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## Changing priorities for choosing life partner in present era

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### Abstract

Present study was planned to assess changing priorities of respondents for choosing life partner in present era and their association with independent variables. A self-prepared questionnaire was used to collect the data from a sample of twenty five boys and twenty five girls of 16-28 years of age group were randomly selected from Rath and Jhansi City. Results revealed that maximum respondents were in the age category 20-22 followed by 23-25 years. The education data highlighted that 21% were post graduate followed by 16% were graduate. About 19% respondent's parents were in business followed by 13% agriculture. Almost equal percent of respondent's parents have income below Rs.10,000 and Rs.10,000 – Rs.50,000 per month. The results further portrayed that majority of respondents (70%) agreed that priorities are changing regarding choice of life partner in present era while 26% respondents were having neutral level. Only 4% of the respondents disagree with the concerned point. No association was visible with any of the independent variables (age, education, occupation and income).

**Keywords:** Priorities, choosing life partner, present era

### Introduction

India is the second most populous country in the world where thousands of males and females tie the knots with their partners for marriage every year. In the past, the selection of the life partner of a male and female was done by the family members and named as parental arranged marriages in the literature (Jejeebhoy *et al.*, 2013) <sup>[4]</sup>. However, in the present time, the selection of a life partner is done by the candidate itself or candidate and its family. Hence, the marriages organized in such a way have been defined as love marriages (self-arranged) or transitional marriages, respectively (Tsutsui, 2013) <sup>[9]</sup>. Huang *et al.* (2012) <sup>[3]</sup> defined that the formation of a marriage is dependent on the matching process which may happen randomly or with the help of a commercial agent. Along with this, the analysis such as cost/benefit analysis and perceived gains of the marriage i.e. the utility of getting married has more value than remaining single or not (Manfredini *et al.*, 2013) <sup>[7]</sup>. Uecker (2012) <sup>[10]</sup> elaborates on numerous benefits of getting married one of which is to convene the benefits of psychological health. The marriages in Indian society play an important role because for years it has been seen as a lifelong relationship (Joshi and Kumar, 2012) <sup>[5]</sup>. The marriages are not just a wedding of two persons but it also connects the families of the two and strengthens their roots in the community, particularly caste. Due to the prevalence of caste system in Indian society, there are limited opportunities available for selecting a life-partner (Ahuja and Ostermann, 2016) <sup>[1]</sup>. Ali *et al* (2017) <sup>[2]</sup> have revealed how little has changed over three decades in the Pakistani population's mind set regarding mate selection requirements. Women are still required to possess physical attractiveness ideals and men are required to hold a position that ensures their financial stability. Other requirements showed fluctuations over time. Education and personality attributes gained more importance. Khalid and Hassan (2019) <sup>[6]</sup> unveiled that the basic criteria to choose a partner, i.e. physical appearance and social background, slightly overlap across the generations. However, differences were prominent in terms of desirability of compatibility, freedom and equality in relationship across the three subsequent generations of women. The first and second cohorts of women preferred traits such as family ties, piousness, education and economic stability. Mir (2018) <sup>[8]</sup> revealed that 94 percent of the

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female respondents had given preference to Govt. employee socio-economic status in Life Partner selection it is very important for security of the family, 56 percent of male respondents preferred working women, 95 percent male had preferred younger character and beauty life partner. So, the present study is conducted with objective to assess the changing priorities of respondents for choosing life partner in present era and their association with independent variables.

**Methodology:** The locale of the study i.e. Rath and Jhansi City of Uttar Pradesh State was selected and twenty five boys and twenty five girls of 16 – 28 years of age group were randomly selected from Rath and Jhansi City. i.e. Rajpoot colony from Rath city and Shivaji Nagar from Jhansi city. A self structured interview schedule was prepared which includes 31 statements, twenty eight statements (1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31) were scored positive and three statements (4,10 and 30) were scored negative. In positive

scoring, Agree scores two marks, Neutral scores one mark and Disagree scores zero. In negative scoring, Agree scores zero mark, Neutral scores one mark and Disagree scores two marks. Data was collected by personally making visit with the help of self structured interview schedule. The researcher first introduced self to the respondents the present study. Then the schedule distributed to them and gives sufficient time to fill their responses.

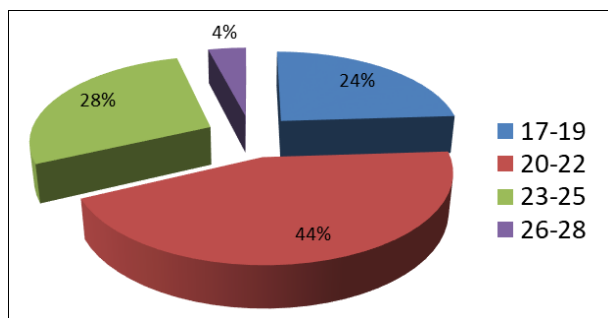
**Results**

**1. Profile of the Respondents**

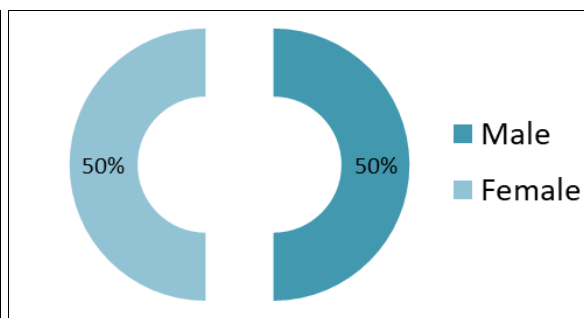
**Personal Variable:** The results on personal variables viz- Age and Sex has been given in table-1. Regarding the personal variables, data revealed that maximum respondents i.e. 44% were in the age category 20-22 followed by 28% in the age category of 23-25 years, 24% were in the age of category 17-19 years and only 4% were in the age group of 26-28 years. Equal percentage of respondents was distributed in sex category i.e. 25 male and 25 female.

**Table 1:** Distribution of Respondents According of Socio-Personal Profile

S. No.	Variables	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent	Mean	Std. Deviation
1.	<b>Age</b>						
	17-19	12	24.0	24.0	24.0	2.12	.824
	20-22	22	44.0	44.0	68.0		
	23-25	14	28.0	28.0	96.0		
	26-28	2	4.0	4.0	100.0		
2.	<b>Sex</b>						
	Male	25	50.0	50.0	50.0	1.50	.505
	Female	25	50.0	50.0	100.0		



**Fig 1:** Distribution of Age of Respondents



**Fig 2:** Distribution of Sex of Respondents

**Economic Variables**

Table-2 depicts the economic variables viz- Education, Occupation and Income. Regarding the economic variables the education data highlighted that 21% were post graduate followed by 16% were graduate, 6% were intermediate, above

post graduate and only 1% were metric. About 19% respondent’s parents were in business followed by 13% agriculture,11% service and Only 7% labour. Almost equal percent of respondent’s parents have income below Rs.10,000 and Rs.10, 000 – Rs.50, 000 per month.

**Table 2:** Distribution of Respondents According of Economics Profile

S. No.	Variables	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent	Mean	Std. Deviation
1.	<b>Education</b>						
	Matric	1	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.50	.931
	Intermediate	6	12.0	12.0	14.0		
	Graduation	16	32.0	32.0	46.0		
	Post-graduation	21	42.0	42.0	88.0		
	Above Post graduation	6	12.0	12.0	100.0		
2.	<b>Occupation</b>						
	Service	11	22.0	22.0	22.0	2.32	.978
	Business	19	38.0	38.0	60.0		
	Agriculture	13	26.0	26.0	86.0		
	Labour	7	14.0	14.0	100.0		
3.	<b>Income</b>						
	Below 10,000	23	46.0	46.0	46.0	1.60	.606
	10,000-50,000	24	48.0	48.0	94.0		
	Above 50,000	3	6.0	6.0	100.0		

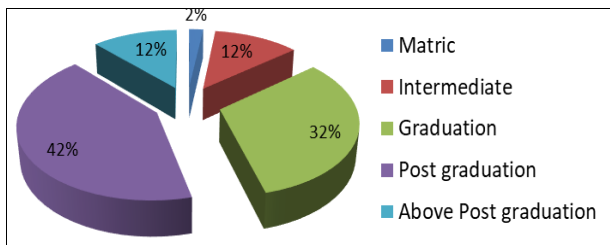


Fig 3: Distribution of Education of Respondents

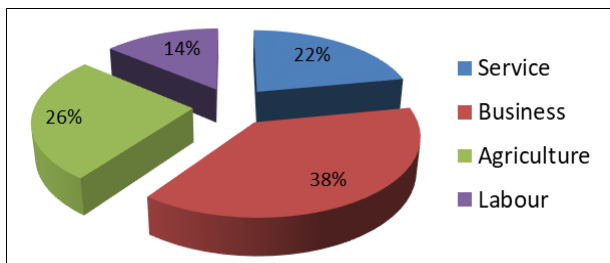


Fig 4: Distribution of Occupation of Respondents Parents

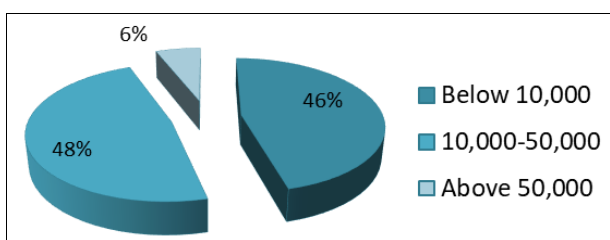


Fig 5: Distribution of Income of Respondents Parents

Table 3: Agreement level of Respondents towards changing priorities regarding choice of life partner

Sr. No.	Agreement level	Scores	Number of respondents
1	Agree	51-62	35(70)
2	Neutral	39-50	13(26)
3	Disagree	27-38	02(4)

Figures in parenthesis indicates percentage

Table-3 unveiled the agreement level of respondents. The table portrayed that majority of respondents (70%) agreed that priorities are changing regarding choice of life partner in present era while 26% respondents were having neutral level.

Only 4% of the respondents disagree with the concerned point. The result indicates that most of the respondents agree with the statements related to choice of life partner.

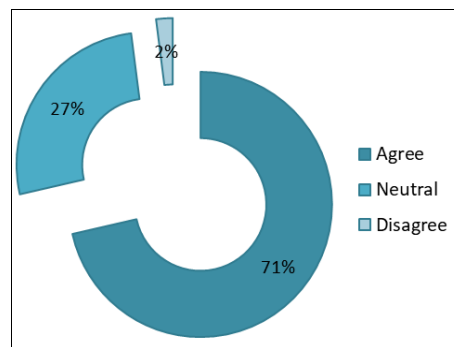


Fig 6: Agreement Level towards Choice of Life Partner

Table 4: Association between Age of respondents and Level of Agreement

S.No.	Variables	Level of Agreement			Total
		Agree	Neutral	Disagree	
1	17-19	9	2	1	12
2	20-22	15	7	0	22
3	23-25	9	4	1	14
4	26-28	2	0	0	2
	Total	35	13	2	50
		$\chi^2 = .745$ DF - 6			

The perusal of table-4 displayed the association between age of respondents and level of agreement towards choice of life partner. The scores depicts that majority of respondents (15) of age group 20-22 were agree as they think that priorities were changing for choosing partner in present era. While seven respondents of same age group shows neutral attitude as they were in dilemma. Minimum respondents (2) of 26-28 years age group were also showed their agreement. No association was seen between age and choice of life partner. ( $\chi^2 = .745$ ). Overall results revealed that according to most of the respondents of any age group thinks that priorities were changing regarding choice of life partner.

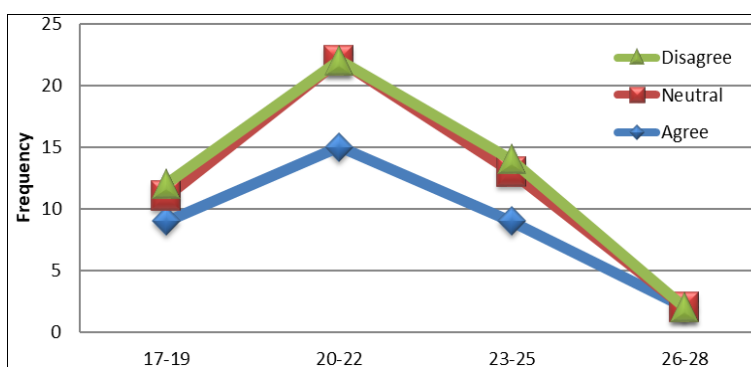


Fig 7: Level of agreement as per age

Table 5: Association between Sex of Respondents and Level of Agreement

S. No.	Variable	Level of Agreement			Total
		Agree	Neutral	Disagree	
1	Male	21	4	0	25
2	Female	14	9	2	25
	Total	35	13	2	50
		$\chi^2 = .070$ DF 2			

Table-5 revealed that majority of male (21) and female (14) respondents shows their agreement as they believe that priorities are changing for choosing life partner. No association was seen between sex and choice of life partner ( $\chi^2 = .070$ ). The results portrayed that sex difference does not affect the priorities for partner selection.

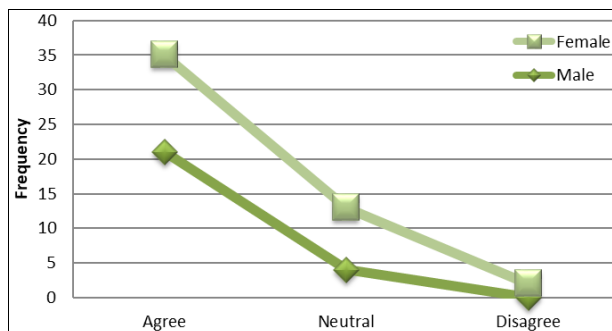


Fig 8: Level of agreement as per sex

Table 6: Association between Education of Respondents and Level of Agreement

S. No.	Variable	Level of agreement			Total
		Agree	Neutral	Disagree	
1	Matric	1	0	0	1
2	Intermediate	4	2	0	6
3	Graduation	11	4	1	16
4	Post-graduation	13	7	1	21
5	Above Post graduation	6	0	0	6
	Total	35	13	2	50

$\chi^2 = .834$  DF 8

Data in table-6 portrayed that most of the post graduate (13) and graduate (11) respondents give their consent for the changing priorities regarding choice for life partner. Some of them showed their preference for neutral. It means they somewhat agree and disagree on the statements. Very few respondents disagree on the statements. No association was seen between education choice of life partner ( $\chi^2 = .834$ )

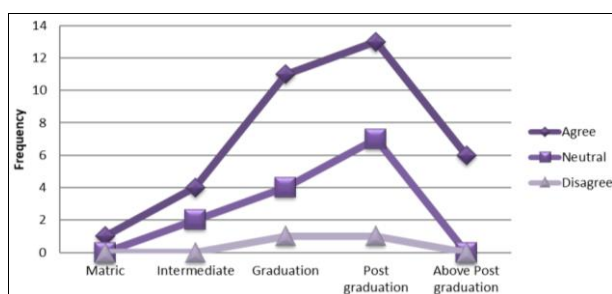


Fig 9: Level of agreement as per education

Table 7: Association between Occupation of Respondents and Level of Agreement

S. No.	Variable	Level of Agreement			Total
		Agree	Neutral	Disagree	
1	Service	9	2	0	11
2	Business	10	9	0	19
3	Agriculture	11	1	1	13
4	Labour	5	1	1	7
	Total	35	13	2	50

$\chi^2 = .103$  DF 6

Most of the respondents who had Agriculture (11), Service (09) and Labour (05) occupation were in favour of the statements that priorities for life partner selection were

changing in present scenario. Almost equal respondents of Business occupation falls in the category of agree and neutral. No association was seen between occupation choices of life partner. ( $\chi^2 = .103$ )

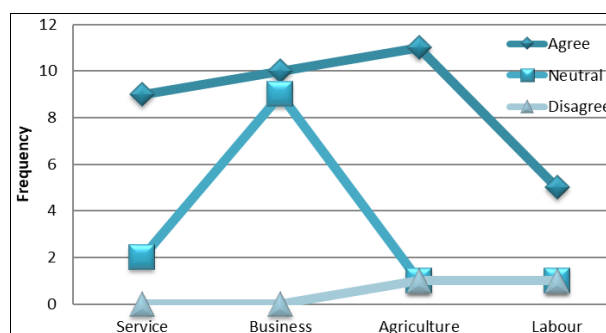


Fig 10: Level of Agreement as per Occupation

Table 8: Association between Income of Respondents and Level of Agreement

Sr. No.	Variable	Level of Agreement			Total
		Agree	Neutral	Disagree	
1	Below 10,000	17	4	2	23
2	10,000-50,000	17	7	0	24
3	Above 50,000	1	2	0	3
	Total	35	13	2	50

$\chi^2 = .228$  DF 4

Table-8 reported that equal respondents of income classes below 10,000/- and 10,000/- - 50,000/- (17) had given their approval for the agree level. As majority of respondents were in these two categories, it means they think that as the changes priorities were also changing in selection of life partner. No association was seen between income choices of life partner. ( $\chi^2 = .228$ )

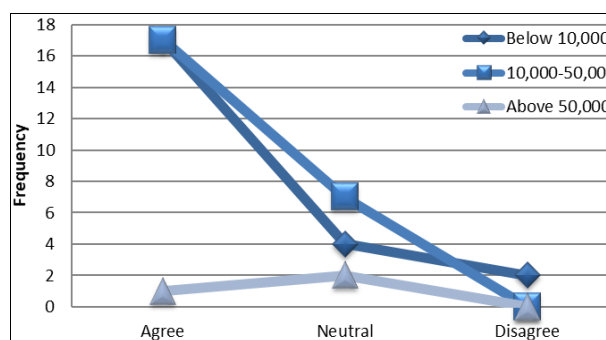


Fig 11: Level of Agreement as per Income

**Conclusion**

Conclusion drawn from the study is that most of respondents were in favour of the statements that priorities are changing regarding choice of life partner in present era. Only few of the respondents disagree with the statements. No association was found with independent variables (age, education, occupation and income).

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