Role of Education in Mate Selection Choice among College Students in Urban and Rural Areas: A Sociological Study

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Abstract:- This study has been attempt to provide some insight to probe the role of education in mate selection among college students both urban and rural areas in Bagalkot district, Karnataka. The study was a descriptive survey. Data for the study was collected through a pre-tested questionnaire from 2624 sampled. undergraduates studying in the final year from various institutions. They consisted of 1801 male students and 1543 female students as they were attained marriage age. Results reveal that respondents consider education as the most important factor in their mate selection choice.

Keyboards:- Marriage, Male Selection, Education, Occupation.

I. INTRODUCTION

Male selection is a very individual and particular process that would involve an assessment of so many things in the consideration someone for being a partner to be chosen as through marriage. This is a score of factors that are kept in view while they are made to pay their role in an opted permutation combination. It is like mathematics a lot of calculations get involved in the mate selection process. From general observation, we find that there is some change in the process of mate selection. Mate selection involves so many expectations in individuals. In recognition of these expectations, this type of study is necessary to know and understand the social, residential, occupational and educational background and other aspects of individuals involving in this process worldwide various filters are used in this process. Such as age physical characteristics, educational background, parental influence, religion, socio-economic status, occupation, social factors, and ethnic origins, etc, (Bee,1994:Maliki; 2009; Alavi; et al; 2014).

O's Neil (2006) explained that education is an important factor in marriage partner choice in many societies. Bus and Schmitt (1993) established that in marriage partner choice survey's females consistently express a preference for marriage partners. Who are of high educational background and the same educational qualification as themselves. Also, kolmijin (2001) revealed that college graduates prefer to marry college graduates like themselves. However, female graduates also like to marry men that are educationally advanced than them. Corroborating kalmijin (2001), Torr (2005) in his study of

under graduate's mate choice indicated that they prefer college graduates with good earning capacity. Maliki (2009), found that graduates preferred to marry someone with a good educational background like themselves. Acitelli, Kenny, and weiner (2001) studies reveal, marrying partners with lower educational background could cause changes, and similar educational background results in similar attitudes, values and believes among spouses. Similarly, Gage and Hancock (2002) indicated that undergraduates prefer a partner of similar educational qualifications and background. A study conducted by Todosijievic, Ljubinkovic, and Aranic (2003) revealed that respondents prefer potential partners, that are educated and those with interesting professions. Kochler (2005), predicated that female undergraduate may have a stronger preference for partners, who are college graduates to non – college graduates while male undergraduates indicated that it is not too important that their partner should be college graduates. The occupational background is another important criterion in mate selection Hussein, 2001; kalmijin, 2001 studies revealed that occupational preference also exists among students while explaining their desired spouses and quality applicable for both sexes. Buss and Schmitt, (1993) posited that in mate choice surveys female consistently express and preference for partners who have a high-status profession. Female place a high value on male who possesses a promising career orientation, industriousness and ambition Betzig, (1989) found that females are significantly more likely to discontinue the relationship with males who becomes unemployed, lack career motivation or show laziness. Town send & Levy (1990) looked at the effects of occupation status as embodied by clothing and attractiveness on female willingness to engage in romantic relationships. Male targets were pre –rated for physical attraction. Kendoll (2015) study reveals, When deciding on a potential marriage partner, people have several factors put into consideration, such as completing each other, attraction to one another and occupational preference.

So, partner selection is important in establishing the foundation of the family. Hence, identifying certain mate selection criteria among college students becomes important. To identify the mate selection preferences criteria among college students in both rural and urban area, in Bagalkot district, Karnataka, using simple random sampling about, 2624college students of whom 1081 boys and were 1543 girls, studying in the last year of their first degree like B.A, B.Sc, B.Com, B.B.A, B.S.A, B.S.W, B.Ed,

BE, MBBS, BDS, BAMS, B.Sc (Nursing) B.Sc (Hart) LLB, and Ayurvedic studies in Bagalkot district. Responses were gathered to a series of items by administering through a questionnaire. The simple percentage is used to analyze the data collected.

This study is mainly objected towards exploring the expectations and desires of college students, both rural and urban areas., about their ideal mate, who could be and the effects of their various background characteristics on choice of mate selection among the respondents.

II. RESULT

As said above there were 2624 college students covered under the study. The frequency and percentile distribution of the respondents' gender details show that a majority of them are female (58.80%) while male constituted about 41.20%. These days large number of girls of opt for higher education. This as given rise to terminization of higher education in Karnataka. The study are of Bagalkot has a total number of 12,675 enrolled college students studying in the final year degree classes during the academic year 2017-18 (about 20.70% of the total college students). The procured details given are presented below.

Place of Residence	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
Rural	621 (57.45)	1036 (67.14)	**1657 (63.15%)**
Urban	460 (42.55)	507 (32.16)	**967 (36.85%)**
Total	**1081 (100%)**	**1543 (100%)**	**2624 (100%)**

Table 1:- Frequency of respondents by Gender and place of residence.

The above table shows distribution of gender wise place of residence among graduating sampled respondents from all the college in Bagalkot district. More number of female respondents with 58.80% and male respondents with 41.20% where as 63.15% from rural and 36.85% of respondents were recorded of having revealed it on urban in the present study.

Education as determining factor	Place of Residence		Gender of Respondents		Total
	Rural	Urban	Male	Female	
Yes, it is	935(56.43)	461(47.67)	541(50.05)	855(55.41)	1396(53.20)
No, not at all	416(25.11)	282(29.16)	250(23.13)	448(29.03)	698(26.60)
Not necessarily	105(6.34)	39(4.03)	102(9.44)	42(2.72)	144(5.49)
Cannot Say	201(12.13)	185(19.13)	188(17.39)	198(12.83)	386(14.71)
Total	1657(100.00)	967(100.00)	1081(100.00)	1543(100.00)	2624(100.00)

Table 2:- Frequency of respondent by their consideration of education determining mate selection by place of Residence and Gender

From the above table show that in mate selection to day education will determine the process largely about 63.15%, since more number of rural and urban respondents have agreed that education will definitely determine the process, while a smaller about 36.85%, number of them have said that education need not see the case of mate selection.

Factor for selecting mate for marriage	Place of Residence		Total
	Rural	Urban	
Education	516(31.14)	205(21.20)	721(27.48)
Occupation	218(13.16)	71(7.34)	289(11.01)
Economic Condition	38(2.29)	28(2.90)	66(2.52)
Caste	227(13.70)	65(6.72)	292(11.13)
Religion	131(7.91)	49(5.07)	180(6.86)
Personality	133(8.03)	67(6.93)	200(7.62)
Horoscope	12(0.72)	9(0.93)	21(0.80)
Family Background	331(19.98)	453(46.85)	784(29.88)
Fair Complexion	12(0.72)	13(1.34)	25(0.95)
Any Other	39(2.35)	7(0.72)	46(1.75)
	1657(100.00)	967(100.00)	2624(100.00)

Table 3:- Frequency of respondents perception of consideration of a factor being important for mate selection in the view of family.

The above table reveals the factors, which influence most among their partner selection. In rural area by education by 31.14% while it is family background in urban area about 46.85%. The large number of individuals in rural communities support caste/community in the village, while marriage ties link the caste across villages. Marriage in India is endogamous and patrilocal. Most women leave their native village when they get married to a boy from some other village.

Respondent preference for qualification of mate	Place of Residence		Gender of Respondents		Total
	Rural	Urban	Male	Female	
Less qualified then what I am	172(10.38)	85(8.79)	197(18.22)	60(3.89)	257(9.79)
More qualified then what I am	671(40.49)	362(37.44)	192(17.76)	841(54.50)	1033(39.37)
Equally qualified	432(26.07)	247(25.54)	417(38.58)	262(16.98)	679(25.88)
Professionally qualified	128(7.72)	107(11.07)	64(5.92)	171(11.08)	235(8.96)
Does not matter	241(14.54)	137(14.17)	180(16.65)	198(12.83)	378(14.41)
Total	1657(100.00)	967(100.00)	1081(100.00)	1543(100.00)	2624(100.00)

Table 4:- Frequency of respondents by their preferences of qualification of partner to be chosen, by rural-urban and gender background.

The above table shows the qualification preference of the respondents. Both in rural and urban and female respondents prefer their partners should be more qualified. Among females respondents prefer equally qualified partner in more numbers.

Expectation of trait in mate preference to be	Place of Residence		Gender of Respondents		Total
	Rural	Urban	Male	Female	
Family Status	780(47.07)	488(50.47)	496(45.88)	772(50.03)	1268(48.32)
Higher Education	505(30.48)	261(26.99)	232(21.46)	534(34.61)	766(29.19)
Common Interest	115(6.94)	30(3.10)	72(6.66)	73(4.73)	145(5.53)
Wealthy	25(1.51)	0(0.00)	2(0.19)	23(1.49)	25(0.95)
Economic Independence	43(2.60)	45(4.65)	51(4.72)	37(2.40)	88(3.35)
Good Nature	187(11.29)	145(14.99)	231(21.37)	101(6.55)	332(12.65)
Total	1657(100.00)	967(100.00)	1081(100.00)	1543(100.00)	2624(100.00)

Table 5:- Frequency of respondents expectation of traits in a mate to be preferred by rural-urban and gender background.

The above table shows the expected traits or qualities in their partner to be. Out of 2624 individuals In all the categories most of the respondents have opinioned that family status and higher education would be the expectation of traits being pursued while selecting the life partners.

III. CONCLUSION

Education has played a vital role in changing the world wide pattern of marriage. However analyzed data supports that education have great influence in marital preference.

Health factors, age, body shape, social factors, educational factors, cultural factors like religion and clothing, psychological factors, physical and beauty, genetic factors, occupation, and so on are usually the focuses for mate selection. The concept of each criterion is not universal. Educational background is another important criterion in mate selection. Based on Maliki (2009), more number of graduates preferred to marry with someone having good educational background like himself or herself. Marrying partners with lower educational background could cause challenges. Similar educational background results in similar attitudes, values and believes among spouses. In rural-urban and male-female categories of studied respondents, education was given priority while selecting the mate while as per family was considered it was less preferred. Males prefers for less educated females while females prefers for more education.

The desired fruits chosen by male and female respondents in male selection criteria were the product of successive communicating between themselves and with their environment which maintains the balance in the social system.

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