



Attitude of adolescent girls towards marriage and family life

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Abstract

Economic prosperity and internet revolution brought a drastic change in Indian society especially in the field of marriage and family life. Traditional family is disappearing slowly. In modern family everyone has to adjust with one another, he may be a kid or an old person. No one is ready to shoulder the burden of the family. The bread earner is not in a position to look after others. Women has to work outside to fulfill the demands of the family members. In this context the present research is designed to study the attitude of adolescent girls towards marriage and family life. One hundred unmarried educated girls belonged to the age group of 20- 25 years studying in different academic institutions of Bhubaneswar city of Odisha were selected randomly for the present study. The data was collected by questionnaire cum interview method the results of the study revealed that majority of the respondents agreed with the statement marriage is essential for human life. Most of the respondents opined that 20-25 year is the suitable age of marriage. Love cum arranged marriage was preferred by 66% respondents and 90% respondents were against dowry system. Half of the respondents gave equal importance to marriage and career. Majority of the respondents showed positive attitude towards family life. 98% of them wanted to work after marriage and 50% of them had confidence that they could make balance between work and family life. Majority of the respondents told that adjusting, sacrificing, loving and tolerance are the best qualities to lead a good family life.

Keywords: adolescents, family, dowry, marriage, work life balance

Introduction

Family is regarded as the basic as well as the oldest institution in Indian social system. It is the central point of social organization and the permanent and eternal institution of every society. As all planets of the solar system are created by sun; similarly all social institutions are originated from family. "Family is the link between continuity and change. It determines the development of individuals and is a major source of nurturance, emotional bonding and socialization." Indian family like other families across the world has undergone drastic changes in the structural, functional, role relationship and values. The most prominent causes of change are industrialization, urbanization, modernization, liberalization and increased education of women adoption. Family relationship is considered to be the building blocks of any society and despite the multitude of changes the family in India continues to provide strength and stability. India is proud of its heritage of nurturance, love cum passion, self-lessons, tolerance, generosity and understanding in family life. The last two decades has seen a tremendous drift in morals and values existing in the Indian society due to drastic changes in economic prosperity and the Internet revolution that has exposed people to social trends prevalent across the world. An increase in the women employment ratio and the

number of women-centric laws has led to the empowerment of women financially and mentally. Now, it is not easy to subject her to any sort of harassment because she is equipped with all the means to live an independent life. In the view of above discussion, an attempt was made to study the attitude of adolescent girls towards marriage and family life in Bhubaneswar city, Odisha. The objectives of the present study were to analyze the attitude of adolescent girls toward marriage and family life.

Materials and Methodology

For the present study 100 unmarried educated girls belonged to the age group of 20 - 25 years studying in different academic Institutions of Bhubaneswar city of Odisha were selected randomly. In order to elicit information regarding essentials in marriage and family, role of marriage in the life, preference of marriage, attitude towards marriage and family life, awareness on family, role and responsibilities, work and family life balance a questionnaire was developed and finalized with the help of pilot study. The data was collected with the help of questionnaire cum interview method. The data was analyzed statistically with the help of different tools and techniques and discussed below.

Results and discussion

1. Essentials of Marriage

Table 1: Information’s on essentials of marriage (N=100)

Sl. No.	Characteristics	Variables	N=100 Percentage (%)
1	Marriage is essential	Agree	56
2	Marriage is a social contract	Agree	70
3	Purpose of marriage	somebody to take care in future	54
4	Suitable age of marriage	20-25 yr	52
5	Advantages of being single than to be married	Yes	58
6	Marriage is better than living in relationship	Yes	82

Table no 1 depicts results on essentials of marriage. It was observed that majority(56%) of the adolescent girls agreed that marriage is essential for life. 70% respondents agreed that marriage is a social contract. Most of the respondents opined that marriage is essential for life so that somebody will be there to take care in future. Majority of the respondents gave

their opinion that 20-25 year is the suitable age of marriage. Half of the respondents gave priority to both marriage and career. 82% respondents told that marriage is better than living-in relationship and 58% girls liked to be single then to be married.

2. Preference of Marriage

Table 2: Preference of marriage

Sl. No.	Characteristics	Variables	N=100 Percentage (%)
1.	Preference of types of marriage	(a) Court marriage	10
		(b) Aryasamaj	58
		(c) Simple marriage in temple/church	18
		(d) pompous	14
2.	Choice of marriage	(a) Love marriage	08
		(b) Arranged marriage	18
		(c) According to the situation	08
		(d) Love with arranged	66
3.	Status preferred with men if not-married	(a) Single	40
		(b) Remain as friends	52
		(c) Living-in relationship	04
		(d) None of these	04
4.	Freedom affected on marriage	(a) Yes	76
		(b) No	24
5.	Dowry must be given	(a) Bride’s family	-
		(b) Bridegroom’s family	02
		(c) Both family	08
		(d) None of these	90

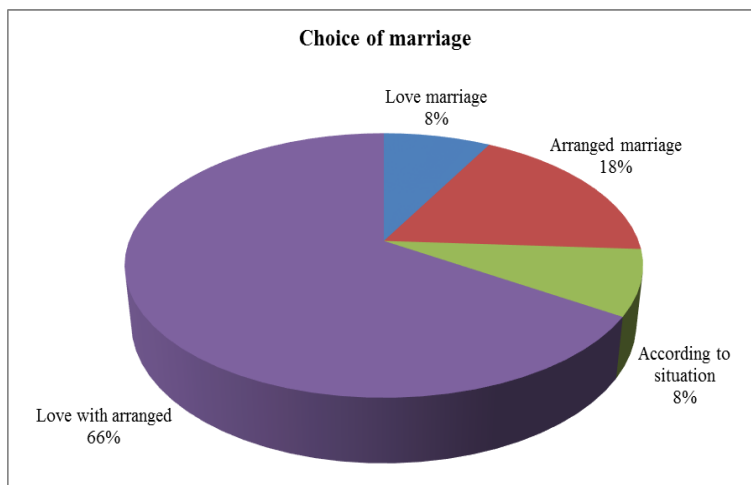


Fig 1

Table no -2 shows information on preference of marriage. It was observed that most of the adolescent girls prefer for aryasamaj marriage. 66% girls were in favor of love with arranged marriage because in this process they can choose a perfect life partner. Most of the girls (76%) thought that

freedom would be affected by marriage as they have to work according to the moods and instructions of their husband and in laws. When the question about dowry system arise 90% girls put forth their views against dowry. Similar findings was also observed by Rabita (2012).

3. Attachment towards Family life

Table 3: Attachment towards family life

Sl. No.	Characteristics	Variables	N=100 Percentage (%)
1.	Family affinity	Yes	100
2.	Interested for family in future	Yes	96
3.	Types of family to live in	Nuclear family	70
4.	Interested to have your own child	Yes	98
5.	Prefer to stay with your in-laws after marriage	Yes	88
6.	Aware of family role and responsibility	Yes	80
7.	Decision regarding children and money matters	Husband and parents	76

Table no 3 revealed information on attachment towards family life. It was observed that cent percent girls had affinity towards family and majority of them like to live in nuclear family. In case of having own child after marriage almost every girls want their own child. It was interesting to note that

80% respondents were aware of their family role and responsibility and 76% of them wanted to dependent on parents and husbands for decision regarding children and money. Similar finding was also observed by Bhavana et.al. (2015).

4. Work and Family life balance

Table 4: Work and family life balance

Sl. No.	Characteristic	Variables	N=100 Percentage (%)
1	Like to work after marriage	▪ Yes	98
		▪ No	02
2	Balance work with family life	▪ Very well	38
		▪ Try to balance	50
		▪ Don't know	12
3	Crisis in your family	▪ Take your parent's support	04
		▪ Take your friend's support	04
		▪ Talk to husband and in-laws and try to solve the problem	92

Table no 4 showed information on opinion of girls between work and family life balance. It was surprising to note that 98% girls had positive attitude towards work after marriage and half of the respondents had strong will power to balance

work with family life. In crisis period 92% girls opined that they would take their husband and in-laws support to solve their problem. Similar findings was also observed by Rabita (2012).

5. Opinion on maintaining quality in family life

Table 5: Opinion on maintaining quality in family life

Sl. No.	Characteristics	Variables	N=100 Percentage (%)
1.	Pre-marital training necessary for family life	(a) yes	68
		(b) no	24
2.	If your husband and in-laws abuse	(a) Tolerate and adjust	06
		(b) Try to make them understand	68
		(c) Take the support of your parents	08
		(d) Take the support of police and law	18
3.	Qualities to lead a good family life	(a) Sensitive and responsible	12
		(b) Adjusting and sacrificing	48
		(c) Think about yourself only	-
		(d) Loving and tolerant	40

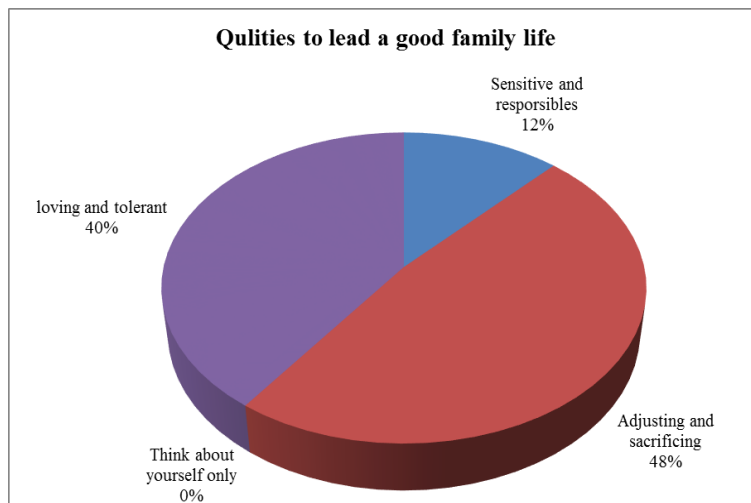


Fig 2

Table No: 05 revealed information on opinion on maintaining quality in family life. 68% girls opined that pre-marital training on family life is required before marriage. It was interesting to observe that 68% girls will try to make them understand if husband and in-laws abuse which shows existence of Indian culture and tolerance till now. Majority of the respondents told that adjusting, sacrificing, loving and tolerance are the best qualities to lead a good family life.

Conclusion

Marriage is a social contract because different social customs and traditions are observed in the institution of marriage and family life. The present study also showed that 70% adolescent girls agreed marriage is a social contract. Nowadays everyone wanted to be identified with their own achievement as well as a unique identity. That's why adolescent girls were giving equal priorities to marriage as well as their career. In case of remarks on freedom of girls affected after marriage most of the younger girls agree to that and some also preferred the living in relationship. Majority of the respondents gave negative remark on dowry system. Family embodies love but it is not always free from understanding, suspicion and hatred. Today families are experiencing unprecedented change and are coping with a varieties of problem both old and new. The results of the study clearly indicates that most of the respondents realizes that persons life become lonely and short without family. The love and affection of the family members was a source of great strength to the participants of the present study. As a result of which the responsibilities increased for women to balance the work as well as the family life showed positive response. Some of the respondents were interested in professional world to help their parents, husband and parents in-law financially but to some extent family life got affected by the work. At that time the efforts of women to balance her family is not considered as fruitful, but the present study report showed that half of the girls opined to try to avoid such type of situation and some of the girls had the confidence to overcome this situation. Thus it can be concluded that as marriage is an institution which binds two individuals, two families and is a medium to attach other members of the family, it should not

be neglected. The young generations should be educated regarding importance of family life so that there will be peace and prosperity in the society.

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