

# MARITAL SATISFACTION AMONG KADAZANDUSUN COUPLES IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS OF SABAH

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ROSNAH ISMAIL

This paper explores factors related to the marital satisfaction of KadazanDusun couples in rural and urban areas in Sabah. The sample was composed of 45 couples in rural and 56 couples in urban areas. Each couple participated in the study by completing the Marital Satisfaction Inventory (MSI) by Snyder (1981) and a demographic data sheet designed by a researcher. A *t-test* and a *Standard T-Scores* procedure were performed to investigate the differences between the rural and urban couples. An examination of the data revealed significant differences between the rural and urban couples in the areas of affective communication, conventionalization, conflict over child rearing, global distress, problem-solving communication, time together, disagreement about finances, sexual dissatisfaction, family history of distress, dissatisfaction with children. No significant differences were exhibited between the rural and urban couples on the role orientation scale. In general, the KadazanDusun couples in urban areas experienced greater marital satisfaction as compared to KadazanDusun couples in rural areas. The implications of these findings for social psychologists in the context of rapid socioeconomic change are discussed. Implications for future research are also examined.

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School of Psychology and Social Work, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Teluk Likas Campus. Locked  
7 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia.

h@ums.edu.my

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HQ  
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