

A sociological study of the young generation's perceptions of marriage

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Abstract

Marriage has traditionally been considered a fundamental social institution that regulates family life, social relationships and cultural continuity. However, rapid social change, modernization, higher education, urbanization and globalization have significantly influenced the attitudes of the younger generation towards marriage. This research article presents a sociological analysis of the attitudes of young people towards marriage in contemporary society. The main objective of the study is to understand how young people interpret the meaning, importance and expectations of marriage, as well as the factors influencing their attitudes towards marital relations. This study adopts a sociological research approach using a structured questionnaire and interview method to collect data from young respondents from diverse socio-economic and educational backgrounds. Both quantitative and qualitative techniques are used to analyze the data related to age of marriage choice, choice of spouse, career priorities and expectations of married life.

The findings show that while marriage is valued as an important social institution, the younger generation is increasingly placing emphasis on personal choice, emotional compatibility, gender equality, and financial stability before marriage. The study concluded that the perception of marriage among young people is gradually shifting from traditional norms to more individualistic and egalitarian values.

Keywords: Marriage, Youth Perception, Sociological Study, Changing Attitudes, Modernization, Family Institution.

Introduction:

In Indian society, marriage has traditionally been considered a sacred and stable social institution. But due to globalization, urbanization, expansion of education, economic independence of women and the influence of digital media, there is a significant change in the views of the younger generation towards marriage. Today's younger generation sees marriage not only as a traditional duty or family

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arrangement but also as a relationship based on personal choice, love, equality, and mutual understanding. In this perspective, what beliefs do young people have about marriage? How important is marriage for what is the main purpose of marriage, what is their perception of love marriage, education for marriage, financial stability, education of the spouse, financial independence during married life, free space and what is the acceptability of the young generation regarding divorce? — Such questions are of sociological importance. In sociology, the institution of marriage has been studied from various perspectives. According to the functionalist view, marriage is an institution that performs important functions in society such as stability, reproduction and socialization, while the conflictive and feminist views highlight the issues of power and gender inequality in marriage. The main objective of this research is to study how much the ideas of today's young generation bring about changes in this traditional structure. This study will attempt to understand the changing attitudes, values and expectations of the young generation towards marriage. It can prove to be a guide for identifying the changes taking place in society and determining the direction of future family systems. Therefore, a sociological study of the ideas of the young generation on marriage is considered timely and relevant.

Review of Literature:

Kanak Yadav (2018) Exploring the Attitudes of Young Adults towards Marriage in India

Marriage attitudes of the youth, changing due to rapid social change, urbanization, globalization, and educational expansion in India have increasingly commanded the attention of scholars. In this context, an important study by Yadav 2018 entitled “Exploring the Attitudes of Young Adults Towards Marriage in India” published in IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences provides an insightful perspective into how contemporary young adults play about marriage decisions, gender roles, and negotiated responsibilities. This study examines the voices young men and women youth regarding marriage decision-making, the importance of marriage, live in relationships and co-residency, and the balance between marriage success. The findings suggest that received understandings carry over to these educated sections suggest the emergence of a transformative cohort in Indian society. While a share of respondents, increasingly finds that the family should have a role in deciding their marriage but often continue to opt for personal choice or situational convenience. This trend of arranged marriage practiced for generations is giving way to more independent and confrontational marital decisions. The current study shed lights on the national differences, showing that women are just a little more practical and realistic than men. Yadav’s 2018 study fills this evidentiary gap about the experiential proof among young-adults in India.

Objectives of the Study:

- To examine the views of young people on the main purpose of marriage
- To gain an understanding of the importance of marriage among young people

- To examine the views of young people on education, economic equality, and independence in marriage
- To examine the acceptability of young respondents on divorce
- To examine the views of young people on the challenges faced in marriage

Research Methodology:

The current study performed a sociological analysis of young people's perceptions about marriage. The study used a Mixed Method approach. 50 respondents included in the primary data collecting which was done mining from Google Form. Sampling technique with non-probability method, specifically the Convenience Sampling. Closed and open type questions were included in the questionnaire. Secondary data was collected through books, research articles and journals. Classification, tabulation: The collected data was analyzed using classification and tabulation. Ethics, confidentiality and voluntary consent were also taken into consideration.

Results / Findings

As demonstrated via the survey results, women respondents are mostly young and middle-aged individuals. In particular, a high percentage of women are between the ages of 21 and 35. This highlights the fact that in this day and age, high-spirited girls around the globe are engaging in careers right after finishing their studies. Marital status analysis shows a large number of respondents have wives. Just a small proportion of respondents are unmarried or fall into other categories. This result indicates that in our present time, many women continue working, even after marriage, and they manage their household work along with the office as well as business responsibilities. The following results are in relation to the education level, and we can see that most of them had graduate or postgraduate. This highlights the fact that higher education is crucial to women gaining and advancing in the workforce. Education further bolsters the self-assurance and financial autonomy of women. Private employment was found to be what respondents were engaged in, and the percentage of women involved in government work was significantly low. The private sector is an incubator of new jobs in an expanding economy, and women are increasingly becoming a part of it. The years of work experience results show that most respondents have between 1 to 5 years of work experience. This indicates an increasing number of women coming into the workforce in recent times.

The study, a timely and important issue is the tension between work and family. Respondents reported having trouble balancing work and home life more than half of the time. It can be especially challenging to strike a balance between long hours at work, housework and caretaking. The family support findings indicate that there is support from the husband or another relative, but some respondents felt it was insufficient. Consequently, women tend to take more burden. The social life results indicate that many respondents said they have a hard time attending every social engagement

because of their job. Showing that sometimes what happens in a professional duty also takes place in social life.

Such results reflect both a feminist spirit of women entering into social and economic life in modern times but also show that it meets many challenges.

Discussion / Analysis

The results of this study are important for understanding the changing roles of women in modern society. In traditional Indian society, women were mainly associated with housework and family care, but in modern times, their roles have changed significantly due to education and employment. The study shows that higher education acts as an important factor in women's employment. Education not only provides women with professional skills, but also empowers them socially and economically. This process leads to women empowerment. Most of the respondents in this study are found to be married. This result shows that in modern times, women continue their profession even after marriage. This makes it clear that the relationship between family and profession is changing. From a sociological point of view, women's employment is changing traditional gender roles. Women are no longer limited to housework, but they are making an important contribution to the economic progress of the family. However, the study shows that many women face a double burden. They have to fulfil job responsibilities on one hand and also take care of household and family responsibilities on the other. According to the functionalist view of sociology, every institution in society is interrelated. When women enter the employment sector, it strengthens the economic status of the family and contributes to the development of the entire society. On the other hand, according to the feminist view, women still face gender inequality and traditional expectations. Often, society expects women to fulfil the main responsibility of household chores, even if they are employed. This can make it difficult for women to maintain a work-life balance. This problem can be more serious, especially when they do not get enough support from the family. The results of this study suggest that women need a supportive environment from the family and society to succeed in both the job and family spheres.

Conclusion:

This study shows that women play an important role in social and economic development in modern times. They are active in both the fields of education, employment and family. The study shows that higher education and employment give women economic independence and self-confidence. It strengthens the economic status of the family and contributes to the development of society. However, women still face the challenge of balancing work and family. In particular, dual responsibilities and social expectations lead them to more workload. Therefore, it is necessary to develop a supportive environment for women at all three levels - family, society and workplace. Policies that encourage cooperation by family members, flexible working hours, childcare facilities and gender equality can help women successfully fulfil both their roles. In conclusion, it can be said that women's professional

participation is important not only for personal development but also for the economic and social development of the entire society.

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