



# The Moderation Role of Need of Social Acceptance on the Relationships between Gender Roles and Sexual Quality\*

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## ABSTRACT

This study aimed to investigate the mediating role of the need for social acceptance in relation to the relationship between gender roles and sexual quality. The study was conducted with 576 participants aged 18 to 65 years who were married or in a relationship. Due to the pandemic, the scales were made available to participants through online platforms. The Personal Information Questionnaire was used to obtain participants' demographic data, the Gender Roles Scale (GRS) to measure their gender perceptions, the New Sexual Satisfaction Scale (NSS) to determine the quality of their sexuality, the Social Approval Need Scale (SANS) to determine their social approval needs. The data were analyzed using the SPSS 25.0 program. According to ANOVA and t-test results, demographic variables differed according to gender roles, sexuality quality, and social approval needs. A positive and negative correlation was found between gender roles and the sexuality quality variable with social approval. As a result of the intermediary variable analysis, it was found that the need for social approval plays an intermediary role in the relationship between gender roles and sexuality quality. The findings were discussed in the context of the results in the field.

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Keywords:

Gender role, sex quality, social acceptance

## 1. Introduction

As with the birth of a baby, the teachings that are passed down from generation to generation are adopted by its immediate environment. This dramatic doctrine is about gender roles, but it is not the same for girls and boys. The doctrine tells girls to be decent and boys to be brave and chivalrous. While growing up, individuals are exposed to discourses emphasizing gender by their close, distant surrounding or even strangers. The remarkable side of these discourses is their enforcing females to a passive and weak position whereas encouraging males to a strong and active position. Males are also directed by gender roles as much as women. It is not the biological gender that ascribes the power to the males and limits the woman in discourses. Biological sex comprises reproductive organs and traits individuals have through genes (Udry, 1994). Organ diversity does not differentiate the role in society. What makes the difference is society's expectations about these sexes. Social gender roles refer to the series of adopted attitudes and behaviors deemed appropriate by the society according to the biological or perceived gender of the individuals (Levesque, 2011). The perception of gender varying from culture to culture shapes individuals' way of life, behavior, and attitudes. Beyond these behaviors and attitudes, it has been discussed in various studies due to it causing several social problems. According to the previous studies, females have been exposed to violence and rape due to their gender roles

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and even become the agent of femicide, which has become more visible recently (Yüksel, Demirgöz, 2014; Akin, 2007). Differences in discourse on the street cause inequality in business life and social problems. According to TUIK data, there is a 7.7% wage gap between the sexes regarding annual gross wages and wage differences (Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK, Turkish Statistical Institute, 2018). The inequality visible enough to be calculated in areas outside the home has gone beyond the discourses and entered the homes as well. Individuals who go beyond the gender role outside the home behave more appropriately to this role to meet their gender roles at home. Just like a working female putting more effort into housework at home to be a "good wife" and "good mother." This example is conceptualized as sexual performance (West and Zimmerman, 1987; cited by Tichenor, 2005, p. 194). From this point of view, it is possible to say that gender roles affect the dynamics of relationships. At the same time, the studies carried out on social and economic fields have proved that females are disadvantaged and in danger due to their gender, it has also been revealed that males also have problems in relationship dynamics due to their gender. İşbilir (2020) has reported that males feel pressure to be the initiator in a romantic relationship and be an "alpha" man. In contrast, females are exposed to the label of easy woman when they experience sexuality in a romantic relationship. While males are expected to be sexually active and experienced in sexuality without a marriage contract, the society emphasizes that females in Turkey do not experience sexuality with the red belt tied around their waist while getting married which is considered as a gift for men. Sexuality should be another issue requiring equality between the sexes. Although sexuality does not have a vital function for individuals' continuing their existence, it is one of the remarkable variables determining the quality of life (Gülsün et al., 2009). In this sense, females' experiencing sexuality like males as their own choice and desire is vital in this sense.

Contrary to experiencing sexual development free of taboos, sexuality in Turkey has become a fact that is hidden, condemned, and spoken silently. Unfortunately, these silent conversations have led to misinformation and sexual myths (Torun F., Torun S. and Özeydin, 2011). In myths, males are active, and females are suppressed with discourses of honor, decency myths, it has been noticed that males are active, and females are suppressed with discourses of honor, decency, and good manners in gender roles. Because of the myths created, it is possible to think that sexual acts are physical acts experienced under pressure (Kayır, 2001). Due to these pressures and myths, borders between individuals are likely to appear. Boundaries hinder the need for sexual intimacy (Sexual Education Treatment and Research Center, CETAD, 2006c) One of the study's assumptions is that sexuality is negatively affected by gender roles. Because of the myths created, it can be said that sexual acts are physical acts performed under pressure (Kayır, 2001). Due to these pressures and myths, borders may occur between individuals. Boundaries hinder the need for sexual intimacy (Sexual Education Treatment and Research Center (CETAD, 2006c). One of the assumptions of this study was that sexuality was negatively affected by gender roles.

One of the theorists who discussed the importance of sexuality is Maslow. He discusses sexuality in the basic needs section of the hierarchy of needs. There are needs such as respect, belonging and acceptance at higher levels. According to Maslow's hierarchy of needs, meeting higher-level needs without meeting lower-level needs is meaningless (Maslow, 1943). Another question the study has discussed is "do individuals who follow gender norms sacrifice their basic needs to the needs at higher levels in order not to be considered as contrary?" In other words, "do we give up the quality of sexuality for the sake of social approval and behave in accordance with gender roles?" Social approval is primarily obtained from the home and then from the society. Individuals who conceptually live in accordance with society's values are approved by society and receive the social approval they regard. What the others say about you starts to be important at this point. Social approval expected from the others is obtained when certain conditions related to relationships are possible. Being married is possible if the female and the male continue marriage following their specific gender roles determined by the society. Kağıtçıbaşı has emphasized that the collectivist culture is widespread in Turkey and conforming to the society is efficient upon the behaviors of individuals (Kağıtçıbaşı, 2010). The main question of the research is "how does the expected need for social approval affect the relationship between gender roles and sexuality quality?"

Social gender roles also determine how individuals participate in society in different areas of life (Evrin, 1972). The presence of roles with clear boundaries for males and females creates some limits even while individuals recognize their own bodies throughout their sexual development. Boys can publicly talk about masturbation or circumcision, whereas girls hide and feel ashamed of things like masturbation or menstruation. This

excessive permission and secrecy beginning with sexual development continue even when individuals have romantic relationships. The usual roles that have been followed for years have been maintained to gain social approval but harm both individuals' own sexual development and relationships. Accordingly, the study was considered valuable in terms of individual health and public health.

- Is there any significant differences between gender roles, quality of sexuality and levels of need for social approval according to gender, where most of the life is spent, relationship status, education level.
- Is there any correlation between gender roles, the need for social approval and sexual quality?
- What is the mediator role of the need of social acceptance in the relationship between gender roles and sexuality quality?

### 1.1 Purpose of the Study

The aim of the study is to examine the mediating effect of the need for social recognition on the relationship between gender roles and sexual quality. Another objective of the study is to compare gender roles, sexual quality, and need for social recognition among participant groups using demographic information. Finally, the levels of differentiation of the scores obtained from the scales were examined.

### 1.2 Significance of The Study

Gender roles determine how individuals participate in different spheres of life (Evrin,1972). There are specific judgments and stereotypes about men and women. To exemplify, men should be strong, earn more money than women. These stereotypes that emerged from gender roles shape the man's relationship with society. Society reveals its expectations from men. Man tries to carry the psychosocial burden. When it fails to meet expectations, he may have depression or attempt to such as depression, suicide (Bayar,2018). Society's expectations for women often even surpasses the human rights acquired at birth. Like the right to life. "Do not embarrass our family, do not bow our heads, women should be honorable, women should not laugh." Gender roles restrict women's right to education, life, health, and work. (Akin, 2007).

In addition to these, gender roles can be observed in the sexual dimension of relationships. Women are grown in the sexual development area conservative way. Women should be embarrassed about their period. Before marriage, they should not experience sexual relationships. However, men live freely more in sexual area. (Duyan, 2004; İnanç, 2003; Nelson, 1997; Özkan, 1994; Özvarış et al., 1998). Encouraging one about sexual development and banning the other can develop myths. Spreading myths about sexuality are thought to harm the couple's relationship. This is because partners develop with different perspectives due to gender roles and express this in the relationship. Although the sexuality lived by the individual is considered something private, society also influences the attitude towards it. According to Foucault and Bauman, sexuality is socially constructed (Castells, 2013: 332; Bauman, 2005: 267-270). For Turkey as a collectivist culture (Kağıtçıbaşı, 2010), sexuality also is affected by gender roles. So, these gender roles that affect people's social, sexual and psychological development can cause them to be excluded by society and to be afraid of being negatively evaluated for them. The individual regulates his behavior according to these norms to not be marginalized. Person tries to satisfy social approval needs. While trying to be liked and appreciated, a person can put psychological health at risk.

The study tries to model the need for social approval, gender roles, and sexual quality. Since in a collectivist culture, these terms are related to each other. Also, study can contribute to other collectivist culture with this model. Also, the specialist works with clients from collectivist cultures can benefit from this. They can find some connection. When the literature review on the subject was done, the sexuality variable worked with depression, marital adjustment, and stress. However, gender roles, sexuality quality, and the need for social approval were evaluated together. No Turkish source was found. Also, the study will contribute to the literature in this way.

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1. Research Design

The study investigating the mediator role of social acceptance on the relationship between gender roles and sexual quality is designed using a relational survey model one of the quantitative research methods. The

screening model is known as the model that examines the relationship between at least two variables (Karadağ,2010). The study carried out with quantitative research methods has dependent, independent, and variable mediating roles. Gender perception is a dependent variable, sexuality quality is an independent variable, and the need for social approval is the mediator variable. This study examines the mediating role of the need for social acceptance on the relationship between gender roles and sexual quality by using three scales. With the results of the scales, the model is created within three variables.

**2.2. Setting and Participants**

The study population included married or in-romantic relationship couples who both lived together and did not live together at 18 and above. Totally 600 individuals participated in the research. Mahalanobis distance and z scores were analyzed, and outliers were identified. 34 Participants were excluded from the study if outliers occurred because they might affect the normal distribution of the data. There were 414 female, 160 male and 2 non-binary participants who participated into the study. The study was carried out with 576 participants. According to demographic information, Table 1 shows the distribution of the participants. 414 (%71.9) of the participants are women, 160 (%27.8) of the participants are male, and 2 (%0.3) of the participants are non-binary. In addition to this, 131 (22.7%) of the participants were between the ages of 18-24, 229 (39.8%) were between the ages of 25-34 range, 121 (21%) were in the 35-44 age range, 61 (10.06%) were in the 45-54 age range, 26 (4.5%) were 58 are in the 55-64 age range, 1 (1.2%) is over 65 years old. When we categorized participants by educational level, 6 (1.0%) of participants were elementary school graduates, 110 (19.1%) were high school graduates, 336 (58.3%) were university graduates, and 123 (21.4%) completed postgraduate studies. When we analyzed the participants by their relationship status, 241 (41.8%) were married and 65 (11.3%) were in a relationship and living together, 255 (44.3) of them were in a relationship and not living together. When we examine the place where they spent most of their lives, 9 (1.6%) of the participants lived in villages, 9 (1.6%) lived in cities, 66 (11.5%) lived in districts, 133 (23.1%) lived in provinces, and 359 (62.3%) of them lived in big cities. The aim of selecting gender, age, educational status, relationship status, and place that participants grow as a variable detecting statistical differences within the variables. In the literature, age, gender, relationship status as a variable are examined with sexuality (Robinson,2007), gender is studied with the need for social acceptance (Hebert,1997) gender role is analyzed with hometown (King,2011). So, in this study, these variables are examined according to the main variable.

**Table1.** Demographic for Participants

	Groups	Number (N)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Female	414	71.9
	Male	160	21.8
	Non-binary	2	0.3
Age	18-24	131	22.7
	25-34	229	39.8
	34-45	121	21.0
	46-54	61	10.06
	55-64	26	4.5
	65+	1	1.2
	Educational Status	Primary	6
High School		110	19.1
University		336	58.3
Master		123	21.4

	Married	241	41.8
Relationship Status	In a romantic relationship and live together	65	11.3
	In a romantic relationship but not living together	255	44.3
Place that participant grow	Village	9	1.6
	Town	9	1.6
	District	66	11.5
	Province	133	23.1
	Metropol	359	62.3

### 2.3. Data Collection Tools and Procedure

The Personal Information Form was used to reach demographic information such as age, marital status and education of the research participants, Social Gender Roles Scale was used to measure their gender role perceptions, New Sexual Satisfaction Scale was used to determine their sexuality quality and Social Approval Need Scale was used to measure social approval needs. Permissions for use of the scales were obtained from their authors.

#### Informed Consent Form for Participants

This referred to the form informing participants of the research and obtaining consent.

*Demographic Information Form:* The personal information form included questions related to the participants' demographic information such as gender, age and education level, as well as the place where they spent most of their life and their relationship status.

*Social Gender Roles Scale:* The scale developed by García-Cueto in 2015 was adapted into Turkish by Bakioğlu in 2019. The scale included 15 items. The minimum score possible to be obtained from the scale was 20, and the highest score was 100. The Cronbach's alpha internal consistency coefficient was 0.99 for the original scale and 0.88 for the translated scale. There were 13 reverse coded items in the scale. Items of 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 were coded reversely. The five-point Likert-type scale was rated as "I totally disagree", "I disagree", "Neither agree nor disagree", "I agree" and "I agree". The score obtained from the scale indicated an increase in the egalitarian attitude towards gender roles.

*New Sexual Satisfaction Scale:* The new Sexual Satisfaction Scale developed by Stulhofer in 2011 was adapted into Turkish by Nilüfer Tuğut in 2016. There was no Turkish scale in the literature that simultaneously measured the sexual quality of males and females. The scale included 20 items. Validity coefficient of the 5-point Likert-type scale was .90. The five-point Likert-type scale was rated as "Not at all satisfied," "A little satisfied," "Moderately satisfied," "Very satisfied" and "Extremely satisfied". The highest score possible to be taken from the scale was 100, and the lowest was 20. It included two sub-dimensions as ego-centred and partner/sexual activity-centred. Ego-centered sub-dimension determined sexual satisfaction appeared due to personal feelings and experiences. The partner/sexual activity-centred sub-dimension measured the sexual satisfaction individuals felt from sexual behavior and reactions from their spouses/partners and the variety and/or frequency of sexual activities. Whereas items from 1 to 10 were in ego-centered sub-dimension, items of 11-20 were in the partner/sexual activity-centered sub-dimension. The sexual satisfaction/quality of the person was higher as the score obtained from the scale increased.

*Social Approval Need Scale:* Öğülmüş developed the Social Approval Need Scale in 2016. The scale items were selected from a pool created with different previously developed social approval scales. The scales from which the items were selected were the Interpersonal Sensitivity Scale developed by Boyce and Parker (1989) and translated into Turkish by Eroezkan (2003), the Martin-Larsen Approval Motivation Scale revised by Martin (1984), the Interpersonal Relationship Dimensions Scale developed by İmamoğlu and Aydın (2009), the Dysfunctional Attitudes Scale transferred by Şahin and Şahin (1991), and the Irrational Beliefs Scale transferred

by Yurtal Dinç (1999). The scale studies were carried out with 360 individuals from Amasya University, Faculty of Education. The internal reliability coefficient of the scale including 25 items was .90. Higher scores indicated higher need for approval. The data were analyzed with SPSS software. It included 3 sub-dimensions as sensitivity to the judgments of others, social withdrawal, and making a positive impression. The five-point Likert-type scale was rated as "I strongly disagree," "I disagree," "Neither agree nor disagree," "I agree" and "I totally agree."

**2.4. Data Collection Method and Process**

The study was carried out online due to pandemic conditions in the fall semester of 2020-2021. The scales were announced to the participants through social platforms. The scales were delivered to the participants through the Google Forms application, and the data were collected with a random sampling method. The participants first took the informed consent form related to the purpose of the research to learn about their rights as participants, and then they filled in the scales.

**2.5. Ethical**

In this study, all rules stated to be followed within the scope of "Higher Education Institutions Scientific Research and Publication Ethics Directive" were followed.

Ethical Review Board Name: Pamukkale University Ethics Committee

Date of Ethics Evaluation Decision: 09.09.2020 Ethics Assessment Document Issue Number: 68282350/2018/G07

**3. Findings**

**3.1. Descriptive Statistics and Correlations**

**Table 2.** Correlation Values between Gender Roles, Sexual Quality, and Need of Social Acceptance

	1	2	3
1.Gender Roles	1	.131**	-.246**
2.Sexual Quality	.131**	1	
3.Need of Social Acceptance	-.123**	-.246**	1
Mean	28.86	76.72	77.88
Standard Deviation	10.507	13.245	7.830
Skewness	-.722	-.240	-.499
Kurtosis	-.416	-.401	-.143

Not. \*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, N= 576

According to the correlation analysis between the variables, positive and negative relationships were noticed. Whereas there was a significant positive relationship between the variable of gender roles and the variable of sexual satisfaction (r=.131), a negative relationship was determined with social approval need (r=-.246). In other words, it was possible to infer that the closer the individuals' gender role was to the egalitarian attitude, the more sexual satisfaction they had. In contrast, less satisfaction they had in traditional attitude. Moreover, it was also observed that individuals tended to continue their traditional gender roles when their need for social approval increased. The individuals with increase in the need for social approval in the egalitarian attitude had less need for social approval. A negative relationship was determined between the need for social approval and sexual satisfaction (r=-.246\*\*). It was possible to mention that sexual satisfaction decreased as the individuals' need for social approval increased, and sexual satisfaction increased as social approval decreased. It was considered that individuals' age, residential area, gender, education, and relationship status could vary in terms of gender roles, sexual satisfaction, and social approval needs.

### 3.2 Differences Statistics

**Table 3.** Social Gender Roles and Sexual Quality T-Test Results According to Gender

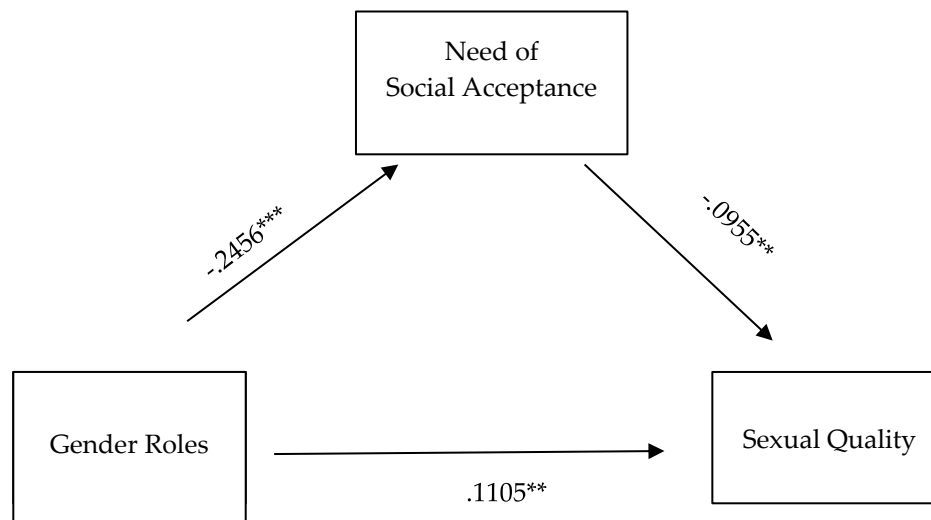
Test	Gender	n	M	SS	t	P
Social Gender Roles	Female	414	64.12	8.436	235.688	.000
	Male	160	57.28	10.940		
Sexual Quality	Female	414	76.62	13.722	.572	.058
	Male	160	77.58	11.759		

While analyzing gender roles and gender differences, the homogeneity assumption in Levene's value was not met (Levene Statistic (32.033),  $p < .05$ ). When Table 4.2 was analyzed, it was noticed that the total score obtained by females from the gender roles scale ( $X=64.12$ ,  $SD=8.436$ ) was higher rather than the score obtained by males ( $X=57.28$ ,  $SD=10.940$ ). Whereas females were closer to the egalitarian attitude, males were closer to the traditional attitudes.

Homogeneity assumption was provided in the value of Levene's test in terms of sexuality quality (Levene Statistic (3.606),  $p > .05$ ) and need for social approval (Levene Statistic (.529),  $p > .05$ ). When the difference created by the gender variable in two variables was analyzed that the score of the males ( $X=77.58$ ,  $SD=11.759$ ) was higher than females ( $X=76.62$ ,  $SD=13.722$ ) in sexual satisfaction scale even though the averages were close to each other.

For the other demographic variables, there are no statistical differences between main variables.

### 3.3. Findings about Mediating Role of Need of Social Acceptance on the Relationship between Gender Roles and Sexual Quality



**Figure 1.** Mediation Effect of Need of Social Acceptance

The effect of gender roles upon the need for social approval and sexuality quality and the effect of need for social approval upon the quality of sexuality were analyzed for the mediating variable analysis. According to the results of the analysis, gender roles predicted the need for social approval at a statistically significant level ( $a:\beta=-.2456$ ,  $p=.000$ ). When the need for social approval was considered, it was found that it significantly predicted the quality of sexuality ( $b:\beta=-.0955$ ,  $p=.0253$ ). It was revealed that gender roles significantly predicted the quality of sexuality ( $c:\beta=.1105$ ,  $p=.0098$ ). When the confidence intervals were interpreted, the model was noticed to be significant and reliable. When the mediating effect of the need for social approval was analyzed, it was found that the variable of need for social approval played a full mediating role in the whole model ( $CI=[.0017, .0646]$ ).

#### **4. Discussion**

The study examined the mediation effect of the need of social acceptance on the relationship between gender roles and sexual quality with 576 participants in the 2020-2021 academic year. The first objective of the study was to find relationships between gender role perceptions and sexual quality. The results of the study show that gender role scores and sexual quality are statistically significantly positively correlated. In other words, sexuality assessment also affects sexual quality. In reviewing the literature, many studies were found that support this finding of the study'. In the study carried out with 413 adults aged 18 and 55, it was found that sexual satisfaction of the egalitarian individuals was higher, and those with egalitarian attitudes displayed less sexual dysfunction (Karagöz, 2021). It was found in a study investigating the sexual satisfaction of married females that sexual satisfaction of females who maintained traditional roles was low (Yılmaz, 2014). In another study carried out with 161 females, the sexual life quality score was determined to decrease as the marital gender role score increased (Kaçan, 2018). The relationship of social gender roles with sex quality in the literature was discussed with different samples, and findings of these studies supported the finding referred from the study sample. Previous research revealed that social gender roles affected individuals' sexual life, sexual satisfaction, attitudes, and behaviors. The variable considered to be closely correlated with social gender roles was the need for social approval. On the other hand, in the other study that carried out with 120 women, revealed that sexual assertiveness predicts sexual quality than gender roles (Azmoude,2016)

Another aim of the study is analyzing the relationship between gender roles and need for social acceptance. A significant negative correlation was found when the relationship between the variables of need for social approval and social gender roles was analyzed. As the score taken from the social gender roles scale increased, the score taken from the need for social approval scale decreased. In other words, as the participants displayed an egalitarian attitude in their social gender roles, their social approval-seeking behaviors decreased. Because this study was conducted with participants who grew up in Turkey, it is suggested that there is a strong relationship between behavior aimed at social recognition and gender roles. In the other case, if the individual insists on the unexpected gender roles, the person is already deprived of society's approval and creates a small society of people like oneself. It can be predicted that the need for permits will decrease because they can be approved there too. In the literature, study conducted with 309 sexually active heterosexual participants, gender role conformity predicts lower sexual satisfaction (Sanchez, 2005).

Also, in the other study, the need for social approval and attachment styles (Baytemir, 2017) were studied with fear of negative prejudices (Süzer, 2019). The need for social approval and social gender roles were discussed with dating violence considering the relevant studies. According to Turan and Baki (2018), individuals with traditional gender roles had higher exposure and commitment to violence. Social gender roles were found to predict dating violence. In another study, the need for social approval predicted the collectivist self-construal (Karaşar and Öğülmüş, 2016). Whereas it was considered that individuals with collectivistic self-construal tended to live according to the norms of the society with high probability of having traditional gender roles, individuals' acting according to their self-construal increased their need for social approval. The study finding revealed that there was a correlation between social gender roles and the need for social approval.

In addition to these, the other relationship between the variables is relationship between sexual quality and need of social acceptance. Did the social approval obtained from society affect sexuality as the basic need of individuals? A significant negative correlation was found when the relationship between the need for social approval and the sex quality was analyzed. It was revealed that as the participants' need for social approval increased, they took lower scores from the sexual satisfaction scale. It was considered that the satisfaction of individuals from sexuality decreased as the desire to live according to the society, the desire for social harmony and the need for social approval increased. In the study, sexual satisfaction scores of males were found to be higher than the scores of females (Erdoğan, 2018).

Regarding perception about gender differences sexual behavior that finding is so logical and related to social approval. People try to get social approval from where they grow up or society. These socio-cultural effects could trigger sexual dysfunction which negatively affected the sex quality of individuals (İncesu, 2005). According to a previous study, women experiencing sexuality freely in Turkey caused them to be tagged (İşbilir, 2020). Experiencing sexuality in Turkey and society's prejudices on this varied according to gender. It has been inevitable that labels as not being an "easy woman", being a "man with sex experience" and getting



social approval from the society affected the sexual behavior of individuals. In a study investigating the problems women experienced in sexuality, it was found in the study that women displayed more sexual dysfunction when compared to men due to women's suppressing sexuality (Buss, 1994).

One of the reasons why women suppressed their sexuality was related to the cultural structure of the society individuals lived in. Regarding the sexual dysfunctions experienced by men, Travis and White (2000) stated that in patriarchal societies, sexual dysfunction of men was related to the society's regarding men's performance (2000). Conservative thinking and attitude could trigger sexual dysfunctions (Masters and Johnson, 1970). Behaviors of individuals differed according to gender. In the study on tending to release sexuality, Chiou (2006) reported that men released themselves more in terms of sexuality on the internet rather than women, and women used a more conservative strategy. Like this finding, it was stated in the book King Kong Theory that women growing up in the Middle East had sexual rape fantasies. While explaining the reason, it was added that the woman could only be excused by the society when sex happened without consent (Despentes, 2017). Like the other study in literature, this study carried out more women when it is compared to the number of men because women's sexual behavior restricted from society, when the need of social acceptance, sexual quality decreases.

Even if women can be seen under pressure according to one of the findings of the study, when compared to males, the participant females had higher scores on the social gender role scale and displayed more egalitarian attitudes in their lives rather than males. As a result of the strengthening of women's movement in Turkey and women's participation in educational and business life, females have started to maintain their demands for gender equality with a more egalitarian viewpoint. When the literature was reviewed, many research findings were noticed to reveal that females were more egalitarian in terms of gender roles when compared to males (Yılmaz and Öz, 2018; Aydın and Bekar, 2016).

The final goal and main question of the study is to examine whether there is a balancing effect of the need for social acceptance on the relationship between gender roles and sexual quality. No research was found in the literature that examined the need for social acceptance as a mediating variable in the relationship between social gender roles and sexual quality. The literature examined the variables of social motives, peer acceptance, and rape myth. According to the research findings and discussion in the literature, the relationship between sexuality and social gender roles and the mediating role of the variable need for social approval became clear. In collectivist culture, the need for social acceptance should be considered when analyzing gender roles and sexual quality. Based on the literature review and discussion, the need for social acceptance as a variable can contribute or change the direction between sexual quality and gender roles. Practitioners can thus think about the need for social acceptance when working with gender roles and sexual quality.

## 5. Limitation and Future Direction

The research was carried out with 576 participants. The number of male and female participants participating in the research did not show a balanced distribution. More male participants should be reached to generalize the research findings. The participant groups differed according to age, educational status, relationship status, and where they spent their lives. The sample could be expanded. The language of the Social Gender Roles Scale aiming to measure social gender roles according to the feedback from the participants was found sexist by the participants. The research was limited to gender roles, the need for social approval, and the quality of sexuality measured with the scales used.

When the studies carried out in Turkey were reviewed, it was noticed that the need for social approval was studied with a sample including the university students. In contrast, the variable of sexual satisfaction was studied with the variables of married individuals, sexual myths, and sexual dysfunction. Social gender roles, sex quality, and the need for social approval have not been studied as models. When the analyzes of the research and the literature were reviewed, it was recommended to carry out further studies in different samples related to this research topic since there were strong relationships between these three variables. Further studies can be carried out with the variables of sex quality, family type, sexual education, and attachment styles.

Attention is possible to be drawn to the issues of gender roles and sexuality quality in marriage training offered in municipalities. Seminars on gender roles within the scope of in-service training can be given to family

counselors. Sex education and social gender roles should be included in the Ministry of National Education curriculum. Sex education and gender roles seminars suitable for adulthood can be given in psychological counseling centers of universities. Psychological counseling centers at universities can organize forums with students to discuss the effects of social gender roles and sexuality's effects on romantic relationships.

## 6. Conclusion

This study is one of the first studies that examine the mediator effect of the need for social acceptance on the relationship between gender roles and sexual quality. According to findings, there are correlations within gender role, sexual quality, and social approval. There is positive correlation between gender roles and sexual quality. When gender roles closer to egalitarian attitude in that participant group, their sexual quality also increases. On the other hand, research conducted on gender roles and sexual behaviors, states that when they compare gender roles group, they could not find any differences about sexual behavior or problem (Kurpiz et al., 2016). This difference between the studies can be related to population and method.

Another negative correlation between the need for social approval and gender roles is that one who has a traditional gender role may have more need for social approval. Based on these statistical findings, we can speculate that people who rely on traditional gender roles, live according to what society says. A person may fear exclusion, so feelings of need for social acceptance can increase day by day.

The last correlation is between the need for social approval and sexual quality. The correlation is negative, which means when the need for social acceptance increases, sexual quality decrease in this participant group. With these findings, it is obvious that the bedroom is not as private as it is thought in society. Sexual quality may be shaped by relationship between person and society. Some of the research supports finding the current study. Relying on other's approval can harm one's sexual autonomy and sexual satisfaction (Sanchez,2005). According to other study findings, a high need for social acceptance affects self-esteem in the sexual area negatively (Schill,1973).

Also, there are some gender differences about gender roles and sexual quality. Whereas women get high points from gender roles scale when compared with men, in sexual quality, men get higher points than women. These differences can be related to gender roles. It is related to how society shapes men and women. According to the study, women try to deal with this inequality by behaving more equally. Many studies support this result (Oengen & Aytaç, 2013; Yılmaz & Oez, 2018, Aydın et al., 2016). Regarding sexual satisfaction, men grow up with a permissive perspective in the sexual sphere. However, women are so restricted about the sexual area in the collectivist culture. So, men are growing up knowing their pleasure but still there are women who are not masturbated. Because of this, women could not have information and thoughts about their sexuality. There are different findings in the literature. Whereas one study states that women feel more satisfaction on sex than men (Şimşek et al.,2018), other studies state that men get more sexual satisfaction than women (Vural&Temel,2010). Our findings show similarity to that study.

Last finding is about the main aim of the study. According to findings there is full mediating role of need for social acceptance on the relationship between gender roles and sexual quality. So, when the need for social acceptance is added to this model, the relationship degree between gender roles and sexual quality changes statistically. Overall need for social acceptance shapes the gender roles and sexual quality relationship in that group. Even if this may not be generalized to the people. This model should be studied more in different groups like different sexual orientations, different occupational groups, different economic backgrounds since researchers may find a different result. Also, this research can give starting points to marriage and couple therapists. They can test some hypotheses in their sessions with different clients. Professionally, this model can help clients understand the meaning behind the bedroom with specialist help. For society, every person has the right to live equal socially and sexually regardless of their gender.

## 7. References

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