

Debt Brought Into Marriage and Marital Happiness:  
Implications for Education--Discussant Comments

This paper is a summary of comments presented at the 2004 Western Family Economics Association Annual Conference.

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This paper focuses on the effects of debt brought into marriage. While many of the findings may not be surprising especially to those in attendance at this conference, this discussant applauds the conclusion that previous education especially regarding automobile loans and credit card debts may positively impact marital adjustment. Further collaboration between researchers and community educators including cooperative extension in this area promises to be fruitful.

A suggestion for further research with this data set would be to match partners' responses to see if one person's perception matches the other's. This could be a different study entirely but could be beneficial since often perception becomes reality.

This paper is also a potential resource for college classrooms. As this discussant enters the formal classroom for the first time soon, results from this paper hopefully will launch classroom discussion.

Endnote

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