

Influence of Gender and Locale on Marriage Adjustment

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ABSTRACT

The present study was an attempt to study the influence of gender and locale on Marital Adjustment. The sample of two hundred and two (males =101 and females =101) assigned by purposive sampling technique for the present study. Dowry Attitude Scale devised by R. R. Sharma was used for collecting the data. The data was analyzed by Mean, SD and Two Way ANOVA. The results revealed that, Locale plays major role in developing marriage adjustment; urban residential peoples are significantly superior to rural residential peoples in marriage adjustment. But no such significance difference found between male and female regarding marital adjustment for the present study and also interaction effect was found not significant.

Keywords: Gender, Locale, Marital Adjustment

Family is the core part of Indian society. A family has more importance than any other thing in Indian cultural. Peoples are giving importance to family not only in ancient days but also in modern days.

According to Robert Lowie, “The family is the social unit based on marriage. It includes the parents and their children”.

Marriage is the basic part for the development of family. Marriage is very ancient social system. Marriage is an unavoidable part of world. We even can't imagine about society without marriage. The purpose of marriage is not only to accept the sexual life of man and woman but also to aware them their responsibilities. Marriage teaches the couple how to behave with each other, with their in-laws, their children and also with society. This means marriage is a social system.

Definitions of Marriage:

“Marriage is an institution for admitting men and women to family life” - E.S.Bogardus.

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“Marriage denotes those unequivocally sanctioned unions which persist beyond sexual satisfaction and thus come to underline family life” - Robert Lowies.

Marriage is one of the important relationships between man and woman. There is an emotional and legal commitment which is quite important. There are many reasons for marriage like, happiness, love, the desire of children, companionship, physical attraction etc. Marriage adjustment seems complex than it may appear. Basically, in marriage, two persons adjust to each other's sensory, motor, emotional and intellectual capacities. On the personality level they must adjust together to their total environment, including such matters as a new household, children, provision and preparation of food, relatives, friends, relations and work (Fonseca, 1966). The success of marriage life much depends upon the success in marriage adjustment by the husband and wife. Marriage maladjustment results in conflict and tensions and many a time divorce. Several studies have studied marriage adjustment in rural and urban areas woman. Fatima H (2014) found that the urban women have significantly superior to rural women in poor marital adjustment.

Definition of Marriage Adjustment

Thomas (1977) defines that marriage adjustment is, “the state in which there is an overall feeling in husband and wife of happiness, satisfaction with their marriage and with each other”.

“Shortly after ‘tying the knot’ the new couple will enter into marital adjustment where they will establish their place within the relationship found their feet in the new life”.

According to Locke and Wallace (1959) Marital adjustment is “accommodation of husband and wife to each other at given time.”

Psychologist defined a list of six areas of marital adjustment, such as, Religion, Social life, Mutual friends, In-laws, Money and Sex. Another psychologist defines ten areas of marriage adjustment, they are, Values, Couple growth, Communication, Conflict resolution, Affection, Roles, Co-operation, Sex, Money and Parenthood.

There are many factors define a healthy marriage adjustment such as wife employment, trust, quality of life, communication, belongingness, economic condition and personality etc.

Blumstein and Schwartz (1938) found that individuals, particularly wives, reported increased levels of self-esteem, self-concept, and self-worth were positively correlated with employment. Working women had better marital adjustment and subjective well-being (Nathawat and Mathur 1993). Rogers & May (2003) viewed that working class women are generally more satisfied with their lives and marriage than non working women.

Bradbury & Fincham (1990) studied that women feel more depressed and stressed after marriage and these two factors affect their married life too and non working married women

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are better adjusted than working married women. Trust is one of the most important aspects of the loving relationship (Regan, Kocan and Whitlock, 1998). International studies also found that trust plays an important role in the success of long term marriages (Roizblatt et al. 1999; Sharlin 1996).

Communication is necessary for human growth and development also it serves as the essential foundation for marital success and it the facilitating process for enduring marriages that is satisfying (Robinson and Blanton, 1993). According to Murphy and Mendelson, 2004, the relationship between marital communication and adjustment is a strong one. Men tending to be more dominant in their interactions and woman being more submissive (Tannen, 1990). Economic condition is also linked to marriage adjustment. Sometimes Economic condition is the reason behind marital conflict. There is negative effect on marriage satisfaction because of Economic stress. There are many researchers conducted on economic factor in relationship marriage adjustment. Voyandoff (1990) studied economic distress and family relations. Kinnunes and Feldt (2004) concluded that husband's unemployment is strongly associated with their marriage adjustment.

Women high in agreeableness and openness were more adjusted and Husband's openness was positively related to their wives marriage adjustment Bouchard, Sabourin and Lusier, Y (1999). Kim, Martin and Martin (1989) and Levine and Henessy (1990) found that personality factor differentiated stable from unstable marriages.

METHODOLOGY

Sample

A sample of 101 male and 101 female from Satara, Baramati and nearby villages (102 rural; 100 urban) was assigned by purposive sampling technique for the present study.

Design for study:

2 x 2 factorial design was adopted for the present study.

Statistical Treatment of the data:

Descriptive statistics used for assessing the Mean and Standard Deviation and inferential statistics (Two Way ANOVA) were used for analyze the obtained data. However, before conducting the actual analysis, data was screened for outliers and skewness. The obtained data of Marital Adjustment was found to be positively skewed so log₁₀ transformation was done to adjust skewness.

Objectives of the study:

Following main objectives were framed for the present study:

1. To measure the level of marriage adjustment among males and females.
2. To measure the level of marriage adjustment among subjects living in rural and urban area.
3. To compare the level of marriage adjustment between males and females.

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4. To compare the level of marriage adjustment between the subjects living in rural and urban area.
5. To compare the level of marriage adjustment between females coming from rural area and males coming from urban area.

Hypotheses

To serve the objective of the study, following several hypotheses are framed and these were tested. Assuming that other variables are kept constant

1. Females are significantly greater than males in marital adjustment.
2. Subjects living in rural area are significantly superior to subjects coming from urban area in marriage adjustment.
3. Females living in rural area are significantly superior to males coming from urban area in marriage adjustment.

Instruments

1. **Marriage Adjustment Inventory:** MAI is a measure of Marriage Adjustment developed by C.G.Deshpande its reliability by split half method is .83 and validity is .49. The MAI consisted of 25 items. Respondents were asked to answer each item by indicating the extent of their agreement on a 5 point Likert scale (strongly agreed to strongly disagreed).

Variables under study:

1. Independent Variables:

- A) Area of living
- B) Gender

2. Dependent Variables:

- A) Marriage Adjustment

Procedure

After selecting subjects the tests were distributed to them. Before filling the tests rapport was established with them and assure them that the identification and responses given by them was kept confidential and this information would not be disinter anywhere, so they can gave their responses comfortably and honestly. After that the importance and purpose of the study was explained to them. The instructions were given them according to manual. After that the tests was given to them. After response booklets and answer sheets was collected from them.

RESULTS

Table No.1 Descriptive statistics of two classified groups of Gender on Marriage Adjustment

Gender	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Female	44.38	8.490	101
Male	44.16	7.121	101

Table No.1 shows the Mean and Standard Deviation scores of female and male on Marriage Adjustment. As per the result obtained in the table, it observes that the Mean and SD score of

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female for Marriage Adjustment are 44.38 and 8.490 respectively. The Mean and SD score of male for Marriage Adjustment are 44.16 and 7.121 respectively. Females obtained highest Mean score (44.38) of Marriage Adjustment and Males obtained lowest Mean score (44.16) of Marriage Adjustment.

Table No.2 Descriptive statistics of two classified groups of Locale on Marriage Adjustment

Locale	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Rural	41.91	6.715	102
Urban	46.67	8.155	100

Table No.2 shows that the Mean score and SD score of two classified groups of Locale on Marriage Adjustment. Results revealed that the Mean and SD score of subjects living in rural area are 41.91 and 6.715 respectively, and the Mean and SD score of subjects living in urban area are 46.67 and 8.155 respectively. Subjects living in urban area obtained highest score of Mean (46.67) and subjects living in rural area obtained lowest score of Mean value (8.155).

Table No.3 Descriptive statistics of four classified groups on Marriage Adjustment

Groups	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Female Rural (A1B1)	41.49	6.807	51
Female Urban (A1B2)	47.32	9.072	50
Male Rural (A2B1)	42.33	6.662	51
Male Urban (A2B2)	46.02	7.156	50

The results in table No.3 shows that the Mean score and SD score of four classified groups on Marriage Adjustment. As displayed in the table the distribution of scores in each of classified groups was more or less normal and the Mean score obtained by the four groups very largely. Some of the groups obtained large Mean score while others are associated with small Mean score. Highest Mean score of Marriage Adjustment obtained by the group A1B2 (M = 47.32, SD = 9.072). Lowest Mean score of Marriage Adjustment obtained by the group A1B1 (M = 41.49, SD = 6.807). There was some groups which obtained scores close to the highest mean for example A2B2 (M = 46.02, SD = 7.156) for Marriage Adjustment. And also the group which obtained the scores close to lowest Mean score for example A2B1 (M = 42.33, SD = 6.662).

Table No.4 Descriptive statistics of Gender and Locale for Marriage Adjustment

Individual	Gender		Locale	
	Female	Male	Rural	Urban
Mean	44.38	44.16	41.91	46.67
SD	8.490	7.121	6.715	8.155

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The values in Table No.4 shows that the Descriptive statistics of Gender and Locale for Marriage Adjustment. As per the result obtained in the table, it observe that the Mean and SD score of Female for Marriage Adjustment are 44.38 and 8.490 and the Mean and SD score of Male for Marriage Adjustment are 44.16 and 7.121 respectively. This table also shows that subjects living in rural area obtained 41.91 and 6.715 Mean and SD score and subjects living in urban area obtained 46.67 and 8.155 Mean and SD score respectively for Marriage Adjustment.

Even from the face values of Mean and Standard Deviation sometimes it is possible to assert that groups, as well as the cluster of the groups are likely to differ significantly each other. However, it is not appropriate to draw a conclusion only on the basic of descriptive statistics hence; the Independent variables were analyzed by inferential statistics. i.e, Two Way analysis of variance (ANOVA).

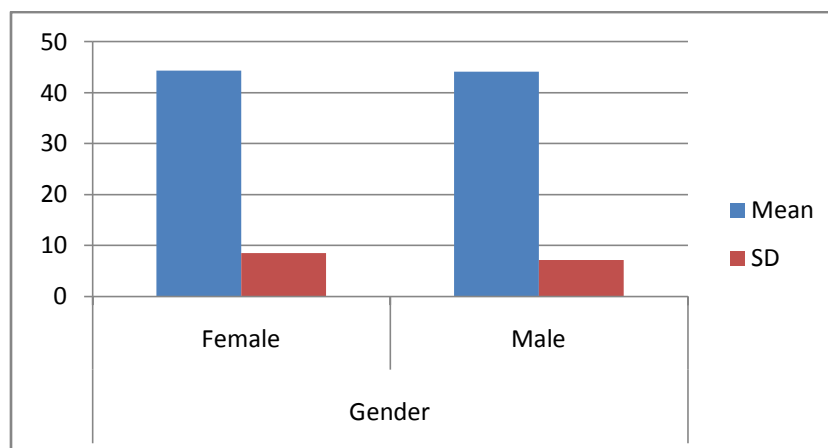
To find out the effect of Gender and Locale on Marriage Adjustment the data was analyzed by Two Way ANOVA. Obtained findings are shown in the following tables.

Table No.5 The Summary of ANOVA for Marriage Adjustment

Source of variance	Ss	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
A	2.635	1	2.635	.047	.828
B	1143.248	1	1143.248	20.434	.000
A * B	57.981	1	57.981	1.036	.310
Within	11077.938	198	55.949		

Table No.5 displays the summary of ANOVA for Marriage Adjustment. At a glance summary of ANOVA shows that, main effect 'A' represents the factor of Gender, varied at two levels, female and male of the four groups. First two groups are that of female subjects and the next two groups are that of male subjects. From the Table No.4 one finds that the female subjects ($M = 44.38$, $SD = 8.490$) and the male subjects ($M = 44.16$, $SD = 7.121$) have the less difference (0.22) in their Mean scores and definitely it has occurred by chance only. Scores revealed that the main effect for Gender was found not significant $F(1,198) = .047$, $p = .828$. This main effect is presented graphically in figure 1

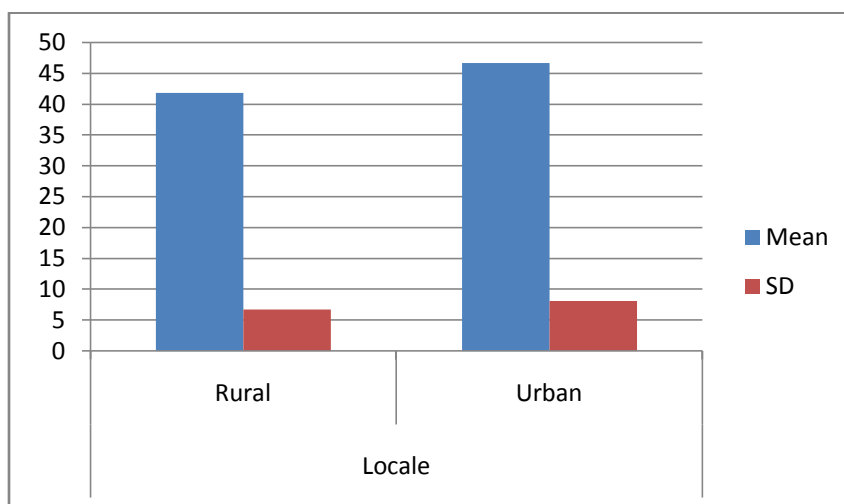
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Here the Mean score of Marriage Adjustment plotted against the two levels of 'A'. The highest of bar for Mean scores of two groups (A1A2) also indicates the less difference between Mean scores. It clearly shows that the main effect of 'A' is not significant.

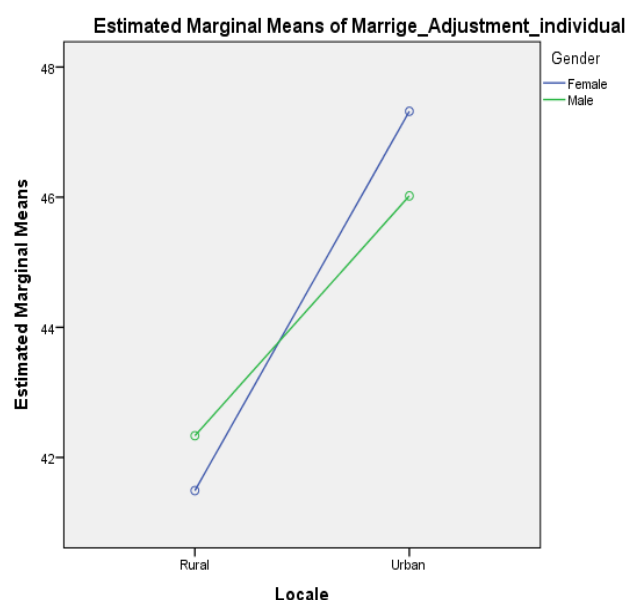
Considering this statistical values it could be asserted that female subjects do not differ significantly from the male subjects in the level of Marriage Adjustment. In the other words gender do not affect on the development of level of Marriage Adjustment. Thus alternative hypothesis, Females are significantly greater than males in Marriage Adjustment was rejected.

Second independent variable was Locale. It was also varied at two levels (Urban, Rural). The expectation was when other factors come constant; the subjects living in rural area might have significantly superior more in marriage adjustment than the subjects living in urban area. But obtained value shows that subjects living in urban area are significantly superior to subjects living in rural area. The main effect of Locale yeiled an 'F' ratio of $F(1,198) = 20.434, p = .000$. Table No.2 indicates that the Mean change score was significantly greater for subjects living in urban area ($M = 46.67, SD = 8.155$) than for subjects living in urban area. This main effect is graphically presented figure 2



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Here the Mean score of Marriage Adjustment is plotted against the 'B' score. The height of bar is indicated the large difference between mean score. It clearly shows that the main effect was significant. Seems the main effect B is highly significant. It could be easily inferred that locale plays key role in the developing of the level of Marriage Adjustment. That means subjects living in rural area are significantly differ that subjects living in urban area in Marriage Adjustment. Thus the alternative hypotheses, subjects living rural area are significantly superior to subjects coming from urban area in marriage adjustment was rejected. The interaction effect of A* B has no significant difference on marriage adjustment $F(1,198) = 1.036, p = .310$. It denotes that Gender and Locale functioned independently it could be also observed from graphical presentation. Interaction A* B shown in figure 3



Here Mean score of Marriage Adjustment of urban and rural subjects are plotted again two level of gender. The slightly crossed lines clearly showed that interaction was not significant. It means main effect A* B functioned independently. Thus the alternative hypothesis Females living in rural area are significantly superior to males coming from urban area in marriage adjustment was rejected.

DISCUSSION

The fourth hypothesis, females are significantly greater than males in marriage adjustment was rejected. Males are more mentally healthy and adjust than females. A balance if psychic forces in the males shows sound mental health and adjustment. Ability to understand and to share other people's emotions, the ability to concentrate at work and interest in several activities in middles aged males results in good adjustment with spouse and with the family members. They always have an inner feeling to spend quality time with their spouse, take care of and satisfy sexual needs of the partner. They have concern and feel responsible for needs of family members and for smooth functioning of the family. They are able to make equal role distribution among the family members. They try to maintain balance between family and society. During middle age the males have less family responsibilities and would

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also desire to spend some time for social work or welfare activities. It leads to their overall life satisfaction and marriage adjustment (Nema S., 2013).

The fifth hypothesis, subjects living in rural area are significantly superior to subjects coming from urban area in marital adjustment. In the other words locale not affect on the development of level of Marriage Adjustment. Thus this alternative hypothesis was rejected. The subjects in rural area are living in joint families whereas subjects coming from urban area are living in nuclear families. Generally men living in rural area are fulfill the needs of family by money and women in rural area are doing the household work that's why they are depending on men but both men and women living in urban area are doing job. Working women and men have to face more difficulties in their lives because of working in two situations i.e. at home as well as in office therefore it is not difficult for them to concentrate both on office and home. Subject living in rural areas of course not able to devote that much time with their partners as subjects living in urban areas devote. That is why there are differences in marriage adjustment of subjects living in rural and urban area. Researcher concluded that they cannot give proper attention to their marital lives and this cause marriage maladjustment.

The sixth hypothesis, females living in rural area are significantly superior to males coming from urban area in marriage adjustment, was rejected. It means that females living in rural area have less marriage adjustment than males living in urban area. Fatima H (2014), was conducted a study to assess and compare the marital adjustment of women in urban and rural areas of Lucknow. The result indicates that urban subjects have good marital adjustment and rural women have poor marital adjustment and this statistically significant as well as meaningful. This difference occurred because the rural women are strive for run their marital life successfully but in this then harmony, understanding and interest matching are gone from their lives.

Males coming from urban area have good marriage adjustment because of the reason that males living in urban areas are normally better educated than females living in rural area. The level of education plays a significant part in the ways an individual adjust to their environment. They may be more conscious about the well-being and adjustment of their family. Moreover, doing jobs also provide them a kind of financial security that is very important to survive in the present scenario.

CONCLUSIONS

1. There is no significant difference found between females and males marriage adjustment.
2. Locale plays major role in developing marriage adjustment; urban residential peoples are significantly superior to rural residential peoples in marriage adjustment.
3. There is no significant difference between females living in rural area and males coming from urban area in marriage adjustment.

LIMITATION

1. The geographical area of study was restricted for Baramati and Satara area.
2. There are many variables which predict dowry attitude and marriage adjustment but in present study following variables gender and locale were taken into account only.
3. Only 202 taken for the present study.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. There are wide range of variables which can predict dowry attitude and marriage adjustment such as education, socio-economic status etc., taken into account such variables further research can be conducted.

Large set of sample from various cities may be taken.

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