

## Joint Leisure Time, Communication, and Marital Satisfaction among Taxi Drivers

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**Abstract.** This study aims to examine the relationship between joint leisure time, as well as communication, and marital satisfaction among taxi drivers. The subjects included in this study were 87 taxi drivers (100% male) in company X Surabaya. Quantitative method in this research is used with correlational design. Incidental sampling was used as the sampling technique. Instruments used in this study were joint leisure time scale (Kurniawan & Setiawan, 2016), communication scale (Olson & Larson, 2008), and marital satisfaction scale (Grable & Britt, 2006). The result of multiple correlation test shows that there is a positive relationship between joint leisure time and communication altogether with marital satisfaction ( $R=0.673; p<0.05$ ). The result of partial correlation test shows that there is a relationship between joint leisure time and marital satisfaction by controlling communication ( $r=0.497; p<0.05$ ). The results also shows that there is a relationship between communication and marital satisfaction by controlling joint leisure time ( $r=0.441; p<0.05$ ). Based on the results above it can be concluded that joint leisure time and communication altogether ( $R^2=45.2\%$ ) gives higher contribution to marital satisfaction compared to joint leisure time and communication being separated. In addition, joint leisure time ( $r^2=32\%$ ) contributed better with marital satisfaction compared to communication ( $r^2=13.2\%$ ).

**Keywords:** Communication, joint leisure time, marital satisfaction, taxi driver

**Abstrak.** Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui hubungan antara waktu luang bersama dan komunikasi dengan kepuasan pernikahan pada sopir taksi. Subjek dalam penelitian ini adalah 87 sopir taksi di perusahaan X Surabaya. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah kuantitatif dengan desain korelasional. Teknik pengambilan sampel menggunakan sampling insidental. Pengambilan data menggunakan skala yang terdiri dari skala waktu luang bersama (Kurniawan & Setiawan, 2016), skala komunikasi (Olson & Larson, 2008), dan skala kepuasan pernikahan (Grable & Britt, 2006). Hasil uji korelasi ganda menunjukkan adanya hubungan positif antara waktu luang bersama dan komunikasi dengan kepuasan pernikahan ( $R=0.673; p<0.05$ ). Hasil uji korelasi parsial menunjukkan ada hubungan antara waktu luang bersama dan kepuasan pernikahan dengan mengendalikan komunikasi ( $r=0.497; p<0.05$ ). Hasil penelitian juga menunjukkan adanya hubungan antara komunikasi dan kepuasan pernikahan dengan mengendalikan waktu luang bersama ( $r=0.441; p<0.05$ ). Berdasarkan ketiga hasil penelitian di atas dapat disimpulkan waktu luang bersama dan komunikasi bersama-sama meningkatkan kepuasan pernikahan lebih baik ( $R^2=40.2\%$ ) dibandingkan secara terpisah. Selain itu, kontribusi waktu luang bersama ( $r^2=32\%$ ) ke kepuasan pernikahan lebih besar dibandingkan komunikasi ( $r^2=13.2\%$ ).

**Kata Kunci:** Komunikasi, waktu luang bersama, kepuasan pernikahan, sopir taksi

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Being a taxi driver is considered as one of the most dangerous jobs (Christie, 2012; Gilbert, 2007; Kloberdanz, 2016). Based on NIOSH (in OHSA, 2000), taxi drivers are 60 times more likely to be murdered on the job. Furthermore, Nielsen, Paritski, and Smyth (2009) found that many taxi company did not provide safety insurance for taxi drivers. Taxi drivers also work for 8 hours/day and have a strict target everyday which can pressure them.

Thayer et al. (2010) found that work environment may affect stress. Bodenmann et al. (2007) found that the accumulation of stress, which in this case is stress from workplace, is likely to result in an unhappy marriage or even divorce. Burgess and Locke (in Ardhanita & Andayani, 2005) mentioned six successful marriage criterias. One of them is marital satisfaction. Marital Satisfaction is defined as an individual's overall subjective evaluation of the overall quality of marriage (Bahr, Chappell, & Leigh, 1983).

There are four factors which affect marital satisfaction. The first factor is parent's marital happiness. Usually, when people are married, they tend to measure their marital satisfaction based on their parent's marriage. People with divorced parent tend to have low commitment in their marriage (Whitton et al., 2008). The second factor is the presence of children. Hirschberger et al. (2009) found that spouses' marital satisfaction tend to decrease when having their first child. This happens because couples who have a child for the first time would experience either fatigue, lack of time, or conflict about childcare. The third factor that affects marital satisfaction is communication. A good communication is one of supporting factors for marital satisfaction (Duvall & Miller, in Srisusanti & Zulkaida, 2013). The last factor is similar interest. Couples who share a similar interest could enjoy their joint leisure time by spending their time with activities that

both enjoy. Knowles (2002) found that couple with similar interests have a higher marital satisfaction compared to couple without similar interests. Marital Satisfaction have an important effect in marriage life, including taxi driver. Taxi driver who continuously work had less likely to meet and interact with their couple. Couples that are difficult to interact each other will less likely to evaluate his/her marriage. This can result in low marital satisfaction. Low marital satisfaction could increase divorce (Levenson, Carstensen, & Gottman, 1993).

One of marriage-related problems is leisure time (Fowers & Olson, 1989). Orthner (1975) divided leisure time into three activities: individual activities, parallel activities, and joint activities. Orthner (1975) concluded that joint activities have positive relationship with marital satisfaction because joint activities include activities that involve high amount of interaction between partners. Therefore, leisure time that is used in this research is joint leisure time. Olson and Larson (2008) define joint leisure time as the amount and quality of leisure time spent together. They look at similarities in interest, and satisfaction with the balance of time spent together and apart.

Participation in joint leisure time with spouses is related to marital satisfaction. Joint leisure time can also decrease divorce rates (Chaves, 2015). However, taxi drivers who work from dawn to late night seem to have less time available to participate in joint leisure time with their spouse, and also his/her individual joint leisure time. Therefore, this could impact to their marital satisfaction.

Another marriage-related problem is communication (Fowers & Olson, 1989). Olson, Olson-Sigg, and Larson (2008) define communication as the dynamic process through which people try to convey meaning to one another. Communication plays a central role in personal relationships

(Burleson, 2003). Taxi driver who works from dawn to late night is difficult to interact with their partner. Poor communication between couples can lead a marital dissatisfaction. According to Burleson and Denton (1997), good communication skills are positively associated with marital satisfaction in non-distressed couples. But, if one partner experiences some stressful conditions at work and vents it to other family members, it can reduce the quality of communication.

There are four communication styles frequently used by couples (Olson, Olson-Sigg, & Larson, 2008), i.e. passive communication, aggressive communication, passive-aggressive communication, and assertive communication. Passive communication is a communication style in which a person does not express their true feelings or desires. A person with an aggressive communication demands that their opinions and desires be met. They try to dominate others by criticizing. Passive-aggressive communication style is when a person keep silent but then will be angry or seek vengeance afterwards. A person with assertive communication style can express his/her feelings and desires without violating the rights of others. In conclusion, assertive communication style is a good communication style for couples.

Based on what was mentioned before, the research question in this research: "is there any correlation between joint leisure time and communication towards marital satisfaction of taxi driver?" The aim of this research is to determine the relationship between joint leisure time, communication, and marital satisfaction among taxi drivers. This study also identifies the effective contribution of variables related to joint leisure time and communication towards marital satisfaction.

## Hypothesis

### *Mayor*

There is a positive correlation between joint leisure time and communication towards marital satisfaction among taxi driver.

### *Minor*

1. There is a positive correlation between joint leisure time and marital satisfaction by controlling communication in taxi drivers.
2. There is a positive correlation between communication and marital satisfaction by controlling joint leisure time in taxi drivers.

## Methods

**Statistical Population and Sampling.** This research population consists of 87 married taxi drivers at a taxi company in Surabaya. The majority of our research subjects are 30-39 years old, and they present 40.2% of the total samples. All of the subjects are male (100%). 94.3% subjects are Muslims. The majority of subjects' income range per month is less than five million Rupiahs per month (87.4%). This research applies incidental sampling method to collect data. Incidental sampling is one of non-random sampling technique which collects by coincidence, that is anyone whom researcher met by chance as long as the criteria is relevant (Sugiyono, 2014).

## Procedure and Questionnaires

### *Joint Leisure Time*

In this research, the scale used to measure joint leisure time was developed by Kurniawan & Setiawan (2016) based on the concept proposed by Olson, Olson-Sigg, and Larson (2008). This scale consists of two dimensions: similarities in interest and satisfaction with the balance of time spent together and apart. This joint leisure time

has 5 items. Participants were asked to put a tick (✓) on a scale ranging from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree) represent their degree of approval towards the statements. The reliability of joint leisure time scale is measured using Alpha Cronbach technique, and the result is 0.777.

### Communication

In this research, communication scale was developed by Olson and Larson (2008) in PREPARE/ENRICH: Customized version. This communication scale has 10 items. Participants were asked to put a tick (✓) on a scale ranging from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree) represent their degree of approval towards the statements. The reliability of communication scale is measured using Alpha Cronbach technique, and the result is 0.717.

### Marital Satisfaction

In this research, marital satisfaction scale was developed by Grable & Britt (2006) which refers to Kansas Marital Satisfaction Scale (KMSS). On a 5-point scale ranging from 'Very Dissatisfied' to 'Very Satisfied', participants were asked to indicate the degree of satisfaction about their marriages. This marital satisfaction scale has 3 items, and the alpha cronbach reliability coefficient is 0.91.

**Data Analysis Method.** To analyze the data and test the hypotheses, multiple correlation test and partial correlation test were used

**Table 1. Descriptive Data**

	Mean	Std. Dev.
Joint Leisure Time	4.03	0.72
Communication	3.52	0.63
Marital Satisfaction	4.37	0.83

**Table 2. Multiple Correlation Test**

	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change
Joint Leisure Time	0.556	0.312	0.312	0.6796 0.322
Joint Leisure Time and Marital Satisfaction (by controlling Communication)	0.673	0.452	0.439	0.6137 0.132

**Tabel 3. Partial Coreelation Test**

Correlation	R
Joint Leisure Time and Marital Satisfaction (by controlling Communication)	0.497 ( $p < 0.05$ )
Communication and Marital Satisfaction (by controlling Joint Leisure Time)	0.441 ( $p < 0.05$ )

## Results and Discussion

**Data Processing Results.** As displayed in Table 1, joint leisure time has a mean value of  $M=4.03$ ,  $SD=0.72$ , communication has a mean value of  $M=3.52$ ,  $SD=0.63$ , and marital satisfaction has a mean value of  $M=4.37$ ,  $SD=0.83$ . It means joint leisure time and communication belong in a high category while marital satisfaction belongs to a very high category. Based on Table 2, it shows that there is a positive and significant correlation between joint leisure time and communication towards marital satisfaction. It was found that joint leisure time and communication contributed 45.2% to marital satisfaction, which joint leisure time having a significantly higher contributing power (32%) than communication (13.2%). In Table 3, the result show that there is a correlation between joint leisure time and marital satisfaction by controlling communication, and correlation between communication

and marital satisfaction by controlling joint leisure time.

**Discussion.** In the first hypothesis, it was revealed that joint leisure time and communication altogether has a direct and significant correlation toward marital satisfaction. Joint leisure time and communication have their respective roles in determining marital satisfaction. If joint leisure time is considered alone, it only contributed 32% to marital satisfaction. If communication considered alone, it only contributed 13.2% to marital satisfaction. But, if joint leisure time and communication influence together, it contributed 45.2% to marital satisfaction. This happen because joint leisure time and communication complement each other.

Joint leisure time and communication's significant influence to marital satisfaction can be observed when one could be open, comfortable, and able to spend their time together with each other doing activity that both enjoy. If joint leisure time is considered alone, couples focus only to enjoy activities together without expressing their feelings to each other. Similarly, if communication is considered alone, couples express their feelings without enjoying any activities together. To achieve better marital satisfaction, couples need both a sufficient amount of joint leisure time and good quality of communication with their partner.

In other words, more satisfying joint leisure time and greater quality communication lead to a higher marital satisfaction. This research finding is consistent with Knowles' (2002) finding that the most satisfying joint leisure time that spouses reported, the higher the level of their marital satisfaction is. It was found that communication seems to be a critical factor in the relationship between joint leisure time and marital satisfaction. In relation to this research finding, joint leisure time and communication correlated better with marital satisfaction compared to when the

former two are correlated separately with marital satisfaction. In previous research (Holman & Jacquart, 1988) concluded that joint leisure time without communication has no relationship. But in this current study, joint leisure time together with communication increase marital satisfaction. In other words, this findings supported Holman and Jacquart's (1988) conclusion that communication is a key factor to increase marital satisfaction.

Furthermore, the results obtained in this study also showed that joint leisure time has contributed strongly with marital satisfaction (32%). This finding matches with Johnson (2005) and Crawford et al. (2002) who found that joint leisure time increase marital satisfaction. Taxi driver experience high level of stress (McDonough & Stewart, 2010) because of the pressure to earn money every day. They tend to have a very limited amount of time to spend with their spouses. Spending joint leisure time requires the couple to enjoy the same leisure activities within a period of time. According to Baldwin et al. (1999), spending joint activities that both partners enjoy increases marital satisfaction more significantly compared to spending time on joint activities that both partners dislike. Similarly, Riessman et al. (1993) also found that couples need to spend joint leisure time together engaging in exciting activities to increase marital satisfaction. One possible explanation is that although taxi drivers do not usually have a lot of time for themselves, they may enjoy joint leisure time spent together on activities enjoyable for both of them.

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The result of this study also indicates that communication has positive correlation with marital satisfaction. Kabali (2006), in his study, found that communication is one of the primary factors that affects marital stability and satisfaction. In line with the above study, the greater their quality of communication is, the greater their marital satisfaction is also. Further support of the findings in this study was found in Alayi, AhmadiGatab, and Khamen (2011) research. They found that spouses with

good communication skills own higher marital satisfaction compared to spouses with bad communication skills. Additionally, this finding is also supported by Burleson and Denton (1997) which reported that communication is one of influential factor to marital satisfaction.

Bodenmann (in Bodenmann et al., 2007) carried out a longitudinal study about the causes of divorce. It was found that low joint leisure time and low quality of communication are significantly causing divorce. Chaves (2015) also stated stress could limit positive joint leisure time. Not only that, Ledermann, Bodenmann, Rudaz, and Bradbury (2010) found a link that couple stress related with communication with partner and also their marriage. Therefore, it can be acknowledged that taxi drivers with high level of stress at work need to have an amount of joint leisure time and good quality of communication in order to ensure their marital satisfaction.

**Research limitations and future research suggestions.** The data collected from the sample only consisted of 87 taxi drivers in company X, which has more than 800 taxi drivers. Therefore, this research cannot be generalized. In order to improve the research, some future researches could use large sample size in order to generalized the data.

## Conclusion

Based on the result, all hypotheses in this research were accepted. In more detail: (1) there is positive relationship between joint leisure time and communication altogether with marital satisfaction on taxi driver ( $R=0.673$ ,  $\rho < 0.05$ ), (2) there is positive relationship between joint leisure time and marital satisfaction by controlling communication on taxi driver ( $r=0.497$ ,  $\rho < 0.05$ ), and (3) there is positive relationship between communication and marital satisfaction by controlling joint leisure time on taxi driver ( $r=0.441$ ,  $\rho < 0.05$ ). Furthermore, this result also indicates that

joint leisure time and communication altogether contributed 45.2% to marital satisfaction, with joint leisure time having a significantly higher contribution (32%) than communication (13.2%).

Results proposed that taxi driver companies need to create some activities which encourage taxi drivers to increase marital satisfaction, especially joint leisure time and communication. For example, a holiday prize for couple which is drawn every 3 months. Moreover, taxi driver should spend more their joint leisure time with their spouse. It could be the same activity that spouses like. Also, taxi driver should increase daily communication with their spouse. It is expected that spouses are more willing to open themselves and share their feeling and experiences.

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