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### A comparative study on the perception and attitudes of young adults about marriage and family life

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#### Abstract

Marriage is a legally sanctioned contract between a man and a woman. Entering into a marriage contract changes the legal status of parties, giving husband and wife new rights and obligations. The Study was held at Ernakulum District. Fifty young men and fifty young women were selected as samples with age group between 18 to 25. Questionnaire used to collect information. The results revealed that Married life is preferred by both men and women. Majority of men prefer love marriage. While, majority of women prefer arrange marriage. Majority of both men and women oppose dowry. Even all the women and most of men opinions child rearing is not only woman's responsibility, some men are against it. Comparatively most of the men don't wish to have a married life as their parent's than women. Majority of both men and women are aware children are affected by parents' frequent conflicts.

**Keywords:** Marriage, family life, perception and attitudes, young

#### Introduction

Marriage is a legally sanctioned contract between a man and a woman. Entering into a marriage contract changes the legal status of parties, giving husband and wife new rights and obligations. Public policy is strongly in favour of marriage based on the belief that it preserves the family unit. Traditionally, marriage has been viewed as vital to the preservation of morals and civilization.

The traditional principle upon which the institution of marriage is founded is that a husband has the obligation to support a wife, and that a wife has the duty to serve. In the past, this has meant that the husband has the duty to provide a safe house, to pay for necessities such as food and clothing, and to live in the house. A wife's obligation has the traditionally entailed maintaining a home, living in the home, having sexual relations with her husband and rearing the couple's children. Changes in society have modified these marital roles to a considerable degree as married women have joined the workforce in large numbers <sup>[1]</sup>.

The life experiences of today's young adults differ from those of young adults in past decades. Young adulthood has become a more distinct stage of life, as many young people postpone family-related transitions and focus on education and employment. The developmental stage of young adulthood today also allows for an extended period of identity exploration. This period serves as a foundation for making choices about behaviors related to forming relationships and families now and in the future. Compared with previous generations, fewer young adults today are married <sup>[2]</sup>.

The 21<sup>st</sup> century is a whole new world, especially concerning the breakdown of marriages and families. It is now estimated that one in two marriages will end in divorce. Frequent conflicts between couples bring with long-lasting issues that affect every member of the family of particular concern is the impact of divorce on children. Variables associated with the risk of divorce include age at marriage, education, premarital birth and conception, religion, parental divorce and conflicts etc.

Conflicts in married life have become so common that they are enfeebling the institution of family which is the bed rock of society. In the name of modernism, people are prone to develop wrong attitudes towards marriage and family. All marriages cannot succeed, some end in disharmony. In some marriages which fail, some fatalists, believing in an inescapable destiny, just drag on and pull over, some optimists who think that happiness is a state of mind try to readjust themselves but some break their marriages: Of those who break their marital

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bonds, some break them functionally and some structurally. The young parents are less aware that the conflicts and other marital problems affect their children. And due to this unawareness, both their parents' life and child's future gets spoiled [3].

Parental divorce and frequent conflicts often leads to low trust among children, and those who casually date exhibit "the strongest effects of parental divorce, suggesting that the repercussions of parental divorce may be in place before the young adults form their own romantic relationships." The divorce of their parents makes married life more difficult for children as they reach adulthood. Even parents relation may horrify the young adults that can lead to unmarried life. Children of divorced parents fear being rejected, and a lack of trust frequently hinders a deepening of their relationship. One study showed that individuals whose parents divorced were more likely than individuals whose parents remained married to believe that relationships were beset by infidelity and the absence of trust, and they were also more likely to believe that relationships should be approached with caution. Marriage is a joyful event in a person's life. However, unless much can be done in order to redefine the status of what marriage is all about, divorce and other marital problems will continue to raise tremendously [4].

**Objectives**

- To Study and compare the attitudes and perception of young men and women about marriage and family life.
- To find out the influence of parents relation in the view of marriage.
- To find out how far young adults are aware that children are affected by parents' marital related problems.

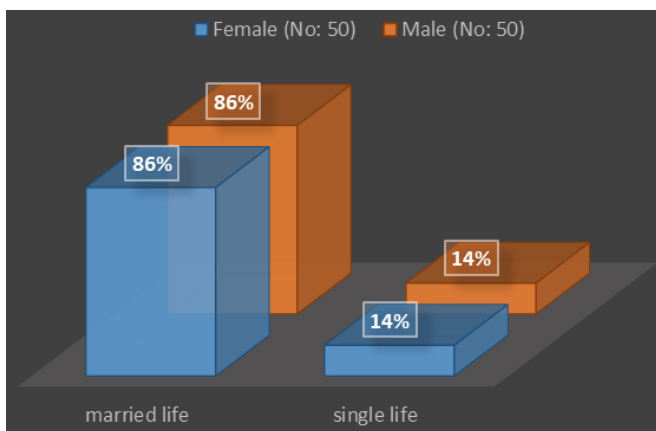
**Methodology**

The Study was held at Ernakulum District. Fifty young men and fifty young women were selected as samples with age group between 18 to 25. Questionnaire used to collect information.

**Result and discussion**

**Preference of life style**

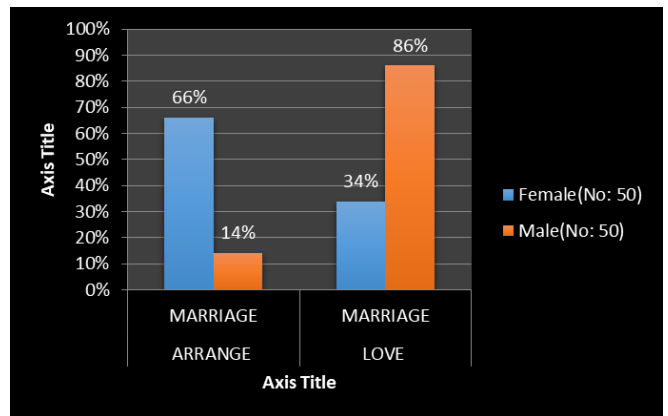
Among the sample, majority of females and males (86% each) prefer married life. Only 14% of both females and males prefer single life.



**Fig 1:** Preference of life style

**Preference of type of marriage**

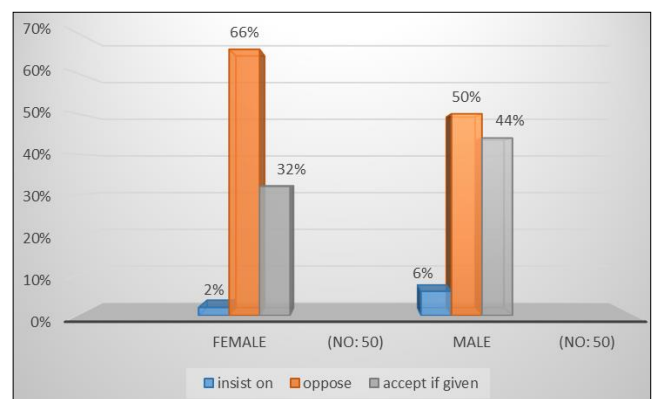
The majority of females (66%) prefer arrange marriage. While, majority of males (86%) prefer love marriage.



**Fig 2:** Preference of type of marriage

**Attitude towards dowry**

In 50% of females, only 2% insist on dowry, 66% oppose it and 32% accept if given. While in 50% of males, only 6% insist on, 50% oppose it and 44% accept if given.



**Fig 3:** Attitude towards dowry

**Consideration of parents married life**

All the females are not on the opinion that child rearing as the responsibility of women. While 12% of males are on the opinion that child rearing as the responsibility of women and 88% are not.

Twenty two percent of females not at all wish to have a married life as parents, 8% wish very little, 22% wish to some extend and 48% wish very much. While, 34% of males not at all wish to have a married life as parents, 12% wish very little, 26% wish to some extend and 28% wish very much.

Twelve percent of females not at all wish to take parents' as role models in married life, 8% wish very little, 34% wish to some extend and 42% wish very much. While, 24% of males not at all wish to take parents' as role models in married life, 26% wish very little, 24% wish to some extend and 26% wish very much.

Six percent of females are on the opinion that parent's frequent conflicts not at all affects child's academics, 2% very little, 18% to some extend and 74% very much. While, 10% of males are on the opinion that parents frequent conflicts not at all affects child's academics, 12% very little, 30% to some extend and 48% very much.

Four percent of females are on the opinion conflicting parents are not at all a poor role models for children, 6% very little, 12% to some extend and 78% very much. While, 8% of males are on the opinion conflicting parents are not at all a poor role models for children, 6% very little, 12% to some extend and 74% very much.

### **Conclusion**

Both men and women prefer married life. Majority of men prefer love marriage while majority of women prefer arrange marriage. Majority of both men and women oppose dowry. Even all the women and most of men opinions child rearing is not only woman's responsibility, some men are against it. Comparatively most of men don't wish to have a married life as their parent's than women. Majority of men and women are aware children are affected by parents' frequent conflicts.

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