

Adolescents' attitude towards mate selection

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ARTICLE INFO :

Received : 18.12.2015
Revised : 15.04.2016
Accepted : 16.05.2016

KEY WORDS :

Adolescents, Attitude, Mate selection

HOW TO CITE THIS ARTICLE :

Pratima and Garg, Mukta (2016). Adolescents' attitude towards mate selection. *Adv. Res. J. Soc. Sci.*, 7 (1) : 88-90, DOI: 10.15740/HAS/ARJSS/7.1/88-90.

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ABSTRACT

Preparation for the marriage is a major development task of adolescent's year. Mate selection is the foremost important step towards marriage and is greatly influenced by culture, and family background. The present study was conducted to find out attitude of adolescents towards Mate selection and the effect of gender and professional qualification. For this purpose 60 girls and 60 boys respondents were selected randomly from the two reputed institutes of Kanpur city namely of Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology and Harcourt Butler Technological Institute. The investigation reveals that most of the girls as well as boys wanted that their mate should be well educated, should have the good sense of humor, faithful, good looking and fashionable; girls also give the emphasis to the sense of humor and age factor. And the χ^2 values between boys and girls were found to be significant at .05 per cent level of significance in Q.No. 1,3,10, 16 related to the well educated (5.217), same profession (4.524), 1-2 years age gap (5.502), faithfulness (5.925) and at 1 per cent level of significance in Sense of humor (11.641).

INTRODUCTION

The word Adolescence is derived from Latin word 'adolescere' which means "to grow up". Adolescence is a transitional period from childhood to adulthood, it now typically begins prior to the teenage years and there have been a normative shift of it occurring in preadolescence, particularly in females (see precocious puberty). Physical growth, as distinct from puberty (particularly in males) and cognitive development generally seen in adolescence, can also extend into the early twenties. Mate choice, or intersexual selection, is an evolutionary process in which selection of a mate depends on the attractiveness of his or her traits.

Adolescent attitudes towards and expectations of mate selection are currently of great significance. Authors (Kieren and Badir, 1976) have indicated that these

attitudes and expectations are formed during adolescence. According to Monoley (1978) the uncertainty regarding a future mate selection is one of an adolescent's greatest problems. Zhang Fan *et al.* (2013) study explained gender similarities and differences in mate- selection criteria among undergraduate university students. Female students placed greater emphasis on mate competence and earning potential, while male students put more emphasis on women's physical attractiveness and elegance. Selecting a mate is one of the most important decisions people make during their lifetime. Mate selection is a process through a series of steps. Bee (1994) suggests that when an individual meets someone new, the individual applies three filters, in the order listed: a. External characteristics: Does this person match you in quality of appearance, apparent social class or manners? b. Attitudes and beliefs: Is there a match with your ideas

in basic area, such as sex, religion, or politics? c. Role fit: Does this person's idea about relationships match your own? Do you have similar ideas about appropriate sex roles? Are you compatible sexually? These all are greatly influenced by culture, profession, family background and much more.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in Kanpur Nagar.

Two reputed institute of Kanpur city namely Harcourt Butler Technological Institute, Kanpur and Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur, were selected purposively. For the study two girls and boys hostels were covered. The sample comprised of 120 students of 19 and 20 years. 60 boys and 60 girls were selected randomly from both the institutions. For this purpose a self prepared questionnaire was used to find out the attitude of adolescents towards mate selection.

Table 1: Frequency distribution and comparison of attitude towards mate selection among the respondents of CSA and HBT according sex

Q. No.	CSA girls (n ₁)=30	HBTI girls (n ₂)=30	χ^2 value	CSA boys (n ₁)=30	HBTI boys (n ₂)=30	χ^2 value
	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
1.	30	30	0	30	25	1.868
2.	17	17	0	13	17	1.808
3.	8	16	4.444*	9	19	6.696**
4.	25	15	7.505**	20	16	1.111
5.	20	18	0.287	19	20	9.532**
6.	20	15	1.714	19	15	1.085
7.	21	21	0	19	15	1.085
8.	26	15	0.158	27	20	1.880
9.	26	24	0.089	28	19	0.510
10.	26	25	0	21	19	4.840*
11.	25	27	2.192	19	12	3.005
12.	22	11	0.148	11	19	4.226*
13.	19	21	0.3	15	21	2.553
14.	19	18	0.0705	16	17	0.046
15.	30	30	0	27	21	1.646
16.	28	30	5.276*	26	24	0.346

Table 2 : Comparison of respondents according to their attitude towards mate selection

Q. No.	Total girls n ₁ =60		Total boys n ₂ =60		χ^2 value
	Yes	No	Yes	No	
1.	60	0	55	5	5.217*
2.	34	26	30	30	2.232
3.	24	36	28	32	4.524*
4.	40	20	36	24	0.574
5.	38	22	39	21	0.039
6.	35	25	34	26	0.034
7.	42	18	34	26	2.296
8.	41	19	47	13	1.534
9.	50	10	47	13	0.484
10.	51	9	40	20	5.502*
11.	52	8	31	27	1.533
12.	33	27	30	30	0.300
13.	40	20	36	24	0.574
14.	37	23	33	27	0.548
15.	60	0	48	12	11.614**
16.	58	2	50	10	5.925*

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The Table 1 shows the attitude of girls towards mate selection in most the views of girls was found to be non-significant in maximum areas. And in some cases they are found to be significant as shown by χ^2 values. Only two values of were found to be significant at 0.05 per cent level of significance in question 3, and 16 which interprets they are more concern about the same professional (4.444*), and faithfulness (5.276*) in their mate choices. And only one value was found to be significant at 1 per cent levels of significance in question 4 that they select the mate according to their parent's choice (7.505**).

In case of boy's result shows that most of the values has non-significant relationship. Only in the Q. no. 3 and 5 those were related to the mate should be of same profession (6.696**) and selection of mate by own choice (9.532**) attitude of boys towards mate selection were found to significant at 0.01 level of significance. And the other values (4.840*) and (4.226*) in Q.No. 10 and 12 were significant at 0.5 per cent level of significance the views were related to the 1-2 years of age gap and SES of the mate, respectively

The Table 2 shows the attitude of total girls and total boys towards mate selection in which some values are found to be significant at 0.05 per cent level of significance as shown by χ^2 values. Question 1 (5.217*) that they want well educated partner, question 3 (5.425*) that they prefer to same profession in their mates, question 10 (5.502) that they want 1-2 year of gap in their mates, question 16 (5.925*) good sense of humor in their mates, question 15 (11.614**) significant at 1 per cent level of significance related to qualities of faithfulness in their mates. And rest of the responses of questions has not found significant differences.

Study reveals that most of the girls and boys preferred to have well educated mates in their life and they also wanted to have a partner with good sense of humor and faithful to them. Results are in support of Rao and Rao

(1990); Fiengold (1992) and Todosejvic *et al.* (2003). Girls of HBTI were giving more emphasis on same profession, and selection of mate by their own choice. This shows that in present era girls who are taking advance technical education feel more secure in terms of economic independence as well as selection of mate. It can be said that to improve decision making power regarding mate selection support of parents and healthy environment is essential.

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