

## **Mate selection preferences among college Students in Bagalkot, Karnataka**

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**Abstract:** *The present study is to know the trends and patterns in mate selection choice among college student in Bagalkot. The study was conducted on a sample of 762 respondents, studying in final year degree of professional and non-professional colleges, as they were on the verge of completion of their degree and also they have attained marriageable age. To understand & analyze the trends, an interview schedule was prepared and used. Findings show that most of the respondents consider marriage is an important and an inevitable event in every body's life. Choice marriages within the caste with parents consent and with traditional rituals were preferred. Matching of horoscope was favored while dowry was considered as an evil of society. Male respondents prefer partner younger than themselves while females prefer near their own age or older 2-3 years of age difference between male and female was found ideal.*

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### **I. Introduction:**

As we are aware, marriage is an important, and almost an inevitable event in every body's life in every society. It has far reaching effects on the lives of not only the couples, but also of the family members. In the earlier Hindu concept of marriage little attention was paid to the wishes of the young persons. Marriage is a kind of social arrangement we have, it is lightly impossible for any individual to get escaped from marriage, we know that when individuals think of their marriage, they will have a flash of so many things both real and ideal, on their mind as to whom to chose as his or her partners, who to do that, and what prospects of different kind one can expect to have from the marriage with a person of that type etc. So mate selection choice involves so many expectations in individual. The parents were morally obligated to find mates for their children and the children to accept the parental choice. In this system, the bride or groom is supposed to marry a particular kind of person.

It is against this background that this study sought to investigate traits that college students consider in mate selection.

### **II. Literature Review:**

The marriage contract was regarded as an agreement between two joint families rather than between two young persons(Dovris, 1942). As Goode(1965) points out that the joint family is based on the relations among adult mates, rather than on the conjugal bonds between spouses. In such circumstances, there was no room for romantic love as a basis of marital selection. The Hindu ideal marriage had no regard for individual taste or inclination, it was rather, afraid of them(Tagore, 1920). Altekari (1962) mentions that in the Vedic age, marriage was a well established institution and a person who remained unmarried was considered unholy. He further mentions that in earlier times girl had their say in selection of mates. The Vedic literature does not refer to parents controlling the mate selection of their children.

But when the modern nation began to evolve, bringing millions of strangers in a common milieu, fostering a dynamic technology, a mobile class structure, a complex division of labor, and a dominant urbanism, the old and rigid concept of Hindu marriage began to change. The rapid spread of education, the increasing influence of forces of modernization and increasing emphasis on the freedom of individual have brought some changes in the institution of marriage in India. Goode(1964) states that basically the mate selection choice function like a market system. This system varies from one society to another with respect to controls the transactions, what are the rules of exchange and the relative evaluation of various qualities. Now marriage has become increasingly a private matter beyond the control of parents (Davos. 1981). The most striking change has been observed in the area of mate selection. While parental influence on decision related to mate selection is still dominant, premarital attitudes show gradual but definite change. The moment is shifting away from marriage arranged by parents to more freedom of choice (Saroja, and Surender, 1990)

Since the selection of partner in a marriage is one of the important decisions in every body's life, the traits contributing to this division have continuously attracted the researchers. Education has been found to be associated with liberal attitudes towards mate selection. Increasing level of education has decreased the percentage of respondents supporting arranged marriage (Gore, 1969):and Raman, 1983). Education was not

only found to be associated with the desire of more freedom in mate selection but also with the desire of more sexual contacts especially with the future spouse (Ross, 1961) in addition, to that many studies have shown that men seem to prefer young women as sexual and romantic partners, whereas women prefer men near their own age or older (Buss, 1989; Kenrick & Keefe, 1992) Studies have revealed a strong tendency for people to select mates who are similar in characteristics. Kapadia, (1986) Opined, Hindus have both exogamous and endogamous ways of selection of mate is dominated. Devi(2003) Observed that regardless of education, youth still prefer ritualistic marriage within the same caste, with boys preferring choice marriage with consent of parents.

**Hypotheses:**

The purpose of this study is to examine the criteria of respondents regarding mate selection process appear as practical and conservative as that of their own parents. Their ideas are mainly influenced by their parents and people in their neighborhood, presume that since this relationship is based on traditionalism, value of companionship and common interest.

**Sample:**

762 respondents studying in final year (both Professional and non professional) degree students from various colleges in Bagalkot. As they were on the verge of completing of their degree and also they have attained marriage age. The survey was conducted in Bagalkot city in Karnataka.

**Measurement:**

Participation was voluntary and each student completed his/her interview schedule at an individual desk. Each participant received a interview schedule. That included ideology of marriage, necessity of marriage in life, types of marriage preferred, suitable age of male and female at the time of marriage, their age difference, matching of horoscope, dowry, qualities in life partner, and preference for arranged or choice marriage. The interview schedule were administered and data was collected individually. To explore this issue, compute a set of stable matches that would be predicted to arise from the observed in the set of information collected, Simple percentage was used to analyze the data.

**Table-I: Respondents views about concept marriage**

No	Views of respondents	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Perpetual Relation	410	53.81
2	Social Contract	212	27.82
3	Biological Need	85	11.15
4	Maintain value	55	7.22
	Total	762	100

**Table-II: Respondents views about Necessity of marriage**

No	Necessity of marriage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	512	67.19
2	No	175	22.9
3	Undecided	075	9.84
	Total	762	100

Table I indicates that about 410 (53.81%) respondents express their views about concept of marriage in perpetual relation and it is followed by social contract about 212 (27.82%). It is because it as a conjugal bonds between the spouses. Table-II indicates that about 512(67.19%) respondents express their views about necessity of marriage in life since, marriage is considered as holy physical sacrament in life.

**Table-III: Planning of Respondents Regarding getting of marriage.**

No	Respondents planning	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	After completion of graduation	70	9.18
2	After completion of Post graduation	174	22.83
3	After gating employment/job	384	50.49
4	Decision of the parents	134	19.59
	Total	762	100.00

**Table-IV : Responded option in mate selection choice**

No	Respondents planning	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Own choice	147	19.29
2	Parent choice	484	60.89
3	Relative choice	37	4.86
4	Friends choice	23	3.02
5	Love choice	67	8.79
6	With the medium help	24	3.15
	Total	762	100.00

In table III, out of the total respondents, 384(50.49%) have conveyed that after getting employment. Of course this is not surprising because these jobs are more secure for their life. In table IV, we see that 60.89 % (484) respondents clearly state that they would prefer their parents to do mate selection for them. Thus we see that the main responsibility of mate selection in case of respondents lies with their parents. Though we presume that high academic qualifications would inculcate a certain maturity and an ability to decide, in general this is not seen in case of respondents.

**Table-V: Respondents indicating the type of marriage ceremony they would prefer.**

No	Type of marriage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Traditional type	435	57.09
2	Modern type	160	21.00
3	Inter caste system	95	12.47
4	Registered system	72	9.44
	Total	762	100

Most of the respondents ( 435) (57.9 %) would prefer a traditional marriage, it is because marriage is thought of as a sacrament and given a lot of serious consideration .

**Table-VI: Respondents indicating whether they believe in getting married at a particular age**

No	Marriageable Age	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Between 20-25 year	385	56.53
2	Between 25-30 year	260	34.12
3	Whenever a proper mate is found	117	15.35
	Total	762	100

About 385 (50.53 % ) of our respondents state that they would prefer to get married between 20-25, and it is followed by between 25-30. It may be, as they finish graduation or Post graduation or even in- between, if a suitable mate is found and they would like to get a suitable job for economic independence before marriage

**Table-VII: Respondents indicating from which caste they would prefer to choose their mate.**

No	Caste	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	My own caste	507	66.54
2	Outside my caste	102	13.40
3	Any caste	153	20.08
	Total	762	100

About 507 (66.54 % ) of our respondents desire that they would select mates only from their own caste followed by 153 ( 19.08 % ) respondents would prefer from any caste. Caste ensure that the character of the caste endogamy remains intact. Another factor might be marrying into one's own caste provides certain advantages like the feeling of belongingness, social status, group membership social relationships and they will not go against the aspiration of their parents. Which are easier if one is married in same caste. It shows that our respondents are far more conservative in this area. However 102 ( 13.40 % ) respondents willing to inter-caste alliances, it is small in number, but this is significant, as the young people showing their interest in setting marriage outside their caste.

**Table-VIII: Respondents indicating Matching Horoscope in mate selection.**

No	Believe in Horoscope	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	355	46.59
2	No	265	34.78
3	Indefinite	142	18.63
	Total	762	100

About 355 ( 46.59 % ) respondents have given importance to Horoscope matches, as it was traditionally one of the major factors considered in mate selection. In such cases factors like common interest and economic independence are given least importance. However 265 ( 34.78% ) respondents are no having faith in Horoscope matches this significant factor.

**Table-IX : Respondents indicating about liking for giving or accepting dowry**

No	Dowry marriage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	116	15.22
2	No	560	73.49
3	Not particular	86	11.29
	Total	762	100

Out of the total respondents, 560 (73.49 % ) respondents have stated that the dowry system in marriage is not accepted. Whereas 116 ( 15.22% ) stated that it is accepted. Most of the respondents considered the dowry in marriage as an evil of the society. It may be due to the fact. That the awareness has been created about dowry prohibition act, the protest by the NGOs at the time of dowry death etc.

**Table-X: Respondents indicating their criteria in mate selection.**

No	Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Good Nature	227	29.79
2	Education	195	25.59
3	Physical beauty	75	9.85
4	Family status	115	15.09
5	Income	70	9.19
6	Economic Independent	55	7.21
7	Common interest	25	3.28
	Total	762	100

About 227 ( 29.79 % ) of our respondents indicate that good nature is preferred, it is followed by education, family status, physical beauty and income in that order. Our respondents seem practical, because good nature includes mutual understanding kindness, love etc, Education generally assures a good job with better remuneration as well as help fill up certain communication gap between the mates. Family status physical beauty income next in priority.

### III. Conclusion

Thus we find that the criteria of respondents regarding mate selection choice appears as practical and conservative as that of their own parents. We observe that their parents become a role model. We presume that since this relationship is based on traditionalism, value of companionship and common interest.

Anyway respondents consider marriage as an eternal relation, and they find it necessary for life. Choice marriages with the consent of parents were preferred by majority of the respondents. They preferred marriage within the same caste with ritualistic traditional mode. Matching of Horoscope was favored by most of the respondents. In general they considered 20-25 years as an ideal age for marriage. The quality preferred in future life partner was his/her good behavior, education, family status, physical beauty and income were the qualities for which different views had been obtained. All the respondents considered dowry as an evil of society.

When we speculate all the findings , we observe that respondents mainly coming from rural area, they are under the clutches of caste system. Parental influence is important role in choosing marriage partners. It is clear evidence of the college students studying in final year degree at Bagalkot in Karnataka. Counselors are to create awareness among mate choosers in their choice in mate selection through organizing symposia, seminars,

and workshops on mate selection.

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