

Scale Development of Non-Specialist Family Counselors Types: Specialists' Perspectives in East Region of Saudi Arabia

*Abdulaziz Mutawa**

ABSTRACT

This study's main objective is to examine the types of family counselors considered from the perspective of specialists in Saudi Arabia. It is an attempt to highlight the differences among the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of family counseling services, in terms of their attitude towards family counselors. The study also identified the differences between professional practitioners and academic specialists in terms of their attitude towards the same. The study adopted a self-administered questionnaire distributed to 237 specialists, both professional and academics, from which 120 were males and 117 were females. The study made use of the Unprofessional Family Counseling Types Scale. Data was statistical analyzed using confirmatory factor analysis (CFA), t-test and percentage. Only 10% of the sample showed positive attitude towards family counselor, majority (65%) showed neutral attitude, while the remaining 25% showed a negative attitude. Significant differences were noted between practitioners and academic professionals in their point of view concerning family counselors (for cross-browser and peer group), weighing in, in the practitioners' directions. Significant differences were also found between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of family counseling in the latter's direction (in troubled pattern) and in positive direction for non-beneficiaries.

Keywords: Family counselor types; structural equation modeling; counselors.

Introduction

In the field of counseling, family counseling has made a niche as an extensively researched topic that has gone through similar changes throughout history as with other specializations of its caliber (Hammond and Czysczon, 2014). Family counseling is among the primary psychological counseling, providing different types of family services including treatment, and prevention and skill development. It brings about changes in an individual and the family structure and the consequential behavior among the family members (Okun and Rappaport, 1980). On the viewpoint of treatment, family counseling directs marital relationships and addresses the family system, protecting the children from having adjustment issues, and it tackles prevention and skills development, resolving situations and balancing self-identity, while developing life skills including communication, problem solving, positive thinking and social relationships maintenance (Hijazi, 2011). Literature evidenced the relationship of family counseling with counseling and guidance field seeking towards promoting the interaction among the family members, steering clear of family problems before they arise, and resolving the reasons behind problematic relationships, existing problems and protecting the members from a disintegration family unit (Mustafa, Ghanbaripanah and Ahmad, 2012; Al Gharabi, 2013). Majority of studies indicated that family counseling contributes to the family competitiveness, enhances the students' misbehavior and assists in the process of healing (Noorhayati, 2014; Milliren and Barrett-Kruse, 2002; Keith, 2001). Some other studies of the same caliber stressed on the importance of the field in handling disable children, special needs and gifted children to positively affect the family balance and harmony (Noorhayati, 2014; Stinchfield, 2004).

In Saudi Arabia, the family counseling community is called for to motivate personal development and harmony among

*Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University.

Received on 8/10/2019 and Accepted for Publication on 11/6/2020.

the community and its members, but practice of the field has fall short of expectations. Despite the fact that the practitioners of family counseling in the Kingdom have various professional backgrounds, some of them are under-qualified while others lack the license to practice (Hijazi, 2011). To this end, the 2020 plan goal addressed the need to generate highly qualified professional counselors, with the right skills and knowledge to ensure that top professional care is provided. In a related study, it was revealed that some Saudi counselors do not possess the skills in the field while some are not proficient in administering psychological tests (Alghamdi, 2015). Prior studies also indicated that in Riyadh, 90% of the total sample counselors (40 counselors) needed to attend a training program for the development of their ethical and professional knowledge in family counseling field (e.g., Al-Ashawi, 2018). Also, In Al-Enezi's (2009) study, the author revealed that majority of the family counselors (80%) entered the field directly via centers. The most serious issue that brings about the lack of knowledgeable counselors is the lack of formal family counseling initiatives, with only a few Saudi citizens and expats willing to accept counseling to treat them despite the need. This may be attributed to the lack of professionals in the field, lack of skills and knowledge and the society's perception about family counseling. In Ibn Sa'id's (2014) study, the author found that majority of family counselors in the Kingdom (75%) lacked specialized training on the way to deal with infidelity cases and that all of the family counselors (100%) had issues that lead to the prevention of professional practice in infidelity cases. This stems from the embarrassment in dealing with the details and nuances of the case as the society in Saudi Arabia is conservative in nature, coupled with the insufficient counselors' training.

Similar to other nations, there is a high need for family counseling in the Kingdom, with the society and communities rife with issues and challenges among families (Albahadel, 2011). Hence, the increasing need for family counseling in community centers is a serious issue that has to be addressed. The Ministry of Labor and Social Development needs to intervene by taking into consideration all the subjective factors in the face of the unqualified counselors in the field, who are responsible for providing the initiatives and training. Additionally, for the reduction of emotional, social and psychological issues in the Saudi family and health system, it is a must to develop family counseling to be at par with the practice of EU and Asian nations. For the overcoming of the issue, the Ministry of Labor and Social Development in Saudi Arabia planned to increase the number of family counseling centers and social protection and the number of qualified counselors, through the generation of specialized human resources and provision of services based on international standards (Arab News, 2019).

Purpose of the Study

Family counseling has been evidenced to be an effective method used to assist the members of families to develop life skills and to maintain a balanced psychological and social relationship. Individuals providing family counseling therefore need to have ample training and preparation (Al-Hujairi, 2013). In the current study, challenges faced by the professionals of family counseling are presented in reference to the National Transition 2020 Plan in the face of limited competencies and lacking standards with the aim of serving the society and communities. Prior studies dedicated to family counseling have seldom been conducted and as such, this study provides psychometrics validity and reliability of the types of counselors' non-specialists through SEM considering the lack of studies in literature. The study attempts to determine the differences between the family counseling services' beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, professional practitioners and academic specialists in light of their perception of family counselors.

Study Questions

The problem can be tackled by addressing the following study questions;

1. What is the nature of the constructive model's measurement of non-specialist family counselor types?
2. Which type of non-specialist family counselor is the most extensive in the sample of specialists' viewpoint?
3. What are the attitudes of specialists towards family counselors?
4. Are there significant differences among the services' beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries in their perception of family counselors?
5. Are there significant differences between professional practitioners and academic specialists in their perceptions of family counselors?

Proposed Hypotheses

On the basis of the prior literature results in terms of the study variables, the researcher formulated the following hypotheses to be tested;

1. There is a difference in the degree of the family counselor types from the viewpoint of the specialists' sample.
2. There is negative and neutral attitude towards family counselors.
3. There are statistically significant differences between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of family counseling in the direction of the family in the best direction of non-beneficiaries.
4. There are statistically significant differences between professional practitioners and academic specialists in their attitude towards family counselors.
5. There are statistically significant differences between professional practitioners and academic specialists in their perceptions towards family counselors.

Importance of the Study

In regard to the challenges faced in extending valid family counseling literature, several developments have been made in the past twenty years that have contributed to the field's visibility and credibility. Past studies have illustrated the model of effective family counseling (e.g., Johnson and Wittenorn, 2012; Snyder and Halford, 2012), and its use in specific family issues treatment (Sexton et al., 2011). However, despite the overall effectiveness of family counseling methods examined by prior studies in light of the results (e.g., Al-Qahtani, 2017; Broadbent, 2014; Al-Breiki and Al-Hajri, 2015), authors have been intent on calling for more work to be dedicated to the field and its measurement (e.g., Broadbent, 2014; Sprenkle, 2010; Cvetek, Repic, Poljak and Cvetek, 2011; Mustafa et al., 2012). Hence, this study attempts to contribute to the literature dedicated to family counseling in terms of the beneficiaries' attitudes towards the provision of such services compared to their non-beneficiaries' counterparts, and the practitioners' attitudes towards the same compared to their academic counterparts. The study presents a measurement tool for the assessment of the family counselor's performance.

Literature Review

Family Counseling History

Family counseling can be described as a psychotherapy branch that can be traced back to the years prior to 1950s, efforts towards fixing families and couples' initiative relationships and to development changes. In fact, family counseling is provided for the promotion of optimum relationships and family members' understanding of each other. Literature on the field has its basis on communication or structural emphasis that originates from the family system theory development, particularly one that was proposed by Satir, Jackson and Ackerman. Family counseling can bring about changes in the individual and the family structure as well as in the members' behavioral outcomes (Okun and Rappaport, 1980). Literature provides a description of the family counseling's value in tackling different family situations including substance abuse (Liddle, Dakof, Turner, Henderson and Greenbaum, 2008; Molestane, 2005), depression (Woods, 2005), attachment issues (Carr, 2009), dysfunction in families (Bilynsky and Vernaglia, 1999), academic, emotional relationships issues and difficulties in adjustment (e.g., Burke, Loeber and Birmaher, 2002; Loeber, Burke, Lahey, Winters and Zera, 2000), as well as abuse and neglect by parents (Brunk et al., 1987). And several studies have reached to the conclusion that family counseling methods like behavioral parent training positively affect individual emotions, academic and social relationships (e.g., Kazdin, 2003; Webster-Stratton and Reid, 2003). The studies revealed that the counseling services development has to take into consideration the important role it plays in dealing with family issues.

Types of Family Counselor

According to the American Counseling Association (2012), counseling is a professional relationship that works towards empowering different individuals, families, and groups to achieve sound mental health, education, wellness and career goals. It is a service provided to the individual or family that is facing problems and needing the intervention of a professional for their overcoming. Counseling entails working with individuals and fixing their relationships that

may be in the form of developmental, crisis support, psychotherapeutic, problem solving or guidance. Counselor is an individual who enables the client to examine, discover and clarify means to live a satisfying and resourceful life (BACP, 1984). In fact, counselor is a title that refers to both professional and non-professional worker (Hammond and Czyszczon, 2014). Moreover, according to Hammond and Czyszczon (2014), there are four counselor types, with the first being the counselors and individuals who are licensed and hold the master's degree in counseling. The second type comprises of professional counselors who are in training or who has not completed their degree but are already capable of providing in-home services, and the third one is para-professional counselor who completed the degree and hold experience by being under direct supervision of licensed professionals and the last one is non-professionals who counsel but do not provide mental health services and have not been under the supervision of professional counselors.

In the present family counseling field, the four categories are playing the role despite the fact that the field calls for individuals who are knowledgeable, skillful and experienced to effectively tackle stresses in families. Family counselor should be a professional individual who work towards encouraging the development of the client, by providing a sense of safety and acceptance and supervision to achieve the therapeutic goals (Kabir, 2017). The client, on the other hand, can freely talk about his past and present difficulties while the counselor interprets it for him. In relation to this, family reformer is a term that most suitably refers to family and marriage reformer practitioners, given the nature of the cognitive formation that caters to culture and domestic experience and the multiple cases under this category. These professionals are mistakenly referred to as family counselors because of the dearth in studies on cognitive composition and quality of professional performance. Counselors can also be categorized into the following types;

1. The Escaper – this type escapes from his family problems by taking family courses and attending diploma programs;
2. The Voyeur – this type finds enjoyment in hearing other people's problems and may spend time as a mechanic counselor;
3. The Showy – this type is prideful to be someone in the position that is revered by people for his advice;
4. The Disordered – this type finds shelter in comforting others;
5. The Lurker – this type waits for avenues through which alliances can be made between him and his female colleagues, in the pretence of convincing her that they will start a life together;
6. The Chivalrous – this type cares for the whole community but desires to reform it in his own way and expertise, generalizing his experiences and successes to the society despite the mismatched variables;
7. The Unqualified – this type is an unqualified psychology, social service and counselor graduate (Al-Mutawa, 2010, p. 541).

Prior Literature on Family Counseling

According to Ahmad (2007), family counseling is required to boost personal and community development and this has been backed by literature. Every family member is enabled to voice out their issues in family counseling and empirical findings in this regard is still lacking. Nevertheless, studies have been conducted on the field of family counseling; to begin with, in a study carried out by Al-Ashawi (2018), the author determined the training needs of the family counselor in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, using a sample of 40 counselors. The findings showed that 90% of the sample required training for the development of their ethical and professional knowledge in family counseling. Additionally, Al-Qahtani (2017) presented some developmental proposals for the professional performance of family counselors dealing with marital infidelity, which includes the avoidance of emotions in situation dealing and found the need for the counselors' attendance of courses to acquire the required expertise. In the Malaysian context, Noor (2014) investigated family counseling from the viewpoint of 12 family counselors, using in-depth interview, observation and document analysis. The study found that family members facing issues can find recourse in family counseling and therefore, the field is crucial to develop promising generations. Moreover, the effect of family counseling on family adjustment, cohesion, problematic behavioral surroundings and early independent among problem teenagers was examined by Ghani (2004). The author found the effectiveness of family counseling over individual counseling in

family problems resolution. Also, Al-Breiki and Al-Hajri (2015) conducted an examination of the effect of family counselor in mitigating the rate of divorce. Based on the obtained results, 90% of the guides respect their clients although the latter becomes agitated during the session, and 86% of them acknowledged whatever the outcomes were. In Ibn Said's (2014) study, the author also found that majority of the family counselors (75%) lacked specialized training in dealing with infidelity cases.

Moving on to other studies, Al-Hujairi (2013) found no differences in the practice level of the educational guide of family guidance because of the variations in the scientific certificates. Meanwhile, Darwish (2009) revealed that the efficiency level of the social workers role in the field of family counseling is related to their scientific qualifications and experience years. In the same caliber of study, Childs (2009) highlighted the different programs contents, specifically in light of scientific evidence that is a crucial element of the programs quality. Theories and scientific studies programs obtained the lowest indicators, whereas the highest ones were obtained by content comprehension of marital expectations. In other related studies, Al-Enezi (2008) reported that family counselors constituting 48% of the sample working in the family counseling centers in KSA (non-specialists), varied in their specialties from Sharia religion, Arabic, agriculture, English, comparative jurisprudence, Koran and sciences, educational administration to science, literature, and general education. In addition to the above studies, Al-Lozi and Al-Maani (2006) revealed the difficulties that face family counseling profession in the Jordanian context from the perspective of structure and function, considering several components, with one being the family counselor, the family and media and difficulties in light of profession, culture, institution, legal and economy. Lastly, Al-Maleky (2003) reached to the conclusion that distance of psychological counselor is the only dimension that the interviewees were negative about although generally, there were positive trends towards marital and family counseling.

Study Method

The quantitative analysis was adopted in this study using a survey method. This method was found suitable to handle the study aims and objectives. According to Neuman (2004), the survey method has been extensively used for data collection the field of social sciences. Also, the survey method is an excellent method used to gauge attitude and perceptions of the large population (Bassey, 1995). Owing to the significant number of participants in this study, authentic and objective data is challenging to collect through other methods and thus, the study adopted the survey method for data collection.

Study Sample

A convenience sample was conducted obtaining 237 specialists in psychology, social service, psychological counseling and psychiatric (practitioners and academics), with the division of genders being 120 males and 117 females, in the Eastern Saudi region. Such sampling method is easy to conduct with only a few rules of thumb to follow for the collected sample and it entails much less resources (time and cost) compared to other sampling methods, while assisting the researcher in gathering data. Some of the participants to the study were recipients of family services, with their average age being 38.13 years. The purpose is to develop a scale of the family counseling types, using SEM as a statistical analysis tool. Following Hair, Black, Babin and Anderson's (2010) guideline of a minimum sample size of 200-250 for SEM analysis, this study's sample of 237 was deemed adequate.

Study Procedures

The author obtained the approval of the Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University after which a group of specialists in the Eastern Saudi region were chosen by listing their names based on their backgrounds of psychology, social service, psychological counseling and psychiatry (practitioners and academics). They were then contacted to obtain their consent and their participation. It was expected that through the sampling method used, the greatest level of variety of specialists in family counseling would be able to provide accurate data for the achievement of the study objectives. The researcher provided scales to a group of experts to which their comments were sought and following some modifications, it was deemed suitable to use in the investigation. The scale was developed and finalized and provided to the participants through electronic means (email), with instructions and procedures provided. The grades

were automatically obtained in the Excel file, facilitating data entry and statistical processing. The application ended by thanking the participants.

Scale Development

The Unprofessional Family Counseling Types Scale was developed comprising of 44 items of self-reported measure consisting of seven dimensions (escaper, voyeur, showy, disordered, lurker, chivalrous and unqualified). The items were gauged using a five-option variance ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), and the score varied from 44 to 220. The statistical procedures were conducted using SPSS and AMOS.

Scale Validity and Reliability

This study evaluated the content validity of the scale with the assistance of 8 referees, who were professors in psychological counseling at the Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University Center of Counseling to determine the suitability of the words and dimensions for conceptualization. The items initially numbered 54 but were lowered down to 44 with the deletion of items. The stability of the scale was established through the application of α -cronbach equation, obtaining a value of 0.95, indicating the reliability and validity of the scale. The scale stability coefficient was obtained using half-dimension following correction of height through the use of Spearman Brown Equation, with the value obtained being 0.88, indicating scale stability. Added to the above, a confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was conducted to enhance the scale validity and the model was tested for data adequacy using adjustment measures including comparative fit index (CFI), goodness of fit index (GFI), and the root mean square of approximation (RMSEA) and ratio chi-square statistic degree of freedom. The results of the first analysis showed some item loadings of 0.40 and thus, they were dropped from the analysis. Following their deletion, the correlation improved and ranged from 0.58 to 0.87, which shows the internal validity of the measure. This also shows that the family counselor model is structurally sound and valid achieving the recommended values. The correlation coefficients of the latent factor obtained a square value of 13.95, with freedom of degree of 11, mean of 0.42, reflecting a statistically insignificant square value. The values of the conformity indicators were ideal and the model was deemed acceptable, with the list of non-specialist types of consultants' universal credibility established. Figure 1 depicts the results. The measurement of indices revealed the suggested value of RMSEA (lower than 0.08), CFI above .90 and TLI above .90 as recommended by prior studies (e.g., Steiger, 1990; Kelloway, 1998; Hair et al., 2010; Byrne, 2001).

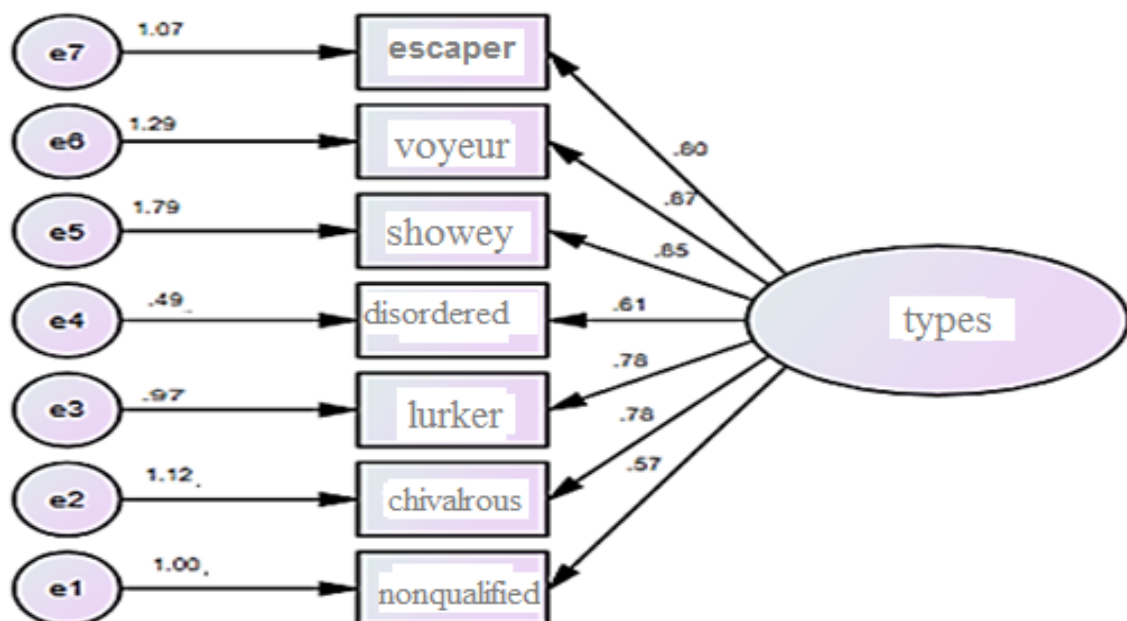


Figure (1) Structure of the Family Counselor Types Model

Study Results

Sekaran (2003) referred to data analysis as the process that consists of many stages including, responses coding, cleaning and analysis of data. For the hypotheses testing, the mean, standard deviations and relative weight was obtained through the division of the mean of each dimension of family counselor types by the total dimensions score (7 patterns). Table 1 and Figure 2 show that the unqualified family counselor obtained the first rank in the non-professional category (71.27%), followed by escaper (67.08%), and disordered (65.25%). The voyeur came fourth place (61.3%), followed by showy (60.64%), the chivalrous (60.63%) and lastly, the lurker (55.04%). Moving on to the second objective, the ratio of the attitudes towards family counselors in the sample was obtained using the length of the category equation, resulting in three categories namely, a positive trend (less than 103), neutral (103-160) and negative trend (over 160). Therefore, the sample generally had a positive trend towards family counselor, some had a neutral attitude (65%), while others had a negative attitude (25%) as shown in table 2. With regards to the statistical differences between professional and academic specialists in the direction of the family counselor and professional practitioners, table 2 shows partial acceptance of the hypothesis. In other words, there are statistically significant differences between professional and academic specialists towards the direction of family counselors for showy and chivalrous types, in practical specialists' direction. Moving on to the statistical differences between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of family counseling, the differences between the two averages were obtained, through the use of t-test for non-related groups as shown in table 3. The t-test results indicated statistically significant differences between the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of family consultations in attitude towards family counselor in light of disordered in the non-beneficiaries' direction.

Table (1): Mathematical means, standard deviations and the relative weight of the types of family counselors

rank	Dimension number	dimension	mean	standard deviations	relative weight
2	1	escaper	23.48	4.95	67.08%
4	2	Voyeur	18.34	5.43	61.13%
5	3	showy	27.28	7.64	60.64%
3	4	disordered	9.86	2.63	65.73%
7	5	lurker	13.76	4.60	55.04%
6	6	Chivalrous	18.18	5.30	60.63%
1	7	Non-qualified	28.51	6.52	71.27%

Table (2): Differences between professional and academic specialists in the direction towards the family counselor using the T test.

	Groups types	Practical specialists		Academic specialists		t. value and significance
		sd	m	sd	m	
1	escaper	4.80	23.28	5.47	24.22	18.1 not sig
2	Voyeur	5.23	18.21	6.17	18.82	0.68 not sig
3	showy	7.46	26.84	8.37	29.55	2.268 sig at 0.028
4	disordered	2.55	9.87	2.92	9.81	-0.13 not sig
5	Lurker	4.14	13.53	5.95	14.65	1.51 not sig
6	chivalrous	5.28	17.90	4.93	19.95	2.45 Sig at 0.015
7	Non-qualified	6.32	28.60	7.27	28.19	0.40 not sig

Table (3): Differences between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of family consultations at the attitude towards the family counselor using the T Test.

	Groups types	beneficiaries		non-beneficiaries		t. value and significancy
		sd	m	sd	m	
1	escaper	5.18	43.23	4.48	23.50	0.106 not sig
2	Voyeur	48.5	18.153	5.42	18.67	-0.024 not sig
3	showy	7.62	27.14	7.80	55.27	-0.386 not sig
4	disordered	2.84	10.54	2.35	9.68	2.359 Sig at 0.019
5	Lurker	4.76	13.16	4.48	14.10	-1.51 not sig
6	chivalrous	5.57	17.15	5.11	18.34	-0.39 not sig
7	Non-qualified	7.29	28.20	6.06	28.69	-0.56 not sig

Figure 2 relative weight of the types of family counselors

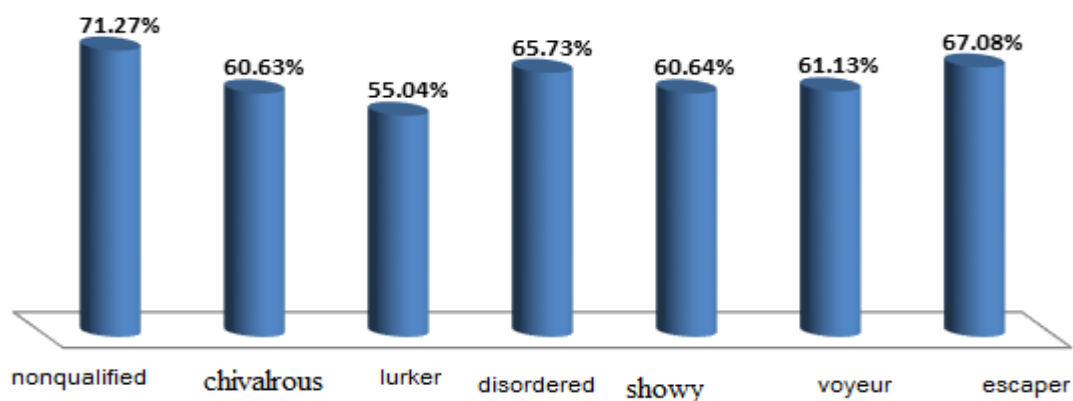


Figure 2. Types of Family Counselors

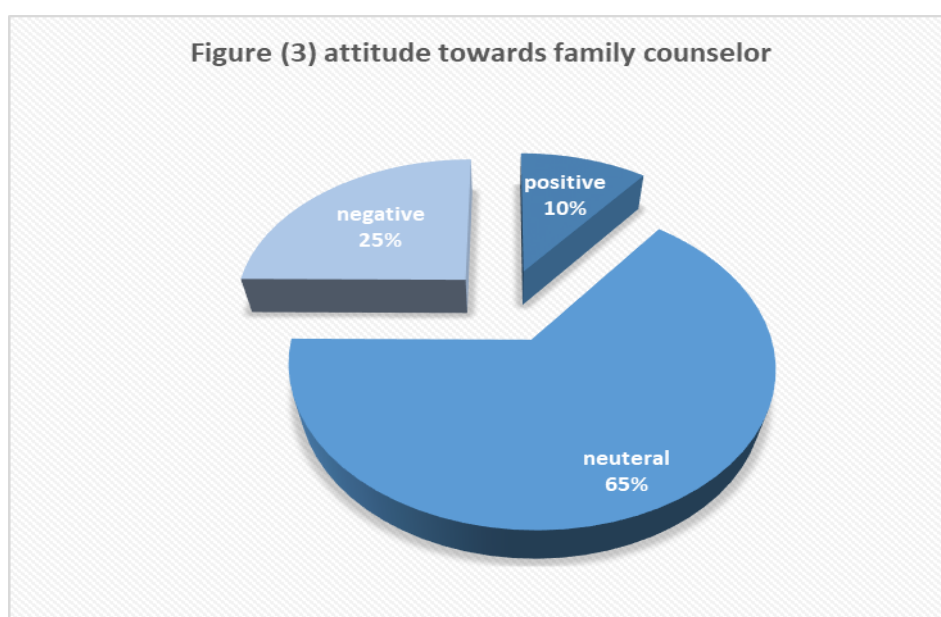


Figure (3): Types of Family Counselors

Discussion of Results

In this study, seven family counseling types were considered to test the scale of the structural model. The findings showed satisfactory reliability of the scale and the CFA indicated acceptable measurement model fit. Based on the psychometric properties and factor structure values, the scale was deemed good and valid. The obtained findings showed that escaper and unqualified are the types of family counselors that took precedence in ranks that caused negative effects on client and guidance process. This may be attributed to the under qualified service providers, lacking in education and knowledge, with insufficient training and with counseling practice that is largely based on personal judgment, preaching and wisdom instead of scientific theories. There were statistical differences between practitioners and academics when it comes to their perception of the models show and chivalrous types and differences between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries under the disordered type calling for intense scrutiny of the three patterns. Negative attitude towards family counselors may be attributed to wrong perceptions of clients who believe that family counselor is under qualified or from the practitioners who follow traditional outdated methods. Therefore, the generalizations of the results may also impact qualified practitioners.

The findings highlighted serious issues that need addressing through the establishment of professional values that promote effective counseling and the dissemination of such values (interest in people, acceptance and trust, empathy, understanding and rapport). It is important to focus on professional contracting, involving self-contracting and client-contracting based on ethical code that governs the profession, and the promotion of the legal, psychological and social rights of the client (Shertzer and Stone, 1980; Hijazi, 2002). In a related study, psychological counselor has to be prepared in the psychological departments of the universities in that they should have the right degree, training from counseling centers, should be supervised by specialized and professors, and experienced in the psychological counseling field. In this regard, the need for family counseling practitioners who have extensive theoretical knowledge was highlighted by Mohammed and Ibn Said (2008), particularly in the needs, marital therapy strategies, methods of professional intervention with family evaluation, family sessions management, and lastly, the reception of cases and characteristics and traits of personal and professional family counselor. The current study results are supported by prior studies by Al-Lozi and Al-Maani (2006), in reference to the issues related with family counseling, particularly the family counselor's disqualification from the practical and theoretical nuances which were revealed through field visits. Aside from this, there is lack of sufficient academic preparation for family counseling practice by the counselor and the lack of expertise and skills required for successful counseling, which includes commitment to professional principles (acceptance, confidentiality and objectivity). The profession's difficulties also included the lack of the profession's moral charter and scientific journal specializing in family guidance.

Implications and Recommendations

On the whole, this is a pioneering study that assessed the complexity of the family counseling process. Literature on family counseling largely ignored the development of a scale of Unprofessional Family Counseling Types, and thus, this study has significant contributions in this area. In order to understand the functioning of the family, it is important for qualified people to make use of effective assessment strategies that are suitable to the culture, background and individual and family factors. Literature findings show that there are many unqualified counselors practicing family counseling, who require training to provide effective and proper services. The present study contributes to literature by suggesting through the findings, that counselors need to develop their skills and abilities, and to form their own scientific membership to prevent non-specialists from joining the profession. This is a process that has to be regularly revised on the basis of new information and developments in the family counseling field. However, as with other studies of its caliber, the present study has its limitations, with the first being the data collection from self-reported measures which may include biases owing to the social desirability influence. Hence, future studies is required that move beyond the perceptual by make use of qualitative data collection methods (e.g., interview sessions) in order to better understand the counseling phenomenon. The second limitation relates to the study's research design which is a comparative descriptive design but for more insight into additional directionality effects of variables, future studies are

recommended to use longitudinal and experimental study designs, as there is a need for specialists' counselors to increase people awareness towards the importance of family counseling. This study focused on the Saudi Eastern region and thus, generalizability of findings should be done with caution. Future studies may conduct this study objectives and include other Saudi regions in their focus and examination in order to explore the actual use of family counseling sessions in Saudi Arabia. Furthermore, future study is needed that uses more effective measures to verify the family counseling practices in Saudi Arabia. The study results are expected to have implications to decision makers and practitioners in their development of training initiatives for counselors, while taking into consideration the treatment of non-specialist family counselor types. The study also recommends using media to maximize the awareness of people of the family counselor's role, the services it provides and the validity and reliability of the sources of such services, and for the centers to be accredited by a national authority.

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أنماط المرشد الأسري للغير مختصين من وجهة نظر المختصين في السعودية

عبدالعزیز المطوع*

ملخص

تهدف الدراسة الحالية إلى التعرف على أنماط المرشد الأسري للغير مختصين من وجهة نظر المختصين في السعودية وحاولت الدراسة إلى التعرف على وجهة نظر المستفيدين والغير مستفيدين من الخدمات التي يقدمها الأفراد الذين يعملون في مجال الإرشاد الأسري. وهدفت الدراسة إلى التعرف على الفروقات في وجهات نظر المختصين الأكاديميين والمرشدين. إذ استخدمت الدراسة الاستبانة التي تكونت من 237 أكاديمي ومرشد حيث بلغ عينة الذكور منهم 120 والآنث 117 حيث استخدمت الدراسة مجموعة من الاختبارات مثل التحليل العاملي التوكيدي اختبار تي وغيرها، إذ توصلت الدراسة الى مجموعة من النتائج منها بان هناك توجهات إيجابية نحة الإرشاد الأسري، وكذلك تم التحقق من الصدق والثبات للمقياس المطور والذي أعد له الدراسة، وكذلك وجود فروق بين المختصين والأكاديميين لمفهوم الإرشاد الأسري.

الكلمات الدالة: أنواع المرشد الأسري، نظرية بناء النموذج، المرشدين.

* جامعة الامام عبدالرحمن بن فيصل.
 تاريخ استلام البحث 2019/10/8، وتاريخ قبوله 2020/6/11.