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# The intimate partner violence and marital adjustment on married women

Evli kadınlarda yakın partner şiddeti ve evlilik uyumu



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### ABSTRACT

Original Article

Aim: This study was determined the relationship between intimate partner violence against women (IPV) and marital adjustment.

*Methods:* The research conducted that 1057 married women with simple random sampling method. The data were created face to face interview method by the researchers making home visits between December 2017 and November 2018. The data were collected by using the Sociodemographic Form, Domestic Violence Scale (DVS) and Marital Adjustment Test (MAT).

**Results**: Womens' mean DVS total mean score was found to be 61.25±10.21, MAT total mean score was found to be 30.08±8.05. In the study, it was found that intimate partner violence levels of the women and their married adjustment were moderate. In the study, when the total mean scores of DVS and MAT were compared according to the descriptive characteristics of the women, a statistically significant difference was found between the age, length of marriage, number of children, type of marriage, income, husband's age, and the total score points of the women participating in the study (p<.05). According to our findings, all of the women experienced at least one type of IPV during their marriage. There is a statistically negative and significant relationship between spousal violence and marital adjustment (p<.05).

Conclusion: Marital adjustment is associated with intimate partner violence. As marital adjustment increases, IPV decreases.

Keywords: intimate partner violence; marital relationship; woman

### ÖZET

Amaç: Bu çalışma, kadına yönelik yakın partner şiddeti (IPV) ile evlilik uyumu arasındaki ilişkiyi belirlemek amacıyla yürütülmüştür. Yöntem: Araştırma, basit tesadüfi örnekleme yöntemiyle 1057 evli kadın üzerinde gerçekleştirilmiştir. Veriler, araştırmacılar tarafından ev ziyaretleri

esnasında yüz yüze görüşme yöntemi ile toplanmıştır. Verilerin toplanmasında Sosyodemografik Form, Aile İçi Şiddet Ölçeği (AİŞÖ) ve Evlilik Uyumu Testi (EUT) kullanılmıştır.

**Bulgular:** Kadınların AİŞÖ toplam puan ortalamaları 61.25±10.21, EUT toplam puan ortalamaları 30.08±8.05 olarak bulunmuştur. Araştırmada kadınların partner şiddeti düzeylerinin ve evlilik uyumlarının orta düzeyde olduğu saptanmıştır. Araştırmada kadınların tanımlayıcı özelliklerine göre AİŞÖ ve EUT toplam puan ortalamaları karşılaştırıldığında, araştırmaya katılan kadınların yaş, evlilik süresi, çocuk sayısı, evlilik biçimi, gelir, eş yaşı ile AİŞÖ ve EUT toplam puan ortalamaları arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir fark saptanmıştır (p<.05). Bulgularımıza göre kadınların tamamı evlilikleri boyunca IPV türlerinden en az birini yaşamıştır. Eş şiddeti ile evlilik uyumu arasında istatistiksel olarak negatif yönde anlamlı bir ilişki vardır. (p<.05).

Sonuçlar: Evlilik uyumu, yakın partner şiddeti ile ilişkilidir. Evlilik uyumu arttıkça, aile içi şiddet azalmaktadır.

Anahtar kelimeler: yakın partner şiddeti; evlilik ilişkisi; kadın

#### Introduction

The World Health Organization (WHO) has defined violence against women as any activity that can hurt and restrain a woman (WHO, 2017). Violence against women is mostly intimate partner violence (IPV) (Akar et al., 2010; Cheung & Choi, 2016). WHO states that IPV is the most common type of violence, affecting 30% of women (WHO, 2017).

IPV is a serious social issue in all country around the world. Findings of a multicountry study of 24,000 women surveyed showed 15%-75% of the women reported IPV (Moreno et al., 2006). Jamali and Javadpour (2016) reported that 43.2 percent of women are exposed to IPV (Jamali & Javadpour, 2016). Karakuła-Juchnowicz et al. (2017) showed that 200 women experiencing intimate partner violence in Poland prevalence of physical, psychological, sexual, and economic violence 75%, 92%, 21%, and 65% respectively (Karakuła-Juchnowicz et al., 2017). The lifetime prevalence of IPV was 34% in Saudi Arabia (Fageeah 2014). IPV prevalence 90% emotional, 40% physical, 15% sexual violence in Turkey (Tatlılıoğlu & Küçükköse, 2015). A study revealed that 77.9% of women were exposed to IPV during their marriage.

The risk factors for high prevalence IPV in Turkey were similar to in other countries, such as low socioeconomic status and education, husband's having habit like alcohol frequent quarrelling with husband, acceptance of violence in theirculture and during their childhood exposure to violence (Atkinson et al., 2005; Cheung & Choi, 2016; Jamali & Javadpour, 2016). IPV is relavant with negative outcomes such as physical injuries, death and depression (William & Frieze, 2005). Literature also shows that IPV is an chief risk for marital adjustment. In a metaanalysis, Stith showed a significant negative association between IPV and marital adjustment. In addition, there is a negative relationship between marital satisfaction and marital conflict and intimate partner violence (Stith et al., 2008). The

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study was aimed to determine the relationship between intimate partner violence against women and marital adjusment.

Conscientiousness in the nursing profession is a component that increases nurses' sense of responsibility and develops professional competencies that require them to use their knowledge and skills in patient care (Dahlqvist et al., 2007). Although there are cultural differences, conscience; sensitivity, respect for human rights, careful and dignified care practices (Dahlqvist et al., 2007; ICN, 2000).

### Methods

### Study desing

This was a descriptive and cross-sectional study.

# Sampling

The population of the study, registered to 5 family health centers (FHC) on married women 18-65 years of age, living in a east region in Turkey. Two FHC were selected through a simple random method from among 5 FHC. There are 5000 married women 18-65 years who are registered 2 FHC. The sample size for the research error of 0.05, a confidence interval of 0.95 and effect size of 0.08 has been identified as a married woman in power analysis with 1000. We have achieved 1070 up married woman who listed by name were selected by simple random sampling method. But as 13 forms were filled in wrongly, these data was deleted. And then, the study was completed with 1057 women.

### Measures

The data were collected by using the Sociodemographic Form, Domestic Violence Scale (DVS) and Marital Adjustment Test (MAT).

### Sociodemographic Form

In this form, there are 6 questions created by the researchers according to the literature (Yeşiltepe & Çelik, 2014; Öyekçin et al., 2012). It was constituted to determine the information of the women and their husband's (e.g., age, lenght of marriage, number of children, income status, marriage style and age of husband's ).

# Domestic Violence Scale (DVS)

The scale was developed by Çetiner (2006). The validity and reliability analyses of the scale was completed by İdiz (2009). The scale has a total of 5 subscales as physical violence, verbal violence, sexual violence, emotional violence, and economic violence. The items of these sub-dimensions are as follows: emotional violence (1, 2, 9, 10, 11, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27), physical violence (5, 6, 56 12, 16, 21, 26, 28) verbal violence (4, 7, 14, 29), sexual violence (3, 8, 17, 18, 19) and economic violence (13, 15, 30). The items are Likert scale 5-type and they are answered as follows: 'never' is 1, 'rarely' 2, 'sometimes' 3, 'often' 4 and 'always' 5. The scale is in the range of 30-150 points. As the score increases, domestic violence against women increases. The Cronbach's alpha coefficient of the present study was found to be 0.92 (İdiz, 2009). In this study, the Cronbach's alpha of the scale was .91.

### Marital Adjustment Test (MAT)

The scale was developed by Locke and Wallace (1959). The validity and reliability were studied by Tutarel-Kışlak (1999). It was developed to measure general marital adjustment, agreement and disagreement on some issues, and relationship style. This scale has 15 items and items are scored differently. The first item is a Likert item and scored from 0= Never to 6= Always. Items between 2 and 9 are reverse items and scored on 5= Always agree to 1= Always disagree to measure agreements

and disagreements. Item 10 to 15 measure relationship style. Total MAT score obtained by adding the scores between 1-60 points. The lowest marital adjustment score is 1 point, while the highest marital adjustment score is 60 points. Higher total scores refer to high marital adjustment. The Cronbach's alpha coefficient of the present study was found to be .84 (Tutarel-Kışlak, 1999). In our study, the Cronbach's alpha of the scale was .80.

### **Data collection procedures**

The data were created face to face interview method by the researchers making home visits between December 2017 and November 2018. The women answered the forms. It took about 15 to 20 min.

### Data analysis

The data were analyzed by The SPSS 22.0 program. Descriptive tests and parametric tests were used. Percentage distribution, arithmetic mean, t-test in independent groups, one way ANOVA and Pearson Correlation were used to assess the data. Normality distributions were evaluated with Skewness and Kurtosis test values. Cronbach's alpha was used to assess the internal consistency of the scales.

### Ethical principles of the study

Ethical and legal permission was obtained. The study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Inonu University Health Sciences Institute Ethics Committee in Malatya on 07.02.2017. Ethics Committee Approv No is 2017/3-5. Before starting the study, information about the study was given and verbal consent was obtained.

 Table 1. Descriptive characteristics of women (n=1057)

Characteristics	n	<u>%</u>
Age (years)		
18-28	287	27.2
29-39	332	31.4
40-50	272	25.7
51-61	166	15.7
Lenght of marriage		
0-5 years	269	25.4
6-11 years	257	24.3
12-17 years	260	24.6
18-23 years	271	25.6
Number of children		
0	120	11.4
1	211	20.0
2	299	28.3
3 and more	427	40.4
Marriage style		
Flirt	470	44.5
Arranged marriage	587	55.5
Income status		
Low	116	11.0
Middle	567	53.6
High	374	35.4
Age of the husband (years)	1	
18-28	170	16.1
29-39	313	29.6
40-50	303	28.7
51-61	271	25.6

29-39

40-50

51-61

Test value

Significance

	MAT	mean score and M Emotional	Verbal	Physical	Sexual	Economic	DVS
	(Total means)	violence	violence	violence	violence	violence	(Total means)
Age	,						
18-28	27.59±13.77	16.34±6.14	5.82±2.36	9.57±2.98	8.76±3.18	5.58±2.68	46.08±15.31
29-39	24.88±11.00	18.46±6.88	6.60±2.79	9.94±3.62	9.51±3.63	6.34±2.77	50.87±17.32
40-50	27.74±10.51	19.86±8.03	6.81±3.06	10.13±4.07	9.71±3.92	6.45±3.01	52.98±19.64
51-61	26.34±11.54	24.05±9.99	7.26±3.65	10.37±5.13	9.82±4.58	6.78±3.40	55.30±24.33
Test value	F= 3.734	F= 16.862	F= 10.072	F= 1.746	F= 4.187	F= 7.383	F= 10.505
Significance	p= .011	р= .000	p= .000	р= .000	p= <b>.000</b>	p= <b>.000</b>	p= .000
Lenght of marriage							
0-5 year	28.86±14.00	16.38±6.65	5.89±2.49	9.43±3.15	8.59±3.30	5.54±2.74	45.85±16.35
6-11 year	23.42±10.25	18.35±7.04	6.56±3.01	10.33±4.04	9.78±3.78	6.29±2.89	51.24±18.53
12-17 year	22.96±9.52	19.47±7.09	6.68±2.72	10.33±3.90	9.66±3.63	6.26±2.64	52.43±17.55
18-23 year	27.77±11.81	20.40±9.29	7.04±3.38	9.77±4.24	9.70±4.24	6.83±3.31	53.76±21.99
Test value	F=17.804	F=13.954	F= 7.297	F= 3.504	F=5.742	F=8.811	F= 9.215
Significance	p= .000	p= .000	p= .000	p= .015	p= .001	p= .000	p= .000
Number of children							
0	32.59±13.42	15.43±5.90	5.97±2.67	9.40±3.34	8.22±3.29	4.97±2.46	44.03±15.74
1	25.88±12.05	18.17±7.84	6.44±3.15	10.00±3.96	9.40±3.73	6.33±3.05	50.36±19.45
2	24.77±11.25	18.39±6.90	6.55±2.73	9.89±3.59	9.63±3.72	6.30±2.83	50.78±17.37
3 and more	24.60±11.01	19.97±8.39	6.75±3.05	10.14±4.13	9.59±3.91	6.48±3.01	52.95±20.16
Test value	F=16.048	F= 11.651	F= 2.312	F= 1.192	F=4.660	F= 8.659	F= 7.082
Significance	p= .000	p= .000	p= .004	p= .014	p= .003	p= .000	p= .000
Marriage style							
Flirt	26.37±12.62	16.88±6.31	5.97±2.55	9.54±3.30	8.93±3.36	5.73±2.69	47.07±16.11
Arranged marriage	25.36±11.14	20.07±8.43	9.54±3.30	10.29±4.24	9.79±4.04	6.63±3.07	53.80±20.49
Test value	<i>t</i> = 1.369	<i>t</i> = -6.795	<i>t</i> = -5.711	<i>t</i> = -3.176	<i>t</i> = -3.695	<i>t</i> = -4.987	<i>t</i> = -5.828
Significance	p= .000	p= .000	p= .000	p= .000	p= .000	p= .000	p= .000
Income status							
Low	25.75±8.76	25.16±9.68	9.19±3.73	13.18±5.62	12.33±4.21	8.26±3.26	68.14±22.93
Middle	24.72±11.28	18.30±7.41	6.37±2.81	9.81±3.68	9.12±3.60	6.26±2.89	49.88±19.13
High	27.48±13.22	17.17±6.46	5.98±2.40	9.18±2.86	8.93±3.50	5.55±2.62	46.84±15.69
Test value	F= 6.177	F= 53.192	F= 60.602	F= 52.6.83	F=42.313	F= 40.215	F=64.203
Significance	p= .002	p= .000	p= .000	p= .000	p= .000	p= .000	p= .000
Age of the husband	1						
Age of the husband	28.90±14.12	15.55±5.74	5.71±2.27	9.14±2.60	8.49±3.04	5.39±2.62	44.30±14.21
10 20	20.00±14.12	10.00±0.14	0.11122.21	5.14±2.00	0.40±0.04	0.0012.02	44.00±14.21

6.31±2.72

6.44±2.53

7.46±3.70

F= 14.581

000. =q

9.88±3.66

9.97±3.29

10.55±5.08

F= 4.716

p= .003

9.30±3.61

9.41±3.38

10.11±4.60

F= 6.612

000. =q

MAT: Marital Adjustment Test, DVS: Domestic Violence Scale

25.89±12.00

23.43±10.20

26.44±11.26

F= 8.396

p= .000

17.61±6.68

19.10±6.90

21.28±9.72

F= 23.074

000. =q

According to the results, 31.4% of the women are between the ages of 29-39, 25.6% are married, between the ages of 18-23, 40.4% have 3 or more children, 55.5% are married and arranged, 53.6% of them are at middle and 29.6% of them are at income level and between 29-39 years of age have husbands (Table 1).

Our results indicated that women were exposed to at least one of the types of IPV throughout their marriage. Verbal and emotional violence were the most frequently. When DVS subscale and total mean scores of the women were compared based on their descriptive characteristics in the study, a statistically significant difference was determined between age, length of marriage number of children, style of marriage, income, husband's age and DVS subscale and total mean scores (p<0.05). In the advanced analysis, it was determined that young age increased intimate partner violence, longer duration of marriage decreased violence, higher number of

children increased IPV, IPV was higher in those getting married with arranged marriage, having low income status, and those getting married with older husband (Table 2).

6.12±2.87

6.28±2.65

6.82±3.37

F= 8.597

000. =q

49.24±17.29

51.21±16.41

56.24±23.95

F= 15.450

000. =q

When MAT total mean scores of the women were compared based on their descriptive characteristics in the study, a statistically significant difference was determined between age, duration of marriage, number of children, style of marriage, income, age of the husband's and the total mean score of MAT (p<0.05). In the further analysis; it was showed that younger ones had a lower marital adjustment, those having a longer duration of marriage had a higher marital adjustment, those having lower number of children had a lower marital adjustment, those getting married with arranged marriage had a lower marital adjustment, those with high income had a higher marital adjustment, and those getting married with older husband had a higher marital adjustment (Table 2).

Table 3. DVS and MAT scales and total mean scores of subscales (n=1057)  $\,$ 

-	Obtained min-max	X±SD		
	scores			
MAT	15-50	30.08±8.05		
DVS	30-110	61.25±10.21		
MAT: Marital Adjustment Test, DVS: Domestic Violence Scale				

Womens' mean DVS subscale and total mean score was found to be  $61.25\pm10.21$ , MAT subscale and total mean score was found to be  $30.08\pm8.05$ . In the study, it was found that intimate partner violence levels of the women were moderate and their married adjustment were moderate (Table 3).

Table 4. Correlations between the DVS total and subscale mean score and MAT score (n=1057)

DVS	MAT	MAT	
	r	р	
Emotional violence	170	.000	
Verbal violence	114	.000	
Physical violence	155	.000	
Sexual violence	171	.000	
Economic violence	122	.000	
Total scores mean	172	.000	

DVS: Domestic Violence Scale, MAT: Marital Adjustment Test

In the study, DVS subscale and total mean scores and MAT total mean score of the women were compared and a statistically negative significant correlation was determined (p<0.05). As women's intimate partner violence increased, the rate of marital adjustment decreased (Table 4).

#### Discussion

Our results indicated that women were exposed to at least one of the types of IPV throughout their marriage. Verbal and emotional violence were the most frequently. Kocacık and Çağlayandereli (2009) reported that verbal and physical violence were the most frequently occurring types and one out of every two women were exposed to at least one type of IPV and the frequency of violence was more than once a week (Kocacık & Çağlayandereli, 2009). Akar et al. (2010) reported that 77.9% of women stated that they were exposed to at least one of the types of intimate partner violence during their lifetime. A study that was conducted 200 women experiencing intimate partner violence in Poland the prevalence of physical, emotional, sexual, and economic violence in the study group was 75%, 92%, 21%, and 65% (Karakuła-Juchnowicz et al., 2017). Houry et al. (2006) reported a study in the U.S. the most frequently occurring types of violence was emotional violence to be 82% respectively, with the total prevalence of violence being 36%. One study said that men's attitudes towards IPV are formed by social perspective (Flood & Pease, 2009). In short, studies in line with our results said that IVP for women is a common problem in many countries.

According to our study results there is a significantly relationship between age and IPV, which finding is in agreement with the studies of Jahromi et al. (2016) reported that IPV is more widespread among young women. Jamali and Javadpour (2016) found that women in the age <30 are at a higher risk of experiencing IPV. Young women may believe that their spouses and marriages will improve over time. (Rafael et

al., 2017; Swailes et al., 2017). Our results are similar to the literature.

Our study results reported that there is a significantly relationship between length of marriage and IPV: women who have been married for less than five years are more likely to be the victim of IPV. In the study by Titilayo et al. (2017) it was reported that domestic violence was lower in those who had been married for a long time. In a study it was showed that as the duration of marriage increased, domestic violence decreased (Öyekçin et al., 2012). This may be because women accept their husbands' violent behavior and feel helpless.

In the our study, the difference between the number of children and domestic IPV was found to be significantly. Higher number of children increases IPV. In a study it was stated that higher number of children increased the risk for intimate partner violence against women (Pun et al., 2017). The reason for this is that the increased number of children creates an economic difficulty for parents, obstructs the time to be spent by partners showing love and affection to each other, increases women's workload and causes them to have burnout, which may consequently increase intimate partner violence due to the intolerance of partners.

Among women who participated in the study, there was a statistically significant difference between the style of marriage and violence. IPV was higher in women who got married with arranged marriage. Arranged marriage is a pattern of marriage that is generally accepted in our society and happens when families or relatives decide to match individuals with each other so that they get married. The results of the present study are compatible with the literature (Öyekçin et al., 2012). It is thought that when partners get married without even knowing each other, this causes family communication problems and consequently increases the violence rate.

In the study, the difference between the income status and violence was found to be statistically significant. The results of the our study are compatible with the literature (Abramsky et al., 2011; George et al., 2016). It was determined that IPV was higher in families with low socioeconomic levels due to financial difficulties. Because sufficient financial possibilities are directly proportionate to meeting the needs, financial difficulties among spouses and within the family increase violence. Economically more independent married couples feel relatively free due to having opportunities to experience their special wishes and desires and having no financial difficulties.

There was a significantly difference between husband's age and violence among the women who participated in the study. Having an older husband increased IPV. Results of relevant studies in the literature are different. In a study it was showed that there was no significant correlation between husband's age and history of IPV; however, individuals aged 50 years and over had higher mean scores of violence (Bibi et al., 2014). In a study, it was stated that as husband's age increased, violence against women decreased (Öyekçin et al., 2012). A study was determined that young age predicted the tendency to violence in men at the rate of 30% (Cetin & Erdoğan, 2017). Among women who participated in the study, there was a significantly difference between age and marital adjustment. Young age decreases the marital adjustment. In the study by Kumcağız and Güner (2017) with nurses, it was determined that older age increased marital adjustment. The results of our study are similar to the literature.

In the our results, it was showed that there was a statistically significant difference between duration of marriage and marital adjustment. As the duration of marriage increases, marital adjustment increases. The results of the present study are compatible with the literature (Kublay & Oktan, 2015; Kumcağız & Güner, 2017). It can be asserted that this result may be associated with the fact that spouses know each other better than the first years of marriage. In our results, it was reported that there was a statistically significant difference between number of children and marital adjustment. As the number of children increases, marital adjustment increases. In the study by Şendil and Korkut (2008), it was stated that increase in the number of children decreased the quality of marriage. In the study conducted by ince, it was indicated that those with high numbers of children had a significantly higher marital adjustment (İnce & Tüfekci, 2015). Child may keep the family together on one hand, but affect the conflict and adjustment between couples on the other. Depending on the responsibility of raising a child, the effort of being a better example to children may contribute to acquiring the behavioral norms that are effective on providing the adjustment between parents.

Looking at the results of our research, it was reported that there was a statistically significant difference between style of marriage and marital adjustment. Individuals who have an arranged marriage have a lower marital adjustment. Yalçın (2014) found that individuals who had a companionate marriage had a higher marital adjustment than those who had an arranged marriage. Similarly, Yeşiltepe and Çelik (2014) determined that individuals who had a companionate marriage had a significantly higher marital adjustment than those who had an arranged marriage.

Çelik (2009) also determined that individuals who had a companionate marriage had higher scores of marital adjustment than those who had an arranged marriage. General jurisdiction in today's conditions is that when individuals marry with the people they choose and like, they will have a better marital adjustment. Couples who have a companionate marriage have more opportunities of knowing and understanding each other, which brings along marital adjustment.

There was a statistically significant difference between the income status perception and marital adjustment of the women who participated in the study. Higher income increases the marital adjustment. The study by Inci and Tüfekci (2015) also revealed similar results. In the study conducted by Kumcağız and Güner (2017) with nurses, it was reported that as the income increased, marital adjustment increased. High income psychosocially activates individuals further and causes couples to spare more time to each other and share more. The results of the present study can be attributed to this reason.

The results of the study showed that it was determined that there was a statistically significant difference between husband's age and marital adjustment. Individuals who have an older spouse have a higher marital adjustment. The results of the present study are important as they are the first in the literature. It is believed that men at this age spend productive time with their wives more frequently and thus, have a higher marital adjustment.

Among women who participated in the study, there was a statistically significant negative correlation between marital adjustment and emotional, verbal, physical, sexual, economic violence among the subscales of family violence. As marital adjustment increases, IPV decreases. In the study conducted by Ince and Tüfekci (2015) with the parents of children with disabilities, it was determined that there was a statistically significant difference between the mean score of being exposed to violence and marital adjustment. Tiwari and Asthana (2016) reported that 300 womena significant negative relationship between marital adjustment and all the dimension of intimate partner violence (physical, sexual, psychological, economic) including total violence. Afolabi (2011) said that, there is a great relationship between marital satisfaction and IPV. Further analysis reported that womens with low marital satisfaction experienced higher level of IPV. Marital adjustment signifies sustaining the marriage relationship healthily and happily (Okhakhume et al., 2017). Thus, couples sustain their marriage in peace and happiness with their existence. In a marriage experiencing violence against women, there is a serious lack of these two factors. The results of the study are important as they are the first ones in the literature and reveal that intimate partner violence and women's marital adjustment are inversely proportional.

#### Limitations of the study

This research was carried out with a similar sample group in terms of sociodemographics. Therefore, the study findings can only be generalized to this group. This situation constitutes the limitation of our research.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

According to the all results of the study, considering that marital adjustment has a negative effect on marriage relationship, divorce rates and healthy development of children; it is important especially for public health nurses to prepare trainings, seminars and programs on marital adjustment for raising awareness in society and married individuals, focus on the effect of the values of individuals on their view of domestic violence and marriage as well as marital adjustment by considering these values in marriage and family counseling and draw attention to the relationship between marital adjustment and violence in order to raise awareness in individuals in marriage and family counseling.

## **Conflict of Interest**

None.

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#### **Ethics Committee Approval**

The study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Inonu University Health Sciences Institute Ethics Committee in Malatya on 07.02.2017. Ethics Committee Approv No is 2017/3-5.

# **Informed Consent**

Before starting the study, information about the study was given and verbal consent was obtained from participating women.

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#### **Peer-review**

Externally peer-reviewed.

# **Author Contributions**

A.A.: Study Conception/Design, Data Collection/Analysis, Drafting of Manuscript, Statistical Expertise, Administrative/Technical/Material Support.

A.G.: Study Conception/Design, Data Collection/Analysis, Drafting of Manuscript, Statistical Expertise, Administrative/Technical/Material Support.

P.H.: Study Conception/Design, Data Collection/Analysis, Drafting of Manuscript, Statistical Expertise, Administrative/Technical/Material Support.

F.K.: Study Conception/Design, Data Collection/Analysis, Drafting of Manuscript, Statistical Expertise, Administrative/Technical/Material Support.

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