

THREE COMPONENTS OF FAMILY LIFE SATISFACTION
- MARITAL, PARENTAL, AND SELF SATISFACTIONS

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The purposes of this study were to assess three components of family life satisfaction and how marital, parental, and self satisfactions predict family life satisfaction. Data were obtained from 100 couples living in the U.S.A. in which the husband was an American and the wife was a native Korean. In the results, family life satisfaction had three components and were strongly predicted by marital, parental, and self satisfactions. From the regression analysis, the American husband's family life satisfaction was strongly influenced by self satisfaction about three times more than marital satisfaction did. On the contrary, the Korean wife's family life satisfaction was influenced by marital satisfaction three times more than that of self satisfaction. Surprisingly, the perception of family satisfaction by American husbands and Korean wives were apparently distinguished. From the results, the author could consider three possible explanations. First, the different perception of family satisfaction might be caused by different cultural backgrounds. That is, American culture usually puts more emphasis on the individual or self than marriage and family, while the Korean culture usually puts more emphasis on marriage than self. Second, the different perception of family satisfaction might be caused by gender difference. The male might be more self-oriented rather than marriage-oriented, while the female might be more marriage-oriented rather than self-oriented. Finally, the different perception of family satisfaction might be caused by a unique sample (interracial marriages). Korean-American couples may have a different perception of family satisfaction from American couples or Korean couples. The reason might be that the adjustment for interracial marriage could influence their perception of family.