

An Investigation of Commitment to Marital Relationship Precedents through Self-Expansion in Students from the Medical Science University of Iran

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Abstract : The study aimed to explore commitment precedence through self-expansion among students at the Medical Science University of Shiraz, Iran. Method: The statistical population was comprised of students at Shiraz University of Medical Science during the academic years 2013 to 2014. Using random sampling, 133 married students (50 males and 83 females) were selected. The commitment condition of this studied group was assessed using Adam and Jones' (1999) Marital Commitment Dimensions Scale (DCI), and self-expansion was measured using Aron and Lewandowski's (2002) Self-Expansion Questionnaire. Simple regression analyses investigated commitment precedence via self-expansion. Results: The data revealed a positive correlation between total commitment ($r=0.35$, $p < 0.01$), the subscales of commitment to the spouse ($r=0.43$, $p < 0.01$), and commitment to marriage ($r=0.31$, $p < 0.01$). Regression analyses indicated that perceived self-expansion positively correlated with commitment to marital relationships in married students. The findings suggest that an increased possibility of self-expansion in a marital relationship corresponds with heightened commitment.

Keywords : commitment to marital relationship, married students, relationship dynamics, self-expansion

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