Women's Participation in Marriage and Use of Family Planning Method in India

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Abstract

Marriage pattern has changed under the influence of industrialization and urbanization. The Marriage Shift from familial–arranged marriage to participation in spouse choice can bring about a fundamental change in family dynamics and fertility. The decisions regarding family planning and pregnancy are controlled by the family, often involving complex negotiations. This study examined Women Participation in Marriage Associated with the use of Family Planning Method in India. The data used for the present study is India Human Development Surveys 2011-2012 (IHDS-2). The sample comprised 39,459 of current marriage women (aged 15-49 Years). To understand the current use of family planning among women participating in marriage the Bi-variate analysis was used to analyze the data. Women participated in marriage is 59.8 percent against women not participated in marriage is 40.2 percent. Women participated in marriage use modern contraceptive is 87 percent and traditional method is 13 percent. Whereas on the other hand women not participated in marriage use modern method is 79 percent and traditional method is 21 percent. Women who had participated in marriage play an important role in the acceptance of modern family planning.

Introduction

Marital quality is an important aspect of family life that shapes people's health and well-being. A large chunk of literature shows that greater marital quality is associated with less depression, better self-rated health (Umberson *et al.,* 2006). Whereas a group of writers contends that the Indian family system is experiencing changes slowly yielding its traditional patterns of mate selection, and demonstrating the adaptive strategy of allowing freedom to the young to a certain extent (Gore,1961; Ross,1961; Shah,1961; Goode,1963). Moreover, good couple communication and self-confidence in women play a pivotal role in influencing family decision making including reproductive decisions, facilitating negotiation between spouses on the use of contraception, limited family size (Population Reports, 1998).

Another study found that even in Sri Lanka about one-quarter of pre-war marriages were love marriages rather than arranged. However, as observed in the 1985 Contraceptive Survey that love marriage made up 52 percent of all marriages (De Silva, 1990). This indicates that, in contrast to the customary courtship that allows young Thai's to meet and get to know their future husbands and wives and then seek parental consent, forms of arranged marriage exist in Sri Lanka too, along with love marriage (Gamage, 1984).

A remarkable feature of fertility decline in India is its over-reliance on sterilization (of main women) as a primary contraceptive method. Though targets for sterilization were discontinued, and a target free approach was adopted in the year 1996, sterilization still constitutes two-thirds of total contraceptive use (about 56 percent of women were using any form of contraceptive, out of which 36 percent of them were sterilized (IIPS and Macro International, 2007). In some of the southern states where fertility decline has been rapid, women typically get sterilized immediately after reaching the desired party of one or two children. In the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, Padmadas *et al.* (2004) show that women have births faster and in quick succession after marriage before going for sterilization at a relatively young age (the median age at sterilization in Andhra Pradesh was 23.6 years).

Age at marriage did influence the odds of a subsequent abortion, suggesting that unintended pregnancy subsequently plays a role in the desire to obtain an abortion. Consistent with this conclusion is a report that young women in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu view frequent childbirth as shameful and use abortion as a spacing method (Visaria *et al.,* 2004). Women's education was significantly associated with abortion for all closed birth orders as well as for open birth intervals. These findings, which are consistent with a review of qualitative studies conducted in India could be due in part to women's need to postpone births to meet the demands of ongoing education or to take up or continue employment; the desire to limit family size in the absence of effective and accessible contraception may lead to abortion (Uberson *et al.,* 2006).

Data and Method

The India Human Development Surveys 2004-05 (IHDS) and 2011–12 (IHDS II) form the core of the problem taken in this paper. The first round of this survey was conducted during 2004–05 and has become a premier public resource for researchers in India and abroad. The second round, conducted during 2011–12, involves the generation of the first large nationally representative panel of over 41,500 households and more than 215,000 individuals to document the contours of changes in the lives of ordinary Indians during an era of rapid economic transformation and implementation of vast social programmes. IHDS occupies a unique niche even as a cross-sectional survey. However, its longitudinal dimension makes it especially important for studying a society undergoing a rapid transition. The sample size of IHDS-II is 39,459 of all women in India. Thus, this paper is based on the sample size taken in the second round.

Dependent variables

According to the need for this paper the dependent variable has to compute making choice of husband, the question was available 'who chose your husband' and the response was 'respondent herself', 'Women and parents/other relatives together', 'Parents/another relative alone', 'others'. And another question that was applicable only to the last two responses of the first question was 'Have you any say in the selection of husband'. The response of this question was sought in 'yes' and 'No'. With the help of these two questions, one new variable was made accounting the need for this study. This new variable is women participated or not participated in her marriage.

Independent variables

The independent variable such as age at marriage has been categories into four segmented such as below 15, 15-20, 21-25 and 25 or more and also for the age of the women have been computed such as 15-25, 25-34 and 35 or more. Educational level of the household member as well as eligible women was collected in term of completed number of the years of schooling and had been classified in years of education from 0 as illiterate to 16 years and above bachelor. However, to overcome the problem of the insufficient sample in each educational category in this work, the education of women has been segmented into four groups viz. illiterate, 0-8 years, 8-12 years, 12-15 years.

On another hand for this study parents' education (Mother and Father) were also taken, it was also in term of completed number of the years of schooling and has classified in years of education from illiterate to 16 years that above bachelor. However, for this the problem of the insufficient sample in each educational category in this work, the education level has been segmented into four groups viz. illiterate, below 8 years, 8-10 years and 11 years and above were taken to both parents.

For this study religion was also taken, it was asked in different categories Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Tribal and Other. To retain a minimum sample of women in each cell in multivariate analysis, it has been segmented into three groups viz. Hindu, Muslim, and Other. The caste/tibe was asked into Forward/General, Other Backward Class (OBC), Scheduled castes, Scheduled tribes, which was retained as SCs (Scheduled castes), STs (Scheduled tribes), OBCs (Other Backward Classes) and Others.

This could be related to the more traditional family backgrounds of women who marry early and the difficulties these women encounter in asserting themselves when important decisions are being made, such as marriage (Santhya, *et al.,* 2010). India is a religiously pluralistic society, and studies find that Muslim women tend to get married earlier than Hindu women, while caste differences are negligible (Caldwell, Reddy, and Caldwell, 1983). In this analysis, the regional breakdown by state corresponds to IHDS demarcations: North: Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand; Central: Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh; east: Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal; Northeast: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura; West: Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra; South: Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh and union territories. This entire region is segmented are made with the help of the national NFHS report (IIPS and ICF, 2007).

To analyse the contraceptive use among women who participated and who did not participate in their marriage. A question was asked regarding the current use of a contraceptive

method. The variable on family planning method use was computed into using and not using any method and further was sub-divided into the use of modern and traditional method. Using a modern method of family planning has been further computed into modern permanent and modern spacing method. The percentage distribution and cross tabulation have been used to examine association by different background variables. Chi-square has been applied to check association of the relationship. A logistic regression was applied to estimate likelihood of women using a modern method. A simple linear regression for modeling n data points where Xi is independent variable and Yi is a dependent variable, and two parameters such as $\beta 0$ and $\beta 1$: $Yi = \beta 0 + \beta i Xi + \varepsilon i$, Where, $i= 1......n$. β is an unknown parameter, which may represent a scalar or a vector and ε is an error term.

Result

Figure 1 show the percentage distribution of women participation and not participated in marriage in India. About 60 percent of women participated in the selection of their spouse against two-fifths who did not participated. Table 1 shows the percentage distribution of women by use of family planning method according to women's participation in their spouse selection. About seventy-two percent of women using a family planning method in both groups of women. The chi-square value is high but p<0.629 therefore no association between participation of family planning method.

Table 1a shows the percentage distribution of women by type of family planning method used according to women's participation in their spouse selection. Eighty-four percent of women use modern family planning method and women using traditional method is 16 percent. The association is strong between women's participation and type of family planning method (p<0.001). It shows that 87 percent of women participated in spouse selection use modern method compared to 79 percent of those who did not participate in spouse selection for marriage.

Table 1b shows the percentage distribution of women by type of family planning method used according to women's participation in spouse selection. Sixty-four percent uses modern permanent method of family planning in each group. However, 21 percent of women's participating in spouse selection use modern spacing methods. The high chi-square value with p<0.001 confirm the association between type of women's participation in spouse selection and type of modern method of family planning. Use of traditional method was low among those who participated in the spouse selection (14%) against 21% those who did not participate in their spouse selection.

Table 2 shows the percentage of family planning using among women participation and non-participation in marriage according to background characteristics. Among women participation in marriage, with increasing age at marriage and years of education, the use of family planning declines. The women are working and living in the urban area the use of family planning methods is high. According to region wise West, Central and the Northern part of India the use of family planning methods are high and low in Northeast region of India. On the other hand, similar finding was also found among women not participated in marriage.

Table 3 presents the percentage family planning method using among women participated and not participated in marriage in India by state. Overall, in India, around 71 percent of women using family planning method among women participated in marriage; this statistics remains same among women not participation in marriage (71.8 percent). A substantial state-wise variation uses of family planning method among women participation in marriage. Sikkim showed the highest use of family planning method (90 percent), followed by Himachal Pradesh (86.9 percent), West Bengal (83.1 percent), Maharashtra (82.6 percent), and Delhi (80.9 percent). In contrast, the use of family planning method was low (less than 12 percent) in Nagaland, Meghalaya, and Manipur. Overall, an almost similar pattern was found among women not participated in marriage, with the same groups of states falling in the high and low categories of experiencing use of family planning method, followed by Sikkim (100 percent), Himachal Pradesh (94 percent), West Bengal (90.3 percent), Goa (89.6 percent) and lowest in Mizoram (26.8 percent), Assam (30 percent), Arunachal Pradesh (38.8 percent) and Jammu and Kashmir (45.8 percent).

Table 4 presents a logistic regression analysis to understand the association between the use of modern family planning methods and women's participation in marriage by controlling socio-demographic factors in India. This analysis clearly shows that women who participated in their spouse selection are1.2 times higher in using modern family planning methods than those who did not

participate in the spouse selection process. The effect of age at marriage on the odds ratio of use of modern method increase as we move higher up the age at marriage scale (e.g., moving from below age 14 to 25 years above). This means the use of modern methods is higher age are more than half times in the age group 21-25 and one-third time in age 25 above significantly more likely to use modern methods followed by women not using modern method with below age 14 years. The working status of women has a significant effect on use of modern method. Those women who are working are less likely to use of Modern method. According to the place of residence the use of modern method is high in urban areas (OR: 1.09). Religion of women also has an effect those women are from Muslim and other relative to Hindu community. Muslim and other community group women are more likely to use modern method (OR: 2.46, $P \leq 0.001$ and OR: 1.52, $P \leq 0.001$ respectively) those who are not using modern method. However, according to region-wise, the use of modern method is highly significant East (OR: 1.68, P>0.001), Northeast (OR: 1.62, P>0.001), West (OR: 0.18, P>0.001), South (OR: 0.24, P>0.001) region as compared to North region.

Conclusion

The present study concludes that the practice of arranged marriage is shifting toward love marriage rather than declining. With increasing in urbanization and modernization females are more actively participating in choosing their husbands, spouses meeting before the wedding day become more common, consanguineous marriage declined, and inter-caste marriage is increasing. The finding from this study has highlighted that the use of family planning methods is same among women who participated in their marriage and women not participated in their marriage. But there is different in type of family planning method. The modern method high among women participated in marriage and traditional methods are high among women not participated in marriage.

The study also shows the region-wise use of family planning method, the use of the family planning methods is highly used in the West and East part of the region and low in Northeast part of region among women participated in marriage and among women not participated in marriange the use of family planning method is high in West and North part of region and low in Northeast part of region. Whereas the study found the three is not difference use of family planning among women participated and not participated but difference according to place of residence, the use of family planning methods are high in urban areas as compare to rural areas. The study also found that with the increasing age and years of education the use of family planning methods decreases.

This study also has some limitations as it restricts only to explore the perception of women's participation in marriage. This study has shown women perspective in using the family planning methods. The study is not able to find the male viewpoint participation in marriage and use of family planning methods. This study also not able found the use of family planning method used by women and men in past and reasons for discontinuity of methods and where there is intended to use a family planning method in future. It can be concluded that the use of family planning method is all most equal among women who participated and not participated in marriage but it is different in the type of family planning method such as the modern method of family planning method high used among women participated in marriage and Tradition used of the method is used by women not participated in marriage.
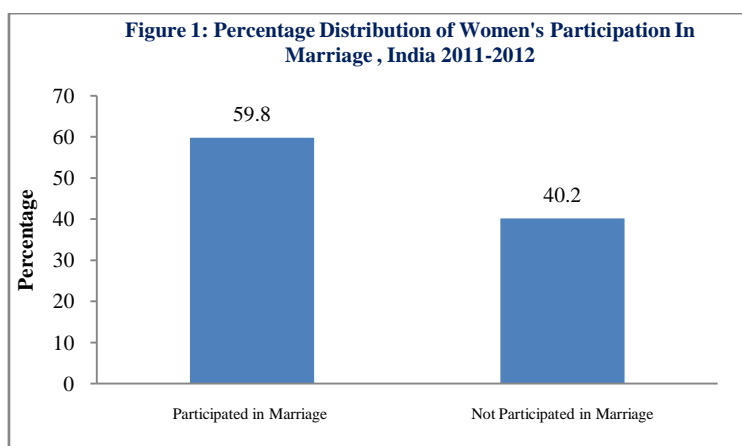

Figure 1: Percentage Distribution of Women's Participation In Marriage , India 2011-2012

Table 1: Percentage distribution of women by use of family planning method according to women's participation in spouse selection., India, 2011-2012

Women	Family planning method			Chi-square
	Using method	Not using method	N	
Participated	71.3	28.7	20072	
Not Participated	71.8	28.2	15029	0.234;P<0.629
Total	**71.5**	**28.5**	**35101**	

Table 1a: Percentage distribution of women by type of family planning method used according to women's participation in spouse selection, India, 2011-2012

Women	Any family planning method			
	Modern	Tradition	N	Chi-square
Participated	86.7	13.3	14411	
Not Participated	79.1	20.9	10843	137.12;P<0.001
Total	**83.6**	**16.4**	**25254**	

Table 1b: Percentage distribution of women by type of family planning method used according to women's participation in spouse selection, India, 2011-2012

Women	Family Planning method					Chi-Square
	Modern permanent*	Modern spacing**	Traditional***	Others	N	
Participated	63.9	20.7	13.9	1.5	14411	327.85;P<0.001
Not participated	64.0	12.8	20.7	2.6	10843	
Total	**63.9**	**17.5**	**16.7**	**1.9**	**25254**	

*Permanent include Male and Female sterilization, **Pill, Condom, IUD, Injectable and Jelly, ***Rhythm method, Withdrawal

Table 2: Percentage distribution of family planning using among women's participation in marriage according to background characteristics, India, 2011-2012

Background Characteristics	Participated				Non-Participated			
	Modern permanent	Modern spacing	Traditional	Others	Modern permanent	Modern spacing	Traditional	Others
Age at marriage								
Less than 14	74.5	7.3	17.2	1.0	69.4	6.1	21.4	3.0
15-20	67.5	18.3	12.9	1.4	67.1	13.1	22.6	2.4
21-25	47.7	34.8	15.4	2.2	47.5	30.4	19.6	2.5
25 and above	47.1	32.5	19.4	1.0	39.4	21.9	27.3	11.4
Women Education								
Illiterate	74.5	10.7	13.6	1.3	66.7	7.5	23.1	2.6
0-8 years	70.4	16.2	12.0	1.5	68.4	13.1	16.2	2.4
8-12 years	58.3	24.9	15.3	1.5	56.7	22.0	19.1	2.2
12-15 years	45.2	37.8	15.2	1.8	39.9	33.7	22.6	3.9
Working status								
No	58.5	24.2	15.7	1.5	58.9	16.1	22.7	2.3
Yes	71.3	15.9	11.5	1.4	70.7	8.4	18.1	2.9
Place of residence								
Rural	64.4	19.3	14.8	1.5	65.3	10.3	21.7	2.7
Urban	63.1	22.8	12.7	1.4	59.9	20.3	17.6	2.2
Region								
North	42.9	39.1	16.1	2.0	63.5	17.0	17.1	2.3
Central	41.2	24.9	31.0	2.9	52.4	9.9	34.2	3.5
East	41.2	30.8	25.6	2.4	61.2	18.8	16.5	3.5
Northeast	23.6	68.9	6.4	1.1	29.8	60.0	9.0	1.2
West	79.5	17.3	2.9	0.2	87.1	10.3	2.4	0.3
South	91.7	2.7	5.1	0.5	85.8	5.8	7.4	0.9
Total	**67.2**	**17.9**	**12.2**	**2.7**	**82.9**	**36.2**	**13.4**	**2.2**

Table 3: Percentage distribution of women using family planning method by State/UTs, India 2011-2012

Characteristics	Participated			Non-Participated		
The State of India	Modern permanent	Modern spacing	Traditional	Modern permanent	Modern spacing	Traditional
North						
Delhi	30.9	50.7	18.4	50.9	28.9	20.3
Haryana	46.7	42.9	10.4	69.3	23.4	7.3
H.P	64.7	25.2	10.2	83.1	6.9	10.0
J&K	36.8	48.3	14.9	55.4	25.5	19.1
Punjab	28.5	39.8	31.7	49.0	16.5	34.5
Rajasthan	48.0	36.4	15.5	68.2	12.2	19.6
Uttarakhand	51.8	30.3	17.8	63.5	20.8	15.7
Central						
Chhattisgarh	66.8	9.8	23.4	72.5	6.8	20.7
Jharkhand	63.8	19.5	16.7	82.6	3.7	13.7
M.P	58.8	18.2	23.0	77.8	4.5	17.7
U.P	18.4	36.3	45.3	37.0	13.0	50.0
East						
Bihar	63.4	15.9	20.7	64.2	10.5	25.3
Orissa	52.1	39.9	8.1	58.0	29.3	12.8
West Bengal	34.7	33.0	32.3	60.2	19.6	20.2
North East						
Arunachal Pradesh	30.0	70.0	0.0	48.3	51.7	0.0
Assam	22.9	75.5	1.6	24.2	75.8	0.0
Manipur	0.0	60.8	39.2	32.1	51.4	16.5
Meghalaya	83.2	16.8	0.0	-	-	-
Nagaland	0.0	100.0	0.0	-	-	-
Sikkim	30.7	34.5	34.8	15.1	7.5	77.3
Tripura	21.1	53.8	25.1	32.1	51.4	16.5
Mizoram	0.0	100.0	0.0	-	-	-
West						
Goa	84.3	15.7	0.0	83.8	16.2	0.0
Gujarat	64.4	28.1	7.4	75.8	14.8	9.4
Maharashtra	88.0	11.2	0.8	90.3	8.9	0.8
South						
Andhra Pradesh	94.9	0.5	4.6	98.2	0.0	1.8
Karnataka	89.9	8.4	1.4	94.9	2.8	2.3
Kerala	69.1	10.2	20.8	77.6	6.5	15.9
Tamil Nadu	80.6	7.3	12.2	83.3	4.1	12.9
India	63.9	20.7	15.4	64.0	12.8	23.2

Table 4: Associations between use of modern methods, women participation in marriage and socio-demographic in India, 2011-2012

Backgrounds	Odds Ratio	Sig.	95% C.I.	
			Lower	Upper
Women Participated				
Non- participated[®]				
Participated	1.210	0.002	1.006	1.374
Age at marriage				
Below 14[®]				
15-20	1.009	0.905	0.865	1.179
21-25	1.371*	0.010	1.080	1.741
25+	1.923**	0.001	1.329	2.783
Respondent's Education				
Illiterate[®]				
1-8 years	0.797**	0.005	0.681	0.933
8-12 years	1.131	0.183	0.944	1.355
12-15 years	1.039	0.758	0.813	1.329
Working status				
No [®]				
Yes	0.727***	0.000	0.644	0.819
Place of residence				
Rural[®]				
Urban	1.093	0.231	0.945	1.265
Religion				
Hindu[®]				
Muslim	2.461***	0.000	2.005	3.021
Other	1.525**	0.001	1.192	1.951
Caste				
SC [®]				
ST	0.892	0.262	0.730	1.089
OBC	0.827*	0.012	0.713	0.959
Other caste	0.830*	0.047	0.690	0.998
Region				
North[®]				
Central	0.774	0.325	0.464	1.289
East	1.687***	0.000	1.452	1.960
Northeast	1.627***	0.000	1.357	1.950
West	0.184***	0.000	0.133	0.256
South	0.248***	0.000	0.198	0.310
® Reference Category; Level of Significance ***p<0.001, **p<0.01, *p<0.05				

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