



## **The Opinions and Attitudes of the Younger Generation Regarding Marriage, Especially Women's Prospective**

**Namrata L. Detroja**

M.A & M. Ed (sociology),

Research Scholar, Surendranagar University, Wadhwan, Gujarat

### **ABSTRACT**

This research study delves into the evolving attitudes of young adults in India toward the institution of marriage. It recognizes the dynamic nature of societal norms and their impact on the perceptions and expectations surrounding matrimony. The introduction sets the stage by discussing the cultural importance of marriage, its historical evolution, and the influence of modernization on traditional norms. It underscores key shifts in the concept of marriage, including a move from a duty-based view to one that increasingly emphasizes the importance of personal choice and compatibility. The research objectives are explicitly defined, aiming to explore these changing attitudes and uncover the demographic factors that contribute to this transformation. The hypothesis posits a significant shift in how young adults perceive marriage, closely linked to changing family structures and evolving values. The study's target population encompasses young adults aged 21 to 35 in Saurashtra region of Gujarat, India. A purposive sampling technique was employed to select a sample of 50 individuals, both in committed and non-committed relationships, ensuring a diverse representation from different regions. The data collection method involved the use of a structured questionnaire adapted from previous research from literature, with a focus on maintaining participant anonymity and confidentiality. This research contributes to our understanding of how the institution of marriage is evolving in the context of modern India. It sheds light on the changing dynamics



of relationships and family structures, as well as the influence of individual choice and compatibility in the decision to marry. The findings provide valuable insights into the shifting attitudes of young adults and the broader societal impact of these changing perspectives on marriage.

**Key Words:** Evolving attitudes, Societal norms, Marriage, Young adults, Demographic factors

## 1. Introduction

Marriage has traditionally been considered a crucial step in forming a family, as it provides a formal structure for the union of two individuals. It has often been seen as a societal norm for creating what is perceived as a complete and 'normal' family. In this traditional view, families that deviate from this norm, such as those formed without a formal marriage, single-parent families, or families without children, may sometimes face societal expectations and judgments (Leete, 1994; Retherford et al., 2001, Choudhary.A. A, 2015). However, it's essential to recognize that societal perspectives on family structures have evolved over time. Many factors, including changes in cultural values, legal recognition of various family forms, and shifts in gender roles, have led to a more inclusive understanding of what constitutes a family. The idea that a family can take on different forms and still provide love, support, and a nurturing environment is becoming increasingly accepted. In contemporary society, diverse family structures are acknowledged and respected, and the emphasis is often on the quality of relationships and the well-being of family members rather than adherence to traditional norms. (MeenakshiChaubey, 2023). This shift reflects a more inclusive and understanding approach to the complexities of modern family life. As pointed out by Landis in 1954, family and marriage are not mere choices but are fundamental for fulfilling some of our most basic and important physical and emotional needs as human beings.(Bahuguna.A.,2015, Bhavana.N.&Roopa.K.S., 2015).

The primary objective of this research was to delve into the attitudes and perspectives held by young adults in India with respect to the institution of marriage. It aimed to understand how individuals in this demographic view marriage as a life choice, a cultural tradition, or a social commitment. By examining their attitudes, the research sought to uncover insights into their



beliefs, expectations, and motivations concerning marriage. The study may have explored various aspects of marriage, including its role in personal fulfilment, family dynamics, cultural significance, and societal expectations. It likely involved data collection methods such as surveys, interviews, or questionnaires to gather the thoughts and experiences of young adults in Saurashtra region of Gujarat.

## 2. Methodology

The research employs an exploratory research design, which means it aims to gather information and gain insights that align with the study's objectives. In this case, the research focuses on understanding the attitudes of young adults in Saurashtra (Gujarat) toward marriage.

To achieve this, the researchers have selected a structured questionnaire for data collection. This questionnaire, originally developed by Shivali, Chilagubbi, and Devenrappa in 2012 and titled "Exploring the Attitude of Young Adults toward Marriage in India," serves as a valuable tool for gathering relevant information and opinions from the study participants. The study starts by identifying a "target population." This refers to the entire group of interest, which in this case, includes all young adults of marriageable age in India, regardless of gender. It's the broadest group that the research aims to learn about. However, due to practical limitations, it's often not possible to survey everyone within the target population (Lt Col Indira and Navita Abrol, 2021, Christensen.E.J., 2014)

The study uses purposive sampling, which means that the researchers deliberately select participants based on specific criteria. In this case, they are targeting young adults from different parts of Saurashtra who both in are committed relationships and not in committed relationships. The selected participants are those who are willing to take part in the study and are available during the research period. This approach allows the researchers to gather data from a diverse group of young adults with varying relationship statuses and geographic locations, which can provide a richer and more comprehensive understanding of attitudes toward marriage in Saurashtra (Gujarat).



### 3. Results & Discussion

The research collected data using a structured questionnaire, involving a total of 50 participants. These participants consisted of males and females, all falling within the age range of 21 to 32 years. Among the respondents, 36% were not in committed relationships, while the remaining 60% were in married. Regarding family structure, the majority, which constituted 36.4%, belonged to nuclear families, while 63.6% came from joint family setups.

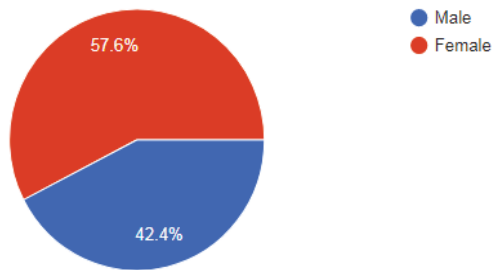


Fig.1 Gender Composition of the Research

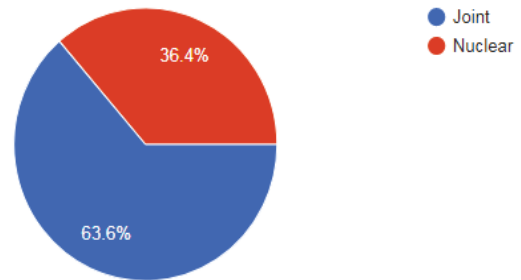


Fig.2 Family Structure of the Participants

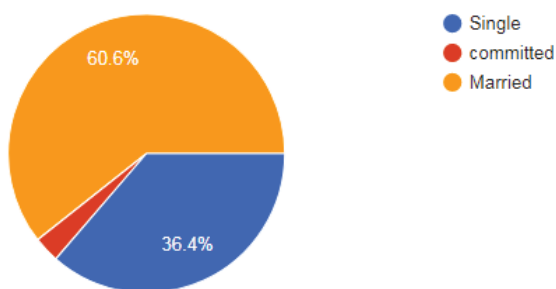


Fig. 3 Relationship status of the Participants

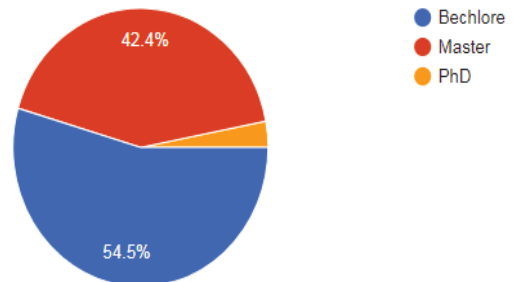


Fig.4 Educational level of the Participants

The people who took part in the study had different educational backgrounds. About 42.4% of them had completed postgraduate degrees, which means they had advanced education, while 54.5% had finished their undergraduate degrees, which is the first level of higher education.

For the study, a questionnaire was used. This questionnaire was not entirely new; it was based on one created by Shivalli, Chitagubbi, and Devendrappa in 2012. However, the researchers made some changes to it so that it would be a better fit for this specific study. These changes were made to make sure that the questionnaire could effectively collect information about what young adults in India think about marriage.

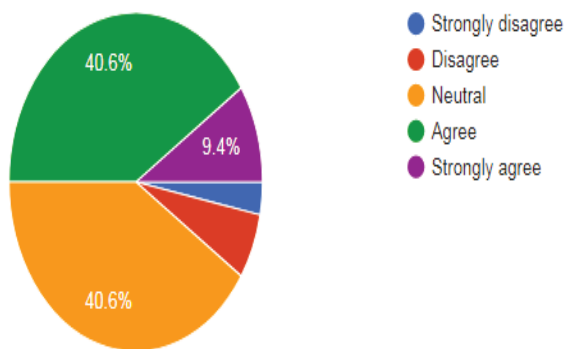


Fig.5 Marriage should be decided by elders

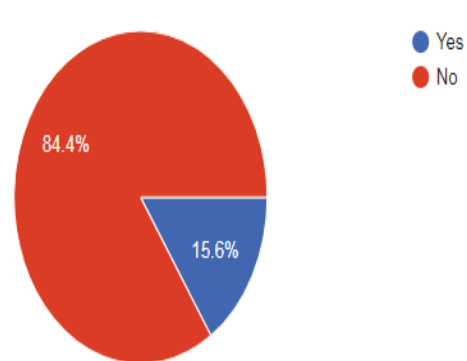


Fig.6 Marriage for social status

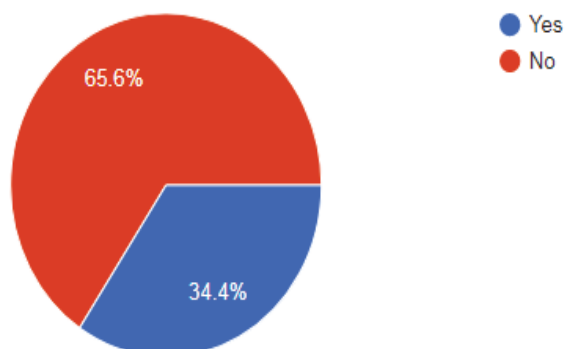


Fig.7 Marriage is economic security for girl

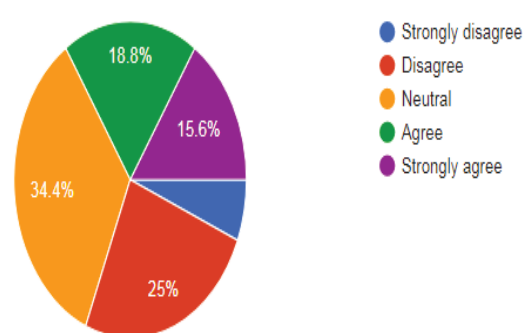


Fig.8 Successful marriage is based on wife's sacrifice

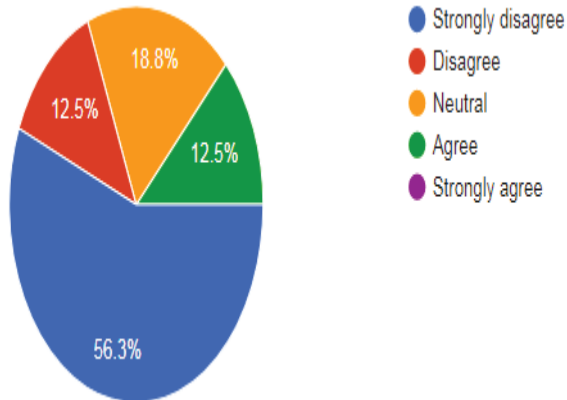


Fig.9 Wife should carry dowry for her husband at the time of marriage

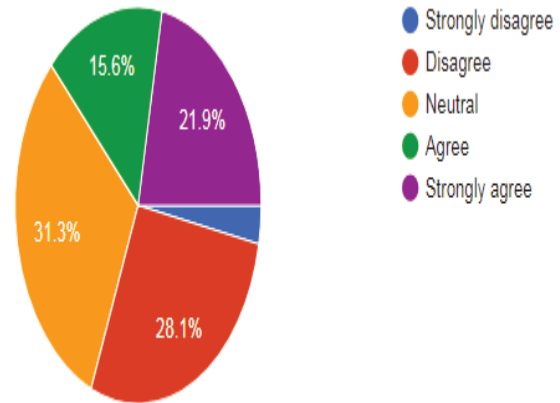


Fig.10 successful marriage should be more important than a successful career

The research found that many young adults today think that in a marriage, both partners should share responsibilities for things like chores and money. A some of the people surveyed believed that having a happy marriage is more important than having a successful career. Most also agreed that husbands should not control or dominate their wives in marriage.

The study showed that people's opinions about dowry are changing. Many of those surveyed thought (about 68.8%) that wives shouldn't have to bring dowry when they get married. In this view, the status and responsibilities of both husband and wife are seen as crucial for a successful marriage.

#### 4. Conclusions

This research helps us understand how young people see marriage in a society that's changing quickly. It tells us about what they value and hope for when it comes to getting married. The main goal of the study was to find out what young adults think about marriage. Understanding how young people think about marriage is important because they'll soon be the ones leading and shaping our society. What they believe and how they approach marriage can affect what's considered normal and important in the future.



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