

Opinion of college youth regarding solemnization of marriage

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ABSTRACT

The present research was conducted to study the opinion of college youth regarding significance of marriage. The data was collected from 60 early youth and 60 late youth pursuing professional and non- professional degrees. 'Questionnaire on selected aspects of marriage among college youth' was developed and utilized to collect information. The data was analyzed through frequency distribution and percentage method. The study has revealed the opinion of college youth regarding procedure of marriage.

INTRODUCTION

Marriage in India is regarded as one of the most significant life-cycle rituals and is a familial and societal expectation for every religion. In traditional Hindu society, marriage was considered a sacrament and therefore was expected to be for life. According to Kapadia (1966), the primary aim of a Hindu marriage is *Dharma praja* (progeny, particularly sons) and *Rati* (pleasure). Furthermore, marriage is regarded not only as a union of two individuals, but also as the union of two families. In Muslims, marriage is a legal contract

between two people. Both the groom and the bride are to consent to the marriage of their own free wills. In Christianity, marriage is viewed as the state instituted and ordained by god for lifelong relationship between one man as husband and one woman as wife. They consider it the most intimate of human relationships, a gift from god and a sacred institution. Ultimately 'Marriage' in every religion aims to bring significant stability and substance to human relationships.

Marriage plays a crucial role in transferring the culture and civilization from one generation to the other, so that the human race is proposed. Even in contemporary

Indian society, marriage is considered as a social and cultural obligation and a contract for life. Marriage is not viewed as a means to attain personal happiness nor as a means of sharing your life with the person, you love. Instead, the basic qualities of family unity, family togetherness, family harmony, family cohesiveness, and sharing of common family goals, values, and a way of life are of significant importance and personal considerations are secondary. That the couple is not in love with each other or that the two partners are not physically attracted to one another or the possibility that the two do not have too much in common are not considerations because love is expected to come after marriage (Medora, 2002). It is customary for individuals to marry within their religion, caste and sub caste.

Historically, parents in India played a major role in choosing marriage partners for their children and the custom continues in various sections of the society. The last decades of the twentieth century brought an increasing trend to consult and get input from the children regarding their marriage. Typically, parents or kin select a prospective pool of eligible partners who have been screened by them first to ensure a similar social, cultural, educational, and economic background. One of the most common ways in which the partners are often selected is from among the children of friends and extended family who have a similar socio-economic background (Medora, 2002). Lately, the scenario has changed until the introduction of matrimonial in newspapers and matrimonial in websites.

Several sources confirm that arranged marriage is the norm and custom among the majority of the cultural, ethnic and religious groups in India. In some cases the arranged marriages are strictly within same religion/caste. Horoscope matching is must to see the future compatibility of the bride/groom as a couple. However, according to some, love-marriage as a practice has increased in popularity in the Indian society, challenging conventional marital norms (Allendorf and Singh, 2013). Love, affection and romantic relationships before marriage are not encouraged and the wish for a love-marriage often encounters strong disapproval from parents. Commonly, they are viewed as less ideal, based on personal choice, on ignorance of the parent's judgment and selection. These are characteristics of societies that emphasize individualism, which become contradictory in India, since it is characterized as a collective society.

The preference for a love-marriage among the modern youth is a challenge the Indian families face today (Medora, 2007).

Justification :

The current generation is witnessing a fast change in the attitudes and opinions of youth regarding marriage. Such changes are seeking rapidly in big cosmopolitan cities. To see the undertaken impact of these changes in youth residing in other cities as also to find out the impact of these changes in youth residing in other cities as also to find out the impact of age on opinion of youth, the present research was undertaken. Further, such opinion may be affected by academic streams youth select. Hence, to understand this the present research was undertaken to study specifically, the opinion on selected aspects of marriage among girls in early and late youth pursuing professional and non- professional college education. The objective of the present research was assessment and comparison of opinion of early and late youth regarding procedure of marriage.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in 3 Professional colleges and 3 non- professional colleges within the municipal limits of Udaipur city. The total sample for the study comprised of 120 early and late youth pursuing professional degree and non- professional degree. Preliminary survey was conducted to select eligible candidates for the study. Background information Performa was developed and used to procure the necessary details regarding the subjects and their families. 'Questionnaire on selected aspects of marriage among college youth' was developed to assess and compare the opinion of college youth regarding selected aspects of marriage and the content validity of tool was established. The responses of the college youth were statistically analyzed by using frequency distribution and percentage.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The ensuing deals with the results of assessment and comparison of early and regarding procedure of marriage.

Selection of marriage partner :

This section deals with the assessment and

comparison between the opinions of early and late youth regarding the selection of marriage partner. Since who should select the marriage partner is major issue amongst the selected aspects of marriage, hence the results are delineated below

The Table 1 limns the opinion of early and late youth regarding who should select the marriage partner; majority of subjects (66.67 %) early youth preferred that selection of their marriage partner should be done by self. Nearly 15 per cent of the girls wanted their parents to select their marriage partner.

However, 38.33 per cent late youth preferred their parents to select a marriage partner for them and nearly 35 per cent reported that marriage partner should be selected by self. Selection through matrimonial sites was least preferred in both categories of subjects.

From the above results it can concluded that the early youth preferred to choose their future-mate on their own, whereas; the late youth gave almost equal amount of preferences to both the options *i.e.*, parents and self-selection.

Engagement and courtship :

The ensuing section deals with the assessment and comparison of opinions of college youth regarding the engagement and courtship.

Time required before getting engaged:

The Table 2 delineates the opinion of subjects, regarding the time required before getting engaged. Sixty per cent of the early youth and 76.67 per cent of late youth preferred 4-6 weeks before getting engaged. Nearly, 2-4 weeks of time was desired by 30 per cent of the early youth.

Duration of a courtship period:

Table 2 limns the opinion of early and late youth regarding courtship period. A courtship period is a time between engagements and marriage. Nearly 40 per cent of the early youth preferred 6-9 month of a courtship period. Nearly one-third of the girls, *i.e.*, 31.67 per cent girls preferred a courtship period of 9 months- 1 year. Minimum or least amount of preference was given to a courtship period of 3-6 months and less than 3 months by 15 per cent and 13.33 per cent early youth, respectively.

The courtship period of 6-9 months was preferred by 45 per cent of late youth. Nearly one- fourth of the early youth *i.e.*, 26.67 per cent preferred 3-6 months of courtship period. Least preference of 18.33 per cent and 10 per cent was given to less than 3 months and 9 months- 1 year, respectively.

From the above results, an analogical point of view

Sr. No.		Early youth (n=60)	Late youth (n=60)
1.	Preferences of subjects regarding selection of marriage partner		
	Parents	15 (9)	38.33 (23)
	Self	66.67 (40)	35 (21)
	Friends and families	10 (6)	18.33 (11)
	Self or parents through matrimonial sites/ matrimonial advertisements	8.33 (5)	8.33(5)

Sr. No.		Early youth (n=60)	Late youth (n=60)
1.	Perception of subjects regarding time required before getting engaged		
	Less than 2 week	10 (6)	6.67 (4)
	2-4 weeks	30 (18)	16.67 (10)
	4-6 weeks	60 (36)	76.67 (46)
2.	Perception of college youth regarding courtship period		
	Less than 3 months	13.33 (8)	18.33 (11)
	3-6 months	15 (9)	26.67 (16)
	6-9 months	40 (24)	45 (27)
	9 months- 1 years	31.67 (19)	10 (6)

Table 3 : Opinion of college youth regarding solemnization of marriage and performance of rituals (%/f)			
Sr. No.		Early youth (n=60)	Late youth (n=60)
1.	Preferences of college youth regarding solemnization of wedding		
	With all customs and traditions in the presence of relatives and friends	50 (30)	51.67 (31)
	Court marriage	10 (6)	5 (3)
	Marriage in temple	18.33 (11)	1.67 (1)
	Wedding ceremony with family members and limited guests	21.67 (13)	41.67 (25)
2.	Perception of subjects regarding traditions and rituals		
	Prefer rituals and traditions	90 (54)	91.67 (55)
	Don't prefer rituals and traditions	10 (6)	8.33 (5)

of early and late youth shows that, 6-9 months of courtship period is required before getting married.

Solemnization of marriage and performance of rituals:

The section limns the assessment and comparison of opinions of college youth regarding solemnization of marriage. The results also depict the performance of rituals and belief in traditions.

Solemnization of wedding:

Table 3 delineates a clear picture of the opinion of college youth regarding the solemnization of wedding. Nearly half of the early youth, *i.e.*, 50 per cent of the girls preferred getting married with all customs and traditions in the presence of relatives and friends. Nearly, 21.67 per cent of early youth preferred a wedding ceremony in presence of family members and limited guests. The girls gave least preference to wedding in a temple and court marriage, *i.e.*, 18.33 per cent and 10 per cent girls preferred these, respectively.

Nearly, 51.67 per cent of late youth also preferred a wedding ceremony with all customs and traditions in the presence of family and friends. Nearly 41.67 per cent girls also preferred a wedding ceremony with family members and limited guests. A least or negligible preference was given to court marriage and wedding in a temple, *i.e.*, 5 per cent and 1.67 per cent, respectively.

The findings clearly show that early and late youth preferred a wedding with all the customs and traditions in presence of family and friends. But some of them also preferred a private ceremony, where only limited amount of guests are invited to be a part of the ceremony.

Traditions and rituals:

The Table 3 delineates an apprehensible picture of

the opinion of college youth regarding preference of traditions and rituals. Majority of early and late youth *i.e.*, 90 and 91.67 per cent, respectively preferred getting married through performance of rituals and ceremonies.

The above result shows the similarity of opinions between early and late youth. The subjects preferred rituals and traditions despite of living in a modernized era (Gupta, 2012).

Conclusion :

The present research shows the opinion of college youth regarding solemnization of marriage, the early and late youth preferred that marriage partner should be selected by self, which shows a clear cut preference of youth to marry a person whom they are familiar with rather than a stranger. A time of 4-6 weeks required before engagement and courtship of 6-9 months, so that they can get to know the person they will marry. The college youth preferred getting married with all customs and traditions in the presence of relatives and friends. Therefore, the today's generation would prefer to know their spouse properly before getting married. Today's generation still believes in rituals and traditions but unlike the past years girls now days are not comfortable in marrying a complete stranger.

Recommendation:

The present study was limited to 60 subjects of each specific category *i.e.*, early and late youth, which is a very small representation for making any generalization. To get the crystal clear picture and to get better understanding of the present research it is recommended to extend this investigation to a large sample size.

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