

## A sociological study of the changing attitude of youth in the context of marriage

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### Abstract

The present study is an attempt to study the continuity and changes in the marriage with the web of modernization in the Indian society. This paper also highlights the socio-economic status of the respondents, impact of the modernization in marriage relationships between the spouse and the changing attitudes of the youths towards the marriage system which is being in transition from traditional to modern which is influenced by the modernization and industrialization in the society. For this purpose, a total number of 269 respondents i.e., 216 P.G. Students and 53 Research Scholars from H. N. B. Garhwal University, Srinagar, Uttarakhand were selected. The study was done by using the purposive sampling method and descriptive research design. This paper concluded that traditional form of marriage is changing over time in various aspects such as neglecting the rituals, spending more money in decorating the venue and modernization influence mostly among the youths, the life experience of the youths in modern societies have changed quite significantly. These changes affect the relationships with family and friends, experience in education and the labor market, leisure and lifestyle and become independent.

**Keywords:** modernization, marriage, social institution, family, inter-caste, inter-religion

### Introduction

Marriage is still considered an institution even though the fraying at the end had already begun. Marriage has always been a highly gendered institution, the difference apparent in the division of labor, parenting styles, different responsibilities, expression of sexual intimacies and psychological orientation. Marriage is strongly institutionalized not just in India but also in West. So, there is always an impact of modernization in all over the world of marriage institution. Among the marriage problems emanates as a result of high rate of divorce, high rate of bride price or wealth, infidelity, etc. By modernization, we can understand as the process of change in the society. Modernization is the process which indicates the adoption of the modern way of life and values. We can also say that modernization is the concept of bringing the culture, society, or organization into the current standard. As we can see there is a practice of religion or live in a culture that is older than almost and still be modern.

Marriage is one of the most important stages of the family life cycle. It is universal social institution. Marriage is a rite of passage whereby unrelated man and woman leave their family of origin and begin their own family of procreation. It defines the relationship between the husband and wife, wife between husband's family and parents. The marriage ceremony when performed publicly or by some representatives of the community is a ritual that announces or signifies the recognition by both husband and wife of their new status in the community and also the social approval and support of the new status contracted.

### Marriage in India

The Hindus have been giving great importance for marriage since time immemorial. Marriage is almost obligatory and unavoidable for an average Indian. There is deer-rooted;

long standing and widespread tradition here in favor of marriage as a basic ritual. C. B. Mamoria commented that "we are as much marrying people, we marry early and we marry in large number." Marriage is a matter of religious duty for the Hindus and every Hindu is committed to marriage for the regards it as a great sacrament. Kapadia (1996) has said, "Hindu marriage continues to be a sacrament; only it raised to an ethical plan."

The regulation of mate selection in Hindu society is subsumed wider the concept of endogamy, exogamy and hypergamy. In the early society, caste endogamy was functioned because it preserved the occupational secrets of the caste, maintains the solidarity and checked decreased in the membership of the caste. While in present society, though it makes easier in marital adjustment, yet it has proved to be dysfunctional in some ways since it creates inter-caste tensions and also makes field of mate selection limited and circumscribes. The mate selection now involves three criteria such as party of mate selection, criteria of selection and field of selection.

Exogamous marriages were restricted for preventing transmission of family defect through heredity and for the fear that there may be clandestine love affairs. However, these restrictions are not accepted today for the reason that decay of lineage is reported among non-Hindu communities (says Muslims).

### Impacts of modernization on marriage

Marriage is a basic social institution. Marriage has been the greatest and most important institution of all the social institutions in Hindu society since the time immemorial. In the word of Otto Larsen marriage is a contractual agreement which formalizes and stabilizes the relationships which comprise the family. But in Hindu society, marriage is viewed as sacrament rather than a mere socio-legal contract.

The traditional concept of Hindu marriage was replaced by the individualist nature of society. Even though the traditional philosophy of marriage kept changing, most of the marriage is performed by sacred rites and rituals (Makwana H., Dr. Xavier M.S., 2016) <sup>[16]</sup>.

Modern society brings social change as well as crucial threats for marriage such as increasing extra marital relations, various grounds of divorce, singlehood and sexual alternatives. These crucial changes in the objects of marriage are the result of literacy rates, democratic ideas, western ideology, secularism, industrialization, urbanization, modernization, technological advancement and globalization. These factors become a factor for inter-racial and inter-cultural marriage, removing the discrimination barriers. The importance of the quality of marriage is less rich, but no less conclusive (Veenhoven R., 1983) <sup>[22]</sup>. Modernization makes major changes such as hidden dowry practices, brides burning, domestic violence and conflict in marriage. But in this age of modernity, there are still some places where this are being practices mostly in rural or remote areas.

Now-a-days, the youths and the educated persons are more likely to have love marriage than arranged marriage; this is also an influence of the modernization. Again with the increase in the educational status of the women in our society most women are now becoming more independent and not dominated by men. Women want equal rights and duties with man which also increases their status. With these there is also an increase rate of divorce in the society and become single parent. Changes are the part of our life with or without modernization but the important part for us is to learn from the past, cultivate the beneficial teaching of the old tradition, while providing innovations to improve the quality of life, only through change we can learn while only through looking back we can positively develop.

### Review of Literature

A number of scholars have made attempts to understand the impacts brought by the process of modernization in the society especially among the youths and also in the marital relationship.

**Kannan (1963)** <sup>[13]</sup> **“Inter-caste and inter-community Marriage in India”**: He studied 149 inter-caste marriages in the city of Bombay. He found that inter-caste marriage is steadily increasing recently and that has assumed a significant component since 1956. Some of important factors influencing marriage in Bombay are the freedom of her to choose her partners, the age for the women for the marriage and the rank of female education.

**Kapdia (1966)** **“Marriage and Family in India”**: In the study of inter-caste marriage in India he interviewed 513 university graduates. It was found that 51% were willing to marry out of their own caste, only one-third were against leaving from their customs. Mostly the post graduate's students were in favour of inter-caste marriage. Urbanization and industrialization have certain effects in breakdown of the caste barriers.

**Kashiwagi & Hirayama (2003)** <sup>[12]</sup> **“Marital norm, reality and satisfaction in middle-aged couples; Why are wives less satisfied than husband”**: The purpose of this study was to investigate recent change in marital norms and reality

in middle-aged couples, and how marital reality, as perceived by oneself, was associated with their demographic variables, as well as their couples, and how marital satisfaction. Participated 277 couples from middle-aged nuclear family. Main finding were as follows: firstly, factors analysis of marital reality variables extracted three factors; love each other; respect for the husband's life style; & respect for wife's life style. Secondly, concerning the wife's education and income. Thirdly, loving each other was the most important predictor for marital satisfaction for both husband and wife. Lastly, respect for the husband's life cycle was associated with husband's satisfaction, while that for the wife's was not with wife's marital satisfaction.

**Myer & Madathil (2005)** <sup>[19]</sup> **“Marriage satisfaction And Wellness in India and United States”**: They administered marital satisfaction and wellness questionnaires on 45 individuals (22 couples and 1 widow) living in arranged marriage in India. The data were compared with existing data on individuals in U.S. living in marriage of choice. Differences were found in importance marital characteristics but no differences in satisfaction were found.

**Kumudini D., Kailash C.D., Tarun K.R. & Pradeep K.T. (2010)** <sup>[15]</sup>: **“Inter-caste marriage in India: has it really changed over time. The researchers study the spatial patterns and determinants of inter-caste and inter-religion marriage in India. The study uses the data of third-round of National Family Health Survey (2005-2006) having sample size of 43102 ever married couples where it is found that about 11 percent of the total marriage in India takes place between different caste while only 2.1 percent marriage are inter-caste. Which is quite encouraging and a positive sign of change in the society. The study was done by using both bivariate and multivariate analysis.**

**Banerji M., Martin S.P. (2013)** <sup>[3]</sup>: **“Are the young and educated more likely & Desai S. To have ‘love’ than arranged marriage? A study of autonomy of partner choice in India”**. In the study, a section of middle-class population in West Bengal, India was selected and found them to have a strong preference for within caste marriages and willing to pay a high price in terms of other attributes like education for a sense match.

**Hussain A., Ahmad N., Manzoor R., & Hameed (2015)** <sup>[7]</sup> **“Impact of modernization on gender role: A study of Advocates in Muzaffar Garh”**: In the study the researcher selected 100 advocates of Muzaffar Garh using quantitative study to know their views on the impact of modernization on gender roles. The researcher used simple random sampling technique for data collection. For collecting data the researcher took direct interviews and observed the people. In the study it was found that 69% of respondents said that modernization has changed gender roles to great extent and 41% of respondents said that modernization has changed to some extent. They conclude that modernization changed traditional gender roles.

**Imtiaz S., Ilyas Z., Chaudhary A.G & Hadi S.A. (2015)** <sup>[9]</sup> **“Social change, modernity and endogamous marriage: Anthropological analysis”**: In this study, the researcher selected 100 purpose samples of respondents through convenient sampling technique out of which 50 youngsters

were interviewed from PMAS Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi and 50 respondent of middle age were interviewed from satellite town district Rawalpindi the study shows different mechanism through which modernity had affected the endogamy practices. People of back ages used to prefer endogamous marriages while the youngsters do not. This is because of modernization and the advancement of the education.

**Ahuja A. & Ostermann S.L. (2016)** <sup>[16]</sup>: “Crossing caste boundaries in the modern Indian marriage market: Studies in Comparative International Development”. Ahuja and Ostermann find a marriage premium to attributes like income and class, along with caste in their survey of 1070 females from upper castes and scheduled castes from the three Indian states of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. Interest in intermarriage increase with income amongst SCs while it decreases with income among the upper caste.

**Dr. P. Panda (2016)** <sup>[6]</sup>: “The status of live-in-relationship in India: A Legal and Judicial approach”. Live-in-relationship is a living arrangement in which an unmarried couple live in a long term relationship which is also known as common law marriage i.e., informal marriage. The paper was done in order to make an attempt to analyze the concept and legal status of live-in-relationship in India and judiciary towards the same. Even though the Indian judiciary has already been passed a number of judgment as in the interest of justice, equality and good conscience in favor of live-in-relationship, it is only the society to come forward and accept the concept of live-in-relationship.

**P. Dommaraju (2016) “Divorce and Separation in India”**: In this paper of divorce and separation in India, the author draws the literature to conceptualize the key aspects of marriage and the socio-cultural and legal systems that influence durability of marriage in India. This paper also presents the estimate of prevalence, trends and variations in divorce separation using data from third round of District Level Household and Facility Survey (DLHS-3) conducted in 2007-8 which covered 601 districts in 34 states and union territories and collected data from 643,944 ever married women in which they were asked few questionnaires. Here, the author find that an upward trend and significant variations by religions, regions, number and sex of child in divorce and separation. And marriage among higher educated are more durable and that the difference between higher and lower educated women has widened over time.

**Koyel S. & Ester L. Rizzi (2020)** <sup>[14]</sup> “**Love marriage in India**”: In this study of love marriage in India, the researchers examine its trends, cultural groups and regions and the relation of love marriage within the educational level of parents and parents-in-law using the data from the second round of the Indian Household and Development Survey (IHDS) in 2011-2012. The study was done adopting a multivariate, multi-level approach at the regional level and focus on the emancipator role of education with respect to traditional marriage. Where the researchers find the practice of love marriage has slightly increasing in India, especially among the youths which is 3-4 times more likely to experience love marriage than the oldest generation. The effect of the education of mothers and mothers-in-law on

love marriage also stresses the importance of the gender dimension in marriage in India.

### Significance of the study

Marriage which includes coupling of two people possessing different issues, desires and needs, is a special association given by social rules and laws and significantly affects individual development and self realization. Modernization has approved to be an extremely powerful but uncertain force in the perspective of human affairs. It has serious impacts on environment and the social structure of the societies. In the course of modernization, traditional knowledge and techniques give way to the application of scientific knowledge borrowed mainly from the west. Thus new set-up changes the minds of the people and the society which brings a lot of changes in the practice of traditional marriage system. This study is conducted to the students and the researchers of the university which aims to provide on how the marriage systems and its functions has been changing in the society with the web of modernization, where the youths are influence by the Western cultures. University students are accepted as an important group that they experience romantic relations intensely which is thought to provide them with opinions about issues like partners adjustment and relationship satisfactions.

### Objectives of the study

The main objectives of the study are:

1. To study the socio-economic status of the respondent.
2. To analyze the impact of modernization on day-to-day relations.
3. To examine the attitudes of youths regarding marriage and modernization.

### Methodology

The present study adopted descriptive research method to make the study more reliable and scientific. The study based on both primary and secondary data for thorough and comprehensive study. In primary data, the investigators collect the information from observation, questionnaires, interview schedule. And in secondary data, the researchers collect information from books, journals, published and unpublished dissertation, various reports of the university etc.

### Universe

The universe of the study is all the student of Post Graduates (PG) and Research Scholars under the age of 20 to 35 years from Birla and Chauras Campus of Hemavati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Srinagar, Uttarakhand, India.

### Sample

The present study adopted purposive sampling and the sample comprised of 269 respondents i.e., 20% of the total univers including 216 P.G. Students and 53 Research Scholars who are staying in the hostels of Birla and Chauras Campus of Hemavati Nandan Bhuguna Garhwal University, Srinagar, Uttarakhand, India.

### Tools

The researchers use interview schedule, questionnaires and observation methods to collect the views, ideas and detail information from the sampled respondents.

### Findings of the study

In the present study, the analysis and interpretation of data was entirely based on the response given by the respondents of some items. The following are the major findings of the study:

#### Socio-economic profile of the respondents

For the study to make more reliable and easy to understand, the socio-economic background and living pattern of the respondents are into consideration. With these variables and living conditions one can determine the behavioral pattern of the sampled respondents. Here, a brief elaboration of the socio-economic status or personal identification of the respondents is given.

The study was done in the students of various disciplines such as post graduate, researchers and M. Phil of the age between 20-35 years with 43 female and 11 male of the total respondents. The classification was also done on caste basis (such as General, OBC, ST,SC) with the majority of General than SC and OBC and least with ST; on family pattern (joint, nuclear, extended) most of the sampled respondents belong to nuclear than joint family and with a very less with extended family; on marital status (married or unmarried) here almost all the respondents are unmarried and with a few are married; on religion (Hindu, Muslim, Christian or other/unidentified) with the majority are Hindu and other religions; and on residential area of the respondents ( rural, urban, metropolitan) more than half of the respondents belongs to urban areas and then rural with a least of respondents from metropolitan.

#### Modernization impact on individual's identity and attitude

As modernization symbolize a process of change, India mainly with the contact of western through the establishment of the British rule. It brought many changes in culture and social structure in Indian society which also affects the individual's identity in the society. From the study the researchers finds 86 percent of the respondents agree and 14 percent of the respondents disagree that modernization changes and affects the identity of the individual. The society can only be change when the people living in the society change their mindset, behavior, attitudes towards others as well as the society which are all the result of modernization where most of the society are now totally transforming. The finding shows that the attitudes of respondents are changing with the web of modernization where 97 percent agree with this.

#### Modernizations affect traditional form of marriage

The finding shows that the traditional form of marriage are now changing into modern form. Traditionally, the concept of marriage was based upon the religious sanctions and the meaning of marriage was rooted in the religious domain in Indian society. But this traditional form of marriage is changing over time in various aspects such as neglecting the rituals, spending more money in decorating the venue and most importantly the married couple do not take it seriously and also about their relationship. Where 71 percent of the total respondents give positive response while 23 percent cannot and only 6 percent of the respondents give negative response.

#### Love marriage vs arrange marriage

From the study, researchers find that 67 percent of the respondents want to experience love marriage while 33 percent prefer arrange marriage. Here, from the finding it is clear that most of the youths from every corner of the society want to experience love marriage than arrange marriage which is the result of people becoming more exposure to education, open mindedness, independence, which are all the result of modernization and industrialization.

#### Freedom of choice of marriage

The mate selection which is the most important factor in marriage life and for the relationship between the spouse. Earlier, it was considered as the tradition and it was only the parents responsible for selecting the mate for their children at early age but with the change of time and people becoming more educated and open minded, the youths now want to make their own choice of marriage freely without any hesitation. This will also help them to make decision in their life properly. The finding shows 87 percent of the respondents want to make their own choice of marriage freely and want the parents to give freedom to their children in mate selection and age of marriage.

#### Removal of marriage restrictions

Restriction of marriage between the same clan and lineage is still in practice in this era of modernization. This leads to many problems between those who are in relationship between the same clan or same lineage. Many youths want to remove this restriction which make them feel uneasy and this also creates a lot of barriers between the people or the families. Most importantly, many youths even commit suicide themselves because of these restrictions. In the finding, 64 percent of respondents want to remove this restriction.

#### Live-in-relationship

Live-in-relationship are new and ongoing trends among the youths that gives them freedom to live with their partners without any pressure for marriage while looking from Indian context, living with someone before marriage especially man-women relationship is still consider as taboo. Both marriage and live-in-relationship should be free of choice and free from societal pressure. 54 percent of the respondents want to be in live-in-relationship while 46 percent do not, because of the societal force, family tradition or rule.

#### Factors of marriage

Different people enter the marriage with different factors. Earlier, marriage was done by parents by selecting the mate of their children but with change of time and development, children are free make their own choice of marriage either in mate selection or age of marriage. Likewise, while choosing their mate or life partner they prefer many different factors like understanding between the partners, good communication and economic stability which are all important for the wellness of their relationship.

#### Inter-caste or inter-religion marriage

With the web of modernization individual mindset and thinking are becoming more broad even in the case of marriage between different caste and religion. People,

especially, the youths are now accepting this which was before considered as sin or taboo. The researcher finds that from among the total respondents of 54, 46 respondents are in favor of inter-caste or inter-religion marriage (i.e. 85 percent approx.) and only 8 respondents do not want (i.e. 15 percent) who belong to traditional family system and most of them are from rural areas.

### Responsibility of youths in social change

For all these changes from traditional to modern form of marriage, youths are the main responsibility for the positive or negative changes that are brought in the society. As modernization influence mostly among the youths, the life experience of the youths in modern societies has changed quite significantly. These changes affect the relationships with family and friends, experience in education and the labor market, leisure and lifestyle and become independent. These changes affect the traditional form of marriage in our society

### Increasing rate of the divorce

In India throughout recent decades, there have been steady rise in divorce rate. Divorce which means dissolution of marital bond, relations, rights and obligations. The causes of marital breakdown in the form of divorce in India are different from that of Western countries. However, many factors towards divorce have been institutionalized by various changes in laws which have made room for divorce. The social stigma attached to divorce has been considerably reduced and the main reason for the increasing rate of divorce is lack of communication, dishonesty and financial instability between the spouse which leads to misunderstanding and become the major problem in their relationship.

### Financial instability and breakdown of marriage

Speaking of marital breakdown, another reason for this is financial instability. Financial issues are a common source of discord in personal, marital and family relationship. Which not only means financial stability but also marital and quality of life. Hibbert and Beulter found that quality of family life was perceived to be higher among families in which financial self-reliance was more highly valued.

### Conclusion

From the above finding, the study concluded that modernization has change a lot in Indian society in various aspects including all the social institutions like marriage, family, customs, etc. Modernization has affect the identity, attitudes, mindset of the people, people becoming more educated, rational open mindedness and independence all these factors make changes in the form of marriage institution in Indian society in quite a short time. Women are now becoming more job oriented and independent unlike in the earlier decades. Youths are now accepting inter-caste and inter-religion marriage, live-in-relationship which are all starting from the web of modernization. The youths want to experience their love life without any restriction from the families. However, there is still restriction of marriage between different religion or lower caste in some part of the country. For these, youths are the responsibility to bring the positive changes in the society. While on the other hand, there is still some factors that the modernization affect the society in negative ways like the

married couple become more job enthusiastic and job oriented and do not give much time for their partners and want to become more independent this also one of the major problem for the increasing rate of divorce in the society.

### Suggestions

1. All the responsibility of the changes that are brought in the society should not only be to the youths, the older generations should also accept these changes that are coming in society with support to the youths. Only then, the whole society can become more develop and healthy.
2. The marriage restrictions should also be removed among the different caste and religion so that the individuals can fulfill their love life with no hesitation.
3. The changes in the society always be there may be in positive or in negative aspects but one thing we should keep in mind is that we cannot leave our traditions and customs behind all of these and one cannot be called modern without knowing their own traditions, cultures and customs So, we should follow our traditions and cultures with the modern source of thinking like educating people, equal opportunities between the sexes, only leaving all those orthodox thinking which are the main reason for lacking behind in the race of development.

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