

## Family Ideology and Marital Adjustment: Comparing between Iranian and Indian Families

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### ABSTRACT

Every family has a particular ideology regarding the way the family should function; follow the values and beliefs and systems. A particular family follows and transmits them to their off springs. Marital Adjustment is the compatibility between the couple. Compatibility is when both the husband and wife have proper understanding of each other and both agree on the ground rules and relationship that are established by the family. Most importantly it is the wife who is expected to abide by the rules and involved in inculcating the good habits in to children of the family. However the aim of the present study is to see the difference in the family ideology of Iranian and Indian families and also to see how the couples adjust in their marriage.

Fifty couples (25 Iranian couples and 25 Indian couples) formed the sample of this study. These couples were given the family Ideology scale and marital adjustment inventory and the results have revealed that there is a slight relationship between family ideology and marital adjustment. It was also found that the Indian families had more autocratic attitude compared to the Iranian families. However, the result of marital adjustment showed that there is no difference among Indian and Iranian families in their marital adjustment.

**Keywords:** *Ideology, Adjustment, Marital, Iran, India, Family*

Ideology attempts to explain and justify a particular view of some aspect of perceived reality and present it as the only legitimate understanding of that reality. What you should remember is that Ideology is principally a set of beliefs about what ought to be the case - they are standards we are taught to try and achieve. "Ideology" is a loaded word. It can mean many different things, and it almost always carries some invective. Too often, that invective is accompanied by a lack of precision about just which of the many possible meanings is being used. Using the word "ideology" effectively and honestly requires some care.

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### *Family Ideology*

The family is the oldest and the most important of all the institution that man has devised to regulate and integrate his behavior as he strives to satisfy his basic needs. The family is basically a unit in which parents and children live together. Its key position rests on its multiple functions in relation to overall development of its members, their protection, and over all well-being. Therefore, it would emerge that not only the social and physical well-being of the individual is taken care of by the family, but the psychological well-being as well. The family is the first to affect the individual. It is the family which gives the child his first experience of living. It gets him when he is completely unformed, unprotected, before any other agency has had a chance to affect him. The influence of the family of the child is, therefore, immense. The influence of the other agencies, although indispensable, must build upon the ground work furnished by the family. However, to understand the influence of the family on the child, it is important to understand the family and its functions. Family has been defined in the Oxford Dictionary as: 1. the body of persons who live in one house or under one head, including parents, children, servants, etc. 2. The group consisting of parents and their children, whether living together or not; 3. A person's children read together collectively; and 4. those descended, or claiming descent from a common ancestry.

### *Marital Adjustment*

Marital adjustment has long been a popular topic in studies of the family, probably because the concept is believed to be closely related to the stability of a given marriage. Well-adjusted marriages are expected to last for a long time, while poorly adjusted ones end in divorce. Simple as it seems, the notion of marital adjustment is difficult to conceptualize and difficult to measure through empirical research. After more than half a century of conceptualization about and research on marital adjustment, the best that can be said may be that there is disagreement among scholars about the concept, the term, and its value. In fact, several scientists have proposed abandoning entirely the concept of marital adjustment and its etymological relatives. The term marital adjustment refers to the adjustment which every individual comes across after his marriage. There are several problems which people come across in their marital life like adjustment to mate, sexual adjustment, emotional adjustment, In-law adjustments etc. Some of these are as mentioned in detail below.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### *Objectives*

1. To see the relationship between family ideology and marital adjustment.
2. To evaluate the family ideology of the Iranian families and Indian families.
3. To study the level of adjustment among Iranian couples and Indian couples.

### *Hypotheses*

1. There will be a positive relationship between family Ideology and Marital Adjustment.
2. There will be difference in the family ideology of Iranian and Indian families.
3. There will not be any difference in the marital adjustment of Iranian and Indian couples.

**Sample**

The sample is a purposive sample .Twenty five Iranian couple and twenty five Indian couple between the ages of 25 to 35 years has been taken to form the sample of this study.

**Tools**

1. Traditional family ideology scale (TFIS) by Prof Dr. B.C . Muthayya (1976).
2. Marital adjustment inventory (MAI) by Dr. Propenc.

**1. Scoring For Traditional Family Ideology Scale**

The scale contains 40 items to be answered on a five point scale i.e. from strongly disagree to strongly agree. . Strongly disagree will get a score of 1, moderately disagree will get a score of 2, neutral will get 3, moderately agree will get 4 and strongly agree will get a score of 5. The split-half of reliability was used on a sample of 50 undergraduate students. The split-half reliability for the TFI scale, corrected by Spearman-Brown formula was .0912. The value obtained was high and hence the may be taken as quite reliable.

**2. Marital Adjustment (MAI)**

This inventory has 10 items for husbands and 10 items for wives. These items have to be answered in either yes or no. There are a range of options i.e. for the response yes, the ratings vary between +10 to +1 and for the response no, the ratings vary between -1 to -10. Suppose on an item a person finds that he/she is agreeing to the item, then he/she should mark any number between +10 to +1. Similary if the person feels he/she does not agree with the item then he/she should mark any number between -1 to -10.

**Reliability**

The coefficient of reliability for general population are as follows using spearman’s Brown formula, i.e. .94

**Statistical analysis**

The obtained data was subjected to statistical analysis. The correlation between TFI and MA was computed and ratios were calculated to find the difference in family ideology of Iranian families and Indian families and also to find the difference in Marital Adjustment between the Iranian couples and Indian couples.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Table 1;** Means, SDs and t ratio of the Iranian families and Indian families on family ideology

	Mean	SD	t ratio
Iranian families	92.44	25.034	3.89
Indian families	116.76	18.38	

Significant at 0.01 levels.

Observing the table 1 it is seen that the mean on family ideology of Iranian family is 92.44 and the SD is 25.24. The mean of the Iranian family is 116.76 and the SD is 18.38. The ‘t’ ratio between the two nations is 3.89 which is highly significant. The result indicates that

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there is a difference in the family ideology of both the nations confirming hypothesis 2. A unique finding of the study is that the Indian families are more autocratic in their family ideology in comparison to the Iranian families. The finding suggests that to a high degree Indian family have more autocratic attitude. Thus from this study it is seen that the Indian families are highly strict about their life's, behaviors and traditions.

Surprising, we assume that Iranian families are more closed in their functioning but from the study it is found that they are more tolerant and open and have a free outlook. These families have provided more freedom to member of the family and there member are at liberty to dress and behave as they choose within certain boundaries.

**Table 2: Mean, SD and t ratio of the Iranian families and Indian families on marital adjustment**

	Mean	SD	t ratio
Iranian families	74.22	16.97	1.16
Indian families	75.66	14.60	

*Not significant*

The table shows that the Mean on marital adjustment of Iranian families is 74.22 and SD is 16.97, the mean of the Indian families is 75.66 and SD is 14.66 of marital adjustment. The t ratio is 1.16 which is found to be not significant thus the result indicates that there is no difference in the marital adjustment of the couples of both the nations. The couples of both the nations seen of adjust quite well in their marriages rejecting the hypothesis 3.

## CONCLUSION

Study on family ideology and marital adjustment has been conducted and result have revealed that there is a slight relationship between family ideology and marital adjustment of Iranian couple and Indian couple, it was found that the Indian family had more autocratic attitude compared to the Iranian families . However, the result of marital adjustment showed that there is no difference among Iranian and Indian families.

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