appropriate-arranged married males and females were the same i.e. 24. Similarly, the minimum present age of love-matched participants were found to be 24 for males and 22 for females. With regard to the maximum present age of the respondents, early married individuals' age were 35 for males and 34 for females and 47 and 43 years were for age appropriate-arranged married males and females respectively. While maximum age of love-matched married males and females were 48 and 40 respectively.

Generally, 29.60 and 26.66 were the mean age of early married participants for males and females respectively while age appropriate-arranged married individuals had the mean age of 35.66 for males and 30.97 for females. Similarly, love-matched married participants had a mean age of 33.86 and 28.54 for males and females respectively.

#### **4.2. Patterns of Marital Adjustment**

In an attempt to see the general patterns of marital adjustment, descriptive statistics was used to present all participants' average scores on each item of the four dimensions of marital adjustment. As presented in chapter three, the data were collected by the instrument which has 36 items grouped under the four subscales and leveled in to three ratings indicating *one is a minimum score, two is an average score/the mid point of the scale, and three is a maximum score*. The following four consecutive tables (Table 2, Table 3, Table

4, and Table 5) show the patterns of marital adjustment on each marital adjustment dimensions. (Min=minimum, Max=Maximum, SD=Standard Deviation).

**Table 2. Patterns of Marital Adjustment on Consensus Items (N =210)**

No	Items	Min	Max	Mean	SD
1	Controlling, allocating and proper use of family finance	1	3	2.65	.52
2	How to invite, participate, and play with neighborhoods and relatives at different holidays, 'mahiber', and other ceremonies	1	3	2.76	.49
3	Religious matters like go to church/mosque, participating at different praying programs, spiritual charity, and other religious activities	1	3	2.70	.54
4	The number and character of friends partners have	1	3	2.44	.59
5	Good behaviors a partner deserve and bad behaviors avoid	1	3	2.47	.60
6	Shouldering the duties and responsibilities in marriage	1	3	2.61	.58
7	When and how visit and help families and close relatives	1	3	2.59	.56
8	The number of children and how to rear them	1	3	2.57	.60
9	Amount of time spent together for example, on how much time stayed together in different picnics and neighborhood coffee ceremonies	1	3	2.50	.61
10	Making decisions based on discussing together that are important for marriage and life	1	3	2.66	.56
11	Division of labor in and out of the house	1	3	2.43	.68
12	Preparations at holidays and other invitation days in and out of the house	1	3	2.76	.48
13	Identifying who commits the mistakes after the disagreement occur between partners and solving problems based on discussion	1	3	2.48	.62
<b>Mean of total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2.59</b>	<b>.57</b>

Table 2 above presents the general patterns of participants' marital adjustment on the consensus dimension. The table shows that participants had mean scores ( $\geq 2.50$ ) closer to the maximum level of rating on the

majority (9) of the consensus items. On the other hand, participants had mean scores (<2.50) closer to the average level of rating on few (4) of consensus items. As a result the average rating on the subscale is generally 2.59 which means partners agreed on important matters in marital relationship most of the time.

**Table 3. Patterns of Marital Adjustment on Satisfaction Items (N =210)**

No	Items	Min	Max	Mean	SD
1	Extent of partners discuss about divorce, separation, or termination of your relationship	1	3	2.61	.59
2	Extent of a partner leaves the house after fight	1	3	2.79	.44
3	Extent of a partner confide in a partner only to be his/her own	1	3	2.70	.65
4	Extent of partners regret that are being married	1	3	2.48	.67
5	Extent of partners make each other nerves	1	3	2.22	.57
6	Extent of partners sure that not to divorce marriage in spite of problems and crisis	1	3	2.43	.78
7	Extent of partners jealous about others marriage rather than theirs	1	3	2.52	.64
8	Extent of partners thinking about remarry the other person	1	3	2.65	.62
9	Extent of partners feeling about the happiness that they want to get from marriage	1	3	2.62	.61
10	Extent of partners wish not to marry the present partner	1	3	2.66	.58
<b>Mean of total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2.57</b>	<b>.61</b>

As can be seen in Table 3 above, respondents scored means (>2.50) closer to the maximum level of rating on the majority (7) of satisfaction items. However, respondents had mean scores (<2.50) closer to the average level of rating on few (3) of satisfaction items. In other words, respondents had 2.57

average scores on the over all items of the subscale which indicates that partners had above average marital satisfaction in marital life.

**Table 4. Patterns of Marital Adjustment on Cohesion Items (N =210)**

No	Items	Min	Max	Mean	SD
1	Extent of partners engage in out side interests and activities together	1	3	2.23	.60
2	Extent of partners conduct open and participatory discussion	1	3	2.51	.59
3	Extent of partners share personal secrets openly	1	3	2.51	.65
4	Extent of partners understand and fulfill each others' feelings	1	3	2.57	.61
5	Extent of partners on the side of each other during happy and grief situations	1	3	2.84	.43
6	Extent of a partner make decisions alone before discussing together	1	3	2.36	.57
7	Extent of partners give appreciation and support for the achievement of their works	1	3	2.43	.66
<b>Mean of total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2.49</b>	<b>.56</b>

Table 4 above reveals the general patterns of participants' marital adjustment on cohesion dimension. Hence, respondents had mean scores (>2.50) closer to the maximum level of rating on all most half (4) of the cohesion dimension items. Nevertheless, respondents had mean scores (<2.50) closer to the average level of rating on the other (3) cohesion items. In general, the average rating on the subscale is generally 2.49, implies that participants had above average scores on cohesion dimension with their partners in marital life.

**Table 5. Patterns of Marital Adjustment on Affectional Expression Items (N =210)**

No	Items	Min	Max	Mean	SD
1	Expression of love and affection to each other	1	3	2.69	.51
2	Having mutually pleasurable and satisfying sexual relationship	1	3	2.61	.57
3	Extent of partners kiss each other to express their affection	1	3	2.09	.71
4	Extent of unhappy sexual relationship is a drawback in marriage	1	3	2.56	.69
5	Extent of partners' sexual life is pleasurable and interesting	1	3	2.64	.56
6	Extent of a partner make sexual intercourse with out interest	1	3	2.52	.64
<b>Mean of total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2.52</b>	<b>.61</b>

Table 5 above depicts that participants had mean scores (>2.50) closer to the maximum level of rating in almost all of affectional expression items except the one. Put in other words, the average rating on the subscale is generally 2.52 which means participants had affectional expression in marital relationship most of the time.

### **4.3. Marital Adjustment by Marriage Arrangements**

In order to examine whether there are differences in marital adjustment among participants of the three marriage arrangements, descriptive statistics (means and standard deviations), One Way ANOVA, and Scheffe Post Hoc analysis of multiple comparisons were used and presented in the following three consecutive tables (i.e. Table 6, Table 7, Table 8) here under.

**Table 6. Descriptive Statistics for Marriage Arrangements on Marital Adjustment (N = 210)**

Marriage Arrangements	Statistics		
	N	Mean	SD
Early	70	87.53	10.01
Age appropriate-arranged	70	92.41	10.48
Love-matched	70	95.71	7.92
Total	210	91.88	10.07

As can be displayed in Table 6, love-matched married individuals seems to have a higher mean score  $M = 95.71$  than the other groups of participants. Age appropriate-arranged married individuals seems to follow by a mean score of  $M = 92.41$  and then early married individuals with a mean score of  $M = 87.53$ . Since, the highest mean score is related to better marital adjustment, love-matched married individuals seems to have better marital adjustment than age appropriate-arranged married and in turn early married individuals. But whether the difference in marital adjustment is statistically significant or not other advanced statistical test (i.e. One Way ANOVA) were used and presented in the next table.

In order to examine whether there is a significant difference among early married, age appropriate-arranged married, and love-matched married individuals in terms of their marital adjustment, One Way ANOVA was carried out. The results are presented in Table 7 below.

**Table 7. One Way ANOVA for Marital Adjustment by Marriage Arrangements (N = 210)**

Sources of Variation	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F
Between Groups	2374.54	2	1187.27	13.07*
Within Groups	18808.71	207	90.86	
Total	21183.26	209		

\*P<0.05

The result in Table 7 indicated that there was statistically significant difference in marital adjustment among early married, age appropriate-arranged married, and love-matched married individuals ( $F(2,207) = 13.07, p < 0.05$ ).

The F- test above in Table 7 only shows the presence of significant differences among the participants of the three marriage arrangements. But it cannot locate where the differences lied. Therefore, in order to locate where the differences were existed, Scheffe Post Hoc Test was employed and results are presented in Table 8 below.

**Table 8. Scheffe Post Hoc Test for Marital Adjustment by Marriage Arrangements (N = 210)**

Marriage Arrangements (I)	Marriage Arrangements (J)	
	Age appropriate-arranged	Love-matched
Early	-4.89*	-8.19*
Age appropriate-arranged		-3.30

\*P<0.05

The results of Scheffe multiple comparison test (I-J) in Table 8 revealed that statistically significant differences were observed when early married individuals were compared with age appropriate-arranged married and love-matched married individuals. That is, early married individuals had less mean score on marital adjustment followed by age appropriate-arranged and in turn by love-matched married counter parts. Scheffe multiple comparison test also indicated that there was no significant difference found between age appropriate-arranged married and love-matched married individuals in their marital adjustment mean scores.

#### **4.4. Dimensions of Marital Adjustment by Marriage Arrangements**

As regards marital adjustment dimensions, descriptive statistics (means and standard deviations), One Way ANOVA, and Scheffe Post Hoc test of multiple comparisons were used in order to examine whether there was a difference among the three groups of participants. The following three consecutive tables (i.e. Table 9, Table 10, and Table 11) below are indicative of these results.

As it can be displayed in Table 9 below, the mean score of participants on the four dimensions of marital adjustment seems to differ from marriage arrangement to marriage arrangement. That is, as compared to the three groups on these marital adjustment dimensions, love-matched married participants seems to have higher mean scores followed by age appropriate-arranged married and in turn by early married participants in all the four marital adjustment dimensions.

**Table 9. Descriptive Statistics for Marital Adjustment Dimensions by Marriage Arrangements (N = 210)**

Marital Adjustment Dimensions	Marriage Arrangements	Statistics		
		N	Mean	Standard Deviation
Consensus	Early	70	31.83	4.52
	Age appropriate-arranged	70	34.06	4.78
	Love-matched	70	35.01	3.97
Satisfaction	Early	70	24.44	3.36
	Age appropriate-arranged	70	26.04	3.66
	Love-matched	70	26.57	2.84
Cohesion	Early	70	16.86	2.71
	Age appropriate-arranged	70	17.34	2.36
	Love-matched	70	18.17	2.15
Affectional Expression	Early	70	14.40	2.18
	Age appropriate-arranged	70	14.97	2.00
	Love-matched	70	15.96	1.88

One Way ANOVA was used to examine whether there is statistically significant differences among the three groups with regard to marital adjustment dimensions. As can be seen from Table 10 below, significant differences were observed among early, age appropriate-arranged, and love-matched married individuals with regard to all the four dimensions of marital adjustment i.e. consensus ( $F_{(2,207)} = 9.51, p < 0.05$ ), satisfaction ( $F_{(2,207)} = 7.89, p < 0.05$ ), cohesion ( $F_{(2,207)} = 5.28, p < 0.05$ ), and affectional expression ( $F_{(2,207)} = 10.61, p < 0.05$ ).

**Table 10. One Way ANOVA for Dimensions of Marital Adjustment by Marriage Arrangements (N = 210)**

Marital Adjustment Dimensions	Sources of Variation	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F
Consensus	Between Groups	374.07	2	187.03	9.51*
	Within Groups	4070.70	207	19.67	
	Total	4444.77	209		
Satisfaction	Between Groups	171.97	2	85.99	7.89*
	Within Groups	2257.29	207	10.91	
	Total	2429.26	209		
Cohesion	Between Groups	61.83	2	30.91	5.28*
	Within Groups	1212.29	207	5.86	
	Total	1274.11	209		
Affectional Expression	Between Groups	86.87	2	43.43	10.61*
	Within Groups	847.61	207	4.10	
	Total	934.48	209		

\*P<0.05

To locate the specific groups contributing to significant differences observed in Table 10 among participants of the three groups in the dimensions of marital adjustment, Scheffe Post Hoc multiple comparisons was done.

The results of Scheffe Post Hoc Test (I-J) in Table 11 below portrays that statistically significant difference were existed on early married individuals when compared with age appropriate-arranged and love-matched married individuals on consensus and satisfaction dimensions. That is, early married individuals had lower mean score on these two dimensions than their counter

parts from age appropriate-arranged and love-matched married individuals. However, there were no statistically significant differences found between age appropriate-arranged and love-matched married individuals on consensus and satisfaction dimensions.

**Table 11. Scheffe Post Hoc Test for Marital Adjustment Dimensions by Marriage Arrangements (N = 210)**

Marital Adjustment Dimensions	Marriage Arrangements (I)	Marriage Arrangements (J)	
		Age appropriate-arranged	Love-matched
Consensus	Early	-2.23*	-3.19*
	Age appropriate arranged		-.96
Satisfaction	Early	-1.60*	-2.13*
	Age appropriate arranged		-.53
Cohesion	Early	-.49	-1.31*
	Age appropriate arranged		-.83
Affectional Expression	Early	-.57	-1.56*
	Age appropriate arranged		-.99*

\*P<0.05

With regard to cohesion dimension significant difference was observed only between early and love-matched married individuals. Implies, early married individuals were scored less than love-matched married individuals on cohesion dimension. However, the mean score of age appropriate-arranged married individuals were not significantly different from the mean scores of both early and love-matched married participants on cohesion dimension of marital adjustment.

#### 4.5.2. Marital Adjustment by Marriage Arrangements and Sex

In order to see if there is a significant sex difference in participants' marital adjustment, independent sample t-test was used and results are depicted in Table 13 below.

**Table 13. Descriptive Statistics and t-values of Marital Adjustment by Marriage Arrangements and Sex (N=210)**

Marriage Arrangements	Sex	Statistics			
		N	Mean	SD	t-value
Early	Male	35	90.00	9.61	-2.12*
	Female	35	85.06	9.91	
Age appropriate-arranged	Male	35	94.29	7.77	-1.51
	Female	35	90.54	12.46	
Love-matched	Male	35	95.51	8.44	.210
	Female	35	95.91	7.48	

\*P<0.05

Table 13 shows that statistically significant difference was found only in the mean score of early married males and females in their marital adjustment. That is, the mean score of male marital adjustment was statistically higher ( $t = -2.12$ ,  $df = 68$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) than the mean score of female marital adjustment. Even if there was considerable difference in the mean scores between male and female participants of age appropriate-arranged marriage, the difference was not statistically significant. In addition, the result in the same table shows that there was no statistically significant difference found between love-matched married males and females in their mean score of marital adjustment.

### 4.5.3. Marital Adjustment Dimensions by Sex

In an attempt to compare males and females with specific reference to marital adjustment dimensions, independent sample t-test were used and presented in the following manner under the consecutive three tables (i.e. Table 14, Table 15, and Table 16).

**Table 14. Descriptive Statistics and t-values of Early Married Males and Females on Dimensions of Marital Adjustment (N = 70)**

Marital Adjustment Dimensions	Sex	N	Mean	SD	t-value
Consensus	Male	35	32.51	4.57	-1.28
	Female	35	31.14	4.43	
Satisfaction	Male	35	25.26	2.91	-2.09*
	Female	35	23.63	3.61	
Cohesion	Male	35	17.26	2.14	-1.24
	Female	35	16.46	2.19	
Affectional Expression	Male	35	14.94	2.20	-2.26*
	Female	35	13.83	2.02	

\*P<0.05

As shown in Table 14 presented above, statistically significant differences were observed between male and female early married participants on the satisfaction and affectional expression dimensions of marital adjustment. That means, the mean score of males on satisfaction dimension were higher than females ( $t = -2.09$ ,  $df = 68$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ). The same is true on affectional expression dimension, that is, the mean score of males were higher than females ( $t = -2.26$ ,  $df = 68$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ). However, there was no significant difference existed between male and female early-married participants on both consensus and cohesion dimensions.

**Table 15. Descriptive Statistics and t-values of Age Appropriate-arranged Married Males and Females on Dimensions of Marital Adjustment (N = 70)**

Marital Adjustment Dimensions	Sex	N	Mean	SD	t-value
Consensus	Male	35	34.57	4.26	-.90
	Female	35	33.54	2.26	
Satisfaction	Male	35	26.71	3.08	-1.55
	Female	35	25.37	4.09	
Cohesion	Male	35	17.51	1.74	-.61
	Female	35	17.17	2.86	
Affectional Expression	Male	35	15.49	1.70	-2.21*
	Female	35	14.46	2.16	

\*P<0.05

Regarding the comparison of male and female age appropriate-arranged married participants on the four dimensions of marital adjustment, statistically significant difference was seen only on the dimension of affectional expression. Implies that, the mean score of males was higher than the mean score of females on affectional expression dimension ( $t = -2.21$ ,  $df = 68$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). On the other hand, there were no statistically significant differences in male and female participants on the other three dimensions (i.e. consensus, satisfaction, and cohesion) of marital adjustment.

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**Table 16. Descriptive Statistics and t-values of Love-Matched Married Males and Females on Dimensions of Marital Adjustment (N = 70)**

Adjustment Dimensions	Sex	N	Mean	SD	t-value
Consensus	Male	35	34.77	3.49	.51*
	Female	35	35.26	4.43	
Satisfaction	Male	35	26.66	3.24	-.25*
	Female	35	26.49	2.42	
Cohesion	Male	35	18.06	2.29	.41*
	Female	35	18.29	2.04	
Affectional Expression	Male	35	16.03	1.65	-.32*
	Female	35	15.89	2.11	

\*P>0.05

As it can be seen in Table 16 above, all the independent sample t-test results revealed that, there were no statistically significant differences found between male and female love-matched married participants in all the four (i.e. consensus, satisfaction, cohesion, and affectional expression) dimensions of marital adjustment.

## **V. DISCUSSION**

This research was undertaken to compare the marital adjustment of early, age appropriate-arranged, and love-matched married persons. The discussion part focuses on the questions raised in chapter one and it is presented following the order in the list of questions.

### **5.1. Patterns of Marital Adjustment**

As it is presented in chapter three, the level of marital adjustment is determined based on the scores of items from the four sub scales i.e. consensus, satisfaction, cohesion, and affectional expression. In order to see the general patterns of marital adjustment among the participants, descriptive statistics specifically the mean scores of each items on each dimensions of marital adjustment was used. These descriptive values are demonstrated in Tables 2, 3, 4, and 5 in chapter four. The evidence from the findings of these tables indicated that all the mean scores of the participants were above the average/mid point (2.00) of the scale in all items of marital adjustment dimensions. That is, participants' mean scores on consensus, satisfaction, cohesion, and affectional expression scales were 2.59, 2.57, 2.49, and 2.52 respectively. Since there is no available previous research findings related to this finding (at least to the knowledge of the present researcher), it is not possible to discuss the findings in the light of the earlier findings.

### **5.2. Marital Adjustment by Marriage Arrangements**

The second question of the this study was meant to ascertain whether there is significant differences in marital adjustment among early, age appropriate-arranged and love-matched married individuals. The descriptive statistics result showed that love-matched married participants had higher mean score in marital adjustment followed by age appropriate-arranged and then in turn by early married individuals.

In order to identify if there was statistically significant difference among the three study groups, One Way ANOVA was used. The result revealed that statistically significant difference was observed in the mean score of marital adjustment among early married, age appropriate-arranged married, and love-matched married persons.

After a significant difference was found among early, age appropriate-arranged and love-matched groups, Scheffe Post Hoc pair wise comparison was carried out in order to further indicate the specific pair of means that creates the observed significant difference. The result showed that the highest mean score difference was found when early married individuals were compared with age appropriate-arranged and love-matched married individuals. However, there was no significant mean score difference between age appropriate-arranged and love-matched married individuals. This implies that age at marriage is a more important factor that influences partners' marital adjustment rather than the type of marriage arrangement. Along with this finding, Bowman and Spanier (1978) and Burgess, et al. (1971) reported that people who married very young had poor marital adjustment than those who married at later age. In addition, other researchers (Boykin, 2004; Ji & Norling, 2004; Kurdek, 1991; Levine & Hennessey, 1990; Linda & Beard, 1986) showed that people who marry latter in their lives are more likely to have higher marital quality, stability, satisfaction, and adjustment than those who were married at a younger age. Early married partners have greatly increased stress, marital instability, and lower marital quality (Moris & Carters, 1999); lower marital satisfaction (Levine & Hennessey, 1990); and poor adjustment in marriage (Bowman & Spanier, 1978). Because age is related to physical, social and psychological readiness and maturity which are very important for marital relationship (Mehandiratta et al., 2007; O'Neil, 1976).

As indicated in Table 1 in the finding section, the average duration of marriage for the three groups were 12.73, 10.06, and 7.79 for early, age appropriate-arranged, and love-matched married persons respectively and as the correlation result indicated that the duration of marriage and marital adjustment was negatively related even if it was not significant. Therefore, this may be one factor that reduces the level of early married persons' marital adjustment.

Moreover, there may be other variables such as age gap between partners, education, number and age of children, the presence or absence of informed consent at marriage, the number of times partners engage in marriage, the presence of step-children and relatives in the home and other possible factors might create this difference.

On the other hand no significant mean score difference was found between groups of age appropriate-arranged and love-matched married individuals. Inconsistent to this finding, Fox (1975) indicated that age appropriate-arranged marriages showed significantly lower level of marital quality as compared to autonomous marriages. However, there were considerable mean score difference between age appropriate-arranged and love-matched married persons that is love-matched groups had higher mean score than age appropriate-arranged groups. This finding is well supported by Lev-Wiesel and Al-Krenwi (1999) which stated that individuals who married after marriageable age through arrangement have lower level of marital adjustment than love-matched married counterparts. Xiaohe and Whyte (1990) also suggested that spouses of love-matched feel better about their marriage, more satisfied and have better adjustment with their marital relationship than arranged marriages. The difference may be accounted for the type of marriage arrangement, being other factors constant for both groups.

This is could be perhaps because when partners are free and independent to choose each other, they express and share their own previous experiences and 'develop their own rules and expectations about marital roles' (Boykin, 2004) before they are going to married so that partners may become very close and rely on each other emotionally. Therefore, this may contribute a lot to have equalitarian and open structure of marriage which in turn makes them to have better marital adjustment.

The other possible explanation could be, since love-matched married persons selected each other on the basis of love rather than considering the socio-economic aspects of the match, they may have the principle "if there is love..." and this may again contribute a lot to their better marital adjustment.

### **5.3. Dimensions of Marital Adjustment by Marriage Arrangements**

The general discussion on the difference in the overall level of marital adjustment among the three groups (i.e. early, age appropriate-arranged and love-matched) would be more elaborated if we see in terms of the four marital adjustment dimensions. This is related to the third question of the study that was formulated to compare early, age appropriate-arranged and love-matched married persons with specific reference to the four dimensions of marital adjustment. As mentioned in the result section, love-matched married individuals scored higher mean score followed by age appropriate-arranged married and then in turn by early married groups on all the four dimensions of marital adjustment. In line with these findings, Dinna (2005) showed that love-matched married individuals had higher mean score than age appropriate-arranged married individuals on all the four dimensions of marital adjustment.

The One Way ANOVA result revealed that there was statistically significant difference observed among the three groups on all the four dimensions of marital adjustment. In order to further indicate the pair of mean scores that differed one from the other, Scheffe Post Hoc comparison was used and the result disclosed that the highest mean score difference was existed when early married persons compared with age appropriate-arranged and love-matched married persons in both consensus and satisfaction dimensions. In this case the mean score of love-matched and age appropriate-arranged married individuals were exceeded the mean score of early married individuals. Hence, love-matched and age appropriate arranged married individuals have better agreement with their partners on “a variety of relationship issues such as finances, religious matters, dealing with parents and in-laws, house hold tasks.....” (Spanier & Lewis, as cited in Dinna, 2005; Prouty et al., 2000) and have higher level of satisfaction (i.e. having less discussion about divorce, leaving the house after fight, regretting marrying, getting each others nerves,...etc and high degree of commitment, happiness...etc) in their marital relationship than early married individuals. Nevertheless, statistically significant differences were not existed between age appropriate-arranged and love-matched married individuals in both consensus and satisfaction dimensions of marital adjustment.

Concerning the cohesion dimension, statistically significant difference was found between early and love-matched married individuals. That is, early married were significantly less than love-matched on cohesion dimension. Implies that love-matched married partners were more “connected, intimate, have mutual and stimulating sharing of activities,... etc” (Prouty, et al., 2000) than early married partners. But age appropriate-arranged married individuals were not significantly different from both early and love-matched married individuals on cohesion dimension of marital adjustment. With regard to affectional expression dimension, love-matched married individuals

were significantly different from early and age appropriate-arranged married individuals. Put in other words, love-matched married persons had significantly better affectional expression i.e. “sowing love (Prouty, et al., 2000); fulfillment of sexual needs (Mories & Carters,1999); appreciation (Okoh, 2008); ... etc” than early and age appropriate-arranged married persons. However, statistically significant differences were not obtained between early and age appropriate-arranged married individuals in this dimension of marital adjustment. Since there is no available research report specifically on this very issue (at least to the knowledge of the present researcher), it is not possible to discuss the findings in line with earlier findings.

## **5.4. Marital Adjustment by Demographic Factors**

### **5.4.1. The Relationship of Marital Adjustment by Demographic Variables**

In an attempt to examine whether there is significant relationship between marital adjustment and age at the present marriage, duration of the present marriage, and the number of children in the present marriage among all participants, Pearson correlation was done. As the result of the correlation indicated that, marital adjustment was positively and significantly related to age at the present marriage. This implies, as the age at marriage was higher, partners' level of marital adjustment becomes higher and vice versa. Supporting this finding, Tsehay (2005) reported that older age married individuals have shown that statistically significant higher mean scores of marital satisfaction than younger age married individuals. Lee (1997) also showed the presence of positive correlation between age at marriage and overall score of marital quality i.e. older age married individuals had more marital quality than younger age married individuals.

On the other hand, marital adjustment was negatively and insignificantly correlated with duration of the present marriage. To put in other words, as the number of years partners staying in marriage, the level of their marital adjustment becomes decreased but it is not significant. In line with this Bowman & Spanier, (1978) revealed that marital adjustment begins to decline during the first years of marriage and appears to be further accelerated by the birth the first child; and the intensity of the decline in adjustment begins to lessen several years after marriage. In addition, other researchers, Olson & Defrain (2000) have found out that marital quality tends to decrease over the time.

Similarly, marital adjustment was negatively and insignificantly related to the number of children in the present marriage. That is, as partners have more and more children, their marital adjustment becomes decline but it is not significant. In supporting this finding, Burgess, et al. (1971) indicated the presence of an inverse relationship between the number of children and the level of marital adjustment. That is, couples with two or more children have lower marital adjustment scores than childless or one child couples. Similarly, Eshelman (1991) indicated that marital quality is lowest for marital partners with many children than for partners with fewer children. However, Tsehay's (2005) local research finding is directly the opposite of the present finding that states the mean score of married persons who have five and above children were higher followed by those who have one up to four children and in turn by those who have no children on marital satisfaction.

#### **5.4.2. Marital Adjustment by Sex**

In order to address the question which was raised to see whether there is a significant difference in marital adjustment between males and females in each marriage arrangements, three separate independent sample t-tests were employed. A noteworthy result here indicated that there were statistically

significant differences between male and female early married persons in their mean score of marital adjustment. That is, the mean score of early married males were significantly higher than the mean score of early married females. Since, the higher score in the total scale is an indicative of better adjustment; early married males have better marital adjustment in their marriage than early married females. Though there is no available research report specifically on early married males and females (for the knowledge of the this researcher) related to their marital adjustment, this finding agrees with the general literature that was reported by Olson and Defrian (2000) which suggested that in many lasting marriages, it is the wife who is unhappy than the husband. The local study result conducted by Tsehay (2005) also supported that married males have significantly higher level of marital quality than married females.

There may be a number of possible explanations for such sex discrepancy in the marital adjustment of early married persons. One possible reason might be, many women enter in marriage having completed less work on their identity; having little or no preparation for child bearing and child rearing; and being dependent on their husbands for financial security and social status (Newman& Newman, 1979) so these may influence their marital adjustment. Another possible explanation could be early marriage is a harmful traditional practice with a lot of negative consequences and creates many problems especially for females (Belay, 2008) like reproductive health problems, physical and sexual abuse by the husband, early pregnancy and child birth, and difficulty of shouldering the many responsibilities of marriage. Consequently, all these problems may contribute to minimize the level of marital adjustment of early married females.

On the other hand as the independent sample t-test result of age appropriate-arranged married individuals revealed that although there was considerable

mean difference observed between males and females, difference was not statistically significant. This result is supported by the finding of Madathil and Benschhoff (2008) and Dinna (2005) which suggested that there were no significant differences found between husbands and wives of age appropriate-arranged marriages in marital adjustment. But the present finding contradicts with Whyte and Xiaohe (1990), stated that husbands of age appropriate-arranged marriages were happier than wives in the same marriage arrangement.

In similar manner the independent sample t-test result of love-matched married males and females disclosed that there was no statistically significant difference found between love-matched married males and females in the mean score of their marital adjustment. However, the result does not supported by the previous research findings. For example, Madathil and Benschhoff (2008) and Dinna (2005), noted that there was a significant difference between husbands and wives of love-matches in their marital adjustment (i.e. men had lower total adjustment score than women). In the same line, Whyte and Xiaohe (1990) also added that wives of autonomous marriages were happier than husbands.

#### **5.4.3. Marital Adjustment Dimensions by Sex**

The researcher was interested in looking at differences between the sexes concerning the four dimensions of marital adjustment. This touches the question that was meant to compare males and females with respect to the four dimensions of marital adjustment. To do this four separate independent sample t-tests were carried out for each of the three marriage arrangements.

Among the t-test results of early married participants, only significant differences were observed between males and females on both satisfaction and affectional expression marital adjustment dimensions. That is, early married

males had significantly higher mean score on satisfaction and affectional expression dimensions than early married females. Though there was no significant sex difference found on consensus and cohesion dimensions of marital adjustment, the mean scores of males were higher than the mean scores of females in both dimensions. Generally, early married males had higher mean scores in all of the four dimensions of marital adjustment than females. Unfortunately, research conducted in these specific areas were not available (as a knowledge of the present researcher) as a result the findings are unique to this research. This difference could be perhaps due to early marriage practices affect the overall personality of the child specially the female child (Amsalu, 2007) due to the before mentioned problems that female early married individuals faced.

In the assignment of looking at the significant sex differences of age appropriate-arranged married persons with specific reference to the four dimensions of marital adjustment, males were significantly higher than females only on affectional expression dimension. This result did not confirm the previous findings of Dinna (2005) which reported the absence of statistically significant difference between age appropriate-arranged married males and females in all dimensions of marital adjustment. The present research result indicated that males had higher mean scores in all the four dimensions than females. The earlier research reported by Dinna (2005) had shown deviation from these findings in consensus, satisfaction, and affectional expression dimensions and it is consistent with cohesion dimension, which indicates that age appropriate-arranged married females had higher mean score on satisfaction and affectional expression dimensions, equal on consensus dimension and less mean score on cohesion dimension than males.

When compared with love-matched married males and females across the four dimensions of marital adjustment, the t-test result revealed that there were no statistically significant mean score difference existed between males and females in all the four dimensions of marital adjustment. This might be perhaps because of love-matched married persons consider marriage after they have reached 21 years old (Fox, 1975) so that both partners love, choose, understand and 'know each other very well before the wedding is conducted' (Dinna, 2005). Therefore, they are far away from traditional views with husband dominate, sex segregation, and construction of wave's world, gender role differences prescribed by the society, and have equalitarian and more open structure of marriage (Fox, 1975). Consequently, love-matched males and females can close each other, discuss about different issues openly and resolve problems more effectively, and understand to each other's expression of affection. This may contribute to the presence of better adjustment in marriage for both partners.

## **VI. SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **6.1. Summary**

The purpose of this study was to compare early married, age appropriate-arranged married, and love-matched married persons in terms of their marital adjustment. As a result the following research questions were formulated.

- What are the general patterns of marital adjustment among participants?
- Is there a significant difference in marital adjustment among early, age appropriate-arranged and love-match married persons?
- Is there a significant difference in the dimensions of marital adjustment among the three groups?
- Is there a significant relationship between marital adjustment and age at the present marriage, duration of the present marriage, and number of children in the present marriage among all participants?
- Do males significantly differ from females in their marital adjustment in each study group?
- Do males significantly differ from females with specific reference to the dimensions of marital adjustment in each study group?

In order to answer the above questions, a total of 210 married persons (70 early married, 70 age appropriate-arranged married, and 70 love-matched married) with equal numbers of male and female participants were selected through purposive sampling.

Concerning the instrument to measure the marital adjustment of the participants, 18 items were adapted from Spanier (as cited in Dinna, 2005; Spanier & Bowman, 1978) and the other 18 items were developed by the present researcher based on the literature. Amharic version of the questionnaire arranged in three point scales was used for data collection. The instrument was piloted using a sample of 20 married individuals selected from the three marriage arrangements. The data were collected with the help of five assistant data collectors.

The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, One Way ANOVA, Scheffe Post Hoc pair wise comparison, independent sample t-test, and Pearson correlation.

The descriptive statistics that shows the patterns of marital adjustment revealed that participants had mean scores above the average/mid point (2.00) of the scale in all items of marital adjustment dimensions. That is, participants scored means 2.59, 2.57, 2.49, and 2.52 on consensus, satisfaction, cohesion, and affectional expression dimensions respectively. To put in other words, the average score of participants in all 36 items was above the mid point score i.e. 72 on the scale.

A measure of One Way ANOVA was used in order to examine the differences among early, age appropriate-arranged, and love-matched married persons. The result showed that there was statistically significant difference found among the three groups ( $F(2,207) = 13.07, p < 0.05$ ). Specifically, Scheffe Post Hoc test indicated that significant differences were found when early married individuals were compared with age appropriate-arranged married and love-matched married individuals. That is, early married individuals had less mean score on marital adjustment followed by age appropriate-arranged and in turn by love-matched married counter parts. However, no significant mean score difference were found between age appropriate-arranged married and love-matched married individuals in their marital adjustment.

Again One Way ANOVA was used to see the differences found among early, age appropriate-arranged, and love-matched married persons with regard to marital adjustment dimensions. The result revealed that significant differences were found among early, age appropriate-arranged, and love-matched married individuals with regard to all the four dimensions of marital adjustment i.e. consensus ( $F(2,207) = 9.51, p < 0.05$ ), satisfaction ( $F(2,207) =$

7.89,  $p < 0.05$ ), cohesion ( $F(2,207) = 5.28$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ), and affectional expression ( $F(2,207) = 10.61$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Scheffe Post Hoc test that followed these significant tests showed that differences were existed on early married individuals when compared with age appropriate-arranged and love-matched married individuals on consensus and satisfaction dimensions. Put in other words, early married individuals had lower mean score on these two dimensions than their counter parts from age appropriate-arranged and love-matched married individuals. However, there were no statistically significant differences found between age appropriate-arranged and love-matched married individuals on consensus and satisfaction dimensions.

Concerning cohesion dimension, significant difference was existed only between early and love-matched married individuals. Implies, early married individuals were scored significantly less than love-matched married individuals on cohesion dimension. However, the mean score of age appropriate-arranged married persons significantly different from both early and love-matched married participants on cohesion dimension of marital adjustment.

In relation to affectional expression dimension, love-matched participants were significantly different from both early married and age appropriate-arranged married individuals. In other ways, love-matched participants had higher mean score than both early and age appropriate-arranged married participants on affectional expression dimension. But there was no significant difference observed between early and age appropriate-arranged married participants on this dimension.

An examination of the correlation between marital adjustment and age at the present marriage, duration of the present marriage, and the number of children in the present marriage, marital adjustment was positively and

significantly related to age at the present marriage ( $r=.25$ ,  $p<0.01$ ). However, duration of the present marriage and number of children in the present marriage were negatively and insignificantly correlated with marital adjustment.

The independent sample t-tests were employed to examine significant differences found between male and female married individuals in their marital adjustment. As the results indicated that the mean score of early married male marital adjustment was statistically higher ( $t = -2.12$ ,  $df = 68$ ,  $p<0.05$ ) than the mean score of early married female marital adjustment. However, there was no significant difference found between age appropriate-arranged married males and females. Likewise, significant sex difference was not found between love-matched married males and females in their mean score of marital adjustment.

In an investigation of the differences between sexes in the four dimensions of marital adjustment, the t-test result indicated that early married males were significantly higher than females on satisfaction ( $t = -2.09$ ,  $df = 68$ ,  $p<0.05$ ) and affectional expression ( $t = -2.26$ ,  $df = 68$ ,  $p<0.05$ ) dimensions. That is, the mean scores of males were higher than females on both dimensions. However, differences tested between early married males and females were not significant on both consensus and cohesion dimensions.

The other t-test results conducted for age appropriate-arranged married males and females showed that the mean score of males was significantly higher than the mean score of females in only affectional expression ( $t = -2.21$ ,  $df = 68$ ,  $p<0.05$ ) dimension. Nevertheless, significant sex differences were not found on the mean score of the three marital dimensions (i.e. consensus, satisfaction, and cohesion).

On the other hand, the t-test result of love-matched married males and females were not showed significant mean score differences in all the four dimension of marital adjustment.

## **6.2. Conclusions**

The conclusions from these findings are made within the context of the following limitations. First, purposive sampling was used to sample participants. Second, the data used in this study was collected using only one instrument i.e. a rating scale.

With the presence of these limitations one may tentatively conclude the following that are applicable to the samples only.

1. Participants' general patterns of marital adjustment scores are above the average/mid point of the scale. It implies participants had above the average level of marital adjustment in their marital life.
2. Early married persons had significantly less marital adjustment than age appropriate-arranged and love-matched married persons. Though love-matched married individuals had higher marital adjustment than age appropriate-arranged married, the difference was no statistically significant. This generally implies that age at marriage have more influence on marital adjustment than the type of marriage arrangement.
3. There was statistically significant difference among early, age appropriate-arranged, and love-matched married groups when it comes to the four dimensions of marital adjustment. That is:
  - Early married individuals had significantly less marital adjustment than age appropriate-arranged and love-matched married individuals on both consensus and satisfaction dimensions. Though love-matched married had higher than age appropriate-arranged married on consensus and satisfaction dimensions, the differences were not statistically significant.
  - Early married individuals were statistically less than love-matched

counter parts on cohesion dimension. However, age appropriate-arranged married individuals were not significantly different from both early married and love-matched married individuals on this dimension.

- Love-matched married persons had significantly more affectional expression than early and age appropriate-arranged married on affectional expression dimension. But there was no statistically significant difference between early and age appropriate-arranged married persons. Generally, love-matched married persons were better on all the four dimensions of marital adjustment followed by age appropriate-arranged married and then in turn by early married persons.
4. Marital adjustment was positively and significantly related to age at the present marriage. As age at marriage increases, the level of marital adjustment also significantly increases. That means older married persons had better marital adjustment compared with younger married ones. However, marital adjustment was negatively but insignificantly correlated with the duration of marriage and the number of children in the present marriage.
  5. Early married males had significantly higher marital adjustment than early married females. Even if males in age appropriate-arranged marriage had considerably higher marital adjustment than females, the difference was not statistically significant. On the other hand, love-matched married males and females had almost equal level of marital adjustment.
  6. Sex differences with specific reference to the dimensions of marital adjustment in each study group indicated that:
    - Early married males had significantly higher marital satisfaction and affectional expression than female counterparts. Even if early married males again had higher marital consensus and cohesion than females, the differences on both dimensions were not statistically significant.
    - Age appropriate-arranged married males had significantly higher affectional expression than female counterparts. Though males were

higher on consensus, satisfaction, and cohesion dimensions, the differences were not statistically significant.

- There was no statistically significant sex difference among love-matched married persons in all the four dimensions of marital adjustment.

### **6.3. Recommendations**

On the basis of the findings and conclusions arrived at the following recommendations are forwarded:

1. The Administrative Town need to prepare different training programs like couple education programs that are important to improve the level of early married individuals' marital adjustment especially of females.
2. The Administrative Town should organize and conduct community discussion and make married individuals who have better marital adjustment share their experience so that early married individuals learn from it.
3. The data used in this research is mainly based on rating scale measures; future researchers could include other qualitative methods to gather more in-depth and comprehensive information from participants.
4. In addition to the variables considered in this study, future research might examine other possible factors such as age gap between partners, education, age of children, the presence or absence of informed consent at marriage, the number of times partners engage in marriage, the presence of step-children and other relatives in the home, religious beliefs and possible others that might influence marital adjustment.
5. Finally, future research may include early love-matched married individuals as a separate group of participants while studying marital adjustment of the present study groups.

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## Appendix A: English-version Questionnaire

**Addis Ababa University**  
**Institute of Psychology**  
**Postgraduate Program**

*Dear participants:*

The sole purpose of this questionnaire is to investigate the marital adjustment of married individuals. All the information that you will provide will be kept confidential and used only for the study. Therefore, you are kindly requested to give you responses openly.

*Thank you very much for your kind openness and cooperation!*

### **Section I: Background Information**

*Instruction 1:* Give appropriate answers for the following questions

1. Sex: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Age \_\_\_\_\_
3. How old were you when you married your partner? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many years staying in the present marriage? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many children do you have in the present marriage? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who selected your partner?
  - A) we love and choose each other and then we were going to married.
  - B) made by the families/elders and then they arrange our marriage.

**Section: II: Information on Marital Adjustment**

**Instruction 2:** the following items indicate the degree of agreements between you and your partner in marital relationship. Therefore, tell the answer after each item read to you that you think best describes the level of marital relationship between you and your partner.

NO	ITEMS	LEVELS OF AGREEMENT		
		Disagree	Sometimes disagree sometimes agree	Agree
1	On controlling, allocating and proper use of family finance			
2	On how to invite, participate, and play with neighborhoods and relatives at different holidays, 'mahiber', and other ceremonies			
3	On religious matters like go to church/mosque, participating at different prying programs, spiritual charity, and other religious activities			
4	On the expression of affection to each other			
5	On the number and character of friends you or your partner have			
6	On having mutually pleasurable and satisfying sexual relationship			
7	On good behaviors your partner deserve and bad behaviors avoid			
8	On when and how visit and help your families and close relatives			
9	On the amount of time spent together for example, on how much time stayed together when you go to different picnics and neighborhood coffee ceremonies			
10	On making decisions based on discussing together that are important for your marriage and life			
11	On division of labor in and out of the house			
12	On duties and responsibilities you and your partner have in marriage			
13	Decisions on the number of children and how to rear them			
14	On preparations at holidays and other invitation days in and out of the house			
15	On solving problems based on discussion to identify who commits the mistakes after the disagreement occur between you and your partner			

**Instruction 3:** tell the answer after each item read to you that you think best describes the level of marital relationship between you and your partner.

No	QUESTIONS	Mostly	Sometimes	Never
16	How often do you and your partner discuss about divorce, separation, or termination of your relationship?			
17	How often do you or your partner leave the house after fight?			
18	How often do you confide in your partner only to be your own?			
19	How often do you regret that are married?			
20	How often do your partner make you nerves?			
21	How often do you and your partner kiss each other to express your affection?			
22	How often do you and your partner engage in out side interests and activities together?			
23	How often do you and your partner conduct open and participatory discussion?			
24	How often do you sure that not to divorce marriage in spite of problems and crisis?			
25	How often do you and your partner share personal secrets openly?			
26	How often do you say your partner understands and fulfills your feeling?			
27	How often do your partner on the side of you during happy and grief situations?			
28	How often do your partner make decisions alone before discussing together?			
29	How often do you jealous about others marriage rather than yours?			
30	How often do you think to marry the other person if you are able to marry again?			
31	How often do you feel about the happiness that you want to get from your marriage?			
32	How often unhappy sexual relationship is a drawback in your marriage?			
33	How often do you wish not to marry your present partner?			
34	How often do your sexual life is pleasurable and interesting?			
35	How often do your partner give appreciation and support for the achievement of your works?			
36	How often do you make sexual intercourse with out your interest?			

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*Again thank you in advance for your time!*

Appendix B: Amharic-version Questionnaire

አዲስ አበባ ዩኒቨርሲቲ  
በሳይኮሎጂ ኢንስቲትዩት  
የድህረ ምረቃ መርሀ-ግብር

የተክበሩ የጥናቱ ተሳታፊ፡

የዚህ መጠይቅ ዋና ዓላማ የትዳር አጋሮችን አጠቃላይ የጋብቻ ሁኔታ ለማጥናት የተዘጋጀ ነው። የምትሠጡት መረጃ ሙሉ በሙሉ ለጥናቱ ዓላማ ብቻ የሚውል ሲሆን ለሌላ ሠው ሳይነገር በምስጢር የሚያዝ ይሆናል። ስለዚህ መልስዎቻችሁን በግልፅ እንድትሠጡ በትህትና እጠይቃለሁ።

ስለግልፅነትዎ እና ስለትብብርዎ በቅድሚያ አመሰግናለሁ!

ክፍል አንድ፡ አጠቃላይ መረጃ

መመሪያ፡ ከዚህ በታች ለቀረቡት ጥያቄዎች ተገቢውን መልስ ይስጡ።

- 1. ፆታ -----
- 2. እድሜ -----
- 3. ባለቤትዎን ሲያገቡ እድሜዎ ስንት ነበር? -----
- 4. በትዳርዎ ምን ያህል ዓመት ቆይተዋል? -----
- 5. ስንት ልጆች አሏችሁ? -----
- 6. የትዳር አጋርዎን ማን መረጠልዎት?

ሀ. እርስ በእርሳችን ተመራርጠን፣ ተዋደንና ተፋቅረን ተጋባን።

ለ. ቤተሠቦቼ ወይም ሽማግሌዎች መረጡልኝ ከዚያም አጋቡን።

**ክፍል ሁለት፡ ከባለቤትዎ ጋር ያለዎትን የትዳር ሁኔታ ይመለከታል**

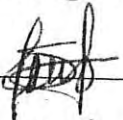
መመሪያ 2፡ ከዚህ በታች የተዘረዘሩት ጥያቄዎች የሚያመለክቱት በትዳርዎ ውስጥ ከባለቤትዎ ጋር ያለውን የስምምነት ደረጃ ነው። ስለዚህ እያንዳንዱ ጥያቄ ከተነበበልዎ በኋላ የትዳርዎን ሁኔታ በደንብ ይገልፅልኛል ብለው የሚያስቡትን መልስ ይናገሩ።

ተ.ቁ	ጥያቄዎች	የስምምነት ደረጃዎች		
		አንስማማም (1)	አንዳንዴ አንዳንዴ እንስማማለን (2)	እንስማማለን (3)
1	የቤተሠብ ገንዘብን በመቆጣጠር፣ ለተገቢው ስራ በማዋል እና በመጠቀም ላይ			
2	በተለያዩ በዓላት ቀን፣ በማህበር፣ እድርና ሌሎች ዝግጅቶችን በተመለከተ ከጎረቤቶቻችሁና ከዘመዶቻችሁ ጋር እንዴት መጠራራት ፣ መሳተፍ እና መጫወት እንዳለባችሁ			
3	ሐይማኖታዊ ተሳትፎዎቻችሁን በተመለከተ፣ ማለትም ቤተክርስቲያን/መስጊድ መሐደ ፣ በተለያዩ በዓላት እና የፀሎት ኘርግራሞች መሳተፍ፣ ዝክር መዘከርና ሌሎች ሐይማኖታዊ እንቅስቃሴዎችን በተመለከተ			
4	አንዳችሁ ለአንዳችሁ ያላችሁን ፍቅርና መዋደድ ከመገላለፅ አኳያ			
5	እርስዎ ወይም ባለቤትዎ ባሏችሁ ጓደኞች ብዛትና ባህሪ ዙሪያ			
6	ለሁለታችሁም አስደስቶና አርኪ የሆነ የግብረ ስጋ ግንኙነት ማድረግን በተመለከተ			
7	የትዳር አጋርዎ ሊኖራቸው የሚገባቸውን ጥሩ ባህሪያትና ሊያስወግዷቸው የሚገባቸውን መጥፎ ባህሪያት በተመለከተ			
8	ቤተሠቦቻችሁንና የቅርብ ዘመዶቻችሁን መቼ እና እንዴት መጠየቅና መርዳት እንዳለባችሁ			
9	ከባለቤትዎ ጋር አብራችሁ በምታሳልፋት የጊዜ መጠን ላይ ለምሳሌ የተለያዩ ጥሪዎች ላይ አብራችሁ ስትሄዱና ጎረቤት ቡና ስትጠጡ ለምን ያህል ጊዜ አብራችሁ መቆየት እንዳለባችሁ			
10	ለትዳራችሁና ለህይወታችሁ ጠቃሚ የሆኑ ውሳኔዎችን በጋራ ተወያይታችሁ በመወሰን			
11	በቤት ውስጥም ሆነ ከቤት ውጭ ያሉትን ስራዎችን ተከፋፍሎ በመስራት			
12	ሁለታችሁም በትዳራችሁ ውስጥ ያሉ ግዴታዎችን እና ኃላፊነቶችን ከመወጣት አንፃር			
13	የምትወልዷቸውን ልጆች ብዛት በመወሰን እና እንዴት ማሳደግ እንዳለባችሁ			
14	በዓመት በዓልም ሆነ ሌሎች የድግስ ቀናት ከቤት ውስጥም ሆነ ከቤት ውጭ በምታደርጉት ዝግጅት፣ መስተንግዶና በመሳሰሉት ዙሪያ			
15	በእርስዎና በባለቤትዎ መካከል አለመግባባት ከተፈጠረ በኋላ በግልፅ በመወያየት ስህተቱ የማን እንደሆነ በመተማመን ችግሩን ከመፍታት አንፃር			

## DECLARATION

This thesis is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any university. All sources of the material used for this thesis has been fully acknowledged.

Name: Simegn Sendek Yizengaw

Sign. 

Date. 18/06/2010

This thesis has been submitted for examination with my approval as university advisor.

Advisor: Dr. Belay Tefera

Sign. 

Date. 21 July 2010

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