
Female sexual function and semantic differential items

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Abstract

Background: The purpose of the study was to evaluate the correlations between demographic variables and claims from the Female Sexual Function Index (FSFI), and questions from Semantic Differential Items of Female Sexual Function (SDIFSF). Data were collected through an online survey.

Methods: Based on the Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk test on six claims of FSFI, a non-parametric statistical analysis with the Spearman correlation coefficient and χ^2 -test were used. Statistical significance was set at $p < 0.05$

Results: The sample consisted solely of female participants, aged from 18 to 89 years. Most of the participants ($n=287$; 66.9%) were in a relationships (but not married), were still students ($n=178$; 41.5%) and were Catholic ($n=267$; 62.2%).

Conclusions: The youngest participants expressed the highest level of satisfaction after sexual intercourse and mostly take the initiative for sexual intercourse. However, they mostly experienced pain after sexual intercourse. Married participants had the highest level of experiencing an orgasm (in any way), were pleasantly

aroused during and had feelings of satisfaction after sexual intercourse. The higher the level of education, the more positive effects were present during (experiencing an orgasm, lubrication) and feelings of satisfaction after sexual intercourse. However, at the same time, participants felt pain during and after sexual intercourse, were concerned whether their partners like them, and were concerned about not being mentally present (e.g. daydreaming or fantasising about being with someone else) during sexual intercourse. Participants with one sexual partner in the previous year experienced an orgasm during and felt satisfied after sexual intercourse but felt pain during sexual intercourse. With the increasing number of sexual partners, lubrication increased, as did pleasant arousal during sexual intercourse, and a feeling of satisfaction. Furthermore, pain was present during and after sexual intercourse.

Keywords: orgasm, clitoris, vagina, female sexual dysfunction, lubrication, arousal

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1. Introduction

In the previous three decades some studies have been implemented in the area of sexual (dys)function, (un) appropriate sexual response, (non)experience of orgasm, low desire, etc.¹⁻⁷.

In the field of female sexual function and dysfunction, several researchers have focused on endogenous and exogenous factors that (in)directly influence women's sexual activity, sensation, and behavior.

Anatomic and tissue investigations identified different sensations perceived through sexual stimulation, solely by the vagina, solely by the clitoris, and simultaneously^{2,9-11}. Sexual stimulation and consequently sexual satisfaction not only correlate with the method of orgasm induction, but, also, with psychological and emotional states^{8,9,12-17}. Some evolutionists have argued that female orgasm does not represent an adaptive function, because women respond differently to male representatives¹⁸. Hosken¹⁹ argued that if the response were equal to all potential partners the consequence would be no selection within human species. Subsequently, women are not strictly genetically monogamous, and the orgasm could potentially be the cryptic female choice²⁰. For sexual sensation and induced orgasm, as a complex organ, the clitoris cannot be ignored, because one possible explanation is that clitoral stimulation induces sexual arousal, which subsequently ensures the best genital tract conditions, activates vaginal lubrication to facilitate the penile-vaginal intercourse, vaginal tenting, and possible fertilization²¹⁻²⁵.

Neither vagina nor clitoris should be seen as separate structures/organs, but as the same anatomic and functional unit, as a cervicourethrovaginal complex^{17,26}.

2. Methodology

The research was conducted on female participants who were current or former students, and/or (in)directly in relation to the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Ljubljana. The permission for the online questionnaire was obtained from the management board of the

Faculty. The investigations were conducted according to the Declaration of Helsinki principles. The online survey started in September and concluded in December 2016.

A combination of the validated standardized FSFI²⁷ questionnaire, questions from the Semantic Differential Items of Female Sexual Function (SDIFSF), and demographic data was used.

One thousand female participants received an invitation to participate in the online survey. The recruitment process was based on the following inclusion conditions: (a) adulthood (age18 ≥ years); (b) understanding the written explanation; and (c) the online return of questionnaire being understood as consent.

Of the 1000 invitations, 862 were returned; 429 were entirely and 433 were partially completed. For the statistical analysis, only the fully completed questionnaires were included. The final sample included 429 female participants; the realization of the sample was 42.9%.

The Cronbach alpha coefficient showed an appropriate internal consistency for each claim of the FSFI questionnaire (desire, arousal, lubrication, orgasm, satisfaction, and pain) (Table 1).

Table 1. Internal consistency of claims

| Claim | Questions | % | (α) |
|--------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| Desire | 1,2 | 1-5 | 0.875 |
| Arousal | 3, 4, 5, 6 | 0-5 | 0.974 |
| Lubrication | 7, 8, 9, 10 | 0-5 | 0.975 |
| Orgasm | 11, 12, 13 | 0-5 | 0.966 |
| Satisfaction | 14, 15, 16 | 0 (or 1)-5 | 0.955 |
| Pain | 17, 18, 19 | 0 (or 1)-5 | 0.969 |
| All | | | 0.980 |

All participants were asked about their demographic variables, including age, marital status, level of education, religion, sexual orientation, and number of sexual partners in the last year. With the sample, the SDIFSF, and the six major dimensions for female sexual function (desire, subjective arousal, lubrication, orgasm, satisfaction, and pain) were used. For FSFI, a validated questionnaire with 19 multiple-choice questions on a 5- or 6-point Likert scale were used. Domain scores were calculated by totalling the responses to items in each domain, followed by scaling this total with a multiplier that constrains all domains to the same range. Linguistic validation of the questionnaire was performed based

on a translation from English to the Slovenian language and *vice versa*. The SDIFSFS was composed of 9 questions (1-never, 5-always): ‘During sexual intercourse I am sufficiently lubricated’, ‘During sexual intercourse, I feel pain’, ‘After sexual intercourse, I feel pain’, ‘During sexual intercourse, I reached an orgasm (in any way)’, ‘During sexual intercourse, I am sufficiently aroused’, ‘After sexual intercourse, I feel satisfied’, ‘During sexual intercourse, I am very concerned if my partner likes me’, ‘During intercourse, I am not mentally present’, and ‘I take the initiative for sexual intercourse’. Within SDIFSFS participants were asked to rank (lubrication, the absence of pain, arousal, orgasm, satisfaction) from 1-very important to 5-very unimportant.

We used the SPSS 24.0 statistical software. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk test on six claims of FSFI. Based on this finding, we used a non-parametric statistical analysis by use of the Spearman correlation coefficient and χ^2 -test. Statistical significance was set at $p < 0.05$.

3. Results

The sample consisted of 429 female participants of the following age: 22 (n=82; 19.1%). 20 and 21 (n=78; 18.2%). 23 (n=68; 15.9%). 24 (n=27; 6.3%) and 25 (n=22; 5.1%). Others are shown in Table 2.

Most of the participants (n=287; 66.9%) were in a relationship (but not married), 114 were single (never married) (26.6%), married (n=27; 6.3%), and 1 separated (0.2%). In the sample, most of the participants were still students (n=178; 41.5%), others had completed secondary school (n=147; 34.3%), 81(18.95%) had completed the 1st and 15 (3.5%) the 2nd degree level of the university study, and 7 had concluded post-secondary education (1.6%) ($p=0.000$; $\chi^2=690.869$; $M=6.41$; $SD=3.149$). Most of the participants (n=267; 62.2%) were Catholics, 15 Eastern Orthodox (3.5%), 10 Muslim (2.3%), 4 of other Catholic religion (0.9%), and 1 (0.2%) was an Evangelist. Seventy-three (17%) declared themselves to be atheists, 46 believers but not belonging to any religion (10.7%), and 13 (3%) did not want to answer (Table 3).

Table 3. Religion (N=429)

| Religion | f | % |
|---|-----|------|
| Catholic | 267 | 62.2 |
| Evangelist | 1 | 0.2 |
| Eastern Orthodox | 15 | 3.5 |
| Other Catholic | 4 | 0.9 |
| Muslim | 10 | 2.3 |
| Believer, but I do not belong to any religion | 46 | 10.7 |
| I do not believe, atheist | 73 | 17.0 |
| I do not want to answer | 13 | 3.0 |

$p=0.000$; $\chi^2=1048.762$; $M=4.26$; $SD=4.453$

Most of the participants were in heterosexual (n=413; 96.3%), 11 (2.6%) in bisexual, and 5 (1.2%) in homosexual relationships (Table 4). Sixteen participants did not respond, but completed the rest of the survey.

Table 2. Age of the participants (N=429)

| Age (years) | f | % | Age (years) | f | % | Age (years) | f | % |
|-------------|----|------|-------------|---|-----|-------------|---|-----|
| 18 | 1 | 0.2 | 28 | 4 | 0.9 | 42 | 4 | 0.9 |
| 19 | 21 | 4.9 | 30 | 4 | 0.9 | 43 | 1 | 0.2 |
| 20 | 78 | 18.2 | 31 | 2 | 0.5 | 44 | 1 | 0.2 |
| 21 | 78 | 18.2 | 32 | 4 | 0.9 | 49 | 1 | 0.2 |
| 22 | 82 | 19.1 | 34 | 1 | 0.2 | 50 | 2 | 0.5 |
| 23 | 68 | 15.9 | 36 | 4 | 0.9 | 59 | 1 | 0.2 |
| 24 | 27 | 6.3 | 37 | 1 | 0.2 | 89 | 1 | 0.2 |
| 25 | 22 | 5.1 | 38 | 3 | 0.7 | | | |
| 26 | 12 | 2.8 | 40 | 1 | 0.2 | | | |
| 27 | 3 | 0.7 | 41 | 2 | 0.5 | | | |

$p=0.000$; $\chi^2= 1171.678$; $M=23.31$; $SD=5.942$

Table 4. Sexual orientation (N=429)

| | f | % |
|--|-----|------|
| Heterosexual relationship (sexual intercourse with a person of the opposite sex only) | 413 | 96.3 |
| Homosexual relationship (sexual intercourse with a person of the same sex only) | 5 | 1.2 |
| Bisexual relationship (sexual intercourse with persons of the opposite sex and the same sex) | 11 | 2.6 |

p=0.000; $\chi^2=764,811$; M=1.06; SD=0.332

In the previous year, the participants were involved in sexual activities with various numbers of partners. Most of the participants were involved in sexual intercourse with one (n=334; 77.9%), two (n=37; 8.6%), three (n=7; 1.6%), four (n=5; 1.2%), and five (n=4; 0.9%) partners. In one case, one subject had 22 partners (Table 5).

Table 5. Sexual partners (N=429)

| Sexual partners | f | % |
|-----------------|-----|------|
| 0 | 41 | 9.6 |
| 1 | 334 | 77.9 |
| 2 | 37 | 8.6 |
| 3 | 7 | 1.6 |
| 4 | 5 | 1.2 |
| 5 | 4 | 0.9 |
| 22 | 1 | 0.2 |

p=0.000; $\chi^2=1442,513$; M=1.14; SD=1.230

The participants who were 24 years of age expressed the highest level of satisfaction after sexual intercourse, but also experienced the most pain after sexual intercourse. The initiative for sexual intercourse was most frequently taken by participants at the age of 25. In the analysis, participants with a low number of cases (18, 27-89 years of age) from (n<12) were excluded (Table 6).

The highest levels of pleasant arousal during sexual intercourse and pain after sexual intercourse were found in participants who were in a relationship (but not married). Married participants had the highest level of experiencing orgasm during sexual intercourse and feelings of satisfaction after sexual intercourse. Participants who were single (never married) were the most concerned about whether their partners liked them and, based on SDIFS, they rated lubrication as very important. In the analysis, we excluded one subject who was separated because of the low number of such cases (n<1). (Table 7).

Table 6. Age and Semantic differential items of female sexual function

| Age | f | % | | After sexual intercourse, I feel satisfied | I take the initiative for sexual intercourse | I feel pain after sexual intercourse |
|-----|----|------|----|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| 19 | 21 | 4.9 | M | 6.10 | 4.90 | 5.67 |
| | | | SD | 1.179 | 1.338 | 1.683 |
| 20 | 78 | 18.2 | M | 5.65 | 4.50 | 5.46 |
| | | | SD | 1.356 | 1.327 | 1.552 |
| 21 | 78 | 18.2 | M | 5.87 | 4.54 | 5.65 |
| | | | SD | 1.210 | 1.266 | 1.502 |
| 22 | 82 | 19.1 | M | 5.94 | 4.54 | 5.77 |
| | | | SD | 1.081 | 1.269 | 1.417 |
| 23 | 68 | 15.9 | M | 5.84 | 4.54 | 5.57 |
| | | | SD | 1.277 | 1.202 | 1.499 |
| 24 | 27 | 6.3 | M | 6.19 | 4.63 | 6.48 |
| | | | SD | 1.302 | 1.275 | 0.893 |
| 25 | 22 | 5.1 | M | 6.09 | 5.32 | 6.27 |
| | | | SD | 0.811 | 1.249 | 0.985 |
| 26 | 12 | 2.8 | M | 5.75 | 3.92 | 6.08 |
| | | | SD | 1.215 | 1.564 | 1.564 |

p<0.001

Participants with secondary school education were highly concerned about whether their partners like them, and for not being mentally present during sexual intercourse. Participants with the 1st degree level of university education were sufficiently lubricated during sexual intercourse, felt pain after and during sexual intercourse, and they experienced orgasm (with or without self-masturbation). Participants with the 2nd level degree of university education experienced orgasm (with or without self-masturbation), were concerned about whether their partners liked them and concerned about not being mentally present during sexual intercourse, felt pain after sexual intercourse, but after intercourse they felt satisfied. Based on the SDIFS, they rated orgasm as very important. Participants that were still students were sufficiently lubricated and felt satisfied but felt pain during sexual intercourse. In the analysis, we excluded participants with post-secondary education because of the low number of such cases (n<4) (Table 8).

Participants who declared themselves as Muslims took more initiatives for sexual intercourse, followed by the

Table 7. Marital status and 9 Semantic differential items of female sexual function

| Marital status | f | % | | I feel pain after sexual intercourse | During sexual intercourse, I experience an orgasm (in any way) | During sexual intercourse, I am pleasantly aroused | After sexual intercourse, I feel satisfied | During sexual intercourse, I am concerned if my partner likes me | Lubrication SDIFSF |
|---------------------------------|-----|------|----|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--------------------|
| Single (never married) | 114 | 26.6 | M | 5.39 | 4.94 | 5.69 | 5.46 | 3.25 | 3.27 |
| | | | SD | 1.621 | 1.647 | 1.277 | 1.434 | 1.753 | 1.154 |
| Married | 27 | 6.3 | M | 5.81 | 6.00 | 6.04 | 6.30 | 2.30 | 2.44 |
| | | | SD | 1.495 | 1.209 | 1.055 | 0.869 | 1.636 | 0.801 |
| In a relationship (not married) | 287 | 66.9 | M | 5.89 | 5.46 | 6.05 | 6.03 | 2.83 | 3.16 |
| | | | SD | 1.378 | 1.502 | 1.045 | 1.114 | 1.840 | 1.150 |

p<0.001

Eastern Orthodox. Participants who did not want to answer felt more satisfied after sexual intercourse, followed by non-believers, atheists, Catholics and Muslims. In the analysis, we excluded Evangelists and other Catholic believers because of the low number of such cases (n<4) (Table 9). In relation to SDIFSF, we did not find correlations.

In relation to the number of sexual partners, participants with one sexual partner in the previous year felt pain during sexual intercourse, but experienced orgasm (in any way), and felt satisfied after sexual intercourse. Participants with two sexual partners were sufficiently lubricated during sexual intercourse. The ones with three sexual partners were pleasantly aroused during

Table 8. Education and Semantic differential items of female sexual function

| Education | f | % | | During sexual intercourse, I am sufficiently lubricated | During sexual intercourse, I feel pain | I feel pain after sexual intercourse | During sexual intercourse, I experience an orgasm (in any way) | After sexual intercourse, I feel satisfied | During sexual intercourse, I am very concerned if my partner likes me | During intercourse, I was not mentally present | Orgasm-SDIFSF |
|------------------------------|-----|------|----|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|---------------|
| Secondary school | 147 | 34.3 | M | 5.72 | 4.93 | 5.66 | 5.22 | 5.79 | 3.27 | 3.01 | 3.79 |
| | | | SD | 1.364 | 1.564 | 1.459 | 1.637 | 1.294 | 1.848 | 1.585 | 1.234 |
| 1 st level degree | 81 | 18.9 | M | 5.91 | 5.33 | 5.93 | 5.53 | 5.88 | 2.41 | 2.77 | 3.72 |
| | | | SD | 1.196 | 1.475 | 1.330 | 1.433 | 1.100 | 1.634 | 1.741 | 1.237 |
| 2 nd level degree | 12 | 2.8 | M | 5.67 | 5.00 | 6.17 | 5.92 | 6.17 | 3.33 | 3.83 | 4.08 |
| | | | SD | 1.303 | 2.000 | 1.115 | 0.515 | 0.835 | 1.875 | 2.038 | 0.669 |
| Current student | 178 | 41.5 | M | 5.87 | 5.17 | 5.75 | 5.34 | 5.97 | 2.85 | 2.77 | 3.45 |
| | | | SD | 1.179 | 1.583 | 1.491 | 1.555 | 1.200 | 1.815 | 1.670 | 1.293 |

p<0.001

Table 9. Religion and SDIFS

| Religion | f | % | | After sexual intercourse, I feel satisfied | I take the initiative for sexual intercourse |
|---|-----|------|----|--|--|
| Catholic | 267 | 62.2 | M | 5.88 | 4.57 |
| | | | SD | 1.215 | 1.262 |
| Orthodox | 15 | 3.5 | M | 6.07 | 5.13 |
| | | | SD | 0.884 | 1.302 |
| Islam | 10 | 2.3 | M | 5.50 | 5.80 |
| | | | SD | 1.958 | 1.135 |
| Believer, but I do not belong to any religion | 46 | 10.7 | M | 5.98 | 4.89 |
| | | | SD | 0.906 | 1.215 |
| I do not believe, atheist | 73 | 17.0 | M | 5.90 | 4.33 |
| | | | SD | 1.303 | 1.537 |
| I do not want to answer | 13 | 3.0 | M | 6.31 | 5.08 |
| | | | SD | 0.855 | 1.038 |

p<0.001

sexual intercourse, and afterward they felt satisfied. However, during and after sexual intercourse they felt pain. In the analysis, one case was excluded: the subject with 22 sexual partners (Table 10). In relation to SDIFS, no correlations were found.

Based on the Spearman correlation coefficient, strong positive linear associations ($p < 0.01$) were detected:

- ▶ between lubrication during sexual intercourse and pleasant arousal ($r=535$) during sexual intercourse and satisfaction ($r=0.410$) afterward, painful sensation during and after sexual intercourse ($r=0.604$);
- ▶ between the experience of orgasm and pleasant arousal during ($r=464$) and pleasant satisfaction during sexual intercourse ($r=559$);
- ▶ between pleasant arousal and sufficient lubrication ($r=535$) during sexual intercourse, experiencing orgasm ($r=0.464$), and pleasant satisfaction after sexual intercourse. A negative linear association ($r=-476$) was with not being mentally present during sexual intercourse.
- ▶ between satisfaction after sexual intercourse and sufficient lubrication ($r=410$), orgasm ($r=559$) during sexual intercourse, and pleasant satisfaction after that ($r=610$). A negative linear association was found with not being mentally present during sexual intercourse.

Strong correlation was found between independent variables and the claims of FSFI. Marital status has a strong positive linear correlation with satisfaction ($r=0.435$). The claim of desire has a strong correlation between arousal ($r=0.566$), lubrication ($r=0.438$), and satisfaction ($r=0.410$); arousal with desire ($r=0.556$), lubrication ($r=0.771$), orgasm ($r=0.712$), satisfaction ($r=0.720$), and pain ($r=0.638$); lubrication with desire ($r=0.438$), arousal ($r=0.771$), orgasm ($r=0.649$), satisfaction ($r=0.659$), and pain ($r=0.614$); orgasm with arousal ($r=0.712$), lubrication ($r=0.649$), satisfaction ($r=0.689$), and pain ($r=0.579$); pain with arousal ($r=0.638$), lubrication ($r=0.614$), orgasm ($r=0.530$), and satisfaction ($r=0.579$) (Table 11).

Strong Spearman's correlation coefficient was present between FSFI and SDIFS:

- ▶ between the FSFI claim of desire and sufficient lubrication ($r=0.416$), pleasant arousal ($r=0.454$) during sexual intercourse, and with the given initiative for sexual intercourse ($r=0.401$);
- ▶ between arousal and sufficient lubrication ($r=0.428$), pleasant arousal ($r=0.536$) during sexual intercourse, and satisfaction after sexual intercourse ($r=0.462$);
- ▶ between lubrication and sufficient lubrication ($r=0.522$), pleasant arousal ($r=0.517$), and satisfaction after sexual intercourse ($r=0.403$);
- ▶ between orgasm and experiencing an orgasm (in any way) ($r=0.611$), pleasant arousal during sex-

Table 10. Sexual partners and SDIFSF

| No of sexual partners | f | % | | During sexual intercourse, I am sufficiently lubricated | During sexual intercourse, I feel pain | I feel pain after sexual intercourse | During sexual intercourse, I experience an orgasm (in any way) | During sexual intercourse, I am pleasantly aroused | After sexual intercourse, I feel satisfied |
|-----------------------|-----|------|----|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 1 | 334 | 77.9 | M | 5.87 | 5.20 | 5.87 | 5.47 | 6.04 | 6.01 |
| | | | SD | 1.244 | 1.559 | 1.405 | 1.494 | 1.094 | 1.149 |
| 2 | 37 | 8.6 | M | 6.11 | 5.03 | 5.81 | 4.70 | 5.97 | 5.86 |
| | | | SD | 1.125 | 1.536 | 1.411 | 2.012 | 0.986 | 1.294 |
| 3 | 7 | 1.6 | M | 6.00 | 5.29 | 6.29 | 5.43 | 6.14 | 6.00 |
| | | | SD | 0.577 | 1.113 | 0.756 | 2.070 | 0.378 | 1.155 |
| 4 | 5 | 1.2 | M | 6.00 | 5.00 | 5.20 | 6.00 | 6.20 | 5.80 |
| | | | SD | 1.000 | 0.707 | 2.049 | 0.707 | 0.837 | 1.095 |
| 5 | 4 | 0.9 | M | 6.50 | 5.00 | 6.25 | 5.25 | 6.00 | 5.50 |
| | | | SD | 0.577 | 2.000 | 0.500 | 0.957 | 0.000 | 1.000 |

p<0.001

ual intercourse (r=0.466), and satisfaction after sexual intercourse (r=0.484);

- ▶ between satisfaction and pleasant arousal (r=0.472) and satisfaction after sexual intercourse (r=0.484); and pain felt during sexual intercourse (r=0.429) (Table 12).

4. Discussion

The youngest participants expressed the highest level of satisfaction after sexual intercourse and mostly took the initiative for sexual intercourse. However, they mostly experienced pain after sexual intercourse. Differences were seen in the participants with regarding to marital

Table 11. Correlation between independent variables and claims of FSFI

| | Marital status | Desire-FSFI | Arousal-FSFI | Lubrication-FSFI | Orgasm-FSFI | Satisfaction-FSFI | Pain-FSFI |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Marital status | | .120* | .356** | .298** | .301** | .435** | .371** |
| Desire-FSFI | .120* | | .566** | .438** | .319** | .410** | .326** |
| Arousal-FSFI | .356** | .566** | | .771** | .712** | .720** | .638** |
| Lubrication-FSFI | .298** | .438** | .771** | | .649** | .659** | .614** |
| Orgasm-FSFI | .301** | .319** | .712** | .649** | | .689** | .530** |
| Satisfaction-FSFI | .435** | .410** | .720** | .659** | .689** | | .579** |
| Pain-FSFI | .371** | .326** | .638** | .614** | .530** | .579** | |

p<0.001

Table 12. Correlation between SDIFSF and FSFI claims

| | During sexual intercourse, I am sufficiently lubricated | During sexual intercourse, I feel pain | After sexual intercourse, I feel pain | During sexual intercourse, I experience an orgasm (in any way) | During sexual intercourse, I am pleasantly aroused | After sexual intercourse, I feel satisfied | During intercourse, I am not mentally present. | I take the initiative for sexual intercourse |
|-------------------|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Desire-FSFI | .416** | .253** | .246** | .181** | .454** | .367** | -.256** | .401** |
| Arousal-FSFI | .428** | .333** | .364** | .394** | .536** | .462** | -.363** | .225** |
| Lubrication-FSFI | .522** | .314** | .312** | .320** | .517** | .403** | -.261** | .152** |
| Orgasm-FSFI | .302** | .221** | .281** | .611** | .466** | .510** | -.269** | .104* |
| Satisfaction-FSFI | .320** | .246** | .314** | .365** | .472** | .484** | -.310** | .146** |
| Pain-FSFI | .292** | .429** | .375** | .265** | .373** | .354** | -.201** | .173** |

p<0.001

status. Only participants who were married had the highest level of experiencing orgasm during and feelings of satisfaction after sexual intercourse, and positive correlations with FSFI claim of satisfaction. The concern about whether their partners liked them was present within participants who were single (never married).

Differences between participants were present in the level of education. Higher levels of education were correlated with more positive effects present during (experiencing orgasm, lubrication) and after sexual intercourse feelings of satisfaction. However, at the same time, those participants that felt pain during and after sexual intercourse, were concerned about whether their partners liked them, and were concerned about not being mentally present during sexual intercourse.

The small size of the sample could not yield a valid answer about religion and sexual function. Based on the Spearman correlation coefficient, we find more initiatives for sexual intercourse from Muslims, followed by the Eastern Orthodox.

An interesting finding was regarding the number of sexual partners. Participants with one sexual partner in the previous year experienced orgasm during and felt satisfied after sexual intercourse but felt pain during intercourse. With the increasing number of sexual partners, the lubrication increased, as did the pleasant arousal during sexual intercourse, and a feeling of satisfaction. Furthermore, in participants the pain was present during and after sexual intercourse.

The pleasant arousal during sexual intercourse enabled lubrication and satisfaction after sexual intercourse but

did not prevent the pain during and after sexual intercourse; during intercourse, the pleasant arousal contributes to experiencing orgasm and satisfaction during sexual intercourse; sufficient lubrication contributes to satisfaction during and after sexual intercourse. We can conclude that the increasing of pleasant arousal during and satisfaction after sexual intercourse decreased the phenomenon of not being mentally present during sexual intercourse.

All the FSFI claims have a strong positive correlation. Arousal as the main claim strongly correlates with satisfaction, orgasm, lubrication, desire, and pain. The claims of satisfaction and orgasm do not correlate with desire. (Fig. 1)

5. Conclusions and recommendations

Orgasmic (dys)function has a genetic basis and cannot be attributed solely to cultural influences. The problem persists, but the question arises of whether this “problem” has been partly created by the media, pharmaceutical advertising, and cultural expectations^{28,29}. As has already been established,³⁰ the present study confirms no significant group differences between marital status, religion, and sexual orientation. For female sexual satisfaction, other influence factors are necessary, such as emotional closeness, sexual, emotional, and physical

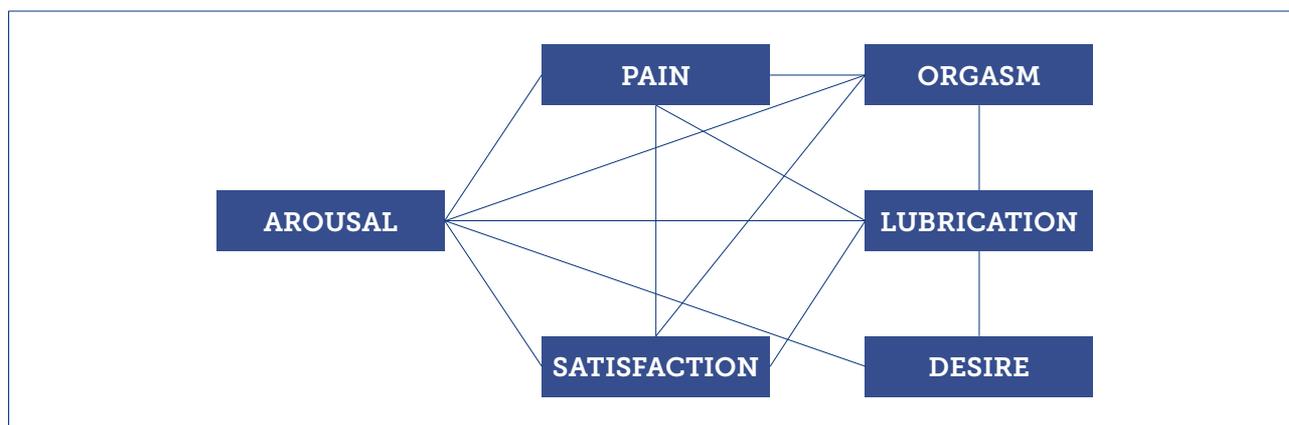


Fig. 1. Correlation between FSFI claims

satisfaction with sexual stimulation or intercourse, satisfaction with sexual life, and emotional intimacy. Our sexual life is not a linear function but depends on several endogenous and/or exogenous factors and should be understood as a multifactorial effect.

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SEKSUALNA FUNKCIJA U ŽENA I TVRDNJE SEMANTIČKE DIFERENCIJALNE SKALE

Sažetak

Svrha istraživanja bila je procijeniti korelacije između demografskih varijabli i tvrdnji iz Indeksa ženske seksualne funkcije i pitanja iz Semantičke diferencijalne skale ženske seksualne funkcije. Podaci su prikupljeni putem *online* ankete.

Metode: Na temelju testiranja šest tvrdnji Indeksa ženske seksualne funkcije Kolmogorov-Smirnovljevim i Shapiro-Wilkovim testom primijenjena je neparametarska statistička analiza sa Spearmanovim koeficijentom korelacije i hi-kvadrat testom. Statistička razina značajnosti postavljena je na $p < 0,05$.

Rezultati: Uzorak se sastojao od isključivo ženskih sudionika u dobi od 18 do 89 godina. Većina sudionica ($n = 287$, 66,9 %) bila je u vezi (ali nisu bile udane), još uvijek su pohađale fakultet ($n = 178$; 41,5 %) i bile su pripadnice katoličke vjeroispovijesti ($n = 267$, 62,2 %).

Zaključak: Najmlađe sudionice iskazale su najvišu razinu zadovoljstva nakon spolnog odnosa i one uglavnom poduzimaju inicijativu za stupanje u spolni odnos. Međutim, one su uglavnom doživjele bol nakon spolnog odnosa. Udane sudionice najčešće su postizale orgazam (na bilo koji način), bile su uzbuđene tijekom spolnog odnosa i osjećale zadovoljstvo nakon njega. Viša razina obrazovanja pozitivnije utječe na sam spolni odnos (postizanje orgazma, lubrikacija) i osjećaj užitka nakon spolnog odnosa. Međutim, istodobno, sudionice su osjećale bol tijekom i nakon spolnog odnosa, bile su zabrinute sviđaju li se svojim partnerima te su bile zabrinute zbog toga što nisu bili mentalno prisutne (npr.

sanjarenje ili maštanje o tome da su s nekim drugim) tijekom spolnog odnosa. Sudionice s jednim seksualnim partnerom u prethodnoj godini doživjele su orgazam i osjećale zadovoljstvo nakon spolnog odnosa, ali su osjećale bol tijekom spolnog odnosa. S porastom broja seksualnih partnera pojačala se lubrikacija, kao i uzbuđenje tijekom spolnog odnosa te osjećaj zadovoljstva. Nadalje, bol je bila prisutna tijekom i nakon spolnog odnosa.

Ključne riječi: orgazam, klitoris, vagina, seksualna disfunkcija kod žena, lubrikacija, uzbuđenje
