

Family of Origin Predictors of Marital Outcomes Among Coptic Orthodox Christian Egyptian Couples

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Despite the importance of family within the Coptic community, the extant literature on Coptic family relationships is limited. The purpose of this study was to explore parental marital quality and family of origin (FOO) quality as predictors of marital satisfaction and marital stability among Coptic Orthodox Christian Egyptian American couples. The findings of this study contribute to prevention science research, as they identify factors that are associated with decreased relationship dysfunction (Coie et al., 1993). Self-report survey data for 255 married Coptic couples living in the United States were analyzed using an actor-partner interdependence model. Results indicated husband FOO quality predicated both marital satisfaction ($b=1/4.51$, $SE=1/4.18$, $p=1/4.005$) and marital stability ($b=1/4.51$, $SE=1/4.22$, $p=1/4.022$) among Coptic husbands but not among Coptic wives. Results further indicated wife parental marital quality, wife FOO quality, and husband parental marital quality were not predictive of marital satisfaction or marital stability among Coptic husbands or wives. It was also found that Bowen Family Systems Theory (BFST) interventions can be adapted as a culturally sensitive theory to work with Muslim couples (Sauerheber, Nims, & Carter, 2014). Future research should attempt to investigate the overlap between religious, ethnic, and cultural dimensions with Arab and Middle-Eastern communities. Additional exploration within these intersecting factors may be useful in identifying to what extent religious beliefs of Copts impact their marital relationships. **Clinical Implications:** An intervention unique to BFST is coming to terms, or managing FOO experiences, which assists the individual to work through past experiences and be at peace with them.

Coie, J. D., Watt, N. F., West, S. G., Hawkins, J. D., Asarnow, J. R., Markman, H. J., ... & Long, B. (1993). The science of prevention: A conceptual framework and some directions for a national research program. *American Psychologist*, 48(10), 1013.

Sauerheber, J. D., Nims, D., & Carter, D. J. (2014). Counseling Muslim couples from a Bowen family systems perspective. *The Family Journal*, 22, 231–239. doi:[10.1177/1066480713514937](https://doi.org/10.1177/1066480713514937).

See also: Christina Salama, Jeffrey B. Jackson, Sesen Negash & Manijeh Daneshpour (2019) Family of Origin Predictors of Marital Outcomes Among Coptic Orthodox Christian Egyptian-American Couples, *Journal of Couple & Relationship Therapy*, 18:1, 44-64, DOI: 10.1080/15332691.2018.1481800