

FACTORS AFFECTING CLERGY USE OF PREMARITAL ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRES

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Background

- ❑ Premarital education as preventive interventions
 - ❑ Linked to improved marital satisfaction and commitment
- ❑ Clergy involvement in marriage preparation
 - ❑ Have the opportunity and capability

- Premarital inventories
 - Component of marriage preparation
 - Premarital assessment questionnaires (PAQs)
 - PREPARE
 - FOCCUS
 - RELATE
 - Other inventories: rationale for use



- ❑ Hindrances to effective marriage prep

- ❑ Theory of constraints

- ❑ Examples

- ❑ Denominational factors

- ❑ Congregational factors

- ❑ Not enough time

- ❑ Not enough money

- ❑ Congregation does not value

- ❑ Community factors

Research Questions

1. Do hindrances to providing effective marriage preparation predict the likelihood that clergy will use PAQs?
2. How is the use of PAQs related to the perceived effectiveness of clergy-provided premarital education?

Research Design

- ❑ Sample of clergy (N = 2,000)
 - ❑ Stratified random selection of congregations
 - ❑ Clergy from 3 main religious groups in the U.S: evangelical Protestant, mainline Protestant, & Roman Catholic
- ❑ Response – 820 (41%)
 - ❑ 814 usable for analysis
- ❑ Instrument –self-report questionnaire

Assessment Tools

- ❑ FOCCUS
- ❑ MBTI
- ❑ PREPARE or PREPARE-MC
- ❑ RELATE
- ❑ T-JTA
- ❑ OTHER

0 (*Never Use*) to 4 (*Always Use*)

Hindrances to Marriage Prep

- ❑ Lack of training
- ❑ Denomination does not encourage
- ❑ Inadequate church finances
- ❑ Do not know about resources
- ❑ Denomination lacks resources
- ❑ Community lacks resources
- ❑ Lack of denominational training
- ❑ Not enough time
- ❑ Lack of value by engaged couple
- ❑ Engaged couples do not value marriage preparation
- ❑ Parents do not value marriage prep

0 (*Strongly Disagree*) to 4 (*Strongly Agree*)

Perceived Effectiveness Scale

- ❑ “I think that I generally do a good job preparing couples for marriage.”
- ❑ “I believe that I provide more effective marriage preparation now than I did 5 years ago.”
- ❑ “I think couples have benefited from marriage preparation I have provided.”

0 (*Strongly Disagree*) to 4 (*Strongly Agree*)

Demographics

- ❑ Age: 53.1
- ❑ Active members: 428.6
- ❑ Years in ministry: 23.1
- ❑ Years in current ministry position: 8.32
- ❑ Annual weddings performed: 4.91
- ❑ Current ministry position:
 - ❑ Senior pastor: 92.9%
 - ❑ Associate pastor: 2.9%
 - ❑ Other: 3.7%

- ❑ Gender: 91.2% male
- ❑ Ethnicity
 - ❑ Caucasian: 90.3%
 - ❑ African-American: 3.8%
 - ❑ Hispanic: 1.3%
 - ❑ Asian American: 1.7%
- ❑ Religious groups:
 - ❑ Evangelical: 49.7%
 - ❑ Mainline: 38.3%
 - ❑ Roman Catholic: 9.3%
- ❑ Relationship status:
 - ❑ 84.0% married
 - ❑ 15.3% single
 - ❑ 15.8% divorced



Results



Premarital Inventory Usage

- ❑ 16.8% ($n = 137$) of clergy use PAQs only
- ❑ 12.4% ($n = 101$) use PAQs with another inventory
- ❑ 20.9% ($n = 170$) use only “other” inventories
- ❑ 49.8% ($n = 406$) use no inventory

Hindrances and PAQ Usage

- ❑ Discriminant analysis
 - ❑ Significant, $\Lambda = .93$, $\chi^2(10, N = 814) = 53.56$, $p < .01$
- * Overall, the predictors (i.e., hindrances) differentiated among those who never use PAQs and those who use PAQs.

Discriminant Analysis

Standardized Coefficients and Correlations of Predictor Variables with the Discriminant Function

Predictors	Correlation coefficients	Standardized coefficients
I have not received enough training	.53	.48
Denomination does not encourage marriage prep	.36	.22
Inadequate church finances	.07	-.18
I do not know resources available to assist me	.55	.31
Community people do not value marriage prep	.62	.38
Denomination lacks resources	.32	.08
Community lacks resources	.64	.47
Denomination lacks training	.17	-.38
I do not have enough time	.00	-.34
Engaged couples do not value marriage prep	.35	.05

PAQ Use Predicted by Hindrances

- When predicted in the first function
 - 70% of clergy correctly classified
- When predicted in a new sample
 - Leave-one-out technique
 - 69% of clergy correctly classified

Perceived Effectiveness & PAQs

□ ANOVA

□ $F(3, 763) = 7.83, p < .001$

- Those clergy who use PAQs and those who use PAQs with other inventories had significantly higher perceived effectiveness than those who did not use any premarital inventory.

ANOVA

	<i>SS</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
Between Groups	93.03	3	31.01	7.83	.000
Within Groups	3023.18	763	3.96		
Total	3116.21	766			

Post-Hoc: Tukey's HSD

Dependent Variable: Perceived Effectiveness

	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>		Mean Diff.	<i>SE</i>	Sig.
Use PAQs	9.52	1.66	Use PAQ/Other	-.330	.263	.593
			Use Other	.295	.232	.583
			Use None	.637	.200	.008
Use PAQ plus Other	9.85	1.73	Use PAQs	.330	.263	.593
			Use Other	.625	.254	.068
			Use None	.967	.225	.000
Use Other	9.22	1.88	Use PAQs	-.295	.232	.583
			Use PAQ/Other	-.625	.254	.068
			Use None	.342	.188	.264
Use None	8.88	2.20	Use PAQs	-.637	.200	.008
			Use PAQ/Other	-.967	.225	.000
			Use Other	-.342	.188	.264

Discussion

- ❑ 10 hindrances predicted PAQ usage
 - ❑ More perceived hindrances linked to lower likelihood of using PAQs
 - ❑ Training and knowledge of resources most salient predictors



- ❑ Increased use of PAQs

- ❑ Many use PAQs in conjunction with inventories not designed for premarital education

- ❑ Clergy who use PAQs and clergy who use PAQs with other inventories

- ❑ Most likely to perceive themselves as effective in providing marriage preparation
- ❑ Compared to clergy who do not use inventories

Implications for Practice

- ❑ Reduce hindrances to increase PAQ usage
 - ❑ Maximize outcomes of marriage prep
- ❑ Encourage continued PAQ usage by those clergy who are currently using them
- ❑ Explore use of additional inventories or integrating into PAQs

Implications for Research

- ❑ Determine if PAQ usage in combination with other inventories is valid for premarital education
- ❑ Longitudinal study
 - ❑ To determine actual effectiveness of clergy-provided marriage prep
- ❑ Study other religious traditions
- ❑ Study marriage preparation in African-American congregations

Limitations

- ❑ Limited to Catholic and protestant clergy
- ❑ ARDA dataset excludes traditionally African-American denominations
- ❑ Self-report mailed survey
- ❑ No empirical measure of effectiveness