

## **Relationship between sexual desire and subjective orgasm experience in context of sex-with-partner**

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**Rationale/Background:** Both, sexual desire and orgasm constitute two important constructs of human sexual behaviour. Dyadic sexual desire is the motivation to engage in sexual activity with a partner (Moyano, Vallejo, and Sierra, 2017). Orgasm is a complex mixture of subjective mental and physical body changes (Levin, 2011). Specifically, subjective orgasm experience refers to the psychological perception of orgasm (Arcos-Romero and Sierra, 2018). The aim of this study was to examine the association between sexual desire and subjective orgasm experience in context of sex-with-partner.

**Research Questions:** Could partner-focused sexual desire predict the subjective orgasm experience in context of sexual relationship?

**Methods:** Sample was composed of 1,100 heterosexual adults participants (547 men, 553 women). Mean age was 39.40 ( $SD = 13.68$ ) for men and 32.93 ( $SD = 12.91$ ) for women. All of them were involved in a stable relationship. Participants accepted a consent form in which confidentiality and anonymity were guaranteed. They completed a set of self-reported online measures that included a background questionnaire, the partner-focused sexual desire subscale of the Sexual Desire Inventory (SDI; Ortega, Zubeidat, and Sierra, 2006), and the Orgasm Rating Scale (ORS; Arcos-Romero, Moyano, and Sierra, 2018) in context of sex-with-partner. The time to complete it was approximately 15 minutes.

**Results:** Results showed significant differences across gender in both, partner-focused sexual desire and subjective orgasm experience in context of sexual relationship. Sexual desire's scores were higher in men whereas the subjective orgasm experience was higher in women. Significant correlations between the two constructs were found in both sexes. These correlations were .43 ( $p < .001$ ) in men and .47 ( $p < .001$ ) in women. Linear regression models showed that dyadic sexual desire explained 19% ( $\beta = 1.35$ ;  $p < .001$ ) and 22% ( $\beta = 1.17$ ;  $p < .001$ ) of the variance of the subjective orgasm experience for men and women, respectively.

**Conclusions:** Partner-focused sexual desire has the ability to explain the subjective orgasm experience in context of sexual relationship in both men and women. Dyadic sexual desire in heterosexual adults involved in a stable relationship predicts the subjective orgasm experience in context of sex-with-partner.

**Key Words:** sexual desire, subjective orgasm experience, sex-with-partner

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