

**Analysis of factors affecting to build a successful family life within the framework of
Religious Diversity**

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ABSTRACT :-

The purpose of this study is to identify the factors affecting to build a successful family life within the framework of religious diversity. In this modern world there is a new trend in the society as creating a relationship with people who represent different religions and different cultural backgrounds. Some are very strong but some people have not much confident about their relationships. According to this study educational background, mutual understanding ability, perception, attitudes, religious loyalty are highly affecting factors to build a successful family life within the framework of religious diversity. And also it is very important to build good relationships within the framework of religious diversity. If those relationships end with good family life society can create new generation with good understanding about different religion aspects as well as different cultural aspects so by creating good families which have multi religion backgrounds and finally we can put the first step to create social harmony and integration with powerful understanding about the different peoples who have multi-cultural backgrounds. researcher used random sample of 250 different religious group of people from different family backgrounds and collect data through questionnaire and the collected data have been analyzed through Lickert scale methods and evaluate the results through the Minitab16 statistical software, finally researcher identified that educational background, mutual understanding ability, perception, attitudes, religious loyalty are highly affecting factors to build a successful family life within the framework of religious diversity.

Keywords :- religious diversity, multi-cultural backgrounds, successful family life, educational background, mutual understanding ability, perception, attitudes, religious loyalty

1. Introduction

1.1 Background of the Research

A family is a household of people related by blood or marriage. More specifically, we can define a family as husband and wife (or one parent), with or without never-married children, living together in the same residence. A household may contain more than two generations of people.

A successful family promotes a sense of positive family and individual identity, fosters satisfying and fulfilling interactions among all members, and copes with stress in a way that results in more flexibility and cohesiveness in the family. And also successful families have clear roles, successful families are socially connected, successful families see the big picture, successful families know how to adapt, successful families encourage one another, successful families balance the “me” versus “we”, successful families honour the marriage, successful families communicate well, successful families appreciate one another, successful families are committed. So successful family life is very much important to this developing world because by practicing successful family life people behave in relax moods. Then the environment is very calm and quite within that environment people can practice their abilities in very effective manner so it is very good step to create effective working environment.

Researcher identified that educational background, mutual understanding ability, perception, attitudes, religious loyalty as highly affecting factors to build a successful family life within the framework of religious diversity. And also it is very important to build good relationships within the framework of religious diversity. If those relationships end in good family life, society can create new generation with good understanding on different religion aspects as well as different cultural aspects. So by creating good families which have multi religion backgrounds, finally we can put the first step to create social harmony and integration with powerful understanding about the different peoples who have multi-cultural backgrounds. And also it will help to create peaceful environment within the society and finally it will help to answer the development needs as a country. Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be a successful man or women. So successful family life within the framework of religious diversity is very much important to the whole society.

1.2 Problem statement

The purpose of this study is to identify the factors affecting to build a successful family life within the framework of religious diversity. In this modern world there is a new trend in the society in creating a relationship with people who represent different religions and different cultural backgrounds. Some are very strong but some people have not much confident about their relationships. So it creates problems to the whole society. If the family life is developed within the framework of religious diversity without success it will creates interpersonal conflicts within the family. After that, step by step it will affect to the social harmony. So building a successful family life within the framework of religious diversity is very much important to this modern society to enhance the social harmony.

Then, researcher focused as the research problem, why are some people struggling with their family life within the framework of religious diversity and what are the most influential factors to build a successful family life within the framework of religious diversity.

1.3 Research question

This study is attempted to address the following questions:

- a) What are the factors affecting to build a successful family life within the framework of religious diversity?
- b) Why do we have to build a successful family life within the framework of religious diversity?
- c) What are the social as well as economic benefits that we can gain by building a successful family life within the framework of religious diversity?

1.4 Research objectives

Having considered the research questions stated above, and also the significance of the present research, the following objectives were determined.

- a) To study the most influential factors to build a successful family life within the framework of religious diversity in Sri Lanka and give some idea to the new generation
- b) To identify the impact of successful family life within the framework of religious diversity to build a social harmony and economic development.

- c) Help to get a clear understanding about how to build a successful family life within the framework of religious diversity.

1.5 Significance of the research

This research is important because it is going to identify the factors affecting to build a successful family life within the framework of religious diversity. Family is the starting point of any human being and also good relationships among the family members can create a relax person with good human qualities. The results from the study can be used to identify the most influential factors to build a successful family life within the framework of religious diversity and to identify the importance of those relationships, as well as it contributing to build social harmony and integration with powerful understanding about the different peoples who have multi-cultural backgrounds. Sri Lanka is the country which has the multy religious group of people so to enhance the social harmony build a successful family life within the framework of religious diversity is very much important.

2. Literature review

2.1 Successful family life

A successful family promotes a sense of positive family and individual identity, fosters satisfying and fulfilling interactions among all members, and copes with stress in a way that results in more flexibility and cohesiveness in the family.

The Characteristics of Strong Families

W. Robert Beavers (Psychotherapy and Growth: A Family Systems Perspective, 1977)

1. Connectedness with other social systems, and open to other viewpoints, lifestyles and perceptions. A respect for differences and awareness of individual boundaries. Intimacy is attained via skillful communication.
2. An encouragement of autonomy. The family is comfortable with differences of opinion. There is an absence of invasiveness. The family has a degree of flexibility and adaptability.
3. Family members are involved with each other. Conflict may exist between members, but not unresolvable conflict.
4. Effective negotiation and task performance.
5. Transcendent values.

Nathan Epstein, and others. Based on the McMaster Model of Family Functioning. (in "The McMaster Family Assessment Device," Epstein, Baldwin, and Bishop, 1983)

1. An ability to solve problems in a way which maintains effective family functioning.
2. Communication that is clear and direct.

3. Established patterns of behavior, clear and equitable assignment of family tasks, and responsible completion of assigned tasks.
4. Family members are interested in each other and value each other's activities and concerns. Intermediate levels of involvement with each other.

Robert B. Hill. (The Strengths of Black Families, 1971)

1. Strong work orientation.
2. Adaptability of family roles.
3. Strong achievement orientation.
4. Strong religious orientation.

H.A. Otto, 1975 (Otto, in Bowman, T.W., 1983)

1. The ability to provide for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of a family,
2. The ability to provide support, security, and encouragement.
3. The ability to initiate and maintain growth-producing relationships and experiences within and without the family.
4. The capacity to maintain and create constructive and responsible community relationships in the neighborhood, town, school, and so on.
5. An ability for self-help, and the ability to accept help when appropriate.
6. Mutual respect for the individuality of family members.
7. A concern for family unity, loyalty, and intra-family cooperation.

Scanzoni, 1971. (In Gary, Lawrence, Stable Black Families: A Final Report. 1983)

1. Economic and social advantages as well as employment opportunities provided by experiences in the city.
2. Social status obtained from religious involvement, parental presence in the home, and the number of children.
3. The ability to provide economic, social, and educational resources for children in the family.

2.2 Religious diversity

Religion diversity in Sri Lanka

Most Sinhalese are Buddhist; most Tamils are Hindu; and the Moors and Malays are mostly Muslim. Sizeable minorities of both Sinhalese and Tamils are Christians, most of whom are Roman Catholic. The Burgher population is mostly Roman Catholic or Presbyterian. The constitution while assuring freedom of religion grants primacy to Buddhism.

2.3 Educational background

Education in its general sense is a form of learning in which the knowledge, skills, values, beliefs and habits of a group of people are transferred from one generation to the next through storytelling, discussion, teaching, training, and or research. Education may

also include informal transmission of such information from one human being to another. Education frequently takes place under the guidance of others, but learners may also educate themselves. Any experience that has a formative effect on the way one thinks, feels, or acts may be considered educational.

2.4 Mutual understanding ability

It means Sympathy of each person for the other. By mutual understanding we mean that, between two people, the messages received equal the messages sent, with no distortion. Messages can be sent verbally or through gestures and demeanor, and they can be sent and received more or less consciously. It is obvious that perfect mutual understanding is unattainable, but a high level of understanding is desirable if people are to successfully communicate. Miscommunication (low or zero mutual understanding) is to be avoided because it generally prevents the parties of an interaction from achieving their goals or, at the very least, it increases the costs of interacting. In the service context, Parasuraman, Zeithaml, and Berry (1985) propose that management misunderstanding of consumer expectations diminishes the customer's evaluation of service quality. Likewise mutual understanding ability is very much important to build a successful family life within the framework of religious diversity

2.5 Perception

Each generation has a different perception view, idea or understanding of what is cool. You wouldn't want to walk around in the paisley patterns of the 1960s or the big hair of the 1980s today! Based on the Latin root *cipere* "to grasp," perception refers to the way you take in the world through your senses. Have you ever thought that a stair was bigger than it really was, so your step was too heavy? Your depth perception was off. The noun also means the opinions and beliefs you've formed about something. Your perception of your room after you've cleaned it is different than your parents' you see the cleanliness and they probably don't. (Vocabulary.com) Likewise our own sensory interpretation is very much important to build a successful family life within the framework of religious diversity.

2.6 Attitudes

In psychology, an **attitude** is an expression of favor or disfavor toward a person, place, thing, or event (the **attitude object**). Prominent psychologist Gordon Allport once described attitudes "the most distinctive and indispensable concept in contemporary social psychology." Attitude can be formed from a person's past and present. Key topics in the study of attitudes include attitude measurement, attitude change, consumer behavior, and attitude-behavior relationships.

2.7 Religious loyalty

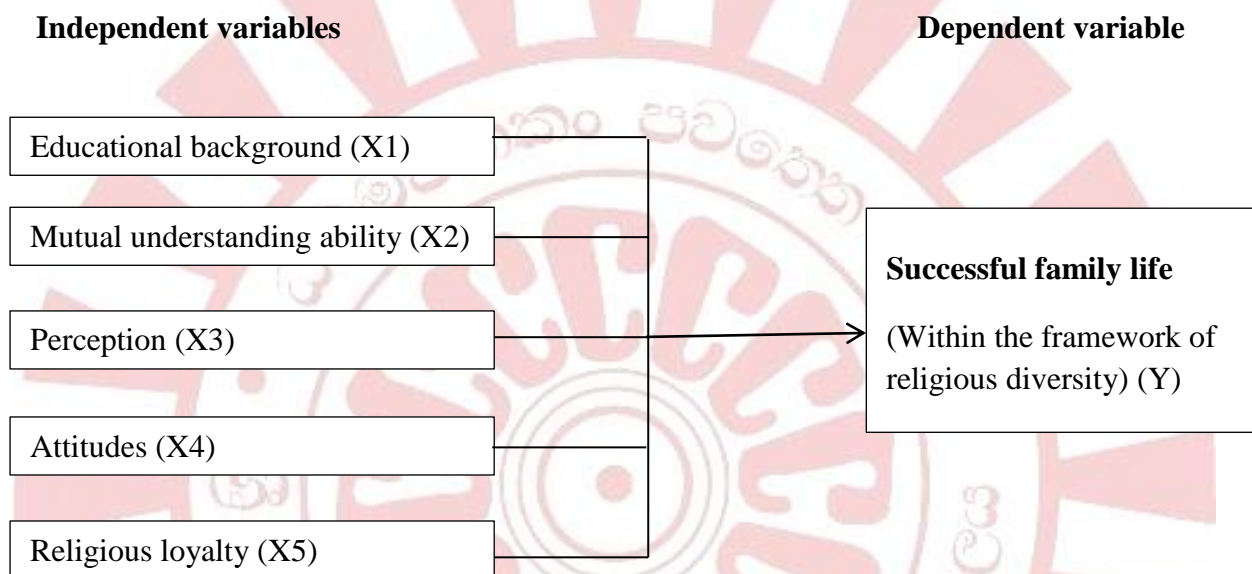
Loyalty is faithfulness or a devotion to a person, country, group, or cause. (Philosophers disagree regarding what can be objects of a person's loyalty. Some, argue that one can be loyal to a broad range of things, while others argue that it is only possible for loyalty to be to another person and that it is strictly interpersonal.) So religious loyalty means that the faithfulness of the individuals to their religion.

3. Methodology

3.1 Research framework

The researcher developed a model in figure 3.1 to conceptualize the theoretical framework of the study.

Figure 3.1 Conceptual Model



3.2 Hypotheses

This study investigated five hypotheses as follows.

H1: Higher the level of educational background likely to result in successful family life within the framework of religious diversity

H2: Mutual understanding ability is likely to result in successful family life within the framework of religious diversity

H3: Positive perception towards other religions is likely to result in successful family life within the framework of religious diversity

H4: Positive Individual attitudes toward religious diversity are likely to result in successful family life within the framework of religious diversity.

H5: Level of Religious loyalty is likely to result in successful family life within the framework of religious diversity.

3.3 Sample

In this study, the simple random sampling method was used. The sampling frame used in this study included individuals who represent different religious groups in Sri Lanka such as Buddhist, Roman Catholic, Hindu and Islam. The researcher selected 250 individuals as the sample.

3.4 Data collection

Primary and secondary data were used for the present study. Primary data were collected through the questionnaires and interview method as well as secondary data were collected from the books, journals, and internet etc.

3.5 The approach to data gathering

In this research study researcher is going to use the quantitative approach for the purpose of data gathering.

Data measurement method and justification

Data gathering techniques, The Reliability and the Validity of instrument.

In this research the researcher select two quantitative approaches for the purpose of data gathering.

- a. Questionnaire method
- b. Interview method

A Lickert scale will be used to convert the views of individuals which will be collected through the questionnaire. The ‘ Lickert’ means and the standard deviation value will be used to determine each variable in order to identify the variability and whether the given factor is significant or not. The factors will be categorized in to five levels such as

1. Strongly agreed = 5
2. Agreed = 4
3. Moderately agreed = 3
4. Disagreed = 2
5. Strongly disagree = 1

Finally values can assigned as 5 to 1 and the numerical values earned by the respondent are sum up in order to quantify the attitudes. And then conclusions can be obtained about the research.

The level of influence of each variable is categorized as Low (below 2), Medium (2.1 – 3.5), and High (above 3.6 - 5).

By using Interview method researcher hope to apply Un-structured in depth interview method.

So those two methods are very much familiar and reliable methods to collect data from the individuals because of its simplicity researcher can obtain valued data and finally the research outcomes are suite for the purposes of the researcher.

3.6. Statistical tools used in the study

- I. Mean value:- To measure the influence of each variable to build a successful family life within the framework of religious diversity.
- II. Percentage values:- To identify the significant difference between the influence of each variable to build a successful family life within the framework of religious diversity.

4. Data presentation and Analysis

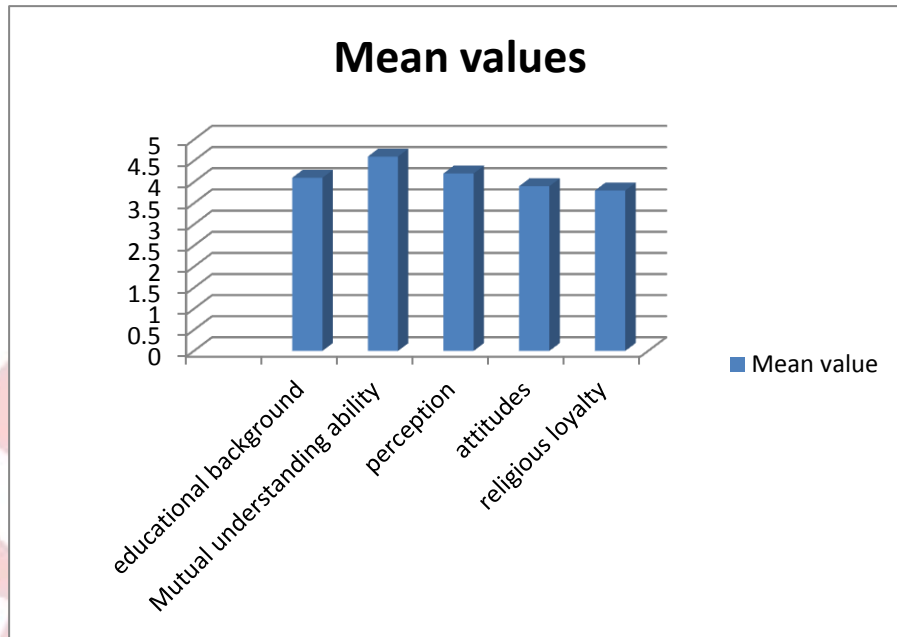
Total of 250 individuals had responded and majority of respondents (55%) are in between 26-35 age group and unmarried population. Also 30% are Buddhists; another 30% are Roman Catholics, 24% Islam's and other 16% Hindus. According to their residence 40% people are living in Gampaha District, 30% in Puttalama District, 10% in Galle District, 10% in Kurunagala District and 10% in Anuradhapura District.

According to the findings educational background, mutual understanding ability, perception, attitudes, religious loyalty are very important factors to build a successful family life within the framework of religious diversity.

Table 4.1 Mean differences of factors affecting to build a successful family life within the framework of Religious Diversity.

Independent variables	Mean value
Educational background	4.1
Mutual understanding ability	4.6
Perception	4.2
Attitudes	3.9
Religious loyalty	3.8

Figure 4.1 Mean differences of factors affecting to build a successful family life within the framework of Religious Diversity.



Among those factors majority of individuals believe that mutual understanding ability is the most influential factor to build a successful family life within the framework of religious diversity. As their view next influential factor is perception, then educational qualification, after that attitude at last but not least religious loyalty. It is very important to note that in this research all the variables are in the category of highly influential variables to build a successful family life within the framework of religious diversity.

5. Conclusion and recommendations

Based on the outcomes of the research, it emphasizes that educational background, mutual understanding ability, perception, attitudes, religious loyalty are highly affecting factors to build a successful family life within the framework of religious diversity.

So gestures of the researcher are provided by the research outcomes and also according to this research, an idea can be given to the whole society that good mutual understanding ability, positive perception towards other religions, good educational background, positive attitudes towards other religion and religious loyalty towards their own religion are used to build a successful family life within the framework of religious diversity. Then families can create new generation with good understanding about different religion aspects as well as different cultural aspects. So by creating good families which have multi religion backgrounds and finally we can put the first step to create social harmony and integration with powerful understanding about the different peoples who have multi-cultural backgrounds. Then automatically we can get the advantage of economic development without conflict among different religious group of people.

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