

Women's Perception Towards Mate Selection

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ABSTRACT

Mate selection is the most important event in the life of a person and is the seed of future existence. Mate selection operates like a market and rules of selection determine the forms of exchange between partners and their households. In this study the main objectives were to investigate the background characteristics of the respondents, to study the perception and desires of women towards mate selection and to study the relationship between socio-economic characteristics of the respondents by women's perception and desires of mate selection. For this purpose a survey research was conducted in the village Sumandari. Multistage sampling technique was applied for the selection of 160 respondents in the selected area. It was found that 48.9% of the respondents were belonged to 20 - 30 years of age. 23.8% of the respondents were belonged to the Rajput caste. Vast majority of the respondents 80.6% were belonged to the Ahl-e-Sunnit sectarianism. Majority of the respondents 94.4% were married. And majority of the respondents were preferred to mate selection with in family and economically secure person.

Key Words: Women's perception; Mate selection

INTRODUCTION

Marriage is the most important event in the life of all factor existence. The society is changing very rapidly; it is the need of the time to realize the importance of changing trends for marriages and to see the effect of these trends (Rehman, 2002).

Marriage means a customary, legal or religious sanction of the provision for forming a new family. According to Hobbles "Marriage is the complex of social normal that defines and controls the relationship of a mated pair to each other, their kinsmen their off springs and society at large (Islam, 1992).

Marriage is a partnership between two members of opposite sex known as husband and wife. However scholars, who study human culture and society disagree on whether marriage can be universally defined. The usual roles and responsibilities of the husband and wife include living together having sexual relations only with one another sharing economic resources and being recognized as the parents of their children. However, un-conventional forms of marriage that do not include these elements do exist (Frank *et al.*, 2002).

Selecting a marriage partner is very much a culturally defined process. The rules governing selection vary widely from society to society and are often complex. How would you go about selecting a mate? Where would you begin? What criteria would you use? Would you take the views and wishes of your relatives and friends into consideration? When we look around the world to see how other societies deal with these questions it is clear that love and sexual compatibility are not always the basis for selecting a spouse. However, when romantic love is an important criterion physical beauty is frequently a key factor. Age, body shape,

personal adornment and especially facial appearance are usually the focus. It is clear that concepts of beauty are not universal. Some traditional societies of Africa and the South Pacific define large, plump bodies as being attractive, especially for men (Barbara Ryan, 2004).

Moller (1997) Personality, education, wealth and other individual characteristics also are important mate selection criteria in many societies. In fact they may be far more important than physical beauty. The parents of young contemporary women seeking a husband in Indian urban areas commonly place an advertisement in newspapers. These advertisements prominently mention the potential bride's college degrees, caste and implied potential for paying a large dowry. Various traditions exist in our culture with regard to the selection of mate. Generally it is an arranged marriage, where the selection is the responsibility of the parents and guardians.

Arlene Skolnick (2005) marriage socially recognized and approved union between individuals, who commit to one another with the expectation of a stable and lasting intimate relationship. It begins with a ceremony known as a wedding, which formally unites the marriage partners. A marital relationship usually involves some kind of contract, either written or specified by tradition, which defines the partners' rights and obligations to each other, to any children they may have and to their relatives.

Chaudhry (2004) in most contemporary industrialized societies, marriage is certified by the government. Although practices vary from one culture to another all societies have rules about, who is eligible to marry whom, which individuals are forbidden to marry one another and the process of selecting a mate.

Andersson (1994) in most societies, the mate-selection process involves what social scientists call a marriage

market. The husband and wife come together out of a wide range of possible partners. In many non-Western societies the parents not the prospective marriage partners do the “shopping” In Western societies social rules have gradually changed to permit more freedom of choice for the couple and a greater emphasis on love as the basis for marriage.

Barbara Ryan (2004). Arranged marriages have been very common throughout the world. This is due to two principal considerations. First, a marriage unites two families, not just two people. All of a family's members become obligated by the marriage of one of its members. In addition, marriages can be valuable tools in creating alliances and therefore, must be considered carefully and even negotiated. Secondly, mate selection is seen as being too important a decision to be left up to inexperienced young people, especially if they have had little contact with members of the opposite gender.

Latif (1993) Parents are presumed to have the experience needed to help their children find a mate, who is appropriate for them. In some countries; the legal system encourages arranged marriages. In Pakistan, for instance, the law prohibits women from marrying without parental consent.

METHODOLOGY

The substrate of present studies comprised of rural population of Tehsil Faisalabad. Multistage sampling techniques were adopted for this study. At the first stage, out of six tehsil one tehsil was selected by using simple random method i.e. tehsil Sumandari. Out of 28 Union councils, two union councils (UC # 105 & 114) were selected by using simple random method (Nachmias, 1992). In the second stage two villages were selected from each union council (chuck 203 & 214 from U.C. 105, Chuck 138 & 143 from U.C. 114) by using the same method. In the third stage 40 respondents were selected from each village by using systematic random sampling technique (Nachmias, 1992). Then a sample of 160 respondents was selected. After selecting the respondents a pre-planned questionnaire was used for interviewing the respondents. The information so gathered was put to statistical analyses.

Statistical Techniques and Methods

a) Percentage. To analysis and compare data related to personal traits of the respondent's simple percentage was calculated as under:

$$P = F/N \times 100$$

Where

P is percentage, F is frequency and N is total population.

b) Chi-square. Chi-square was applied to ascertain the significance of relationship between certain independent and dependent variables. Chi-square was collected with the following formula:

$$\chi^2 = \Sigma \{ (O-E)^2 / E \}$$

Where

O, E and Σ are observed, expected and total values, respectively.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Data (Table I) revealed that 46.3% of the respondents had made marriages with in caste, 31.9% of the respondents had not made marriages with in caste, 21.9% of the respondents had made marriages with in caste in some cases, 23.6% of the respondents had made marriages with in family, 43.2% of the respondents had not made marriages with in family, 30.6% of the respondents had made marriages with in family in some cases, only 20% of the respondents had made marriages in the case of personal involvement, 63.1% of the respondents had not made marriages in case of personal involvement, 16.9% of the respondents had made marriages in personal involvement in some cases, 70% of the respondents had preferred to married with in sectarianism, where as 24.4% of the respondents had not given importance to the sectarianism.

Data (Table II) revealed that 100% of the respondents had thought that economic security of the life partner, realistic thinking of the life partner and self control of the life partner is very important requirement for the successful family, 99.3% of the respondents had thought that better occupation of the life partner is very important factor for the successful family, 98.7% of the respondents had thought that temperament of the life partner is very important requirement for the successful family, 63.1% of the respondents had thought that personality of the life partner is very important requirement of successful family, 58.7% of the respondents had thought that blood relation with the partner is very important requirement for successful family, 99.3% of the respondents had thought that understanding of desires of the life partner is very important requirement for the successful family, 94.3% of the respondent had thought that emotional health of the life partner is very important requirement for the successful family, 99.3% of the respondent had thought that intelligence of the life partner is very important requirement for the successful family, 99.3% of the respondent had thought that self understanding is very important requirement for the successful family, 84.9% of the respondent had thought that social achievement of the life partner is very important requirement for the successful family. So, according to these finding it is evident that personality and blood relations are not so important factors for the successful life.

Data (Table III) revealed that 79.4% of the respondent had given importance to high economic security for the selection of life partner, 27.5% of the respondents had given importance to blood relation for the selection of life partner, 43.1% of the respondents had given importance to Baradri for the selection of life partner, 69.4% of the respondents

Table I. Distribution of the respondents with regard to their perception about mate selection

Mate selection	With in caste		With in family		Personal involvement		Sectarianism	
	F	% age	F	% age	F	% age	F	% age
To great extent	74	46.3	42	26.3	32	20.0	112	70.0
Not at all	51	26.3	69	43.2	101	63.1	39	24.4
To some extent	35	21.9	49	30.6	27	16.9	9	5.6
Total	160	100.0	160	100.0	160	100.0	160	100.0

Table II. Distribution of the respondents with regard to their thinking about requirement of successful family

Requirements of successful family	Important (to some extent)		Very important		Not important		Total	
	F	%age	F	%age	F	%age	F	%age
Economic security	24	15.0	136	85.0	0	0.0	160	100.0
Better occupation	26	16.3	133	83.1	1	0.6	160	100.0
Temperaments	39	24.4	119	74.4	2	1.3	160	100.0
Personality	59	36.9	42	26.3	59	36.9	160	100.0
Blood relation	43	26.9	51	31.9	66	41.3	160	100.0
Understanding of desires	53	33.1	106	66.3	1	0.6	160	100.0
Emotional health	51	31.9	100	62.5	9	5.6	160	100.0
Intelligence	41	25.6	118	73.8	1	0.6	160	100.0
Realistic thinking	33	20.6	127	79.4	0	0.0	160	100.0
Self understanding	100	62.5	51	31.9	9	5.6	160	100.0
Self control	36	22.5	124	77.5	0	0.0	160	100.0
Social achievements	39	24.4	104	65.0	17	10.6	160	100.0

Table III. Distribution of the respondents with regard to their way of selection for life partner

Way of selection	Important		Respondent Very important		Not important		Total	
	F	%age	F	%age	F	%age	F	%age
High economic attainment	127	79.4	29	18.1	4	2.5	160	100.0
Blood relation	44	27.5	50	31.3	66	41.3	160	100.0
Baradri	69	43.1	43	26.9	48	30.0	160	100.0
High education	111	69.4	39	24.4	10	6.3	160	100.0
Attractive personality	57	35.6	59	36.9	44	27.5	160	100.0
Same position	63	39.4	44	27.5	53	33.1	160	100.0
Peerism	53	33.1	54	33.8	53	33.1	160	100.0
Sectarianism	95	59.4	48	30.0	17	10.6	160	100.0

Table IV. Association between the age and factors that are responsible for the selection of life partner

Factors for selection	χ^2	.f.	A	Gamma
Attractive personality	5.12	6	0.528	0.09
Blood relation	18.69	6	0.005**	0.205
High economic attainment	16.9	6	0.009**	-0.34
Baradri	11.02	6	0.08*	0.08
High education	34.11	4	.000**	-0.70
Same position	13.79 ^a	6	0.032*	-0.269
Peerism	7.80	6	0.253	-0.022
Sectarianism	7.65	9	0.56	0.01

** = Highly significant * = significant

had given importance to high education for the selection of life partner, 35.6% of the respondents had given importance to attractive personality, 39.4% of the respondents had given importance to same position, 33.1% of the respondents had given importance to Peerism, where as 59.4% of the respondents, which is more than fifty % of the respondents had given importance to sectarianism for the selection of life partner.

Data (Table IV) revealed that there is highly significant association between ages of the respondents with

high economic attainment, high education, blood relation Baradri and same position as the factors those are responsible for the selection of life partner.

The present studies revealed that 36.3% of the respondents, were house wives and 46.9% of the respondents were on private jobs (working in houses & working in factories). More than forty 42.5% of the respondents had Metric level of education Vast majority of the respondents 79.4% of the respondent was belonged to joint family system. More than half 56.3% of the

respondents had conflicts in the joint family system. More than 47% of the respondent's marriages had arranged by their whole family. Half of the respondents had consulted by their parents before their marriage decisions. More than fifty % of the respondents had consulted by their parents about their choice of life partner. Huge majority of the respondents 85.6% had got married for economic security. More than ninety %, 95.0 of the respondents had got married for protection. These findings reveals that aged and experienced people preferred to educated person as life partner for their children also get married with in caste with in family and with in their own sectarianism. But not preferred personal involvement.

Keeping in view the finding of this study it is suggested that parents should select the life partner for their children but with their consultation. If the children had selected some one as their partner must consult with their parent. Parents should allowed their children if they had decided about their life partner's selection to avoid the misunderstandings and misshapeness. Life partner should select by the parents that are compatible to their life style spouse should be similarly educated to the partner should belong to same sectarianism to avoid the marital problems. Parents should made investigation about the character of the person to whom they are going to get married their daughters.

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