

The Effect of Mother's Drinking on Marital Satisfaction and Marital Conflict*

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The purpose of this study was to examine how the drinking of mother influences mother's marital satisfaction and conflict with her husband. This study used hierarchical regression analysis in order to investigate the effect of mother's 'drink or not' and 'drinking' (drinking frequency and drinking capacity) on marital satisfaction and marital conflict after controlling for couple's educational background, couple's age, the period of marriage, mother's parenting stress, mother's parenting style, mother's self-esteem, and mother's self-efficacy. The subjects of this study were 1,751 mothers who were participated in second survey of Korean Children Panel. According to results, both two variables (drink or not and drinking) predicted significantly marital satisfaction and 'drink or not' predicted marital conflict significantly. But, 'drinking' could not explain marital conflicts significantly. The implications of this study were discussed by considering the follow-up study and practical application.

Key words : drink or not, drinking, marital satisfaction, and marital conflict

* Panel data in Korea Institute of Child Care and Education(2009) was used.

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Nowadays, problems that are related to drinking have a strong influence on not only individual but also family and society. In addition, the drinking rate of women increases rapidly due to increased entry of women in public affairs and open culture. As following this trend, according to study from Ministry of Health and Welfare (2008), the monthly drinking rate of women had increased from 36.9% in 2005 to 44.9% in 2008. Also, the drinking rate of high-risk women who drink more than once a month had risen 6.4% from 22.3% in 2005 to 28.7% in 2007. Because women are more vulnerable to alcohol physically than men, women go through more serious problems that are caused by drinking (Ahn, 2005). Unlike male alcoholics, most of problems of female alcoholics are not at issue and also most of female alcoholics keep their marriage life. Because of this, their problems that are from alcoholism directly and indirectly influence not only themselves but also their family (Ahn, 2005). Thus, as a society, we need to pay attention to the female drinkers (Song, 2002).

More than 800 studies that were dealt with alcohol were published in KISS (Korean Studies Information Service System) and RISS (Research Information Sharing Service). However, most of medical research only focused on the male alcoholics. And even studies targeting women alcohol problems only dealt with female alcoholics rather than general women drinkers. Recently, alcoholism was called as a family

disease because it had a large impact on functions and roles of other family members (Kim, 2004). Due to this reason, the current trend of research that focused on alcoholism is to explain the alcohol problems in the aspects of family relationships. However, researchers of these studies examined the male alcoholics who were in the hospital and their marital relationships. For example, the effects of marital conflicts on male's drinking was studied. Only around 15 studies examined mother's drinking problems and parent-child relationships using elementary school students and adolescents. There were few studies that focused on the experiences of mother who were drinking and had infants. That is, studies that investigated the effects of mother's drinking on marital relationships and parent-child relationships were not enough.

Studies that examined the effects of parental alcoholism on children in hospital setting showed that parents' drinking could cause the absence of parental roles or role reversal (Werner, 1986). Also, Werner (1986) concluded that parental drinking was related to various behavioral and emotional problems of their children. Robinson and Rhoden (1998) suggested that problematic drinking had a big impact on inconsistent and unpredictable parents' roles. Alcoholic parents could not harmonized with their children and their parent-child relationship had some serious problems (Park, 2010). Especially, mother-child relationship had a more important influence on

child's mental health and mental problem than father-child relationship (Oh, 1993). Thus, it is needed to examine the differences in experiences as parents that are related to drinking in order to understand children's mental health (Son, 2008).

Alcoholic women experienced negative emotions about them such as, negative self-rating, sense of guilt, regret, self-hatred, and so on (Shin, 2008). Olenick and Chalmers (1991) reported that women drinkers who had problems of alcohol had low self-esteem. Women alcoholic were abnormally obsessed with alcohol rather than interpersonal relationships in consequence of regression caused by weakening ego (Fine & Juni, 2001). Gross and Adlers (1979) found that alcoholics had low levels of self-esteem and recognized themselves negatively. However, there were few studies that examined variables that were related to ego of alcoholics and women drinkers.

There were some studies that investigated the relationship between male's drinking and marital conflicts but the results were inconsistent. Marshal (2003) showed that there were significant relationships between drinking and marital dissatisfaction, negative interaction, domestic violence, and divorce rate. Some of studies found that divorce and marital dissatisfaction caused the drinking problems (Power & Estaugh, 1990; Power, Rodgers, & Hope, 1999; Temple, Fillmore, Hartka, Johnstone, Leino, & Motoyoshi, 1991). However,

Perreira and Sloan (2001) did not find that divorce affected the alcohol consumption. Other studies showed the effects of alcohol on divorce. According to Testa, Quigley, and Leonard (2003), serious drinking problem caused destructions of marriage life. However, Graham and Braun (1999) did not show that there were significant relationships between drinking and marital satisfaction.

Like as, it was very hard to make a conclusion whether there was a causal relationship between alcoholism and family problems (Yoon, 1997). It was also unclear either marital conflicts and marital dissatisfaction led to drinking problems or drinking problems led to marital conflicts and marital dissatisfaction (Whisman & Uebelacker, 2006). That is, a few studies showed that there are bidirectional relationship between drinking and marital conflict or marital satisfaction (Cacas, Harford, Williams, & Hanna, 1999; Leonard & Quigley, 1999; Leonard & Senchak, 1993). However, there were evidences that drinking might be an important consideration for women drinkers (Haber & Jacob, 1997). Kelly, Halford, and Young (2002) found that women drinking predicted unsatisfied marriage life and unstable couple relationships. Women drinkers who had problems were more likely to divorce than men drinkers (Olenick & Chalmers, 1991). The result of interpersonal relationship from women drinking led to conflicts with husband (Choi, 2003). In addition, there was a possibility that mother's drinking

could influence children's development. Thus, mother's drinking has to be studied in order to understand healthy family life with infants. And also, this study will focus on the effect of drinking of mother on marital satisfaction and marital conflict rather than focus on the bidirection.

Age and educational background significantly influenced the adaptation of drinking couples. In addition, income level, the period of marriage, job, unstable job status, the number of family member, and unemployment also affected the adaptation of drinking couples (Yoon, 1997). This study examined the effects of drinking on marital satisfaction and marital conflicts after controlling for age, educational background, the period of marriage, self-esteem, self-efficacy, parenting stress, and parenting style. The results of this study will be able to be used a basic research that help to improve the drinking culture and recover the right functions of family by investigating the effects of mother's drinking on couple's relationship and parent-child relationship using data from Korean Children Panel study.

Concrete research questions are the following.

First, how do 'drink or not' and 'drinking' (drinking frequency and drinking capacity) of the mother influence marital satisfaction after controlling for age, educational background, the period of marriage, parenting style, parenting stress, self-esteem, and self-efficacy?

Second, how do 'drink or not' and

'drinking'(drinking frequency and drinking capacity) of the mother influence marital conflict after controlling for age, educational background, the period of marriage, parenting style, parenting stress, self-esteem, and self-efficacy?

Methods

Subjects

The present study reports on data from 1,751 mothers who were subjects of Korean Children Panel second survey (2009) of Korea Institute of Child Care and Education. The participants' ages ranged from 20 to 47 years ($M=32.17$, $SD=3.67$). 20.8 % of participants are in their twenties and 74.6% of participants are in their thirties. When considering about educational background, the most participants (mother; 39.5%, father; 43.2%) reported they graduated undergraduate, followed by high school (mother; 30%, father; 26.4%), and community college (mother; 24.9%, father; 19.5%). The period of marriage ranged from 0 to 20 years. Most of participants (72.5%) reported their marriage period was below 5 years ($M=4.35$, $SD=3.07$).

Measurement

Drink or not and Drinking

The questions of 'Drink or not', 'Drinking frequency' and 'Drinking capacity' in surveys

targeting mother of Korean Children Panel were used. In order to check whether drink or not, "Do you usually drink?" was used. In addition, "How often do you drink?" and "How many glasses do you usually drink?" were used to investigate the drinking frequency and drinking capacity. In this study, two variables, 'Drink or not' and 'Drinking' (drinking frequency and drinking capacity), were analyzed separately. Because these two variables used different samples. That is, while every subject answered 'Drink or not' question, only women who answered they drink could answer drinking frequency and drinking capacity question. In this study, the question of 'Drink or not' was done reverse coding (1-Never drink, 2-Usually drink but now do not drink due to pregnancy and nursing, 3-Drink) and was converted as dummy variables (Dum 1: Group 1=1 & Group 2,3=0; Dum 2: Group 2=1 & Group 1,3=0; Dum 3: Group 3=1 & Group 1,2=0). In addition, 'Drinking' variable included drinking frequency (1-Once a month, 2-Twice or four times a month, 3-Twice or 4 times a week, 4-everyday) and drinking capacity (1-One or Two glasses, 2-Three or Four glasses, 3-Five or Six glasses, 4-Seven or Nine glasses, 5-Ten or Over glasses) because the drinking frequency and the drinking capacity play important roles to diagnose the alcoholism (Ahn & Im, 2010). Answers were summed and a higher score meant that a mother drinks often and a lot.

parenting style

Parental Style Questionnaire (PSQ) by Bornstein et al. (1996) was used to measure mother's parenting behavior. 6 items about parenting styles were factorized into 2 items: warmth and reactivity. These 6 items were rated on a 5-point scale, from 1 (Never) to 5 (Always). A higher score meant that a mother has positive bringing-up style. The Cronbach alpha was .833 in this study.

Parenting Stress

The Parenting Stress Questionnaire was developed by Kim and Kang (1997) as revised Parenting Stress Index Short Form (PSI-SF) suitably Korean situation. Among the Parenting Stress Questionnaire (Kim & Kang, 1997), 'Pressure about parent's roles' and 'Distress' were used in this study. This scale consisted of ten items rated on a 5-point scale, from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). This scale was done reverse coding and then a higher score meant a mother has a low level of parenting stress. The Cronbach alpha was .850 in this study.

Marital Satisfaction

Revised-Kansas Marital Satisfaction Scale (RKMS) revised into KMSS(Kansas Marital Satisfaction Scale) by Chung(2004) was used for assessing the marital satisfaction. This scale consisted of 4 items rated on a 5-point scale, from 1 (Very dissatisfied) to 5 (Very satisfied).

A higher score meant that a respondent has a higher level of marital satisfaction. The Cronbach alpha was .917 in this study.

Marital Conflict

The Marital Conflict Scale developed by Markman, Stanley and Blumberg(2001) was used. This scale consisted of 8 items rated on a 5-point scale, from 1 (Strongly disagree) to 5 (Strongly agree). A higher score meant that a respondent has a serious conflict with her husband. The Cronbach alpha was .908 in this study.

Self-esteem

The Self-esteem scale by Rosenberg(1986) were used in this study. 10 items were rated on a 4-point scale, from 1 (Strongly disagree) to 4 (Strongly agree). Four items that were stated negatively were done reverse coding. Thus, a higher score meant that a respondent has a

positive self-esteem. The Cronbach alpha in this study was .848.

Self-efficacy

Pearlin Self-Efficacy Scale(1981) was used in this study. This scale consisted of 4 items rated on a 4-point scale, from 1 (Strongly disagree) to (Strongly agree). Each item was done reverse coding. Thus, a higher score meant that a respondent has a high level of self-efficacy. The Cronbach alpha was .817 in this study.

Results

Correlations

The correlations among independent variables, dependent variables, and ‘Drink or not’ are presented in Table 1.

Marital satisfaction was positively related to

Table 1. Correlations among Independent variables, dependent variables, and ‘Drink or not’ (N=1,756)

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|
| 1. Marital Satisfaction | 1.00 | | | | | | |
| 2. Marital Conflict | -.60*** | 1.00 | | | | | |
| 3. parenting style | .21*** | -.26*** | 1.00 | | | | |
| 4. Parenting Stress | .30*** | -.41*** | .48*** | 1.00 | | | |
| 5. Self-efficacy | .34*** | -.47*** | .30*** | .47*** | 1.00 | | |
| 6. Self-esteem | .31*** | -.42*** | .41*** | .48*** | .51*** | 1.00 | |
| 7. Drink or not | -.10*** | .11*** | -.05* | -.09** | -.04 | -.03 | 1.00 |

* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$

parenting style ($r=.21, p<.001$) and parenting stress ($r=.30, p<.001$). These results meant that a woman who had higher level of marital satisfaction had more positive parenting style and experienced less parenting stress. In addition, there were positive relationships between marital satisfaction and self-efficacy ($r=.34, p<.001$) and self-esteem ($r=.31, p<.001$). These meant that a woman who were satisfied with her marriage life had higher level of self-efficacy and self-esteem. Marital satisfaction was negatively related to 'Drink or not' ($r=-.10, p<.001$). Dummy variable (Dum 3) was used in this analysis for 'Drink or not' variable. That is, people who drink alcohol was labeled '1' and people who do not drink was labeled '0'. This indicated that a woman who drank had lower level of marriage satisfaction.

Marital conflict was negatively related to parenting style ($r=-.26, p<.001$) and parenting stress ($r=-.41, p<.001$). These showed that a

woman who experienced more conflicts in her marriage life had more negative parenting style and received more parenting stress. Also, marital conflict was negatively correlated with self-efficacy ($r=-.47, p<.001$) and self-esteem ($r=-.42, p<.001$). These results indicated that a woman who had more severe marital conflicts had lower level of self-efficacy and self-esteem. Moreover, there was a positive relationship between marital conflict and 'Drink or not' ($r=.11, p<.001$). This meant that a woman who drank had higher level of marriage conflict.

The correlations among independent variables, dependent variables, and 'Drinking' (Drink frequency and drink capacity) are presented in Table 2. There was positive relationship between marital satisfaction and 'Drinking' ($r=-.18, p<.001$). This indicated that a woman who had higher level of marital satisfaction drank less. In addition, marital conflict was positively related to 'Drinking' ($r=.10, p<.05$). This result showed

Table 2. Correlations among Independent variables, Dependent variables, and 'Drinking'
(N=607)

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|-------|------|
| 1. Marital Satisfaction | 1.00 | | | | | | |
| 2. Marital Conflict | -.59*** | 1.00 | | | | | |
| 3. parenting style | .18*** | -.22*** | 1.00 | | | | |
| 4. Parenting Stress | .24*** | -.37*** | .44*** | 1.00 | | | |
| 5. Self-efficacy | .31*** | -.44*** | .26*** | .41*** | 1.00 | | |
| 6. Self-esteem | .33*** | -.44*** | .40*** | .50*** | .50*** | 1.00 | |
| 7. Drinking | -.18*** | .10* | -.03 | -.00 | -.04* | -.10* | 1.00 |

* $p<.05$, ** $p<.01$, *** $p<.001$

that a woman who experienced more severe conflict with her partner drank more.

Research Question 1

First research question is whether ‘drink or not’ and ‘drinking’ influence marital satisfaction after controlling for age, educational background, the period of marriage, parenting style, parenting stress, self-esteem, and self-efficacy. Two hierarchical regression analyses were conducted in order to test research question 1.

First analysis

In the first hierarchical analysis, ‘drink or not’ was independent variable and marital satisfaction was dependent variable. ‘Drink or not’ variable was converted as dummy variables, D1 and D2. Couple's age, couple's educational background, the period of marriage, mother's parenting style, mother's parenting stress, mother's self-esteem, and mother's self efficacy were controlled.

The result of hierarchical regression showed that ‘drink or not’ significantly predicted marital

Table 3. Hierarchical Regression Predicting Marital Satisfaction with Age of couples, Educational background of couples, Period of marriage, parenting style, Parenting stress, Self-esteem, Self-efficacy, and ‘Drink or not’ (N=1,737)

| Step | Variable | R ² added | B | SEB | Beta |
|------|--------------------|----------------------|----------|-----|--------|
| 1 | Age of M | .020*** | -.03 | .03 | -.03 |
| | Age of F | | .00 | .03 | .00 |
| | Education of M | | .21** | .08 | .06*** |
| | Education of F | | .01 | .01 | .02 |
| | Period of Marriage | | -.07* | .03 | -.06* |
| 2 | parenting style | .145*** | .04 | .03 | .04 |
| | Parenting stress | | .05*** | .01 | .11*** |
| | Self-esteem | | .10*** | .02 | .12*** |
| | Self-efficacy | | .24*** | .03 | .21*** |
| 3 | D1 | .004* | .44** | .16 | .07** |
| | D2 | | .37* | .19 | .05* |
| | (Constant) | | 13.91*** | .86 | |

Age of M: Mother's age; Age of F: Father's age; Education of M: Mother's educational background; Education of F: Father's educational background; D1: Never Drink vs. Drink; D2: Usually drink but now do not drink due to pregnancy and nursing vs. Drink

Cumulative R² = .169; adjusted R² = .164

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

satisfaction after controlling for age, educational background, the period of marriage, parenting style, parenting stress, self-esteem, and self-efficacy (Table 3). That is, 'drink or not' was a significant predictor of marital satisfaction ($R^2=.004$, $F(2, 1726)=4.12$, $p<.05$). And according to results from dummy variable, 'Never drink' and 'Usually drink but now do not drink due to pregnancy and nursing' were more positively related to marital satisfaction ($B=.44$, $p<.01$; $B=.37$, $p<.05$).

Second analysis

In the second hierarchical analysis, 'drinking'

was independent variable and marital satisfaction was dependent variable. Couple's age, couple's educational background, the period of marriage, mother's parenting style, mother's parenting stress, mother's self-esteem, and mother's self efficacy were controlled.

The result of hierarchical regression indicated that 'drinking' significantly predicted marital satisfaction after controlling for age, educational background, the period of marriage, parenting style, parenting stress, self-esteem, and self-efficacy (Table 4). That is, 'drinking' was a significant predictor of marital satisfaction ($R^2=.017$, $F(1, 596)=12.10$, $p<.01$).

Table 4. Hierarchical Regression Predicting Marital Satisfaction with Age of couples, Educational background of couples, Period of marriage, parenting style, Parenting stress, Self-esteem, Self-efficacy, and 'Drinking' (N=607)

| Step | Variable | R ² added | B | SEB | Beta |
|------|--------------------|----------------------|---------|------|--------|
| 1 | Age of M | | -.05 | .05 | -.06 |
| | Age of F | | .02 | .04 | .03 |
| | Education of M | .026** | .23 | .12 | .07 |
| | Education of F | | .01 | .03 | .02 |
| | Period of Marriage | | -.05 | .05 | -.05 |
| 2 | parenting style | | .01 | .04 | .01 |
| | Parenting stress | .119*** | .03 | .02 | .06 |
| | Self-esteem | | .13*** | .04 | .18*** |
| | Self-efficacy | | .21*** | .05 | .18*** |
| 3 | Drinking | .017** | -.32** | .09 | -.13** |
| | (Constant) | | 7.90*** | 1.66 | |

Age of M: Mother's age; Age of F: Father's age; Education of M: Mother's educational background; Education of F: Father's educational background

Cumulative R² = .163; adjusted R² = .149

* $p<.05$, ** $p<.01$, *** $p<.001$

Research Question 2

Second research question is whether ‘drink or not’ and ‘drinking’ influence marital conflict after controlling for age, educational background, the period of marriage, parenting style, parenting stress, self-esteem, and self-efficacy. Two hierarchical regression analyses were conducted in order to test research question 2.

First analysis

In the first hierarchical analysis, ‘drink or

not’ was independent variable and marital conflict was dependent variable. ‘Drink or not’ variable was converted as dummy variables, D1 and D2. Couple's age, couple's educational background, the period of marriage, mother's parenting style, mother's parenting stress, mother's self-esteem, and mother's self efficacy were controlled.

The result of hierarchical regression showed that ‘drink or not’ significantly predicted marital conflict after controlling for age, educational background, the period of marriage, parenting

Table 5. Hierarchical Regression Predicting Marital Conflict with Age of couples, Educational background of couples, Period of marriage, parenting style, Parenting stress, Self-esteem, Self-efficacy, and ‘Drink or not’ (N=1682)

| Step | Variable | R ² added | B | SEB | Beta |
|------|--------------------|----------------------|----------|------|---------|
| 1 | Age of M | .015*** | .04 | .05 | .02 |
| | Age of F | | -.01 | .05 | -.01 |
| | Education of M | | -.19 | .14 | -.03 |
| | Education of F | | -.02 | .02 | -.01 |
| | Period of Marriage | | .10* | .05 | .05* |
| 2 | parenting style | .275*** | -.04 | .05 | -.02 |
| | Parenting stress | | -.16*** | .03 | -.17*** |
| | Self-esteem | | -.27*** | .04 | -.18*** |
| | Self-efficacy | | -.62*** | .06 | -.28*** |
| 3 | D1 | .006** | -1.06*** | .29 | -.09*** |
| | D2 | | -.94** | .33 | -.07** |
| | (Constant) | | 20.10*** | 1.68 | |

Age of M: Mother's age; Age of F: Father's age; Education of M: Mother's educational background; Education of F: Father's educational background; D1: Never Drink vs. Drink; D2: Usually drink but now do not drink due to pregnancy and nursing vs. Drink

Cumulative R² = .296; adjusted R² = .291

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

style, parenting stress, self-esteem, and self-efficacy (Table 5). That is, 'drink or not' was a significant predictor of marital conflict ($R^2=.006$, $F(2, 1671)=7.63$, $p<.01$). And according to results from dummy variable, 'Never drink' and 'Usually drink but now do not drink due to pregnancy and nursing' were more negatively related to marital conflict ($B=-1.06$, $p<.001$; $B=-.94$, $p<.01$).

Second analysis

In the second hierarchical analysis, 'drinking' was independent variable and marital conflict

was dependent variable. Couple's age, couple's educational background, the period of marriage, mother's parenting style, mother's parenting stress, mother's self-esteem, and mother's self-efficacy were controlled. The result of hierarchical regression indicated that 'drinking' did not predict marital conflict after controlling for age, educational background, the period of marriage, parenting style, parenting stress, self-esteem, and self-efficacy (Table 6). 'Drinking' was not a significant predictor of marital conflict ($R^2=.003$, $F(1, 577)=1.99$, $p=.16$).

Table 6. Hierarchical Regression Predicting Marital Conflict with Age of couples, Educational background of couples, Period of marriage, parenting style, Parenting stress, Self-esteem, Self-efficacy, and 'Drinking' (N=588)

| Step | Variable | R ² added | B | SEB | Beta |
|------|--------------------|----------------------|----------|------|---------|
| 1 | Age of M | .022* | .00 | .09 | .00 |
| | Age of F | | -.06 | .08 | -.04 |
| | Education of M | | -.31 | .23 | -.05 |
| | Education of F | | .02 | .05 | .01 |
| | Period of Marriage | | .17 | .09 | .08 |
| 2 | parenting style | .243*** | .02 | .08 | .01 |
| | Parenting stress | | -.15 | .04 | -.15** |
| | Self-esteem | | -.33*** | .07 | -.23*** |
| 3 | Self-efficacy | .003 | -.55*** | .09 | -.25*** |
| | Drinking | | .24 | .17 | .05 |
| | (Constant) | | 41.48*** | 3.07 | |

Age of M: Mother's age; Age of F: Father's age; Education of M: Mother's educational background; Education of F: Father's educational background

Cumulative R² = .268; adjusted R² = .255

* $p<.05$, ** $p<.01$, *** $p<.001$

Discussion

Until now, most of studies whose subjects were women alcoholics examined the effect of marital conflict on women's drinking problem. However, this study investigated how women's drinking influenced marital satisfaction and marital conflict after controlling for educational background, age, the period of marriage, parenting style, parenting stress, self-esteem, and self-efficacy.

The main results of this study were the following.

First, marital satisfaction was positively related to parenting style and parenting stress. Also, marital conflict was negatively correlated with parenting style and parenting stress. These results supported study of Jeon and Park (1996) that marital satisfaction improved and marital conflict decreased if a woman had a positive parenting style and a low level of parenting stress. The birth of a child could lead to marital conflicts between couples. However, if couple communicated in a relaxed atmosphere in order to deal with their conflicts, this favorable atmosphere played a more important role than marital conflict and caused marital satisfaction because marital satisfaction was strongly related to couple's communication pattern (Fincham & Beach, 2007).

Second, marital satisfaction was positively related to self-esteem and self-efficacy. In addition, marital conflict was negatively

correlated with self-esteem and self-efficacy. These results showed that marital satisfaction increased and conflict between couple decreased if woman had a higher level of self-esteem and self-efficacy. These results supported the studies of Ha (2007) and Sternberg (1993) that found the effect of self-esteem on marital conflict. In addition, these results were equal to research of Ji (2006), Sacco and Phrases (2001) that showed the level of self-esteem significantly predicted marital satisfaction. Moreover, these results confirmed the study of Sevigny and Loutzenhiser (2010) that displayed the positive relationship between wife's self-efficacy and marital satisfaction. This meant that people who had a higher level of self-esteem could form a close relationship in marriage life because they had a confidence of themselves, were active, and had skills to keep an amicable relationship with others. And 'drink or not' was not significantly related to self-esteem and self-efficacy. However, 'drinking' was weakly related to self-esteem and self-efficacy. These results supported the study of Olenick and Chalmers (1991) that found the relationship between drinking and self-esteem. It was explained that people who had a higher level of self-esteem did not depend on drinking because they had a confidence of themselves, felt heavy responsibility of their partner, were interested in other's happiness, and had positive perspectives about their life (Culp & Beach, 1993).

Third, 'drink or not' and 'drinking'

significantly predicted marital satisfaction after controlling for age, educational background, the period of marriage, parenting style, parenting stress, self-esteem, and self-efficacy. This result confirmed the study of Whisman and Ubbelacker (2006) that showed the use of alcohol predicted marital dissatisfaction in community and hospital settings. However, it did not support the result from Noel and McCrady (1993) that found couples who had drinking wife showed more communication and higher marital satisfaction than couple who had drinking husband. In addition, it did not confirm the study of Kearns-Bodkin and Leonard (2005) that found there was no effect of partner's drinking on marital satisfaction. It could be explained that these differences were caused by either the surveys were conducted in community settings or in hospital settings.

Finally, 'drinking' did not predict marital conflict significantly but 'drink or not' significantly predicted marital conflict. This supported the result from Halford and Osgarby (1993) that showed the use of alcohol was a cause of marital conflict. Most of couples experienced conflicts between partners because of parenting. If a mother who took charge of education and socialization of child could not carry out this role well due to her drinking, not only function of a mother but also function of a family could be weakened and be dissolved. Because of this reason, mother's drinking could lead to marital conflict. On the other hand,

'drinking' of wife did not significantly predict marital conflict. It did not support the result of Matthew (2010) that found the negative relationship between the consumption of alcohol of partner and adaptation of couple. It could be explained that mutual pattern of drinking (that is, same drinking pattern between partners) was a more important factor that influenced the relationship between the use of alcohol and marriage life than each partner's drinking pattern in our society where the use of alcohol was very common.

The limitations of this study and suggestion for follow-up study are the following.

First, this study used only 'drink or not' and 'drinking' as independent variables and age, educational background, the period of marriage, self-esteem, parenting style, and parenting stress as control variables. Although these variables were important factors, they were limited in order to analyze wholly. Thus, it is needed to use more various variables (depression, the birth of first child, number of children, expectation about marriage, and so on) as independent variables and control variables in order to understand the relationship between drinking and marriage life clearly.

Second limitations was that this study used only three questions in order to measure 'drink or not' and 'drinking'. Thus, it is necessary to use more detailed scales that measure drink and drinking pattern more clearly.

Third, most of subjects were in the early

stage of their marriage because this study used parents who had from 11 month to 18 month infants and who were in their twenties to forties. If the couple's marriage lasted for long and then the character of family changed, marriage satisfaction and marriage conflict could change. Thus, it was hard to generalize these results to couples who had a long enough marriage life or remarried. A longitudinal study that examine changes in the relationship between drinking and marriage life when couples become middle-aged will be interesting.

Fourth, 'Drinking' variable included drinking frequency and drinking capacity in this study. Because there is no standardized scale for measuring drinking problem, most of studies that examine alcoholism follow the criteria of AUDIT. This scale includes questions about drinking frequency and drinking capacity and uses total scores after summing up all questions. We also followed this criteria. In spite of this, it is needed standardized scale in order to measure problem drinking more accurately.

Fifth, this study used panel data rather to create tools separately. Because of this reason, there was a limitation to collect important factors such as mother's job status, mother's job background, family number, and so on. Especially, these factors can affect mother's drinking pattern, marital relationship, and parenting style. Thus, it is needed to use panel data that had these factors or to create own questionnaires in order to control factors that

can influence the relationship between mother's drinking and marital satisfaction or conflict more exclusively.

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어머니의 음주가 부부만족도 및 부부갈등에 미치는 영향

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이 연구는 어머니의 음주가 어머니의 결혼만족도 및 부부갈등에 미치는 영향을 살펴보는 데 연구의 목적이 있다. 이를 위하여 어머니의 학력, 연령, 결혼기간, 양육스트레스, 양육스타일, 자존감, 자기효능감을 통제변인으로 사용하여 어머니의 음주여부 및 음주(빈도, 주량)가 결혼만족도 및 부부갈등에 미치는 영향을 더미변수를 사용하여 위계적 회귀분석을 실시하여 살펴 보았다. 연구대상은 육아정책 연구소 한국아동패널의 일반 조사 대상 가구 중 2차년도 조사(2009년)에 참여한 1,751명의 어머니이다. 연구결과, 음주여부와 음주는 결혼만족도에 모두 유의미한 것으로 나타났고, 음주는 부부갈등에 유의미한 것으로 나타나지 않았고 음주여부는 부부갈등에 유의미한 것으로 나타났다. 마지막으로 후속연구를 위한 제언 및 실제적 활용에 대하여 논의하였다.

주요어 : 음주여부, 음주, 부부만족도, 부부갈등