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## Rural and urban adolescent girl students' attitude towards marriage: A study

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### Abstract

The present study aims to investigate the adolescents' attitude towards marriage. Students attending Degree College have been selected with a database of 128 adolescent girls. The objective was to find out the difference in attitude between rural and urban girls. 64 rural and 64 urban girls in the age group of 17-20 were chosen randomly. The Marriage Attitude Scale was administered by dividing the respondents in small groups as researcher explained some questions to get the authentic data. Scoring was done manually and descriptive statistics. Independent 't' test was used to analyze the data. Findings revealed that no significant difference between the rural and urban girls respect to highly positive attitude towards marriage, positive attitude towards marriage, negative attitude towards marriage and highly negative attitude towards marriage. Finding no significant difference between rural and urban girls' attitude towards marriage is a surprising move which indicates that marriage is being viewed in a broader terms by young generation with more liberal demands.

**Keywords:** Marriage, Attitude, Adolescents.

### 1. Introduction

Marriage as an important social institution is undergoing rapid changes in its structure and functions. Last decade experienced major transformations in its ancient and age-old traditional nature. Particularly, adolescents are increasingly found to challenge the traditional concept of marriage. They have been redefining and interpreting Marriage with more modern views. Attitude towards marital relations, parental role in fixing marriage, selection of mate, marriage rituals, age criterion and various other related events are rapidly changing. A report from the center's social & demographic trends project, 'The Decline of Marriage and Rise of New Families' find that nearly four in ten Americans (39%) say that marriage is obsolete. Teen age holds positive views of marriage but better choose to have cohabitation and prefer delayed marriage (Princeton, N.J. 2008). The numbers of teen agers who think to live together before marriage is steadily increasing from 40 percent in the 1970s to 64 percent in 2006. Even child bearing out of wed-lock is becoming increasingly common.

Indian adolescents have also found to be more liberal and dare to adopt new trends in marriage. Marriage once arranged by the parents is now usually a matter of free choice in Indian society. With the changing time, people in India accepting Love Marriage, Inter-Caste and Inter-Religion Marriage which was restricted earlier. To connecting with the world easily, led the young boys and girls to accept western values, new ideologies and modern trends in marriage. *Leave-In* concept seems to be losing its sanctity in the country as it is becoming the trend though not very much popular. Premarital sex is a growing phenomenon among young people who no longer consider sexual intercourse wrong or immoral, emerging as a threat to its basic objective to regulate the sexuality. Though marriage, for many is still an important occasion having emotional ties rather than only a sanction to have sex relations. It cannot be stated that marriage has lost its importance but certainly it has undergone some radical changes. As Stephan Harper put it, "I have no difficulty with the recognition of civil unions for nontraditional relationships but I believe in law, we should protect the traditional definition of marriage" (Globe and Mail 2010)

In India, women's increased participation in economic activities proves to be the major component in changing the total outlook towards husband-wife relations. Legal protection safeguarding the women in various issues related to marriage are another factor somewhat

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helping to change the attitude towards marriage. Stringent law against Female Feticide and awareness campaign brought major change in gender equality. More importantly this changing scenario does not remain restricted to urbanite Indian but is being percolated in the rural area also as the girls enrollment in higher education is on rise and their participation in economic development is growing. In the present context various development programs have been implemented by the Government as well as NGOs. Programs like SABLA (RESEAG) by Ministry of Women and Child Welfare provided Nutrition and Health Education (NHE), counseling and guidance on family welfare, *Kishori Shakti Yojana*, the program aimed to empower adolescent girls and make them competent to take on the responsibilities of life, helping rural adolescent girls to know about the age and reproductive functions etc.

**2. Objective of the Study**

1. To study the marriage attitude of rural and urban adolescent girl students.
2. To study the highly positive attitude of rural and urban adolescent girl students.
3. To Study the positive attitude of rural and urban adolescent girl students.
4. To study the negative attitude of rural and urban adolescent girl students.
5. To study the highly negative attitude of rural and urban adolescent girls students.

**3. Hypothesis of the study**

1. There is no significant difference in the marriage attitude between rural and urban adolescent girl students.
2. There is no significant difference in the highly positive attitude between rural and urban adolescent girl students.
3. There is no significant difference in the positive attitude between rural and urban adolescent girl students.
4. There is no significant difference in the negative attitude between rural and urban adolescent girl students.

5. There is no significant difference in the highly negative attitude between rural and urban adolescent girl students.

**4. Method**

For the present study normative survey method has been adopted. Investigator surveyed the rural and urban adolescent girl students and collect the data respect to their attitude of marriage.

**5. Population and Sample of the Study**

In the present study population is all girl students studying in Degree College in Art and Home-Science streams in the city of Pusad Dist. Yavatmal. The urban residential girl students have been selected in the particular degree college and rural girl students have been selected from the Government Hostels. Total 128 adolescent girl students; 64 from urban area and 64 from rural area were interviewed.

**6. Tool Used for Data Collection**

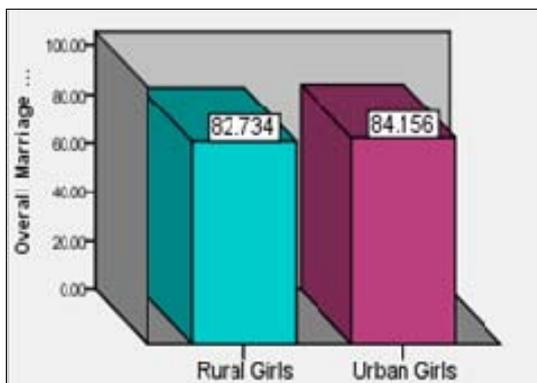
The investigator has selected the standardized, reliable and valid Marriage Attitude Scale constructed by Pramod Kumar. The scale has 38 statement items related to the attitude towards marriage having three options, Yes, Doubtful and No. Response that item is positively to be given the weight of 3, 2 and 1 and response those item is negative given weight for 1, 2 and 3 respectively. Reliability has been calculated by split-half and test-retest method. The split half reliability correlating the odd-even item of the scale, applying the Spearman Brown formula has been found to be 0.79 with an index reliability of 0.88. Test-retest reliability of the scale has been found to be 0.84 with an index of reliability of 0.91 with one week time interval. Validity of the scale use of face validity technique discriminating item with validity index is 0.27.

**7. Statistical Technique**

Mean, SD ‘t’ test and other techniques have been used for the analysis and interpretation of the data.

**Table 1:** Rural and Urban Girls Students Marriage Attitude compare for t test.

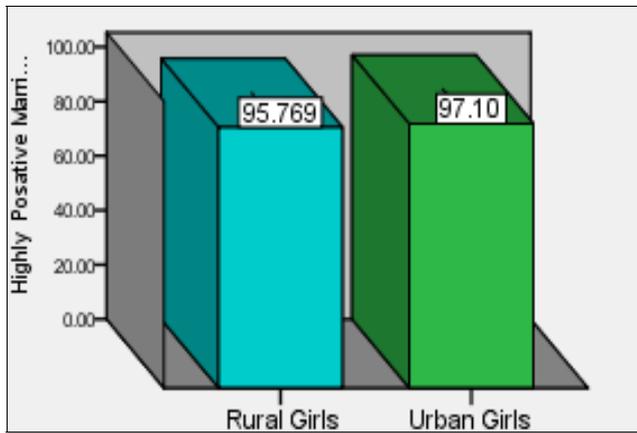
Level of Marriage Attitude scale	Rural Girls			Urban Girls			Statistic				Probability	
	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	Mean Diff.	df	SE. dm	‘t’ value	Table Value	Sig.
Overall Marriage Attitude	64	82.734	10.823	64	84.156	12.549	1.421	126	1.421	0.686	1.96	NS
Highly Positive Marriage Attitude	13	95.769	2.773	20	97.100	3.226	1.330	31	1.054	1.262	1.96	NS
Positive Marriage Attitude	16	88.437	1.412	13	88.615	1.502	0.177	27	0.546	0.326	1.96	NS
Negative Marriage Attitude	18	81.166	3.072	18	79.888	3.496	1.277	34	1.097	1.165	1.96	NS
Highly Negative Marriage Attitude	15	66.933	6.374	12	64.083	8.073	2.850	25	2.853	0.999	1.96	NS



**Fig 1:** Compare the mean score of Rural and Urban adolescents Girls students overall marriage attitude.

Table no.1 and Fig no. 1 show the rural and urban adolescent girl student’s overall marriage attitude. Rural girl’s marriage attitude Mean score is 82.734, SD is 10.823 and urban girl’s marriage attitude Mean score is 84.156, SD is 12.549 respectively. The mean difference of overall marriage attitude for rural and urban adolescent girls is 1.421 it shows that the mean difference is negligible.

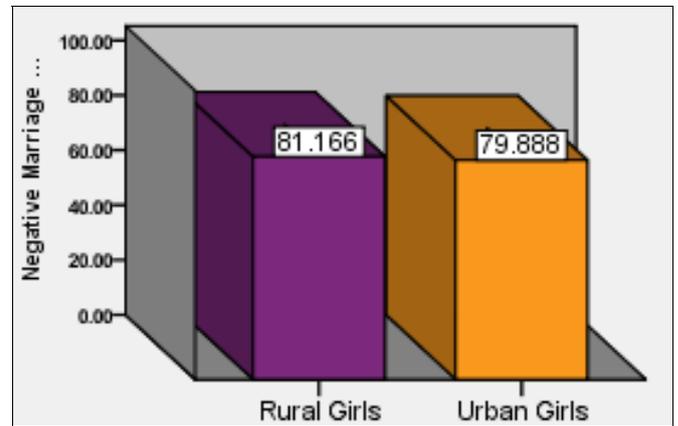
Comparing the Mean Score of overall rural and urban girls marriage attitude and calculated ‘t’ value is 0.686. This ‘t’ value is not significant at 0.05 Level of significance. Because the 126 df, standard table value is less than calculated ‘t’ value. It shows that there is no significant difference between the rural and urban girl’s overall marriage attitude.



**Fig 2:** Compare the mean score of Rural and Urban adolescents Girls students Highly Positive Marriage attitude.

Table No. 1 and Fig no. 2 show that highly positive marriage attitude of rural girl's Mean Score is 95.769, SD is 2.773 and highly positive marriage attitude of urban girl students Mean Score is 97.100, SD is 3.326 respectively. The mean difference of highly positive marriage attitude for rural and urban girls is 1.330. It shows that the mean difference between rural and urban adolescent girls on their highly positive marriage attitude is negligible.

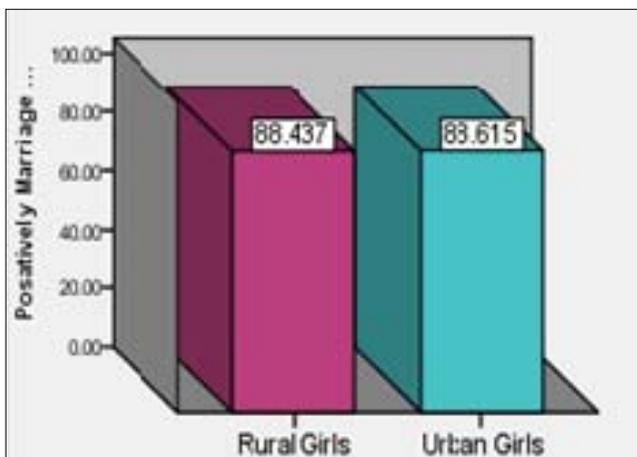
Comparing the Mean Score of highly positively marriage attitude for rural and urban girls, calculated 't' value is 1.262. This 't' value is not significant at 0.05 Level of significance. Because the 31 *df* standard table value is less respect to calculated 't' value. It shows that, there is no significant difference in the highly positive marriage attitude between rural and urban adolescent girl students.



**Fig 4:** Compare the mean score of Rural and Urban adolescents Girls students Negative Marriage attitude.

Table No.1 and Fig no. 4 show that, negative marriage attitude of rural girl students' Mean Score is 81.166, SD is 3.072 and negative marriage attitude of urban girl students' Mean Score is 79.888, SD is 3.496 respectively. The mean difference of negative marriage attitude for rural and urban adolescent girl students' is 1.277. It shows that the mean difference of rural and urban adolescent girl students on their negative marriage attitude is negligible.

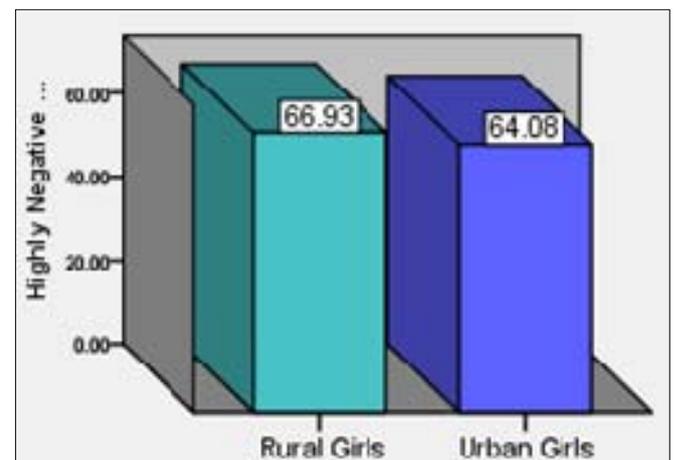
Comparing the mean score of negative marriage attitude for rural and urban girl students, calculated 't' value is 1.165. This 't' value is not significant at 0.05 Level of significance. Because the 34 *df* standard table value is less respect to calculated 't' value. It shows that there is no significant difference in the negative marriage attitude between rural and urban adolescent girl students.



**Fig 3:** Compare the mean score of Rural and Urban adolescents Girls students Positive Marriage attitude.

Table no. 1 and Fig no. 3 show that, positively marriage attitude of rural girl's Mean Score is 88.437, SD is 1.423 and positive marriage attitude of urban girl's Mean Score is 88.615, SD is 1.502 respectively. The mean difference of positively marriage attitude for rural and urban girl students is 0.177. It shows that the mean difference of rural and urban girl students on their positive marriage attitude is negligible.

Comparing the mean score of positively marriage attitude for rural and urban adolescent girl students and calculated 't' value is 0.326, This 't' value is not significant at 0.05 level. Because the 27 *df* standard table value is less respect to calculated 't' value. It shows that, there is no significant difference between the positively marriage attitude of rural and urban adolescent girl students.



**Fig 5:** Compare the mean score of Rural and Urban adolescents Girls students Highly Negative Marriage Attitude.

Table No. 1 and Fig no. 5 show that, highly negative marriage attitude of rural girl students' Mean Score is 66.933, SD is 6.374 and high negative marriage attitude of urban girl students' Mean Score is 64.083, SD is 8.073 respectively. The mean difference of highly negative marriage attitude for rural and urban girl students is 2.850. It shows that the mean difference of rural and urban adolescent girl students on their highly negative marriage attitude is negligible.

Comparing the mean score of highly negative marriage attitude for rural and urban girl students, calculated 't' value is 0.999. This 't' value is not significant at 0.05 level of significance. Because the 25 *df* standard table value is less respect to calculated 't' value. It shows that there is no significant difference in the highly negative marriage attitude

between rural and urban adolescent girl students.

### 8. Findings of the Study

No significant difference is found in all the five attributes i.e., overall marriage attitude, highly positive marriage attitude, positive marriage attitude, negative marriage attitude and highly negative marriage attitude.

### 9. Conclusion

India accounts more than 243 million adolescent which holds quarter of the country's population. It is evident that these young minds are all set to lead a life adopting new culture leaving the old ones behind. As far as marriage is concerned, girls need to be emotionally stronger and self-dependent to avoid the exploitation, harassment and domestic violence. Marriage as a basic social institution have its strong roots in the country like India, but when adolescents are trying to look at it with newer perception the nation seems to be facing big changes in other areas also.

Parents, teachers, educational planners and policy makers need to review these changes as they have to support these young ones at every turn and make environment conducive at home, at learning centers and in the society. Parents have to read the changing minds of their children and instead criticizing them they have to learn new parenting skills.

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