



Love Marriage: Is It A Boon Or A Taboo - An Empirical Study

KEYWORDS

Love Marriage, Boon, Taboo, Satisfaction, Affection, Decision Making, Self-Disclosure, Trust, Role Functioning, Rejection, Despair, Discontent and Marital Dissolution.

DAVID SAM PAUL

Project Assistant, GFATM R7 – Project, Bishop Heber College, Tiruchirapalli – 620 017.

A. UMESH SAMUEL JEBASEELAN

Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, Bishop Heber College, Tiruchirapalli – 620 017

B.ARUNKUMAR

Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Bishop Heber College, Tiruchirapalli – 620 017.

ABSTRACT

Love or arranged marriage, is still a debatable topic in the context of traditional India. It is widely talked about on which is better on the basis of social nomenclature, understanding and in the long run of living a happy married life. The concept of love marriage was once a taboo in ancient India since our country has always had a tradition of arranged marriages. To understand this ideology the researcher carried out the present study to comprehend the phenomena among couple who have loved and then married each other in Tiruchirappalli District. The universe of the study being infinite the researcher adopted the snowball sampling technique and identified couples who have love marriages which constituted of 60 couples being selected for the study. The objectives of the study were to describe the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents, their marital adjustment and to understand the misunderstanding that had occurred between their family members because of their love marriage. In this study the researcher attempted to describe whether love marriage is a boon or a taboo, hence the descriptive research design was used. A standardized scale developed by Strauss (1975) was used to understand the quality of marital adjustment among couples with love marriages. The study revealed that majority of the respondents had a high level of satisfaction, affection, better decision making ability, self-disclosure, trust, role functioning and had an overall better quality of marital adjustment between each other. Dimensions of the study that revealed a low marital adjustment were, understanding between each other, rejection, despair, discontent and marital dissolution. More than half of the respondents 55 percent further stated that there were prolonged misunderstandings with their family members owing to their love marriage. Based on the presented study it is evident that more than half of the respondents considered love marriage as a boon breaking the barriers of traditional India which once inculcated the dowry system, religious misconceptions and the caste system.

INTRODUCTION

Whenever we talk of Indian wedding we try to equate it with arranged marriages. In India, the social structure is such that we associate Indian marriages mainly with arranged marriages. Most of us have the feelings that arrange marriage is the concept of Indian society. But history tells us that arranged marriages use to happen even in the Victorian age. The history of England, tells us that most of the kings and queens had arranged marriages. In India arrange marriages originated when child marriages was customary in the country. Caste system gave birth to arrange marriages, as the upper caste families didn't want their children to marry outside their community and caste. The concept of love marriage was a taboo in ancient India as India always had a tradition of arranged marriages. But after World War II and the Industrial Revolution, the perception of people started changing and they became familiar with the concept of love marriages.

Significance of the study

It is said that compromise is a factor that decides whether the marriage would work out or not. In case of love marriage, people might expect more from their partner, largely because they have fallen in love before marriage. The compromise factor might work wonders in case of most of the arranged marriages, while in love marriages, that might prove to be yet another cause for altercation. Due to this factor, people consider an arranged marriage as long lasting and better than a love marriage.

Love or arranged marriages is still a debatable topic in the Indian society. People still debate on the issue, which one is

better. What should be the basis of the marriage love or social norms? This study was carried out to investigate & comprehend the phenomena among couple who have loved and then married each other in Tiruchirappalli District

Aim

The main aim of this study was to understand the true nature of Love Marriages in India, whether it is a Boon or a Taboo.

Objectives of the study

- To describe the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents.
- To study the marital adjustment as experienced by the respondents.
- To portray whether the love marriage is a boon or a Taboo as expressed by the respondents.

Research Design

In this study the researcher attempted to describe whether love marriage is a boon or a taboo, hence the descriptive research design was used.

Universe

The universe of the study comprises of married couples who have love marriages in Tiruchirappalli District.

Sampling Method

The researcher has adopted the snow ball sampling procedure since the universe of the study was infinite in nature. This resulted in 60 respondents with love marriages being selected for the study.

Tools of Data Collection

A standardized scale developed by Strauss (1975) was used to understand the quality of marital adjustment among couples with love marriages. This scale was reedited based on the opinions of experts in the field and the same was applied for data collection. The reliability of the tool after applying Spearman's Prophecy formula is 0.817

Socio –demographic Characteristics

The Socio demographic characteristics of the respondents revealed that less than half (40%) of the respondents were between the age group of 26 to 30 years old. A little more than half (56.7%) of the respondents were Muslims. Majority of the respondents (70%) were belonging to the Backward Caste while a vast majority of the respondents (80%) were from an Urban Background. The findings also stated that there was an equal distribution of respondents (50%) each pertaining to their educational qualification. Less than half (44%) of the respondents were semiskilled in their occupation and a little less than one-third (28.3%) received a monthly salary between Rs. 5001 to 10000 respectively.

It can also be inferred that majority (75%) of the respondents belonged to the nuclear family setup and a little less than half (45%) had more than three siblings in their family. It was also revealed that a little less than half (45%) of the respondents were married below a period of five years and a majority (64%) of the respondents were employed.

Table 1: Type of Marriage and Place of Marriage

Sl.No.	Variable	No. of Respondents (n:60)	Percentage
1.	a)Type of Marriage Love Marriage	22	37
		38	63
	b)Place of Marriage Temple/Church/Mosque	38	63
		22	37
		Register Office	

The above presented table clearly states that majority (63%) of the respondents fell in love and then got married with the approval of their parents. They were either married in a Temple/Church/Mosque respectively. More than one third of the respondents (37%) had their love marriage in the registers offices; this was perhaps because of the marriage being of various castes and of different religious backgrounds.

Table 2: Demand of Dowry

Sl.No	Variable	No. of Respondents (n:60)	Percentage
1.	Not Expected	52	87
2.	Expected	8	13

The table clearly underlines that a vast majority (87%) of the respondents did not expect or demand dowry.

Economic Condition

The economic conditions of the respondent revealed that 40 percentage of the respondents stated that their economic condition was good while a little more than one third (36%) of the respondents stated that their condition was fair.

Security in managing their family

It is found that a vast majority (71.7%) of the respondents agreed that there was security in managing their .This could be based on the fact that they were now rejected by their own family members because of their marriage.

Conflict among Families

Majority (61.7%) of the respondents stated that there was no conflict among their families because of their love marriage. This finding can also be further substantiated by table 1 which clearly stated that majority (63%) of the respondents fell in love and then got married with the approval of their parents. It is also revealed that more than one third (38.3%) of the respondents faced a lot of conflicts with their families after their marriage.

Table 3: Various Dimensions of Marital Quality

Sl.No.	Various Dimensions	No. of Respondents (n:60)	
		Low	High
1	Understanding	30 (50%)	30 (50%)
2	Rejection	33 (55%)	27 (45%)
3	Satisfaction	23 (39%)	37 (61%)
4	Affection	7 (12) %	53 (88%)
5	Despair	28 (47%)	32 (53%)
6	Decision Making	26 (44%)	34 (56%)
7	Discontent	36 (60%)	24 (40%)
8	Dissolution	45 (75%)	15 (25%)
9	Potential Dominance	18 (30%)	42 (70%)
10	Self Disclosure	11 (19%)	49 (81%)
11	Trust	12 (20%)	48 (80%)
12	Role Function	30 (50) %	30 (50%)
13	Overall	7 (12%)	53 (88%)

From the presented table on the marital quality of the respondents with regard to the various dimensions, it was evident that, the following dimensions were seen as a boon; majority of the respondents revealed that the rejection pertaining to their marriage was found to be low (55%), satisfaction among the respondents were found to be high (61%). A vast majority of the respondents (88%) revealed a very high sense of affection towards each other in their marriage.

More than half (56%) of the respondents said that their decision making in their family was high (56%). Discontent in the family of the respondents was found to be low, with majority (60%) revealing the same. From the above table it was also revealed that a vast majority (75%) of the respondents had a very low intention towards dissolution in their marriage.

It was also revealed that, there was a very high level of self disclosure and trust (81% and 80%) respectively pertaining to the marital quality of the respondents, there was also an equal distribution (50%) of the respondents stating that both partners

played an important role pertaining to the dimension of role functioning.

The dimensions pertaining to the understanding of the respondents stated that exactly half (50%) agreed that their understanding between each other could still improve and the reason pertaining to the same could be, because a vast majority of the respondents (70%) stated that a high level of potential dominance was experienced from their respective partners. The reason pertaining to the same could also be equated with the findings that a little more than half (53%) of the respondents revealed a high sense of despair in their marital quality which could be seen as a taboo.

The overall findings revealed that a vast majority (88%) have a high marital quality in their family and is seen as a boon from the presented table.

Respondents' Spouse Occupation with regard to Various Dimensions of Marital Quality

It is found that there is no significant difference between the Spouse occupation (employed / unemployed) with regard to the various dimensions of marital quality namely: understanding, rejection, satisfaction, affection, despair, decision making, discontent, dissolution, potential dominance, self disclosure trust, role functioning and overall marital quality

Conclusion

Though the question ,whether Love Marriage or Arranged Marriage, which one is considered better, still remains a huge debate. Many reviews as presented by the researcher consider arranged marriage to be more beneficial to couples in the long run NDTV (2013). The researcher sought to understand the concept whether 'Love Marriage is a Boon or a Taboo'. From the presented findings and analysis, it was revealed that majority of the respondents fell in love and then got married with the approval of their parents this has also been substantiated in the findings that there was no conflict pertaining to the same. The study brought to light that there was an equal distribution pertaining to the economic condition of the respondents who stated that there condition was good and fair after their marriage. The study highlighted that the respondents who fell in love and got married did not expect dowry,

breaking the common conception of the dowry system once prevailing in India.

The study revealed that the following areas were found to be a boon pertaining to the marital quality of the respondents; rejection, discontent and dissolution was found to be low, while key areas such as satisfaction, affection, decision making, trust and the overall marital quality was found to be high.

There was equal response from the respondents pertaining to the dimensions of understanding towards each other and role functioning. However, the study also revealed that there was despair between the couples and it was found to be equally high which could be seen as a taboo in the presented study. It was also revealed that there was a significant association between the type of marriage and the marital quality in the dimensions of dissolution and trust which are the key trust areas in a family. Trust being the highest because once the couples loose trust in each other, the marriage it at a high risk of dissolution.

The research also revealed that there was a significant relationship between the monthly income and the marital quality in the dimension of self disclosure in the study. This revealed that everything an individual chooses to tell the other person about himself or herself, making him or her known plays an important role pertaining to ones monthly income and marital quality. The researcher also concluded that the occupation of the spouse did not affect the marital quality of the respondents even though 34 percentage of the spouse were unemployed because either one of the family member was earning an sufficient income.

To still debate on the issues relating to whether love marriage is a boon or a taboo, the researcher clearly states that love marriage and the approval of ones kit and kin plays an pivotal role in ones married life. This also could be because of the broader understandings of parents in seeing that their children are happy with the partner of their choice which is reflected as an emerging trend in the study.

REFERENCE

- (IANS), N. (2013). Deccan Herald. Retrieved November 2014, from Indians swear by arranged | marriages:<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/316016/indians-swear-arranged-marriages.html> | Epstein, R. (n.d.). Why an arranged marriage 'is more likely to develop into lasting love'. Retrieved November 2014, from Ma il Online: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1363176/Why-arranged-marriage-likely-develop-lasting-love.html> | Kumar, R. (2014). Marriage in India. Retrieved November 2014, from | <http://www.abplive.in/incoming/2014/04/12/article293555.ece/More-Indians-prefer-arranged-to-love-marriages-Study> | Portal, S. (2012). Share of people in India who prefer arranged marriage over freely chosen marriage. Retrieved November 2014, from <http://www.statista.com/statistics/240647/approval-of-arranged-maariage-in-todays-india/> | Sonali. (2013). The Indian Woman's Dilemma: Love Vs. Arranged Marriage. Retrieved November 2014, from: Do all arranged marriages really work?: <http://www.womensweb.in/articles/love-marriage-vs-arranged-marriage/> | Tribune, I. (2012). Love Marriages vs. Arranged Marriages. Retrieved November 2014, from http://www.indiatribune.com/index.php?option=com_content&id=2418:love-marriages-vs-arranged-marriages&Itemid=525 | Zuffoletti, A. (2007). Arranged Marriages. Retrieved November 2014, from To Love or to Arrange?: <http://iml.jou.ufl.edu/projects/spring07/zuffoletti/love.html>