

## Postgraduate students attitude about dating and wedding ceremonies

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■ **ABSTRACT** : Three hundred Maharashtrian postgraduate students (21-26 yrs) were chosen at random from purposely selected seven colleges of Parbhani town, Maharashtra state. The data were collected personally interviewing the P.G. students based on the interview schedule cum checklist. Irrespective of SES, 45 per cent P.G. boys and 32 per cent P.G. girls opined to have traditional-cum-registered method of wedding ceremony for the reason that, it is a safe method and also helps in maintenance of Indian culture. Significantly a higher percentages of P.G. boys desired to have traditional-cum-registered wedding ceremony as compared to their counterpart P.G. girls. Irrespective of SES, 73-77 per cent P.G. boys and girls wanted to date with fiancée / fiancé for different reasons. No significant differences were found in the views of P.G. boys and girls about dating with fiancée and fiancé and in the reasons for it, respectively, based on their socio-economic status. Irrespective of SES, 83-89 per cent P.G. boys and girls opined that there should be time gap of 1-2 yrs between engagement and marriage ceremonies for different reasons. No significant differences were noticed in the opinions of P.G. boys and girls about time gap required between engagement and marriage ceremonies.

■ **KEY WORDS**: Dating, Marriage trends, Mate selection, Marital relationships

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Mate selection and marriage are the most important events in the life of any person and it is the seed of future existence. It is very essential for the existence, organization and functioning of social life in a society. The bonds of marriage especially in the Indian culture go much beyond the marital relationship. It is a Sanskar and a sacrament. It aims at the biological, emotional, social and spiritual fulfilment. That's why proper selection of mate plays an important role in fulfilling the aims and objectives of marriage. Custom of marriage is the most wide spread institution of human society. Brubaker (1994) described the marriage relationship and family structure as the backbone of western civilization in the modern world. Most of the youth believe that they have the experience, knowledge or wisdom to select a prospective mate. An increasing number of youth, especially college educated, are finding out their partners through dating *i.e.* self-choice marriage which is deemed as slightly scandalous

alternative to the arranged marriages. The values and trends are changing very rapidly in marriage in accordance to the socio-economic and cultural changes in society, Hence, it was felt to study the changing trends in marriage and mate selection.

### ■ RESEARCH METHODS

The data pertaining to the study were collected personally interviewing the P.G. students in their respective college campus based on the interview schedule-cum-checklist. The SES of P.G. students was assessed by administering revised socio-economic status scale of Kuppaswamy (2009). Three hundred Maharashtrian postgraduate students (21-26 yrs) were chosen at random from the purposely selected seven colleges of Parbhani city, Parbhani district, Maharashtra state. Out of the seven colleges,

three colleges, belonged to Swami Ramanand Tirth University and the remaining four to the Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani. The collected data were pooled, statistically analyzed and discussed. Seventy two per cent of the sample P.G. students hailed from middle SES group and the remaining 23 per cent were from low SES.

## ■ RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 elaborates the opinions of postgraduate students about method of performing their prospective wedding ceremony and their reasons for it. Irrespective of SES, 45 per cent P.G. boys and 32 per cent P.G. girls opined to have traditional-cum-registered method of wedding ceremony for the reason that, it is a safe method and also helps in maintenance of Indian culture followed by traditional method of wedding ceremony (37% boys and 43 % girls) for the reasons that it provides an opportunity for all relatives and friends to get together and to have fun (100%) and helps in transmitting culture from one generation to another (62 - 70%) and by registered wedding ceremony (18% boys and 25% girls) for the reasons that it is an easy and safe method for security (100% boys and 79% girls) followed by helps in saving many resources (85% boys and 82% girls) and suites modern life style (44% boys and girls). Significantly a higher percentages of P.G. boys desired to have traditional-cum-registered wedding ceremony as compared to their counterpart P.G. girls while such significant differences were not noted with respect to registered wedding ceremony and traditional method of wedding ceremony which indicated that P.G. boys were slightly modern in their approach with respect to performance of their prospective wedding ceremony as compared to their counterpart P.G. girls.

In low SES group, 45 per cent P.G. boys and 36 per cent

P.G. girls desired to have traditional method of wedding ceremony followed by traditional-cum-registered wedding ceremony (40% and 24%) and registered wedding ceremony (14% and 40%) for the reasons enlisted in Table 1. Significantly a higher percentages of P.G. girls in low SES group wanted to have registered wedding ceremony as compared to their counterpart P.G. boys while no significant differences were noted with respect to traditional method of wedding ceremony and traditional-cum-registered wedding ceremony. On the other hand, in middle SES group 35-46 per cent P.G. boys and girls preferred to have traditional-cum-registered wedding ceremony followed by traditional wedding ceremony (34 – 45%) and registered wedding ceremony (19.4%). No significant differences were noticed in the opinions of postgraduate students with regard to methods of performing their prospective wedding ceremony based on the gender of P.G. students. The results clearly indicated that low SES P.G. girls were more modern and concerned about their parents in saving resources on performing of their prospective wedding ceremony. Similar type of results was reported in the study of Bhandari and Patnam (1996).

Table 2 elaborates the opinions of postgraduate students about dating with fiancée / fiancé and their reasons for it. Irrespective of SES, 73 - 77 per cent P.G. boys and girls wanted to date with fiancée / fiancé for the reasons like to understand and help each other for building a good relation before starting marital life followed by to get to know each other well (93 - 96%), to build up good social network by understanding each other's family (84 - 92 %), to check up their compatibility for rejecting or accepting the proposed fiancée / fiancé (77- 88%). Significantly a higher percentage of the P.G. boys wanted to date with fiancée for checking up their level of compatibility as compared to their counterpart P.G. girls. While in the rest of the enlisted reasons there were no significant differences

**Table 1 : Opinions of postgraduate students about method of performing their prospective wedding ceremony and their reasons**

Opinion of P.G. student and its reasons	SES group and percentages of postgraduate students							
	Irrespective of SES		t / Z values	Low SES		t / Z values	Middle SES	
	Boys (150)	Girls (123)		Boys (42)	Girls (42)		Boys (108)	Girls (108)
<b>Traditional method</b>	37.33	42.66	1.00 <sup>NS</sup>	45.23	35.71	1.00 <sup>NS</sup>	34.25	45.37
All relatives and friends get together and have fun.	100.00	100.00	---	100.00	100.00	0.47 <sup>NS</sup>	100.00	100.00
Helps in transmitting culture from one generation to other.	69.64	62.50	0.77 <sup>NS</sup>	89.47	73.33	0.47 <sup>NS</sup>	59.45	59.18
<b>Registered method</b>	18.00	25.33	1.75 <sup>NS</sup>	14.28	40.47	2.88**	19.44	19.44
Helps in saving many resources.	85.18	81.57	0.44 <sup>NS</sup>	83.33	64.70	1.90 <sup>NS</sup>	85.71	95.23
Suits modern life style.	44.44	44.73	---	---	47.05	---	57.14	42.85
Easy and safe method for security.	100.00	78.94	3.14**	100.00	52.84	4.80**	100.00	100.00
<b>Traditional-cum-registered method</b>	44.66	32.00	2.40*	40.47	23.80	1.88 <sup>NS</sup>	46.29	35.18
Safest method and also takes care of maintenance of Indian culture	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

between P.G. boys and girls. On the other hand 23 - 27 per cent P.G. boys and girls who did not want to date with fiancée / fiancé as their family customs do not permit it. No significant differences were found in the views of P.G. boys and girls about dating with fiancée and fiancé and in the reasons for it, respectively, based on their socio-economic status. The results intern indicated that there was an increasing trend of

modernity and practicality in educated youth / P.G. students about the survival of their marriage. These results are in line with the findings indicated in the studies carried out by Bharati and Patnam (1995) and Bhandari and Patnam (1996).

Table 3 illustrates the opinions of postgraduate students about time gap required between engagement and wedding ceremonies and its reasons. Irrespective of SES, 83 - 89 per

**Table 2 : Opinions of postgraduate students about dating with fiancée /fiancé and reasons for it**

Opinions and reasons of P.G. students	SES group and percentages of postgraduate students							
	Irrespective of SES		Z values	Low SES		t / Z values	Middle SES	
	Boys (150)	Girls (150)		Boys (42)	Girls (42)		Boys (108)	Girls (108)
Want to date with fiancée /fiancé.	76.66	73.33	0.60 <sup>NS</sup>	80.95	66.66	1.47 <sup>NS</sup>	75.00	75.92
<b>Reasons</b>								
To get to know well about each other.	95.65	93.63	0.66 <sup>NS</sup>	88.23	89.28	0.12 <sup>NS</sup>	98.76	95.12
To plan well for future life.	50.43	52.72	0.28 <sup>NS</sup>	67.64	60.71	0.70 <sup>NS</sup>	43.20	50.00
To understand and help each other for building a good relation before starting marital life.	100.00	100.00	---	100.00	100.00	---	100.00	100.00
To understand each other families well for building good social network.	84.34	91.81	1.75 <sup>NS</sup>	70.58	78.57	0.80 <sup>NS</sup>	90.12	96.34
To check up the level of their compatibility with fiancée /fiancé for rejecting or accepting.	87.82	77.27	2.00*	94.11	96.42	0.40 <sup>NS</sup>	85.18	70.73
Do not want to date	23.33	26.66	0.62 <sup>NS</sup>	19.04	33.33	1.55 <sup>NS</sup>	25.00	24.07
<b>Reason</b>								
The family customs do not permit it	100.00	100.00	---	100.00	100.00	---	100.00	100.00

NS = Non-significant

\* and \*\* indicate that significance of values at P=0.05 and 0.01, respectively

**Table 3 : Opinions of postgraduate students about time gap between engagement and wedding ceremonies and its reasons**

Opinions of P.G. student and reasons	SES group and percentages of postgraduate students							
	Irrespective of SES		t / Z values	Low SES		t / Z values	Middle SES	
	Boys (150)	Girls (150)		Boys (42)	Girls (42)		Boys (108)	Girls (108)
Time gap of 1-2 yrs is required between engagement and wedding ceremonies.	83.33	89.33	1.28 <sup>NS</sup>	76.19	85.71	1.05 <sup>NS</sup>	86.11	90.74
<b>Reasons</b>								
Gives time to life partners to understand each other well.	84.00	75.75	1.80 <sup>NS</sup>	84.37	86.11	0.25 <sup>NS</sup>	83.87	70.40
Helps both partners' families to understand each other's culture and expectations.	50.40	46.21	0.66 <sup>NS</sup>	59.37	58.33	0.10 <sup>NS</sup>	47.31	40.81
Helps both partners families for doing well wedding preparations.	91.20	94.69	1.00 <sup>NS</sup>	90.62	88.88	0.28 <sup>NS</sup>	91.39	94.89
Time gap between engagement and wedding ceremonies is not at all required.	16.66	10.66	1.55 <sup>NS</sup>	23.80	14.28	1.01 <sup>NS</sup>	13.88	9.25
Want to live with fiancée / fiance soon after engagement.	52.00	68.75	1.60 <sup>NS</sup>	50.00	100.00	5.00**	53.33	50.00
To prevent misunderstanding that may crop up between partners and their families.	48.00	31.25	1.70 <sup>NS</sup>	50.00	---	---	46.66	50.00

NS = Non-significant

\* and \*\* indicate that significance of values at P=0.05 and 0.01, respectively

cent P.G. boys and girls opined that there should be time gap of 1 - 2 yrs between engagement and wedding ceremonies for the reasons like, it helps both families for doing marriage preparation (91-95 %) followed by it gives time to partners to understand each other (76-84%) and helps both partners' families, to understand each others' culture and expectations (46-50%). No significant differences were noticed in the opinions of P.G. boys and girls about time gap required between engagement and wedding ceremonies and in the reasons for it. However, 10 - 16 per cent P.G. boys and girls opined that time gap between engagement and wedding ceremonies is not at all required for the reasons that they want to live with the fiancée / fiancé soon after engagement (52-69%) and to prevent problems that may crop up between partners and their families (31 - 48 %). No significant differences were recorded in the views of P.G. boys and girls about not having time gap between engagement and marriage ceremonies and in the reasons stated for it. On the other hand in case of low SES, significant difference was observed in the opinions of P.G. boys and girls for not at all requiring time gap between engagement and wedding ceremony for the reason as want to live with fiancée/fiancé soon after engagement (50-100%). Whereas in case of middle SES groups based on the gender of postgraduate students, a significant difference was recorded in the opinion for requirement of time gap of 1-2 yrs between engagement and marriage ceremonies for the reason like it gives time to life partners to understand each other well (84 - 70 %). These results intern indicate that both the P.G. boys and girls have valid reasons for keeping time gap between the engagement and wedding ceremonies to prevent many kinds of problems and also to prepare well for the marriage. These results are similar to the findings reported by Bharati and Patnam (1995) and Bhandari and Patnam (1996) in their research studies.

### Conclusion :

Irrespective of SES, 45 per cent P.G. boys and 32 per cent P.G. girls opined to have traditional-cum-registered method of wedding ceremony for the reason that, it is a safe method and also helps in maintenance of Indian culture. Significantly a higher percentages of P.G. boys desired to have traditional-cum-registered wedding ceremony as compared to their counterpart P.G. girls. Irrespective of socio-economic status, 73- 77 per cent post graduate boys and girls opined to date with fiancée / fiancé for getting to know each other well. Significantly a higher percentage of the post graduate boys wanted to date with fiancée for understanding their level of compatibility as compared to their counterpart post graduate girls. Irrespective of SES, 83-89 per cent post graduate boys and girls expressed to have the time gap of 1 - 2 yrs between engagement and wedding ceremonies. No significant differences were noticed in the opinions of post graduate boys and girls about time gap required between engagement and wedding ceremonies and also in their reasons for it.

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