

## Relationship between General Attitude towards Marriage and Aspects of Marriage in Young Adults

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### ABSTRACT

Marriage is a very important culture in India. Indian Parents mostly consider it their duty to get their children to get married. Marriage in various societies and cultures reflects many of the fundamental social functions that marriage provides, such as sexual satisfaction and regulation, the division of labour between men and women, economic production and consumption, and the fulfilment of personal needs. It is due to personal functions such as affection, status, and companionship. In the previous generations, most Indian young adults considered marriage as their ultimate goal and they wanted to get legally married. But in the current generation, young adults; opinions may differ towards marriage. The objective of the study is to find the relationship between general attitudes towards marriage and aspects of marriage in young adults. The sample included 138 participants from the age group of 18 to 30 years old. The samples are from the rural and urban areas of India. The study used the Intent to Marry Scale (Park & Rosén, 2013), the General Attitude towards Marriage Scale (Park & Rosén, 2013), and the Aspects of Marriage Scale (Park & Rosén, 2013) to assess the participants. Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient was used to analyse the results of the study. The results show that there is a significant relationship between the general attitude towards marriage and aspects of marriage in young adults. The relationship between general attitude towards marriage and aspects of marriage is positively correlated.

**Keywords:** *General Attitude towards Marriage, Aspects of Marriage, Young Adults*

Marriage refers to a contractual relationship that receives, protects, and is publicly enacted special rights, but can also be said to be very private. Marriage is the oldest social association, forming the foundation upon which our civilization is built, but it is a social structure in a state of constant evolution. Originally, love had nothing to do with marriage; it was a financially based political and economic association. Marriage is one of the popular rituals in many cultures; it is attributed to functions like sexual gratification and social functions such as the division of labour between the sexes (Bajaj & Vithal, 2021). With divorce becoming the norm today, it is expected that today's middle-aged people tend to distrust marriage as an institution (Shefali & Navya Shree, 2016).

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In India, marriage is a very important social institution and is seen as a lifelong partnership. It is the foundation on which a family is built. Many people get married. They usually have some sort of preconceived idea of what kind of person they want to marry. The study assessed college students' perceptions of the right age for marriage, desirable characteristics of ideal life partners, and preferences for different types of marriage (Bandhani, Dutt & Campus, 2019). Demographic changes in socioeconomic status, increasing levels of education, social and religious attitudes and communal living are also making a difference in the number and quality of marriages. Changes in sexual orientation parts moreover contributed to this move. Marriage is moving absent from the picture of breadwinner and housewife to a more even-handed division of work (Kahn, 2007).

The intent is a conscious decision before acting. Marriage intentions, as likely, express a person's expectations or plans to marry in the future. In experiments, the intent is often equated with the goal defined by the task. Marriage intentions may be thought to represent a person's expectations and plans to get married in the future (APA Dictionary of Psychology).

Researchers argue that the high percentage of young adults intending to marry may be related to the high status commonly attributed to married people in our culture (Day et al., 2011). Research shows that among young people intending to get married, African-American, Asian-American and Native-American young people expect to marry later than white friends (Plotnick, 2007). The intent for marriage is steadily increasing. Research shows that men and women have different intentions and expectations of marriage.

Marital Attitudes and Expectations Form Cognitive Schemas of Experiential Relationships. Females have better attitudes towards marriage than males (Bajaj & Vithal, 2021). Most of the current generation's youth have a positive attitude towards marriage (Bhavana & Roopa, 2015). Compared to previous generations, the younger generation has a different attitude toward choosing a marriage partner and is open to heterosexual friendship before marriage and has marital values. Attitudes towards marriage in life play a very important role in determining life satisfaction. in middle age. Work, socializing, marriage and family are factors that contribute to life satisfaction (Shefali & Navya Shree, 2016).

An aspect or feature is a particular quality or way of thinking about something. In terms of marriage, aspects refer to the qualities or expectations they have towards their partners and marriage. Expectations are very essential in building relationships and can be used as a guide for dealing with interactions with your partner even if you don't have a relationship history exists. Expectations help inform individuals and assess information between individuals to define further interactions. Marital expectations have a huge impact on building intimate relationships and physical and emotional health. The essential purpose and characteristics of marriage are widely debated today.

### ***Need for the study***

This study centres on young adults' distinctive conclusions towards aim to wed, common states of mind toward marriage, and perspectives of marriage. This research centres on the relationship between the viewpoints of marriage and common states of mind towards marriage in young grown-ups. This study will give a better understanding of young adults' intent towards marriage based on their area of residence.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Fallahchai et al. (2021) conducted a mixed-method study to analyse the intent, attitudes, purposes, and expectations of Iran people toward marriage. The study includes 858 participants from the age of 18 to 42 years. A semi-structured interview was also conducted based on their purposes and intent toward marriage. The study resulted in showing that the Iran people have the intention to get married. The older participants, females and less educated, have a high intent to marry but exhibit negative attitudes and expectations toward marriage. People who focus more on their studies and careers have less intention to marry.

Bajaj, S., & Vithal, V. S. (2021) conducted a ponder to evaluate the demeanours of male and female grown-ups toward marriage. The test estimate was 200 grown-ups, of which 100 were females and 100 were guys. The ponder concluded that there's a significant contrast within the state of mind of male and female grown-ups towards marriage. The mean scores appear that females have distant better; a much better; a higher; a stronger; an improved; a distant better demeanour toward marriage compared to guys since female grown-ups have higher cruel scores than male grown-ups.

Fatma, T. (2015) conducted a study to assess the attitude of adolescents toward marriage and family life. The study was based on 60 boys and 60 girls aged 12 to 18. The study also focuses on the differences in attitudes of adolescents because of sex differences. The first preference of adolescent boys toward marriage is the necessity of children for old age safety. The first preference of adolescent girls toward marriage is the pleasure of having children. Adolescent boys consider marriage and children to continue their generation, while teenage girls consider marriage for marital satisfaction. The study concluded that many adolescents have a positive attitude toward marriage.

Awate, J., & Bhopale, S. (2018) conducted a study on the attitude of boys from rural and urban areas toward marriage and their expectations from a life partner. The study was conducted on 30 rural boys and 30 urban boys from the educational institute of Baramati. The data was collected using the Life Partner Scale by Dr Sadhana Natu and Dr A. J. Wadkar (2005) and Marriage Attitude Scale by Pramod Kumar (1986). The study indicates that there is a significant difference in expectations of partners in the form of traditional and egalitarian expectations, and there is no significant difference in rural and urban boys' attitudes toward marriage.

## METHODOLOGY

### *Aim*

To study the relationship between the general attitude towards marriage and aspects of marriage in young adults.

### *Research Questions*

What is the relationship between the general attitude toward marriage and aspects of marriage in young adults?

### *Hypothesis*

There is a significant relationship between general attitude towards marriage and aspects of marriage in young adults.

**Sample selected**

The sample selected for the study included 138 participants out of which 69 participants are from rural areas and 69 participants are from urban areas. The participant's ages ranged from 18 to 30 years. 78 participants are from the age group of 18 to 22 years old, 45 participants are from the age group of 22 to 26 years old, and 15 participants are from the age group of 26 to 30 years old. The sampling method used in this study is Snowball Sampling.

**Tools used**

The following tools were used for the present study. The tools were selected based on their relevance to the set aim of the study.

1. Intent to Marry Scale (Park & Rosen, 2013)
2. General Attitudes Towards Marriage Scale (Park & Rosen, 2013)
3. Aspect of Marriage Scale (Park & Rosen, 2013)

**Data analysis**

IBM SPSS version 29.0.1.0 was used to Analyse and calculate the data. Descriptive Statistics- Means of both the criterion group was computed and presented through a line graph. Inferential Statistics- Spearman's Rank Correlation was used to analyse the data.

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

**Descriptive Analysis:**

*Table 1: Represents the mean and standard deviation of the participants from rural and urban residential area in terms of their intention towards marriage.*

Area of Residence	N	Mean	Standard Deviation
Rural	69	11.66	4.79
<b>Urban</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>12.23</b>	<b>4.76</b>

*Table 2: Descriptive Statistics of General attitude towards marriage and aspects of marriage results of the participants*

	N	Mean	Standard Deviation
General attitude towards marriage	138	34.3	11.71
<b>Aspects of marriage</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>105.15</b>	<b>28.69</b>

*Table 3: Subscales of general attitude towards marriage scale results*

Subscales of General Attitude Toward Marriage Scale	N	Mean	Standard Deviation
Positive Attitude	138	13.86	6.8
Negative Attitude	138	11.36	3.9
Fear or Doubts	138	9.07	5.03

*Table 4: Subscales of aspects of marriage*

Subscales of Aspects of Marriage Scale	N	Mean	Standard Deviation
Romance	138	13.02	4.35
Respect	138	24.89	7.8
Trust	138	24.33	6.31
Finance	138	12.41	3.86
Meaning	138	18.91	6.26
Physical Intimacy	138	12.55	4.35

**Differential Analysis:**

**Table 5: Inferential Statistics of General attitude towards marriage and aspects of marriage results of the participants**

			<b>Attitude</b>	<b>Aspect</b>
Spearman’s rho	Attitude	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.178*
		Sig. (2-tailed)		.037
		N	138	138
	Aspect	Correlation Coefficient	.178*	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.037	
		N	138	138

According to the Table 1 of the descriptive statistics mean and standard deviation (SD), there was no significant difference between rural and urban young adults regarding their intent to marry. The findings of the research shows that the mean of the intent to marry in rural population is 11.66 and the standard deviation of the intent to marry in rural population is 4.79; the mean of the intent to marry in urban population is 12.23 and the standard deviation of the intent to marry in urban population is 4.76. The result shows that there is no significant difference between the rural and urban young adults regarding their intent to marry.

The Table 4 includes the subscales of the general attitude toward marriage scale. The subscales include the positive attitude, the negative attitude, and fear or doubts. The mean of the positive attitude subscale is 13.86 and the standard deviation is 6.8, the mean of the negative attitude subscale is 11.36 and the standard deviation is 3.97, the mean of the fear or doubts subscale is 9.07 and the standard deviation is 5.03. The mean scores of the all the three subscales shows that the mean of the positive attitude is higher than the other two subscales. It shows that the young adult seems to have a positive attitude towards marriage in comparison with the other two subscales that is the negative attitude and fear or doubts subscales.

**Hypothesis:** There is a significant relationship between general attitude towards marriage and aspects of marriage in young adults.

According to the Table 3 of Spearman’s Rank Correlation Coefficient the hypothesis was supported as there was a significant relationship between general attitudes toward marriage and aspects of marriage in young adults. The findings of the research shows that the Spearman’s Rank Correlation Coefficient revealed that there is a significant relationship between the general attitude towards marriage and the aspects of marriage in young adults with the result of  $\rho = .178^*$ ,  $p = .037$ , and  $N = 138$ , which indicates that there is a positive correlation. The result demonstrates that there is a significant relationship between the general attitude towards marriage and the aspects of marriage in young adults, so the alternative hypothesis (H1) is accepted.

The Table 5 includes the subscales of the aspects of marriage scale. The subscales include romance, respect, trust, finance, meaning, and physical intimacy. The mean of the romance subscale is 13.02 and the standard deviation is 4.35, the mean of the respect subscale is 24.89 and the standard deviation is 7.8, the mean of the trust subscale is 24.33 and the standard deviation 6.31, the mean of the finance subscale is 12.41 and the standard deviation is 3.86, the mean of the meaning subscale is 18.19 and the standard deviation is the 6.26, the mean of the physical intimacy subscale is 12.55 and the standard deviation is 4.35. The

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mean scores of all the six subscales shows that the mean of respect subscale and trust subscale is higher than the other subscales that is the romance, finance, meaning and physical intimacy subscale. The aspect of marriage subscales focuses on the purposes and expectation towards marriage. The result shows that the young adults consider respect and trust as the most important factors of marriage, which is included in terms of their purposes and expectations of marriage towards themselves, towards their future life partner, and towards the marriage.

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

This study “Relationship between the general attitude towards marriage and aspects of marriage in young adults” aimed to observe the relationship between the young adult’s general attitude towards marriage and the aspects of marriage. This study also observed the differences between the young adult’s intent to marry based on their area of residence. This study included one hundred and thirty-eight young adult participants from the different areas of India, the participants are Indians and they fall under the age group of 18 to 30 years old. The study observed that there is a significant relationship between the young adult’s general attitude towards marriage and aspects of marriage. The study also observed that there is no significant difference between the young adult’s intention towards marriage based on their area of residence that is rural and urban residential areas. The study was conducted using online forms which may be a concern as the participant’s responses may not be genuine, but as the study was conducted using online forms many participants from different regions of India were able to participate in the study.

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### ***Conflict of Interest***

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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