



The Predictive Role of Marital Satisfaction on Parenting Styles and Life Satisfaction of Married Individuals

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to determine whether there is a predictive relationship of marital satisfaction with parenting styles and life satisfaction among married individuals. Three hypothesis were formulated (a) There would be significant predictive relationship between individuals marital satisfaction and their parenting styles (b) There would be significant relationship between individuals marital satisfaction and their life satisfaction. The sample comprised of N= 243, participants with age range between 22 to 50 years out of which 94 were male and 163 were female participants. Gender participation ration was between 36% - 63%. Participants were approach through convenient purposive sampling method from different cities of Pakistan. ENRICH Marital Satisfaction inventory (Baline J.Fowers and David H. Olson 1993) Parenting style Questionnaire (Robinson, Mandlco, Oslen and Hart 1995), and life satisfaction (Diener et al 1985) was utilized for data collection process. Results showed that authoritarian parenting had a significant relationship with the life satisfaction ($r=.20$) and marital satisfaction ($r=.20$), on the other hand, life satisfaction had an inverse relationship with the authoritative parenting style ($r=-.006$). Furthermore, significant correlation between marital satisfaction and life satisfaction ($r=.522$) is observed. Regression analysis shows there is a significant relationship between marital satisfaction and authoritative parenting style ($r^2=.020$) and a significant relationship between marital satisfaction and authoritarian parenting style ($r^2=.042$). Whereas, marital satisfaction and life satisfaction has a significant relationship ($r^2=.038$). Based on the results, the authoritarian parenting style has been seen to substantially connect with the relationship satisfaction of married individuals in Pakistan.

Keywords: Married individuals, Life Satisfaction, Parenting, Marital Satisfaction

INTRODUCTION

Marriage is a constitutionally protected social compact between two people, established on a sexual relationship and indicating the union's permanency (Little, 2016). Marriage is a key social unit that serves as a potential source for future generations' nourishment. Marital contentment is frequently characterised as a person's attitude towards their partnership in a marriage (e.g., Fincham and Beach 2010). According to the definition of Marital Satisfaction, Thompson's stated that (1988) "An individual's subjective evaluation of and personal sentiments toward the

marriage”. Stack and Eshleman (1998) stated that researchers are interested in marital pleasure because of its role in individual and family well-being, and the way society benefits when strong marriages are being formed and sustained. A happy couple works together in their marriage, discusses it, shares responsibility, and divides responsibilities. Their goals, visions, and commitments are all the same (Carrer et al., 2000). The diversity of Marital Satisfaction is characterized by two main concepts: interpersonal processes that work inside marriages and the sociocultural circumstances under which marriages function. Many married people's marriages are influenced by the presence of children. According to research, kids have the contradictory impact of enhancing marriage durability while lowering its quality, particularly when the kids are involved (Waite & Lillard, 1991). In 1990s, researchers have been studying how married people manage the journey to motherhood and the years that follow for some time in terms of understanding the potential impacts of children on marital happiness (Johnson & Huston, 1998). It was noted by the researchers (Belsky & Rovine, 1990) that several spouses do not change significantly on crucial characteristics during the transition to parenting, and that different paths through this transition may be predicted using personal and situational data, as well as, in certain cases, baby disposition indicators.

Parenting styles refer to the techniques and behavioral patterns used by parents to control their children's conduct. Diana gave the basic idea of parenting ideas which were based on the Patterns of conduct that are frequently accepted during the child-rearing process (Bumrind.D, 1971). When opposed to harsh actions, authoritative parents are viewed as being more attentive and exhibiting more supporting behaviors. Parents' engagement and supervision has been found to result in high-achieving children (Clark, 1993). Married people that are happy in their marriage typically choose an authoritative parenting style that is warm and attentive to their children, which boosts their life happiness and self-esteem (Milevsky et al., 2007).

Diener (1984) stated that life satisfaction refers to a person's sentiments and opinions about their life at a given time, which can range from poor to good. Individuals' physical and psychological well-being, along with contentment with their life, have been linked to marital satisfaction (Hawkins & Booth, 2005). Research study by Shek (1995), have found a link between marital happiness and overall life happiness. In accordance with these results Cummins (1996), stated that a topmost theoretical model to life satisfaction has been developed, in which the latter is viewed as the outcome of contentment in several areas of life, which also including marriage. Also, marriage happiness has been more strongly linked to life satisfaction than contentment in other areas of life, such as work or health satisfaction (Heller et al., 2004). The patterns and correlations that may be noticed from various levels of marital happiness and parenting methods make it important to investigate this issue further. Current study is therefore focused on the association and relationship of marital satisfaction with the variables of parenting styles and life satisfaction. As suggested by the literature review it is hypothesized that:

H1: “There will be a significant predictive relationship between married individuals marital satisfaction and their parenting styles.”

H2: “There will be a significant relationship between married individuals marital satisfaction and their life satisfaction.”

METHOD

The present study is a correlational research that was conducted to determine the relationship between Marital satisfaction, parenting style and life satisfaction among married individuals through quantitative survey-based research design.

Participants

For the purpose of this study 243 adults including 94 males and 163 females who were married and had children were included as participants of this study. These participants were taken from different cities of Pakistan. All the participants were selected using the convenient sampling.

Table 1Demographic Variable Frequency and Percentages (N=243)

Table 1 indicates the demographic characteristics of the participant such as age, gender, marital status, years of marriage, family structure, monthly income, qualification, number of children and any major illness.

Descriptive	F	%
Age		
22 to 25 years	19	7.39
26 to 30 years	74	28.79
31 to 35 years	63	24.51
56+	101	39.29
Gender		
Male	94	36.57
Female	163	63.42
Marital Status		
Married	257	100
Years Of marriage		
1 to 4 years	79	30.73
5 to 9 years	72	28.01
10 to 15 years	47	18.28
16+ years	59	22.95
Monthly Income		
15,000 to 25,000 Rs	43	16.73
26,000 to 50,000 Rs	92	35.79
51,000 to 100,000 Rs	82	31.90
100,000+	40	15.56
Number of Children		
1 to 3	219	85.21
4 to 6	36	14.00

6+	2	0.77
Major Illness		
Yes	6	2.33

Inclusion Criteria

- ☐ *Married individuals having children were taken as a participant in the study.*
- ☐ *Individuals who were divorced or not living together were not included in this study.*
- ☐ *Male and female within age range of 22 to 50 years age.*
- ☐ *Individuals with minimum education level of Matriculation were taken as participants.*

Exclusion Criteria

- ☐ *Individuals having no children were not taken as participant in the study.*
 - ☐ *Male and female with less than 22 or more than 50 years age were not taken as participants in the study.*
 - ☐ *Individuals with an education level less then matriculation were not taken as participants.*
- Individuals with any kind of major illness or having a child with major illness were not taken as participants in the study.*

Measures

Demographic Form

A demographic form was designed for current study to obtain personal information, spouse related information and information related to children from respondents.

The ENRICH Marital Satisfaction inventory (Baline J.Fowers and David H. Olson 1993)

ENRICH Marital Satisfaction scale was developed by Baline J.Fowers and David H. Olson in 1993. It has 15 items which measures marital satisfaction with regards to the satisfaction with spouse using 5-point Likert scale. The internal consistency was evaluated for Cronbach's alpha which revealed an internal consistency of .85. test-re-test reliability coefficient was .86 which was assessed with 115 individuals over a 4 weeks period. It has concurrent and construct validity, that is, .73 and .71 respectively.

4.3.3 Parenting style and dimension questionnaire (Robinson, Mandleco, Oslen and Hart 1995)

Parenting style and dimension Questionnaire (1995) was developed by Robinson, mandleco, Oslen, and Hart. The scale consists of 32 items that measure all the three types of parenting styles given by Bumrind; Authoritative style, Authoritarian style and Permissive Style. All the items were based on a 5-point Likert-type response format. The authoritative style subscale consisted of 15 items, $\alpha = .90$ for mothers and $\alpha = .95$ for fathers. The authoritarian style subscale consisted of 12 items, $\alpha = .80$ for mothers and $\alpha = .78$ for fathers. The permissive style subscale consisted of 5 items, $\alpha = .80$ for mothers and $\alpha = .78$ for fathers. inter subscales correlations were quite satisfactory between authoritative parenting and authoritarian parenting ($r = -.60$; $p < .01$); and between authoritarian parenting and permissive parenting ($r = .72$; $p < .01$).

Satisfaction with Life Scale (Diener et al 1985)

The Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS) measures subjective criteria of satisfaction with life on five items utilizing 7-point Likert scale. The SWLS has shown strong internal reliability and moderate temporal

stability. Diener et al. (1985) reported a coefficient alpha of 0.87 for the scale and a 2-month test-retest stability coefficient of 0.82.

Procedure

A letter of consent describing the purpose of the research along with the questionnaires was provided to the participants. After reading the consent form, and agreeing to it, the participants were provided with the questionnaire. Considering the inclusion and exclusion criteria participants were asked to fill out the form.. Participants who were married were approached for the study purpose. Most of the targeted population were working people, hence it was easier to obtain information about their marital and parental practices. These participants were provided with the Enrich Marital satisfaction, parenting style questionnaire, and life satisfaction questionnaire. The participants were asked to keep in their mind the state of their spousal relationship The administered scales were then be scored according to the set criteria and were statistically analyzed using regression analysis, and correlational analysis.

Statistical Analysis

In order to interpret the data in statistical terminology the SPSS 23 was used. Descriptive statistics (frequencies, percentages) was used to identify the characteristics of sample. Inferential statistics (correlation, regression analysis and t-test) was utilized to draw inferences.

RESULTS

Table 2:

Descriptive statistics and alpha reliability coefficient of study variable, univariate normality of study variables

<i>Note: LS = Life</i>	Variables'	Items	N	A	M	SD	S	SES	K	Min	`Max
	MS	15	243	0.80	37.46	16.73	-0.30	0.15	-1.09	7.39	65.66
	Authoritative	15	243	0.82	62.27	8.07	-0.29	0.15	-0.5	40	77
	Authoritarian	12	243	0.82	32.81	10.37	0.16	0.15	-0.78	12	58
	Permissive	5	243	0.82	13.57	3.81	-0.11	0.15	-0.37	5	24
	LS	5	243	0.85	22..20	7.39	-0.51	0.15	-0.77	5	35

Satisfaction, MS= Marital Satisfaction, PS= Parental Satisfaction, Authtive= Authoritative Parenting Style, Authrian= Authoritarian Parenting Style, Perm= Permissive Parenting Style.

Table 4

Simple linear regression analysis showing Marital Satisfaction as predictor of Authoritative Parenting Style

	B	SE	β	R	R ²	F	Sig
Authoritative (constant)	59.70	1.21					.027
Marital Satisfaction	.068	.031	.142	.142	.020	4.95	.022

Note P<0.05

The table 4 shows 1.4% of the variance in the dependent variable is explained by the independent variable. The regression table shows that the overall regression model statistically predicts the outcome variable. Moreover, the β value is 0.142 which implies that a significant relationship exists between authoritative parenting style and marital satisfaction. Authoritative parenting have a statistically significant impact on marital satisfaction p <0.02.

Table 5

Summary of simple linear regression analysis showing Marital Satisfaction as predictor of Authoritarian Parenting Style

	B	SE	B	R	R ²	F	Sig
Authoritarian (constant)	28.0	1.60					.000
Marital Satisfaction	.126	.039	.204	.204	.042	10.4	.001

P<0.05

The table 5 shows 4.2% of the variance in the dependent variable explained by the independent variable. The regression table shows that the overall regression model statistically predicts the outcome variable. Moreover, the β value is 0.204 which implies that a significant relationship exists between Authoritarian parenting style and marital satisfaction. Authoritarian parenting has a statistically significant impact on marital satisfaction p <0.001.

Table 6

Summary of simple linear regression analysis showing Marital Satisfaction as predictor of Life Satisfaction

	B	SE	B	R	R2	F	Sig
Life Satisfaction	13.57	.996					.000
(constant)							
Marital Satisfaction	.230	.024	.522	.522	.272	90.06	.000

The table 6 shows 27% of the variance in the dependent variable is explained by the independent variable. The regression table shows that the overall regression model statistically predicts the outcome variable. Moreover, the β value is 0.52 which implies that there is a significant relationship exists between lfie satisfaction and marital satisfaction. lfie satisfaction has a statistically significant impact on marital satisfaction $p < 0.00$.

Table 7

Summary of simple linear regression analysis showing Marital Satisfaction as predictor of Permissive Parenting Style

	B	SE	B	R	R2	F	Sig
Permissive	2.94	.382	-0.18	.018	0.03	0.007	.792
(constant)							
Marital Satisfaction	-.029	.110	-.018				

The table shows that marital satisfaction explained 0.03% of the variance in permissive parenting ($R^2 = .0003$). The overall regression model was not statistically significant, $F(1, 206) = 0.07$, $p = .792$. Furthermore, marital satisfaction did not significantly predict permissive parenting ($\beta = -.018$, $p = .792$).

DISCUSSION

This study had two main objectives. The first was to assess the predictive relationship between marital satisfaction and parenting styles, the second was to explore and measure the significance of marital satisfaction and life satisfaction, among married individuals.

The first hypothesis of this study stated that there will be a significant predictive relationship between individuals' marital satisfaction and their parenting styles. The findings of the regression analyses showed that marital satisfaction significantly predicted authoritative parenting style, $\beta = .142$, $R = .142$, $R^2 = .020$, $F = 4.95$, $p = .022$. This indicates that marital satisfaction explained 2% of the variance in authoritative parenting style. Although the amount of explained variance was small, the overall regression model was statistically significant, indicating that marital satisfaction significantly predicted authoritative parenting style. These findings suggest that individuals who experience greater satisfaction within their marital relationship may be more likely to adopt an authoritative approach in their parenting.

As supported by previous findings, marital satisfaction is a powerful predictor for enhancing the likelihood of consistency in parental approaches. These findings are consistent with previous research, which found that married people with comparable parental approaches reported less disagreement in their marital relationship (Margolin et al., 2001). It appears that in a satisfying marriage relationship, positive emotions about the partner can contribute to stronger communication among parents, causing parents to discuss further their own kids and, as a matter of fact, more interaction in the parent-child relationship alliance (Boričević Maršanić & Kušmić, 2013). It is hypothesized that married people who have satisfying marital connections might shift the favorable emotions they have towards their partners to parenting connections, resulting in favorable parental connections (Margolin et al., 2001).

The regression analysis further indicated that marital satisfaction significantly predicted authoritarian parenting style, $\beta = .204$, $R = .204$, $R^2 = .042$, $F = 10.40$, $p = .001$. The results indicate that marital satisfaction explained 4.2% of the variance in authoritarian parenting style. The significant regression model suggests that marital satisfaction had a statistically significant predictive effect on authoritarian parenting style. Although authoritarian parenting is generally characterized by greater control and strictness, the positive predictive relationship observed in the current study may be understood within the cultural context of Pakistan.

In Pakistani context, parents generally exercise control in child rearing (Kausar & Shafique, 2008). Chao (1994) proposed that Asian families score high on the authoritarian dimension because they do not associate control with dominating restriction, but with caring. Respect for parents who hold a place "second only to God" is an important prescription of Islam (Obeid, 1988). Levels of parental control, therefore, are likely to be higher and better tolerated in Asian cultures (Kagitcibasi, 1996, p. 21). Child abuse is not only a commonly practiced but increasing phenomenon in Pakistan, however, less addressed problem due to social and cultural pressures and there is false perception that problem is under control (Jillani, 2003). Therefore, the cultural

acceptance and exercise of authoritarian parenting is different in Pakistani culture as compared to other South Asian countries.

Zaman (2014) stated that in Pakistan, the family is essential to all facets of life. Collective family decisions are visible in aspects such as schooling, wedding, housing options, and economic and personal assistance. In Pakistani contexts, the situation is significantly distinct since it represents the authoritarian aspect of parenting practices in which kids are confined, regulated, and compelled to display compliance and pursue approval. In Pakistan, socialisation of kids entails offering upbringing and education, precision and good manners, sustenance and assistance, and implementing all moral standards and virtues, working to develop glorified behaviour and connections with everyone.

The significant predictive relationship between marital satisfaction and both authoritative and authoritarian parenting styles suggests that the marital relationship may be related to the way parents establish boundaries, communicate expectations, and interact with their children. It is hypothesized that married people who have satisfying marital connections might shift the favorable emotions they have towards their partners to parenting connections, resulting in favorable parental connections (Margolin et al., 2001). Similar idea is being shared in the Gottmans theory of sound relationship that when the partners communicate with each other, understand, provide attention and care to each other, the stressors between them reduces and improves the overall marital satisfaction. However, it is often observed among most of the distressed couples in our society, that couples don't communicate the problems with each other, try to make each other appear as a bad person in front of others, and do not appreciate each other's efforts. Hence, leading to conflicts and ultimately a broken or divorced family.

The findings for permissive parenting were different from those of authoritative and authoritarian parenting. The regression analysis showed that marital satisfaction did not significantly predict permissive parenting style, $\beta = -.018$, $R = .018$, $R^2 \approx .0003$, $F = 0.07$, $p = .792$. Marital satisfaction therefore explained only approximately 0.03% of the variance in permissive parenting style, and the overall regression model was not statistically significant. This indicates that marital satisfaction does not appear to be an important predictor of permissive parenting among the married individuals included in the present study. Therefore, the first hypothesis is ****partially accepted****, as marital satisfaction significantly predicted authoritative and authoritarian parenting styles, but did not significantly predict permissive parenting style.

When the interactions among parenting styles and relationship quality of people living in Pakistan were examined, it was discovered that of either of the three kinds of parenting practices examined, the authoritative parenting style seemed to have the greatest relationship with marital satisfaction of married individuals. The authoritarian parenting style had the second most powerful association

with married people's marital satisfaction, whereas the permissive parenting style had no association with married people's marital contentment. The current regression findings similarly demonstrate significant predictive effects for authoritative and authoritarian parenting, while permissive parenting was not significantly predicted by marital satisfaction. This discovery that authoritative parenting seemed to have an important relationship with relationship satisfaction can be attributed to the fact that parental support, reinforcement of mental independence, and requirements for age-appropriate conduct coupled with control and surveillance make a contribution to adolescents' strong psychological, educational, and psychosocial adaptation (Steinberg et al., 1995). Similarly, authoritative parenting has been most frequently connected with better growth effects on children, such as educational adjustment and academic progress, positive self-esteem, psychosocial ability, and much less behavioral and psychological disruption (Steinberg et al., 1995). The authoritarian parenting style primarily promotes healthy development in children by giving support and encouragement through attentiveness and by creating boundaries, limitations, and objectives through the authoritarian parenting style (Martinez et al., 2007).

Ollendick (1979) researched parental locus of control and family background in adults and caregivers, categorizing people into four categories based on their locus of control results: mother and father respective internal as well as external, father internal-mother external, mother internal-father external. Creating these categories enabled the researcher to determine the influence of the locus of control position on the behavioral pattern of each parent's child. Based on the findings researcher concluded that the children who had an external locus of control parents were significantly anxious as compared to those who had either one of them, or have parents with an internal locus of control. The findings also revealed that it is beneficial for the children to at least have one parent with an internal locus of control. Inconsistent parenting style is observed among the parents with the external locus of control. Hence, it is certain that the relationship between the parent and children is also influenced significantly by the locus of control of parents. Furthermore, Paul et al. (1997) found stable findings related to the couple's marital satisfaction. It was revealed in the study that the maritally satisfied couples had an internal locus of control as compared to couples who had the same locus of control. In the current research study, locus of control has not been studied but the previous studies suggest a strong influence of locus of control on marital satisfaction and parenting styles.

According to a study by Onyekuru (2015), there is also a weak positive combined association between both the parenting practices and marriage happiness of husband and wife high school teachers. The combined link between parenting practices and marriage happiness was meaningful at the proper levels of variation and likelihood threshold, despite its small size. The discovery of a modest but substantial combined association between parenting practices and relationship quality is comparable to the results of Chandola and Bhanot (2008), who discovered a substantial connection between parental involvement and high school student contentment. The result of a

modest but substantial combined connection between parenting practices and relationship quality can be attributed to the finding that authoritative parenting is linked strongly with marital satisfaction when handled separately. As a result, when combined with permissive and authoritarian parenting styles, the authoritative parenting style had a significant adequate impact to occur in a substantial combined association between both the parenting techniques and marital happiness.

The second hypothesis focused on the predictive relationship between couples' marital satisfaction and their life satisfaction. The regression analysis showed that marital satisfaction significantly predicted life satisfaction, $\beta = .522$, $R = .522$, $R^2 = .272$, $F = 90.06$, $p < .001$. The unstandardized regression coefficient was $B = .230$ with a standard error of $SE = .024$. The findings indicate that marital satisfaction explained 27.2% of the variance in life satisfaction. The overall regression model was statistically significant, indicating that marital satisfaction was a significant predictor of life satisfaction. Therefore, the second hypothesis was accepted.

It is observed that several variables, including great happiness in reference to individuality and existence, positive self-esteem, ego, feeling of control, genuine aspirations, appropriate social skills, feeling of duty toward others, and maintain a positive mentality in harsh circumstances, play a significant role in relationship satisfaction. Generally, life satisfaction and psychological wellbeing improve as one's life quality improves (Kazemi et al., 2011). The sensation of well-being which results from contentment or discontent in numerous essential elements of life is referred to as life satisfaction (Sammarco, 2001). Regardless of relationships with parents, peers, or the society, every individual's quality of life is determined by their own distinctive style of life and life satisfaction. Furthermore, the individual is fulfilled on emotional, interpersonal, financial, ideological, religious, and physical levels (Cella, 1994).

Friends, intimate partners, and kids offer help and assistance, share leisure time, and support financially encourage life satisfaction, so social and romantic relationships play an important role in life satisfaction (Adams, 1971). Getting married or in a romantic connection, as well as maintain a social atmosphere, all have an optimistic impact on life satisfaction (Diener et al., 2000). Furthermore, when analysing the data, it is clear that marital satisfaction seems to significantly predict life satisfaction, just like evidenced by the research that has been conducted (NgLoy et al., 2009). Marriage, that is viewed as an intimate and structural connection among a man and a woman, can indeed be acknowledged as just a watershed moment in people's interpersonal lives. Whereas marriage is recognised as among the most unique formulations of intimate relationships, it seems to be an establishment which thus is among the most important prerequisites for marriage and children (Erdoğan & Uslu, 2018). Marriage is regarded as an entity which maintains communities, as well as the concept of marriage must be fit and active in order for the system to be positive and confident (Özmen-Süataç, 2010). A successful marriage is probable when partners

fulfil one another's requirements and aspirations and work together to keep their marital relationship in consonance, which ultimately leads to the development of life satisfaction and contentment (Tutarel-Kışlak & Göztepe, 2012).

The third hypothesis stated that there will be a significant predictive relationship between couples' parenting styles and their life satisfaction. This hypothesis has not been approved as it has shown no predictive relationship between parenting styles and life satisfaction. Fulfillment may not always be easy to achieve, and yet many people encounter varying degrees of it throughout their lives. The parenting style used may indeed be related to the varying levels of life pleasure. According to ValEssen (2003), half the battle of becoming a great parent would be to search for and nurture the finest within every kid. This constructive help, provided through one productive parenting style, may ensure a secure atmosphere in the perspective of both the parents and the children, thereby contributing to future overall happiness.

However, the cultural differences and Pakistani culture is another important aspect in determining the relationship between parenting style and life satisfaction. In a Pakistani culture, boys are given more importance than the girls. Gender influences the way children are raised, which may result in disparities in grownup life satisfaction among boys and girls. Many academics have been using science to describe the influence of gender on parental involvement and life happiness, whilst many had concentrated on behaviour as well as other differences that exist between different genders. According to Hapworth, Hapworth, and Heilman (1993), boys are favoured than girls, boys are held to a higher standard, and whose achievement is regarded to be much more essential. If individuals, particularly girls in mixed-gender households, are capable of comprehending this variation in parental involvement throughout childhood, the impacts may contribute to inequalities in satisfaction with life between daughters and sons.

As far as other demographics are concerned, a study by Ballesteors (2001) found that married people reported greater satisfaction towards life as compared to widowed or divorced individuals. Other than parenting styles, many other factors are involved in individual's life satisfaction. Ballesteors (2001) found that men are more satisfied than women, this finding is consistent with our findings; however, two socio-demographic characteristics (income and education) directly and indirectly affect the satisfaction of life through psychological factors such as activity (level of physical activity, satisfaction with recreational activities and social interactions), health and physical illness. Moreover, age, marital status, income and education are also seen as major determinants of life satisfaction (R. F. Ballesteors, 2001).

One other important factor that affects parent's life satisfaction is their number of children. According to Fawcett (1988), having one or two children can provide as many psychological benefits as three or more children. Thus, transition to being parent of one is more likely to provide

one with more benefits as compared to being a parent of two or more children. If seen in economic beneficence, the marginal utility decreases with increasing number of children. Thus, on the other hand, apart from fun and happiness children can provide, there is a huge cost to raising children.

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