

# The Role of Attachment Styles, Gender Schemas, Sexual Self Schemas, and Body Exposures during Sexual Activity in Sexual Function, Marital Satisfaction, and Sexual Self-Esteem

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## ABSTRACT

The present study was to examine the role of attachment styles, gender schemas, sexual-self schemas, and body image during sexual activity in sexual function, marital satisfaction, and sexual self-esteem. The sampling method was among married women who were living in Mashhad; a snowball selected 765 people. Questionnaires and measures of adult attachment style (AAS), Bem Sex Role Inventory (BSRI), sexual self-schema (SSS), body exposure during sexual activity questionnaire (BESAQ), sexual function female inventory (FSFI), a short form of sexual self-esteem (SSEI-W-SF) and marital satisfaction (Enrich) were completed by participants. Data analysis using Pearson correlation and hierarchical regression and case analysis was performed by SPSS-19 software. The results showed that there is a significant correlation ( $P < 0.05$ ) between attachment and sexual function ( $r=0.342$ ), marital satisfaction ( $r=0.351$ ) and sexual self-esteem ( $r=0.292$ ). A correlation ( $P < 0.05$ ) was observed between sexual schema ( $r=0.342$ ) and sexual esteem ( $r=0.31$ ). A meaningful correlation ( $P < 0.05$ ) exists between gender stereotypes and sexual function ( $r=0.352$ ). There was a significant inverse correlation ( $P < 0.05$ ) between body image and their performance during sexual activity ( $r=0.41$ ). There is no significant relationship between gender schemas, sexual schemas, body image, and marital satisfaction, and no relation was found between gender schemas, body image, and sexual self-esteem. Also, the result of the regression showed that attachment styles, gender schemas, sexual self- schemas, and body exposures during sexual activity are predictable in sexual function, and marital satisfaction can be predicted by attachment style and gender schema. Somewhat, sexual self-esteem can be expected by attachment style and gender schemas.

**Keywords:** Attachment styles, Gender and sexual schemas, Body image, Sexual function, Marital satisfaction, Sexual self-esteem