

Impact of Marital Status on Desire for Social Freedom and Life Satisfaction among Women

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ABSTRACT

The main aim of the present research was to examine the impact of marital status on desire for social freedom and life satisfaction among women of Jind district. It was hypothesized that there is significant mean difference between married & un-married women on desire for social freedom and life satisfaction. The sample of the study comprised of 100 urban women (50 working and 50 non-working) of Jind District in Haryana. To collect the required data, "Women Social Freedom Scale developed by Bhusan, (1987)" which consists of 24 items and "life satisfaction scale developed by Dr. Promila Singh and George Joseph (2005)" which consists of 35 statements were administered on all participants. The obtained data was analyzed with the help of Percentages, Mean, SD and 't' test. Result showed that most women of the total sample had average level of social freedom and high level of life satisfaction. It was also found that Un-married women had more social freedom than women.

Keywords: *Social Freedom, Life Satisfaction, Married Women, Unmarried Women*

Every sort of society in the world has marriage as an institution. Depending on the legal system, religious philosophy, and culture, it may be seen as a social custom, a religious rite, or a formal contract. Marriage has long been seen as one of the most significant social occasions in the male-dominated, traditional Indian society. Desire to be free of social taboos, rituals, and roles that place them in a lower social standing is referred to as "social freedom." For millennia, women have been viewed as weak, obedient, shy, and timid companions of men, and they have held a lesser social status. In recent years, however, women's quest for social independence has manifested itself in protest and revolt against conventional, social norms and taboos that confine them to lower positions and places and make them subservient to males. "Women social freedom," according to Kant (1788), is the presence of both negative and positive freedom to conduct oneself freely in society without disrupting or sustaining social order.

Life satisfaction refers to how people express their emotions, feelings (moods), and how they feel about their alternatives for general happiness, tension-free living, and interest in the lives of future people. Subjective well-being is mostly determined by life satisfaction. Low contentment indicates some sort of underlying flaw. One example is the evaluation of single

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people's life satisfaction. Single people are less happy with life than married people in all modern countries, and the divorced and widowed usually have the lowest levels of happiness. The gap in life satisfaction between those who are single and those who have a relationship is actually larger than the gap between rich and poor people. This is frequently referred to as 'deprivation.' Singles, it appears, are missing something important in life. The issue is that discontent with life implies that something is wrong, but it doesn't say what it is. Unmarried people's discontent could be owing to negative labeling, but it could also be due to isolation and a lack of social support. It will also be able to expose some relationship between marriage and life satisfaction. This study includes both married and unmarried women in order to see how marriage affects their satisfaction of life and social freedom.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Hasnain, Ansari & Shetty, (2011) studied "Life Satisfaction and Self Esteem in Married and Unmarried Working Women". The sample consisted of 80 women from which 40 were working and 40 non working. Working women were found to have greater life satisfaction and lower self esteem than non working women. However, non-significant difference was found between married and unmarried women on both life satisfaction and self-esteem.

Botha & Booysen, (2013) studied the relationship between marital status and life satisfaction among South African adults. They found that married people are happier than widowed people, and married people are happier than people in other marital statuses. Married people are more satisfied than those in other marital status categories in both the overall and female populations. Guys in alternative marital statuses are not considerably more contented than married men. Women's life contentment is linked to marriage, whereas men's life satisfaction is not.

Singh, (2013) investigated "Women's Social Freedom Challenges in India: A Case Study of Women in Mathura and Agra City." The researcher compared the social independence of working and non-working married and unmarried women in this study. In the study, it was discovered that there is no substantial difference in social freedom between working and nonworking unmarried women, working unmarried and married women, and nonworking unmarried and married women. However, the study discovered that there is a considerable difference in social independence between working and non-working married women.

Jan, (2014) The aim of the study was to evaluate the desire of social freedom in women. The effect of age, locality, Marital status, education and socio-economic status on desire of social freedom was assessed in women. Bushan's scale of women's desire of social freedom (1987) was used to collect relevant data. The sample of 360 women was taken from Kashmir. The study concluded that age, locality, Marital status, education qualification, family status and socio-economic status of women have a huge impact on the desire of social freedom. Study also found the desire to freedom of sex and marriage, freedom for customs, economic freedom and social equality.

Greenstein (2016) studied the association of gender, marital status and life satisfaction in 81 nations. This study considered the sample of 103,217 respondents. He found that Gender appears to have no main effects on life satisfaction – that is, women are no more or less satisfied with their lives than men – but gender does moderate the effects of geographical region, age, employment status, education, religious affiliation, and religious service attendance on life satisfaction. The impacts of married status on life satisfaction varied significantly by gender.

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Shadab & Roy, (2021) examined how marital and employment status influenced Muslim women's desire for social freedom and life satisfaction in Ranchi. On the desire for social freedom and life satisfaction. The survey included 40 Muslim women from Ranchi Town. All participants were given the "Women Social Freedom Scale established by Bhusan, (1987)," which has 24 items, and the "Life Satisfaction Scale produced by Alam and Srivastava, (1996). Percentages, Mean, SD, and a 't' test were used to examine the collected data. The majority of Muslim women in the study reported an average level of social freedom and life satisfaction, according to the findings. Unmarried Muslim women also had more social freedom than married Muslim women.

Objectives

- To study the level of social freedom among women.
- To study the level of life satisfaction among women.
- To find out mean difference between married and unmarried women on social freedom.
- To find out mean difference between married and un-married women on life satisfaction.

Hypothesis

- There is significant mean difference between married and un-married women on social freedom
- There is significant mean difference between married and unmarried women on life satisfaction

METHODOLOGY

Participants

For this study a sample of 100 women from the age range of 25 to 50 years drawn from Jind district by using purposive sampling technique. Participants were selected from different areas like schools, Govt. offices, banks and from residential areas. There were two groups based on Marital Status (Married & Un-Married). Each group consisted 50 cases equally to make 100 cases.

Materials

Two tools are selected for the study of intending to assess the life satisfaction and social freedom:

1. Life satisfaction scale (LSS-SJ)
2. Women social freedom scale (WSFS-BL)

1. Life satisfaction scale

Life satisfaction scale is a measure of satisfaction of life developed by Dr. Promila Singh & George Joseph (2005). This scale consists of 35 statements based on the five dimensions of life satisfaction:

1. Taking pleasure in everyday activities
2. Considering life meaningful
3. Holding a positive self image
4. Having a happy and optimistic outlook
5. Feeling success in achieving goals

This scale measures the "current" life satisfaction. The items are written in English and Hindi both. All the 35 items are positively worded. The life satisfaction scale is Likert type

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scale having Five Alternatives for answering each item, viz., Strongly Agree, Agree, Undecided, Disagree and Strongly Disagree.

2. Women Social Freedom scale

WSFS-.2 is a measure of women’s desire to be free from social taboos, conventions, rituals and roles which provide them with lower status in society. This scale was developed by Dr. L. I. Bhusan in 2005. This scale is based on the following five dimensions of social freedom:

1. Freedom from Control or inference of Parents and husband.
2. Freedom from Social taboos, Customs and rituals which impose conventional roles and restrictions on girls/women.
3. Freedom concerning sex and marriage.
4. Economic freedom and social equality.

The final form of the ‘Women Social Freedom Scale’ has 24 items out of which 16 items are positive and 8 items are negative.

Procedure

After constitute the sample, social freedom scale and Life satisfaction scale were administered on the selected sample. All the participants were contacted personally and rapport was established. They were given a briefing about the aim of present investigation. Instructions were given according to the used questionnaire. They were assured that their information would be kept confidential and used only for research purpose, so they are requested to be open and honest in their responding. After that scales were administered and data were collected. Later on, the responses of the subjects on each test were scored as per scoring procedure describe in the particular test and their scores on social freedom scale and Life satisfaction scale were obtained. These scores were further statistically analyzed under different techniques.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table 01: Level of Social Freedom and Life Satisfaction among Women of Jind District.

Levels	Social freedom		Life satisfaction	
	N	%	N	%
High	05	5%	63	63%
Average	68	68%	29	29%
Low	27	27%	08	8%
Total	100	100%	100	100%

Above table showed that, most women of the total sample had average level of social freedom (68 out of 100) and high life satisfaction (63 out of 100).

Table 02: Level of Social Freedom and Life Satisfaction among Married and Un-Married Women.

Levels	Social freedom				Life satisfaction			
	Married		Unmarried		Married		Unmarried	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
High	00	0%	05	10%	39	78%	24	48%
Average	24	48%	44	88%	11	22%	08	16%
Low	26	52%	01	2%	00	0%	18	36%
Total	50	100%	50	100%	50	100%	50	100%

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Above table shows that most of the married (26 out of 50 or 52%) women has low level of social freedom and unmarried women (44 out of 50 or 88%) have average level of social freedom. Both married (39 out of 50 or 78%) and unmarried (24 out of 50 or 48%) women have high level of life satisfaction.

Table 03: Mean differences between married and Un-Married Women of Jind District on Social Freedom.

Marital status	N	Mean	SD	Mean Difference	df	t	p
Married	50	26.06	4.35	7.06	98	7.65	p<0.05
Unmarried	50	33.12	4.86				

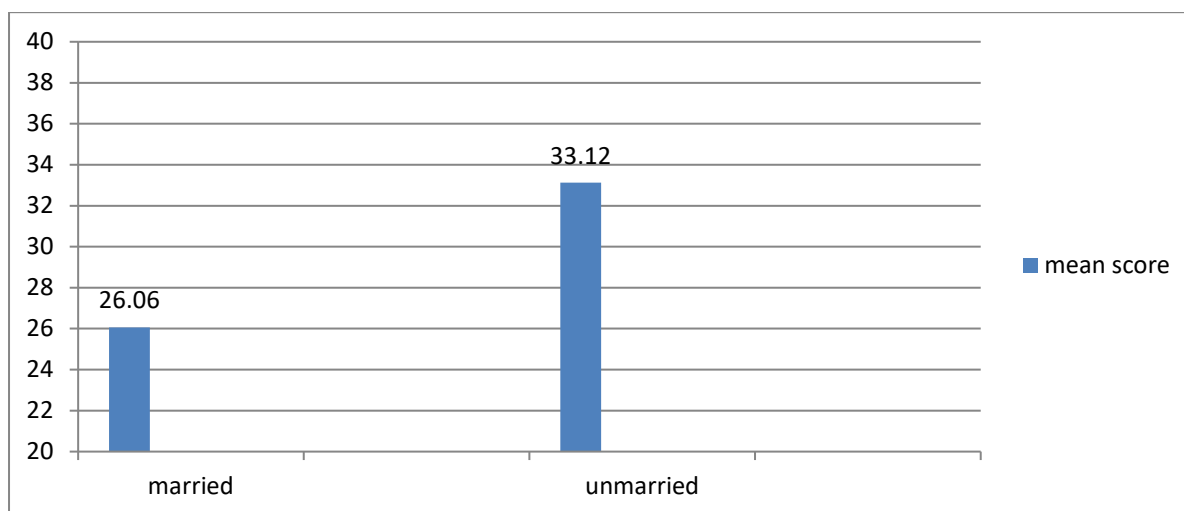


Figure 01: Mean differences between Married and Un-Married Women of Jind District on Social Freedom.

Table & figure 01 showed that, mean and SD scores of married women on social freedom were 26.06 and 4.35 respectively whereas mean and SD scores of un-married women on social freedom were 33.86 and 4.86 respectively. The mean difference was 7.06. The t-value of each comparable group was 7.65 which were found significant at 0.05 levels. It means both comparable groups differ significantly on social freedom. Therefore, we can say that unmarried women had more social freedom than married women. Hence our first hypothesis that there is significant mean difference between married and unmarried women on social freedom is accepted.

Table 04: Mean differences between married and Un-Married Women of Jind District on Life Satisfaction.

Marital status	N	Mean	SD	Mean Difference	df	t	p
Married	50	151.93	15.10	13.13	98	3.79	p>0.05
Unmarried	50	138.80	19.17				

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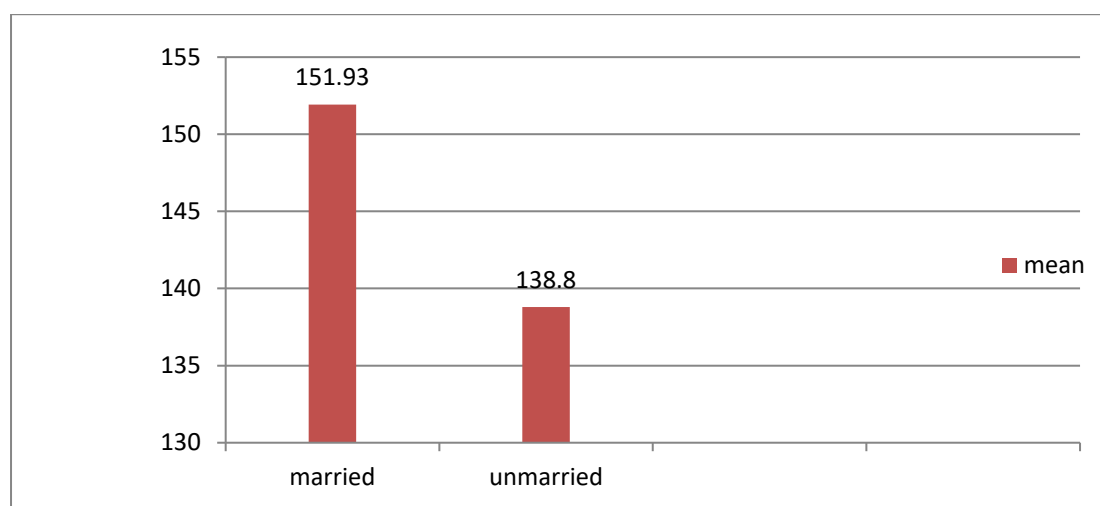


Figure 02: Mean differences between married and Un-Married Women of Jind District on Life Satisfaction.

Above table 04 and figure 02 showed that, mean and SD scores of married women on life satisfaction were 151.93 and 15.10 respectively whereas mean and SD scores of un-married women on life satisfaction were 138.80 and 19.17 respectively. The mean difference between each group was 13.13. The t-value of each comparable group was 3.79 which were found significant at 0.05 levels. It means both comparable groups differ significantly on life satisfaction. Therefore, we can say that married women had more life satisfaction than unmarried women. Hence our third hypothesis that there is significant means difference between married and unmarried women on life satisfaction is accepted.

CONCLUSION

1. Unmarried women had more desire for social freedom than married women.
2. Married women had more life satisfaction than unmarried women

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Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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