

Views of Maharashtrian postgraduate students about premarital counselling and types of readiness for successful marriage

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ABSTRACT

Three hundred Maharashtrian postgraduate students in the age range of 21-26 yrs. were chosen at random from purposely selected seven colleges of Parbhani town, Maharashtra state. Seventy two per cent of the sample PG students hailed from middle SES group and the remaining 23 per cent from low SES. The information from them was collected through personal interview based on interview schedule-cum-checklist. Irrespective of SES, majority of the Maharashtrian PG students expressed favourable opinion about the need of premarital counselling for many benefits which in turn indicates their awareness and modern outlook. Irrespective of SES all the PG students stated physical and mental maturity, skills for proper communication and problem solving were essential followed by financial sufficiency, good interpersonal relationships and normalcy in sexual behaviour are must for successful marital life.

KEY WORDS : Successful marriage, Premarital councelling, Readiness

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INTRODUCTION

Marriage is an institutionalized system which is meant for the good of the individual and the society. Marriage is essentially a fellowship between a man and a woman who seek to live together in creative partnership for the pursuit of great objectives of life. Thus, marriage is the union of soul and body so closely and so firmly established. One expects that it will last as long as the life lasts. The ability to make collaborative decisions, to understand self and others are equally important dimensions of marriage. Proper selection of mate plays an important role in fulfilling the aims and objectives of marriage. Marriage is regarded not only as the union of two individuals, but also as the union of two families, making them almost like blood relatives. Marriage is like an insurance policy in that it offers protection against poor health, financial insecurity and deviant behaviours. The winds of socio-cultural changes affect marriage and mate selection. Marriage is the backbone of society. Marriage like a successful career requires various preparations. A mature approach to marriage requires an understanding of its various aspects like psychological, sexual, social, economical and spiritual.

It matures with time and grows sweeter with age. The responsibilities of the parents are greater today than in the past as the conditions are changing. As values and trends are changing very rapidly, it is the need of the time to understand youth.

METHODOLOGY

Three hundred Maharashtrian postgraduate students in the age range of 21-26 yrs. were chosen at random from purposely selected seven colleges of Parbhani town, Parbhani district, Maharashtra state. Out of the seven colleges, three colleges belonged to Swami Ramanand Tirth University and the remaining four to the Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani. The data pertaining to the study were collected personally interviewing the PG students in their respective college campus based on the interview schedule-cum-checklist. The SES of PG students was assessed by administering revised socio-economic status scale of Kuppuswamy (2009). The collected data were pooled, statistically analyzed and discussed below. Seventy two per cent of the sample PG students hailed from middle SES group and the remaining

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23 per cent from low SES.

OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 indicates that irrespective of SES, 69 - 75 per cent PG boys and girls expressed that it is good to seek premarital counselling for the reasons that it helps to adjust with family members (76 - 87%), to prevent problems in marital life (68 - 86 %), to know the facts of handling in-laws and partner for marital success (65 - 69%). The trends of results were similar for PG boys and girls in low SES and middle SES groups. There were no significant differences between PG boys and girls irrespective of their SES and with respect to their SES with regard to their favourable views about premarital counselling. However, few significant differences were recorded in the reasons given for it. On the other hand, irrespective of SES, 24 - 31 per cent PG boys and girls

expressed unfavourable views / felt it was not necessary to seek premarital counselling for the reasons that partners will get maturity being grown up adults to cope with marital life situations (100%). Similar type of result was recorded in low SES and middle SES group based on their gender. Overall, no significant differences were recorded in the different views of postgraduate students about seeking premarital counselling for marital success. However, very few significant differences were found in the reasons given by the PG boys and girls for it based on their SES and irrespective of their SES. These findings clearly indicate that the educated youth are getting more aware about the advantages of premarital counselling due to changing socio-cultural scenario. These findings are very well supported by the conclusions drawn in the research studies of Bharati and Patnam (1995), Bhandari and Patnam (1996) and Deshpande and Patnam (2000).

Table 2 indicates that irrespective of SES, all the PG

Table 1 : Views of Maharashtrian postgraduate students about seeking premarital counselling and reasons for it

PG students views on premarital counselling and its reasons	SES group and percentages of postgraduate students								
	Irrespective of SES		Z values	Low SES		t / Z values	Middle SES		t / Z values
	Boys (150)	Girls (150)		Boys (42)	Girls (42)		Boys (108)	Girls (108)	
1. Good to seek premarital counselling	69.33	75.33	1.20 ^{NS}	71.42	66.66	0.50 ^{NS}	68.51	78.70	1.66 ^{NS}
Helps in adjusting to partner and other family members	86.53	76.10	2.00*	93.33	75.00	2.00*	83.78	76.47	1.16 ^{NS}
To prevent problems in marital life	85.57	68.14	3.40**	73.33	57.14	1.60 ^{NS}	90.54	71.76	3.16**
To know the facts of handling life partner and in-laws for successful marital life	65.38	69.02	0.66 ^{NS}	100.00	100.00	---	51.35	58.82	1.00 ^{NS}
2. Not necessary to seek premarital counselling	30.66	24.66	1.20 ^{NS}	28.57	33.33	0.50 ^{NS}	31.48	21.29	1.66 ^{NS}
Partners will get maturity being grown up adults to cope with marital life situations	100.00	100.00	---	100.00	100.00	---	100.00	100.00	---

NS = Non-significant * and ** indicate significance of values at P<0.05 and 0.01, respectively

Table 2 : Views of Maharashtrian postgraduate students about types of readiness required by life partners for leading successful marital life

Views of PG students about types of readiness required	SES group and percentages of postgraduate students								
	Irrespective of SES		Z Values	Low SES		t / Z values	Middle SES		Z values
	Boys (150)	Girls (150)		Boys (42)	Girls (42)		Boys (108)	Girls (108)	
Physical maturity	100.00	100.00	---	100.00	100.00	---	100.00	100.00	---
Mental maturity	100.00	100.00	---	100.00	100.00	---	100.00	100.00	---
Financial sufficiency	72.66	100.00	9.33**	90.47	100.00	2.50*	65.74	100.00	8.75**
Socio-emotional maturity	88.66	77.33	2.75**	71.42	76.19	0.55 ^{NS}	71.29	77.77	1.20 ^{NS}
Normalcy in sexual behaviour	85.33	90.66	1.66 ^{NS}	83.33	90.47	1.00 ^{NS}	86.11	90.74	1.00 ^{NS}
Communication and problem solving skills	100.00	100.00	---	100.00	100.00	---	100.00	100.00	---
Skills for good interpersonal relationships within and outside the family	87.33	92.00	1.66 ^{NS}	90.47	95.23	1.00 ^{NS}	86.11	90.74	1.00 ^{NS}

NS = Non-significant

* and ** indicate significance of values at P<0.05 and 0.01, respectively

boys and girls stated that physical and mental maturity and proper attainment of communication and problem solving skills are essential for the life partners to lead successful marital life followed by financial sufficiency (73% and 100%), proper attainment of skills for good interpersonal relationships within and outside the family (87% and 92%), normalcy in sexual behaviour (85% and 91%) and social emotional maturity (89% and 77%). Significantly a higher percentage of the PG girls reported financial maturity for leading happy marital life as compared to their counterparts while it was *vice-versa* with respect to socio-emotional maturity, in low SES and middle SES group. Similar trends of results were recorded based on the gender of PG students except for socio-emotional maturity required for marital success. It is obvious from the results that the PG girls were more understanding about various types of readiness required by life partners for leading successful marital life as compared to their counterpart PG boys and also were more sensitive regarding financial sufficiency required for marital success as compared to the PG boys. These findings are in line with the results reported in the research studies of Bharati and Patnam (1995) and Bhandari and Patnam (1996).

Conclusion:

Irrespective of SES, majority of the Maharashtrian

PG students expressed favourable opinion about the need of premarital counselling for many benefits which in turn indicates their awareness and modern outlook. Irrespective of SES, all the PG students stated physical and mental maturity, skills for proper communication and problem solving were essential followed by financial sufficiency, good interpersonal relationships and normalcy in sexual behavior are must for successful marital life.

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