MARRIAGE IS DEFINITELY MADE IN HEAVEN
A Phenomenological Study on the Marital Satisfaction of Indian Muslim Women

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IIUM Press
Gombak • 2017
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The purpose of this phenomenological study was to explore the lived experience of Indian Muslim women regarding their marital satisfaction and to understand the perceived quality of their relationships. This qualitative study is the first of its kind to consider marital satisfaction among Indian Muslim women. A semi-structured interview questions reflecting the four research questions were formulated to use in face-to-face in-depth interview among the six Indian Muslim women from Mumbai, India. The study analyzed the relevant constructed meanings that emerged from all interviews and clustered them into nine main themes with 19 sub-themes in an attempt to reach an in-depth understanding of the lived marital experiences of the Indian Muslim woman.

Munira Arshad is an Indian scholar who has graduated from Upper Iowa University, USA and completed both her Master’s degree and PhD from the reputed International Islamic University Malaysia. Her research interests are rooted in the fields of women studies, youth and family well-being. Multiculturally aware, she is an Indian who has lived extensively in Malaysia and has worked as an interpreter with the Urdu speaking refugees at United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. As a school counselor, she has guided and enriched the lives of students both Malaysia and Saudi Arabia. Versatile in her approach and driven in the field of psychology, and can also adopt an Islamic style of counseling.

Arshad Islam, Associate Professor, holds B.Sc. and M. A. degrees from Gorakhpur University, and M. Phil. and Ph.D. from Aligarh Muslim University, India. He joined International Islamic University Malaysia in 1991 and has taught a number of courses in Southeast Asian history, Indian history, History of Science, Islamic History and Civilization, Rise and fall of Civilizations, and Central Asian history. His research interests include the Malay Sultanates, the coming of Islam to South and Southeast Asia, and Central Asian history. He is widely published. Some of his published work includes: Islam in Sindh (Kuala Lumpur: IIUM Press, 2001), and articles on Islamic reform movements, Muslim educators and scholars and early Muslim navigators in the Indian Ocean (2010), "The Spread of Islam in Central Asia: A Comparison with Southeast Asia" (2010), "The Contribution of Muslims to Science during the Middle Abbasid Period (750-945)," "The Rise of the Seljuqs and their State in Central Asia (2013)," "The Taj: An Architectural Marvel or an Epitome of Love?" (2013), "Allama Shibli and the Early Muslim League: A Dissenting Voice" (2013), "Shaykh Ahmad Sirhindi (971/1524-1034/1624): A Socio-Religious Reformer of Mughal India" (2014), "The Mongol invasions of Central Asia", International Journal of Social Science and Humanity (2016), The Spread of Islam in India and Southeast Asia (2017), "The Civilizationizational Role of Islam in the Indian Subcontinent: The Delhi Sultanate", Intellectual Discourse (2017), written preface on Encyclopaedia of Islamic Shariat, (10 Vols. Set), Pentagon Press, New Delhi, 2010. He Won “Gold Medal” for Research Invention and Innovation 2011 and 2013 (IRRIJE 2011, 2013), International Islamic University Malaysia. He was Chairman of the International Conference on Colonialism and Decolonization: Challenges and Prospects, organized by the Department of History and Civilization, IIUM, in 2012. He is Chairman of the International Conference on Forced Migration and Refugee Studies: Issues and Shifting Paradigms (ICMR2017), to be held on 5th-7th December 2017. He has been invited to give lectures in Azerbaijan, Canada, India, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Pakistan, the Philippines, Taiwan and Turkey, on topics related to history and Islamic civilization.