



Preferences About Mate Selection and Married Life

KEYWORDS

Preferences, Mate selection , Attributes.

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ABSTRACT *The rate of divorce in India is increasing at an alarming rate and is bound to increase further. India is a country where girl's choice is not taken under consideration even when her educational level is increasing. Therefore an effort was made to find out the preferences of girl students about mate selection and married life. The study was conducted in Amalner Taluka. Fifty respondents were selected for the study. It was found that girls preferred mates with service, he should be post graduate, preferred arranged marriages, mode of mate selection preferred was relatives and parents, and character of the spouse was of utmost importance.*

Introduction:

Choosing the right life partner is an important decision of life. Once made this decision has long lasting impact on a girl's /women's life. The success of the marriage depends on this one single decision.

The divorce rate in India is increasing. It has risen to 13 per 1000 from 1 in 1,000 some 10 years ago and it is going to rise. (Times of India) Lasting married life with single spouse was India's pride. The only way this trend can be stopped is to choose the right mate as life partner.

Similarly it is important to let know the society the expectations of the girls from the married life. With this view in mind the study was undertaken with the following specific objectives:

Objectives:

1. To find out the preferences of senior college girl students regarding mate selection.
2. To find out the preferences of senior college girl students regarding married life.

Research Methodology:

The study was conducted in Amalner Taluka of Jalgaon district in Maharashtra state. Simple random sampling technique was adopted for selection of respondents. Two senior colleges were selected from Amalner Taluka and twenty five girl students were selected from each college, accounting to fifty respondents.

The data was collected by the researcher with the help of an interview schedule. The responses of each question in the schedule were first tabulated respondent wise in a master table. The data was quantified and tabulated to draw meaningful inferences. Simple percentages were calculated to derive the inferences.

Results and discussion:

1. Profile of the respondents:

It was found out that the maximum number of respondents (40 %) were of 20 years of age. They were studying in the third year of the college (35%). Half of the respondents (50%) belonged to the rural area and other fifty percent belonged to the semi urban area.

When fathers' occupation was taken into consideration , it was found that maximum number of respondents' fathers

were working as farmers and mothers were housewives (36%). Fifty eight percent of the respondents belonged to the other backward classes. Their annual income was Rs. 50,000 (76%). Forty six percent of the respondents lived in joint families.

Table 1 Profile of the respondents n-50

Sr.No.	Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age		
	18 years	10	20
	19 years	07	14
	20 years	20	40
2.	21 years	13	26
	Educational Qualification		
	First Year	09	18
	Second Year	06	12
3.	Third Year	35	70
	Background		
	Rural	25	50
4.	Urban	25	50
	Fathers' Occupation		
	Farm Labourer	10	20
	Farmer	20	40
	Service	08	16
	Business	12	24

5.	Mothers' Occupation		
	Housewife	36	72
	Farm Labourer	11	22
	Service	01	02
	Business	02	04
6.	Caste		
	Schedule Caste	07	14
	Schedule Tribe	07	14
	Vimukta Jati Nomadic Tribes	04	08
	Other Backward Class	29	58
	Special Backward Class	01	02
	Open	02	04
7.	Annual Income		
	Rs. 50,000	38	76
	Rs. 50,000 to 1,00,000	09	18
	Above Rs. 1,00,000	03	06
8.	Type of Family		
	Nuclear	04	08
	Joint	46	92

Table 2 Preferences regarding mate selection

Sr.No.	Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
2.	Occupation		
	Farmer	00	00
	Service	47	94
	Business	03	06
2	Educational Qualification		
	Senior Secondary	02	04
	Under Graduate	04	08
	Post Graduate	23	46
	Ph.D	21	42
3.	Mode of Mate selection		
	Relatives and Parents	38	76
	Advertisement	03	06
	Vadhu Par Sushok Mandal	03	06
	Internet	06	12
4.	Type of Marriage		
	Arranged	38	76
	Love Marriage	08	16
	Court Marriage	01	02
	Group Marriage	03	06

Preferences regarding mate selection:

Preference regarding occupation of mate:

Even though 40 percent of the respondents father were working as farmers, ninety four percent of the respondents preferred that their future spouse should be in service. This may be because of the fact that agriculture is dependent upon the nature's whims. A farmer has to depend totally on nature for the success of his crops.

Preferences regarding educational qualification of the mate:

When asked about the educational qualification of the future mate forty six percent of the girl students agreed on post graduation as essential qualification of the future spouse.

Preference regarding mode of mate selection:

It was seen that forty six percent of the respondents still believed that their relatives ,parents and adults should choose their future mate.

Preference regarding type of marriage:

It was found that seventy six percent of the girl students believed in arranged marriage.

Preferable attributes in mate:

Regarding the preferences related to preferable attributes in the future mate it was found that the character of the spouse, followed by understanding nature, love, economic stability, height, complexion and the last in descending order was intelligence.

This is in accordance with a woman's emotional nature. Girl students have selected the first three attributes viz. character, understanding and love which are more emotional in nature.

Table 3 Preferences regarding mate selection

Sr.No.	Attributes	Rank
1	Character	I
2	Understanding	II
3.	Love	III
4	Economic Stability	IV
5	Height	V
6	Complexion	VI
7	Intelligence	VII

1. Preferences regarding married life:

Career after marriage:

It was seen that eighty two percent of the respondents

wanted to do service after marriage,even though seventy two percent of the respondents mother were housewives. This could be because of the fact that they are now much more educated then their own mothers and understand the importance of having two sources of income at home.

Number of children:

Seventy eight percent of the respondents wanted to have two children after marriage.As education brings more awareness and importance of small family could be easily understood.

Conclusion:

Girl students who belonged to marriageable age in rural and semi urban areas still believed in traditional ways of mate selection.The preferences where changes could be seen is in the number of desired children and desire to work after marriage. Since they are in higher education they want that their mate should be at least post graduate.