PERCEPTIONS OF UNDERGRADUATE FEMALE STUDENTS ABOUT MARRIAGE AND MATE SELECTION

BY

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B.Sc. (Home Science)

DISSERTATION

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CERTIFICATE-I

This is to certify that the dissertation entitled **Perceptions of Undergraduate Female Students About Marriage And Mate Selection** submitted by **Ms. Akshata Manjunath Sheelawantar** to the Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of **MASTER OF SCIENCE (Home Science)** in **HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES** is record of original and bonafide research work carried out by her under my guidance and supervision. It is of sufficiently high standard to warrant its presentation for the award of the said degree. I also certify that the dissertation or part thereof has not been previously submitted by her for a degree of any university.

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Introduction

CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

Satisfaction in life usually referred to happiness which comes from the fulfillment of needs and wishes. Mate selection and marriage are the most important events in the life of any person and it is the seed of future existence. Marriage is the oldest, most basic and fundamental social institution. It is very essential for the existence, organization and functioning of social life in a society. It is also necessary for the creation, sustenance and continuation of human beings. Marriage is not just a state one enters into, but a domain of life that needs to be nurtured, so that it may provide to couples what they are seeking in life. Marriage brings transition in individuals, both biologically and psychologically. It establishes durable bonds between males and females and it regulates the satisfaction of sex instinct. At the same time it gives expression to the parental instinct of man and woman.

Marriage is among the oldest of all institutions in history. Century after century people have married. It is customary for individuals to marry within their religion, caste and subcaste. Marriage is one of the important social institutions in India, it is not only a union of two individuals but also an alliance between two families, thereby bringing about a new network of relationships. It is the threshold for family formation, family building and population growth. Marriage is considered as a sacred duty by the doctrines of major religions (Hinduism, Islam and Christianity). According to the Hindu religious scriptures, the main purpose of marriage is the performance of dharma in addition to the constitution of family lineage.

The bonds of marriage especially in the Indian culture go much beyond marital relationship. It is universally accepted social practice. Marriage is an institutionalized system which is meant for the good of the individual and the society. Therefore, society has set certain rules and regulations regarding marriage which usually governs the pattern of mate selection such as caste preference in marriage, age at marriage, difference in age between the partners,

type of marriage and criteria in mate selection. According to Hindu philosophy, marriage is **a sanskar and a sacrament**. It develops the bond between a man and a woman. It aims at the biological, emotional, social and spiritual fulfillment and the development of an individual. However, the emphasis during the ancient period was on adding an additional member to the family for its continuity rather than starting a new family. Marriage prescribes the degrees within which individuals can enter into matrimonial relations. It transforms the man-woman relationship into a sacred husband-wife relationship.

Hindu marriage is essentially a sacrament where marriage is ordained for a Hindu for the blossoming of his ceremonial competency, as a means of having a son and constituting training in Dharma(religion).In Hindu marriage, a man's half is his wife, the wife is the husband's best friend. The wife is the source of Dharma (righteousness), Artha (property), Kama (sex) and above all the wife is the soul of salvation (moksha).Marriage is not merely a bond of two bodies but a union of two souls, it is a wealth for fulfillment of life, the true companionship in fighting the battle of life together and a device for expression and development of love. The Hindu ideal of marriage is essentially a fellowship between a man and a woman who seek to live together in creative partnership for the pursuit of great objectives of life. Thus marriage is the union of soul and body so closely and so firmly established. One expects that it will last as long as the life lasts. The ability to make collaborative decisions, to understand self and others are equally important dimensions of marriage. Proper selection of mate plays an important role in fulfilling the aims and objectives of marriage. Marriage is regarded not only as the union of two individuals, but also as the union of two families, making them almost like blood relatives. Marriages are religiously, economically, politically and socially oriented and they are generally arranged by the elders and extended family members (Sureender; Prabhakaran and Khan 1998).

Emotional stability of a society is lined with the institution of marriage. Matrimonial relations affect not only happiness of the individuals they are also

concerned with social and ethical norms. The institution of marriage has facts which are both public as well as private in nature, therefore, it is of vital importance to society. Marriage is still not an individual affair among larger sections of the society, but a bond between two families. Parents and elders have great way on matters of mate selection controlled by institutions of caste and religion. Custom of marriage is the most wide spread institution of human society. Brubaker (1994) described the marriage relationship and family structure as the backbone of western civilization in the modern world. Most of the marriages in India are arranged by families. Most of the youth in India do not believe that they have the experience, knowledge or wisdom to select their prospective mate. They also do not believe that it is essential to date with many partners to select the right partner of life. Generally the type of family that the prospective spouse comes from is given primary consideration, in addition to educational, occupational and socio-cultural compatibility. It is believed that life partners are fixed in heaven and the marriages of them are celebrated on earth. Marriage is a special bond shared between two souls who tie the wedding knot after making a promise to be companions for the life time. It is the physical, mental and spiritual union of the two souls. It brings significant stability and substance to human relationships, which is otherwise, is incomplete. It plays a crucial role in transferring culture and civilization from one generation to the other, so that the human race is prospered. The institution of marriage is beneficial to the society as a whole because it is the foundation of the family, which in turn is the fundamental building block of the society. Marriage is not viewed as a means to attain personal happiness or as a means of sharing one's life with a person who is a loved one. Marriage is as union between two persons, who lived in harmony so absolute with each other, as to be independent of the world outside. The basic expectations from marriages are family unity, togetherness, harmony, cohesiveness, and sharing of common family goals, values and way of life are of significant importance. The personal considerations are considered secondary. It is customary for individuals to marry within their religion, caste and sub caste. According to the Hindu

religious scriptures, the main purpose of marriage is the performance of dharma in addition to the continuation of family lineage.

Marriage is the union of two different surnames, lead to friendship and love, in order to continue the prosperity. The usual roles and responsibilities of husbands and wives include living together having sexual relations only with one another sharing economic resources and being recognized as the parents of their children. However, unconventional forms of marriage that do not include these elements which do exist. It is explained that in most of the contemporary industrialized societies, marriage is certified by the government. Marriage is like an insurance policy in that it offers protection against poor health, financial insecurity and deviant behaviors. The economic context of marriage is gradually shifting its nature in India with the advent of new economic reforms and increase in the workforce participation of women. Although practices vary from one culture to another, all the societies have certain rules about who is eligible to marry whom, also forbidden to marry whom and the process of selecting a mate. Marriage is the socially recognized and approved union of individuals, who commit to one another with the expectations of stable and lasting intimate relationship. It begins with the ceremony known as a wedding, which formally unites the marriage partners. The marital relationship usually involve some kind of contract, either written or specified by the tradition, which defines the partners' rights and obligations to each other, to their children if they have and to their relatives.

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. Whenever individuals think of their marriage, they will have a flash of so many things both real and ideal, on their mind regarding whome to chose as his or her partner, how to do that, and what prospects one can expect to have from the marriage with that partner. So mate selection choice involves so many

expectations of individuals. The parents were morally obligated to find mates for their grownup children and the grownup children to accept the parental choice. (Sandhya S.J.2013).

Rayan (2004) explained that arranged marriages have been very common throughout the world. This is due to two principle considerations. First the marriage unites two families, not just two people. All the family members become obligated to each other by marriage. Therefore it must be considered and negotiated carefully. Secondly as the mate selection is considered as very important decision which cannot be left out to inexperienced young individuals especially if they have had less experiences with members of the opposite sex. Mate selection is psychological, behavioral and social process whereby individuals are united for the purpose of marriage. Mate selection is less likely to be religiously homogenous if people belong to a small religious group, have few people from whom to choose and develop cultures and values similar to those outside the religious group (Lehrer, 1998). Personality, education, wealth and other individual characteristics are also given importance for mate selection in many societies. In fact they considered it to be more important than just physical beauty. The parents of young contemporary women seeking a husband in Indian urban areas commonly place an advertisement in newspapers. These advertisements prominently mention the potential bride's educational qualification, caste and imply potential for paying a large dowry. Marriage is an important economic decision. It has impact on children's outcome and long term inequality in them (Fernandez and Rogerson, 2001). In developing countries, where many women do not work outside their homes marriage is arguably the single most important determinant of a woman's economic future. In the current decade women's attitudes have been changing as they are getting highly educated, financially and emotionally independent. Women with higher income, put more emphasis on the mates' financial resources. Once they get married, women with higher income tend to be less tolerant of their husband's shortcomings. The winds of socio-cultural changes are blowing all over India. The rapid spread of education, the

increasing influence of modernization and emphasis on the freedom of individuals have brought about significant changes in the institution of marriage and in mate selection. The parental influence in decisions related to mate selection is still considered. The attitudes of people toward premarital sexual relations are getting liberalized. Parents are presumed to have the experience needed to help their children find a mate, who is appropriate for them.

Society is filled with couples who are poorly matched and with couples who are separated or divorced, trying to understand what went wrong with their lives. Many other couples are more fortunate. They engaged in mate-selection process with greater insight into how to pair themselves successfully or were fortunate to have made a good choice without rational thought. Historically, parents play a major role in choosing marriage partners for their children and the custom continues in the world's developing countries today. Parental influence is greatest when the parents have a large stake in which their child marries. Traditionally, marriage has been regarded as an alliance between two families, rather than just between the two individuals. Aristocratic families could enhance their wealth or acquire royal titles through a child's marriage. The most extreme form of parental influence is an arranged marriage in which the bride and groom have no say at all (Maliki, 2009). Partner selection is potentially one of the most important factors contributing to socio-economic status and mobility besides the individual's own socio-economic origin. The real transformation of modern love is that ranking mates for material and social assets is now incorporated into unconscious structures of desire. With the entry of women into the labour force throughout the 20th century that shook the foundations of marriage. Basically, in the 1970s, economic reforms and feminism resulted in higher divorce and lower birth rates; with new possibilities for economic independence of couples (Maliki, 2011). Selecting a mate, a partner, a spouse, is an important decision and it is a decision that most people make on their own. One chooses a mate hoping to find a perfect partner. Unfortunately one may make this decision without sufficient understanding of

one's self or why one wants to marry a certain person. One receives few cues from society regarding the complexity of mate selection while it is in the process. The standard recommended questions of compatibility often seem irrelevant in the face of strong attraction. The reasons for attraction are largely unknown. Some are related to personality and background traits and basic ways of interaction with others. It seems reasonable that an understanding of ourselves and how one interact would facilitate this choice that affects the rest of their lives. The mate-selection process that lasts approximately from a year to 10 years affects the next 30 to 50 years of couples' life. The mate selection process, although not fully understood, involves a general pattern followed by most youth & families and it influences the selection of mate for marriage.

Assessing and choosing among potential mates is a time demanding task, requiring acquisition and processing of a wide variety of information about mate's background (White, 2004). Neither men nor women prefer all members of the opposite sex equally. Some are favored over others, and one important research task is to identify the characteristics that prospective mates consider to be important. Although mate choice is clearly a crucial adult decision for more than 90% of the population. Surprisingly little is known about the characteristics that men and women seek in potential mates. In some cases, the parents of a prospective husband initiates the process with the parents of the girl; this move is kept secret from the prospective mates, until both parents have made substantive progress towards the proposed union of mates. These processes have changed over the years, given the speed of globalization and the attending diffusion of cultures across the world (Olusola and Elem, 2015). Final match is the equilibrium outcome of a process that entails meeting and screening a number of potential partners and choosing one of them. A final match, therefore, is shaped by the interaction between preferences of individuals of both sides of perspective partners (Belot, 2006).

Marriage is the backbone of society. Marriage like a successful career requires various preparations. A mature approach to marriage requires an

understanding of its various aspects like psychological, sexual, social, economical and spiritual. It matures with time and grows sweeter with age. The responsibilities of the parents are greater today than in the past as the conditions are changing. Several multidirectional forces arising out of social reform movement, industrialization, urbanization, legislation and socio-educational advancement have brought about changes in the practice of marriage and mate selection. The attitudes held in more advanced countries are affecting those in other countries through mass- media, large scale travelling and exchange of people of different countries. This change in social attitude and values has shattered the hold of the aged in the matter of mate selection. Now the consent of the young people is once again obtained. In families where the young people select their own mates take the consent of the parents. There is a growing awareness among parents that if a girl or a boy is educated to a higher level it helps in getting a good life partner and a good job. Due to exposure of women to higher education and urbanization, significant and important changes have been taking place in the patterns of their marriage, mate selection and family life. Unlike the past, the youth contemporary society, feel that marrying a wrong person can be a hell on the earth. Such feeling gives an opportunity of freedom to select a partner of their liking and to avoid a failure in marital life. The youth in urban areas want greater freedom from the traditional, social and parental control. To build up career, youth try to be in a blind race of adopting modern life styles. An increasing number of youth especially the college educated, are likely to find out their partners through dating i.e. self choice marriages which are deemed a slightly scandalous alternative to the arranged marriages. Some youth convince their parents to arrange their marriages with individuals whom they have loved. As values and trends are changing very rapidly, it is the need of the time to understand the importance of changing trends in marriage and mate selection. The present investigation is aimed at objectives given below

Objectives

1. To study the perceptions of undergraduate female students about the significance of the marriage in their life, criteria of mate selection and their preferences for it.
2. To study the awareness of undergraduate female students about different methods of mate selection and types of marriage and their preferences to it.
3. To study the views of undergraduate female students about the types of readiness required for leading happy and successful married life.
4. To study the views of undergraduate female students about premarital and extra marital relationships of the couples
5. To study the views of undergraduate female students about divorce, dowry, remarriage, singlehood and pre-marital counselling.

Review of Literature

CHAPTER-II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A comprehensive review of any research endeavour is mandatory. This requires good effort on the part of the investigator to select relevant subject matter, to organize and report it systematically. This chapter attempts to give a brief account of literature, which ties the theoretical and empirical aspects of the research study. It is organized well under the following headings

2.1 Significance of Marriage

2.2 Criteria of Mate Selection

2.3 Types of Marriages

2.4 Modes of Mate Selection

2.5 Ideal Age at Marriage

2.6 Types of Readiness Required for Successful Marriage

2.7 Dating for Mate Selection

2.8 Premarital Counselling

2.9 Views about Dowry

2.10 Premarital and Extramarital Sexual Relationships

2.11Cohabitation, Divorce & Remarriage

2.1 Significance of Marriage

Bharati and Patnam (1995) studied 210 college going girls (135 from high SES and 135 from middle SES) of Parbhani town and concluded that majority of the college going girls in high and middle SES groups wanted to get married as marriage makes them to become a complete person and it make one's life more meaningful.

Bhandari and Patnam (1996) studied the perceptions of college going boys about marriage and mate selection. The sample consisted of 180 college students in the age range of 18-24 yrs. They were from six colleges of Parbhani town. Irrespective of their age groups in both middle and high SES groups, 73 per cent college boys reported that they wanted to get married to experience marital life followed by to have lifelong companion (67-71%) for the fulfillment of sexual urges (58-62%) to have exciting life (55-57%) and to have social acceptance in society (47-52%).

Deshpande and Patnam (2000) carried out a study on 200 Parbhani slum girls in the age range of 15-18 yrs concluded that irrespective of the educational level of girls, majority of the slum girls were in favour of marriage and also stated the reasons for it like marriage protects them from evils eyes and provides security (95%), marriage upholds their prestige in society (90%) and marriage makes them to become a complete person (66%).

Gunjal and Patnam (2001) studied 190 rural girls in the age group of 14-16 yrs (104 from middle SES and 86 from high SES) of 5 villages of Kallam taluka, Osmanabad of Marathwada region of Maharashtra. From the study it was found that, irrespective of the types of family and SES, all the rural girls felt that marriage has great significance in life, because of various reasons like to get socio-emotional security (39-44%), to establish own home (28-43%) and to get lifelong companion (30-37%).

Rank *et al.* (2003) studied to know the impact of marriage in generating income and wealth. The study showed that people who marry become economically better. Men earned more after marriage than that of the single men with the similar educational levels and jobs. It was also found from the study that the married couples utilized the resources very efficiently and saved more money than the unmarried people as married couples believed that marriage made permanent bond and more binding to live together.

Anderson (2013) studied on marriage: what it is, why it matters, and the consequences of redefining it. The conclusion given was marriage is based on

the truth that men and women are complementary, the biological fact that reproduction depends on a man and a woman, and the reality that children need a mother and a father. Redefining marriage does not simply expand the existing understanding of marriage; it rejected these assumptions. Marriage is society's least restrictive means of ensuring the well-being of children. By encouraging the norms of marriage—monogamy, sexual exclusivity, and permanence— the state strengthens civil society and reduces its own role. The future of this country depends on the future of marriage. The future of marriage depends on citizens understanding what it is and why it matters and demanding for government policies support and not undermine true marriage.

2.2 Criteria of Mate Selection

Rauch (1991) studied to identify mate choice preferences for dating, sexual encounters, and marriage by surveying 248 graduate students. The results suggested that mate choice preferences reflected actual mate choice behavior.

Patnam and Vasekar (1991) studied the preferences of 95 college male (38) and female (57) students for their mate selection. Majority of the students preferred the mates from nuclear type families. About 50 percent boys and 58 percent girls expressed greater concern for better physical appearance and personality traits of the mate. Twenty eight percent male students gave first preference to the age difference of 2 yrs between mates, where as 54 percent girls gave first preference to the mates who do not accept dowry.

Witt *et al.* (1992) examined the relative influence of culture and perceived parental influence on several attitudinal areas of love, sex, and mate selection in a comparative study of Korean and U.S. college students. Korean young adults were found to be more conservative on every dependent variable. Additionally, the perceived influence of parents on life choices emerged as an influential factor on dependent variables regardless of the respondent's culture of origin. Finally, multiple regression models were tested to reveal other independent factors influencing personal perceptions of sexuality. With few

exceptions, culture and parental influence remain the best predictors of attitudes about love and sexuality.

Fossett and Kiecolt (1993) studied the opinions of the slum girls of metropolitan cities and concluded that all of them gave first preference to the mates with good economic background or having good earnings.

Susan, Sprecher, Sullivan, Quintin, Hotfeld, Elaine (1994) studied the gender differences in the traits desired in a mate. The data was collected from National Survey of Families and Household. From the data it was evident that there was consistency in the gender differences in the many research studies while age and physical attractiveness of mate were found to be more important to men than to women, while earning potential of the mate was found to be less important to men than to the women. From the study it was also noted that the consistency was across the age groups and races. The different sociodemographic groups differed slightly in the magnitude of gender differences for some of the preferences in mate selection.

Bharati and Patnam (1995) studied 210 college going girls (135 from high SES and 135 from middle SES) of Parbhani town .The results indicated that with regard to family background of mate, in high SES group majority of the girls irrespective of their age gave first preference to religion and socio economic status of mate and third preference to spoken language of mate's family while in middle SES group majority of the girls irrespective of their age preferred first the religion, socio economic status and caste of mate's family. In high SES group a higher percentage of girls (above 57%) gave first preference to customs, reputation and caste of mate's family. While in middle SES group above 57 percent girls gave first preference to customs, reputation, income and type of mate's family.

Bharati and Patnam (1995) studied 210 college going girls (135 from high SES and 135 from middle SES) of Parbhani town. The results indicated that in both the SES groups irrespective of age groups, above 84 percent girls gave first preference to mate's age, educational qualification, occupation,

personality traits and monthly income of the mate. Significantly more number of girls in high SES group preferred first general appearance of mate and the mate not demanding dowry as compared to their counterparts in middle SES group. In both the SES groups, irrespective of their age and preferences girls gave higher weightage of 661-670 to mate's age, educational qualification, job, monthly income and personality traits followed by the weightage of 449-529 to blood group and Rh factor.

Bhandari and Patnam (1996) studied the college boys' perceptions about marriage and mate selection. The sample consisted of 180 students in the age range of 18-24 yrs from six colleges of Parbhani. The results indicated that irrespective of the socio-economic status, 22-26 per cent, 22-33 per cent and 12-17 per cent college boys gave first, second and third preferences respectively to the type of family of the mate. Family size was preferred first, second and third by 18-22 per cent, 23-33 per cent and 14-18 per cent college boys respectively. Religion, caste and family reputation of the mate were given first preference by majority (73-91%) of the college boys, food habits and health history of the family of the mate were also given first preference by 38-48 per cent college boys. Above 24 per cent and 22-38 per cent of college boys gave respectively first and second preferences to mate's parental heritage. Majority of the college boys gave first preference to family reputation, caste, religion and socio-economic status irrespective of their SES groups. In both the SES groups all the college boys found to give first preference to girls' age, educational qualification, general appearance and personality traits of their prospective mate.

Patani *et al.* (1998) studied the opinions of one hundred students of Sardar Patel University regarding mate selection. The findings indicated that majority of the respondents assigned an important place to the family background in mate selection and also to the personality factors like physical appearance and personal qualities.

Joglekar (1999) studied 395 girls from Rohini Marriage Bureau and it was concluded that only 12 percent girls gave first preference for inter-caste marriage. Seventy to eighty percent girls preferred matching of the horoscope in fixing a mate. All the female applicants were against giving of dowry in their marriage.

Deshpande and Patnam (2000) carried out a study on 200 Parbhani slum girls in the age range of 15-18 yrs. The results indicated that, majority (58-100%) of the slum girls in both the groups preferred first the mate from same religion and caste followed by the mate having same family customs, higher SES, good reputation of family, non vegetarian and living in urban areas. Majority of the high school educated slum girls preferred second the mate belonging to the middle size family, having very good family reputation, good family health history while majority of the primary school educated slum girls preferred second the mate having same family customs. None of the girls in both the groups gave third preference to religion and caste while majority of them gave third preference to mate's food habits, area of residence, reputation of family, spoken language, socio -economic status, family customs and family type. Most of the slum girls have highest weightages to religion caste and family customs of the mate followed by SES, family type and size, spoken language, reputation and health history of family.

Kerr (2000) studied 100 traditional university first year undergraduate students of to know about their perceptions of marriage and gender roles among them. Their age range was of 18-20 yrs. It was found that both male and female participants mentioned the qualities such as physical appearance, problem solving skills, understanding, as the accepting qualities and the financial security as the important desirable characteristic. On the other hand, the girls were mentioned the characteristics such as trust-worthiness, responsibility, honesty, dependability, high moral conviction and family orientation in their prospective mate. While most of the male participants listed

the characteristics for their prospective mates girls were intelligent, nurturing, humorous, kind and shall be a good companion.

Basu and Ray (2001) studied the nature of similarities and differences in the desired physical and psychological characteristics of lovers and cross-sex friendship among the college students. Fourteen physical and twenty five psychological traits were presented to 160 Bengali Hindu college students who rated them in terms of their desirability in their mate or a cross-sex friendship. The results indicated that the girls gave greater emphasis on psychological characteristics of the prospective mate while the boys emphasized physical traits of the girls.

Goldstein and Kenney (2001) conducted the study to know the impact of college education on marriage. According to the study women and men who were college educated were more likely to marry and less likely to give divorce, than the people who had lower level of education. The study also indicated that the college educated girls had better chances of marrying than the less educated girls. However it became difficult for the college girls in finding similar level of educated boys as life partners.

Gunjal and Patnam (2001) studied 190 rural girls in the age group of 14-16 yrs (104 from middle SES and 86 from high SES) of 5 villages of Kalam taluka, Osmanabad of Marathwada region of Maharashtra. From the study it was found that the rural girls in nuclear families gave maximum weightages to the mate's religion and caste followed by family customs (404), area of residence (378), same spoken language (367). On the other hand the rural girls in joint families also gave the maximum weightages to the religion and caste of mates. Overall results indicate that the rural girls in nuclear and joint families were more concerned about the religion and caste of their prospective mate.

Tolmacz (2004) examined the association between attachment styles and the willingness to compromise while choosing a mate. The study was conducted on 111 single male students. The results indicated that anxious ambivalent participants exhibited less willingness to compromise than the

secured and avoidant individuals, who exhibited a similar, higher level of willingness to compromise.

Bardasi and Taylor (2005) investigated the commonly observed relationship between marriage and wages among men in Britain using panel data covering the 1990s. The estimates provide evidence for the existence of a large selection effect into marriage based on both observable and unobservable characteristics that are positively correlated with wages.

Jiali Ye (2005) studied the role of culture and gender in mate selection. About 200 each Chinese and American personal advertisements in dating websites indicated that the members of age ranged between 20 and 45 yrs. It was found that culture had significant impact on pattern of self presentation and mate preferences. Most of the Chinese advertisers focused on physical appearance, health condition, financial status, education and morality, while the American advertisers focused on the personality traits and hobbies. The Chinese women were more particular about partners' personality, morality and physical characteristics than the Chinese men.

Belot and Francesconi (2006) assessed the relative importance of preferences and opportunities in dating behaviour, using unique data from a large commercial speed dating agency. They found that both women and men equally value physical attributes, such as age and weight, and that there is positive sorting along age, height, and education. The role of individual preferences, however, was outplayed by that of opportunities. Along some attributes (such as occupation, height and smoking) opportunities explain almost all the estimated variation in demand. Along other attributes (such as age), the role of preferences is more substantial, but never dominant. Despite this, preferences have a part when we observe a match, i.e., when two individuals propose to one another.

Fisman *et al.* (2006) studied dating behavior using data from a Speed Dating experiment. It was found that women put greater weight on the intelligence and the race of partner, while men respond more to physical

attractiveness. Moreover, men do not value women's intelligence or ambition when it exceeds their own. Also, they found that women exhibit a preference for men who grew up in affluent neighborhoods. Finally, male selectivity is invariant to group size, while female selectivity is strongly increasing in group size.

Zeib-Un-Nisa *et al.* (2006) studied the perception of women towards the mate selection in Pakistan. It was found that 48.9% of the respondents belonged to 20-30 yrs age. About 24 percent of the respondents belonged to the Rajput caste. Majority (95%) of the respondents were married. Majority of the respondents preferred the mate with good family background and having economical security.

Deutsch *et al.* (2007) examined the college educated females' plans for egalitarian marriages. One hundred and forty four heterosexual undergraduate females responded to the survey about their preferences for different life styles and their attitudes toward work and family life. The pattern of their preferences showed a distinction between home-centered, balanced and job centered egalitarian families. The regressions analysis results showed that the gender ideology in ideas about parenting, motherhood and career orientation.

Evans and Brase (2007) conducted a research study to know the interaction of gender and education in the mate selection. The sample size included of 55 males and 41 females. They were from African American college and in the age range of 17-38 yrs .The factorial analysis yielded that three factors such as social satisfaction, personality and physical variables were significant for the gender across the social and physical variables, while educational status of them did not show any difference in it.

Ismen (2008) studied gender and gender roles affecting mate preferences. The sample indicated of 300 undergraduates and post graduates. The sex role evaluation inventory (Bem, 1975) was adopted for it. The results of the study indicated that mate preferences were significantly differentiated in

terms of gender; whereas there were no such significant differences in terms of gender and gender roles.

Honore (2008) conducted research on how individual perception of genetic risk (PGR) influences or predicts sexual/reproductive intentions and decision-making. Eighty six students from three Southwestern universities were recruited for study. The study revealed that a number of factors including age, gender, religion, individual/family values, and exposure to genetic concepts/technology appeared to influence sexual/reproductive decision-making. Positive family norms were the single best predictor of dating and marital intention. Age was the best predictor of childbearing intention.

Lance (2008) analyzed 1433 descriptive adds to determine the characteristics emphasized in potential heterosexual partners for both females and males and tried to compare these findings with earlier studies' findings. The results showed that there were more changes in the mate selection criteria of males and females over a period.

Maliki (2009) in his study tried to identify factors that determine mate selection choice among university students in south-south zone of Nigeria. The sample was made up of 1420 randomly selected undergraduates. The main finding of the study indicated that students consider character as the most important factor in their mate selection choice.

Scott *et al.* (2009) studied the young adults' attitudes about relationships and marriage. The results of the analysis indicated that most young adults had higher expectations for choosing a mate than the adolescents/ youth.

Lukaszewski and Roney (2010) studied on 58 women and 73 men enrolled in undergraduate courses at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) for mate preferences for personality traits change depending on the specific targets of a partners' behavioral acts. Consistent with this, two experiments demonstrated that people prefer partners who are extremely kind and trustworthy when considering behaviors directed toward themselves or

their friends/family, but shift their preferences to much lower levels of these traits when considering behaviors directed toward other classes of individuals.

Hitsch *et al.* (2010) estimated mate preferences using a novel data set from an online dating service. The main findings are there is no evidence for strategic behavior. Men and women have a strong preference for similarity along many attributes. In particular, the site users display strong same-race preferences. Race preferences did not differ across users with different age, income, or education levels in the case of women, and differ only slightly in the case of men. For men, but not for women, the revealed same-race preferences correspond to the same-race preference stated in the users' profile. There are gender differences in mate preferences; in particular, women have a stronger preference than men for income over physical attributes.

Vaillant and Wolff (2010) studied on preferences for specific characteristics in a potential partner using data from 1993 to 1999 provided by a French marriage bureau. Men tended to reject vulgar and unfaithful women, meaning that they were likely to suffer serious fitness costs from infidelity. On the other hand, women dreaded meeting potential partners who were alcoholic, selfish or violent.

Maliki (2011) tried to examine the differences in undergraduate's socio-economic status and their preferences of marriage partner selection in terms of their personality traits, socio-economic status and physical attractiveness. A total of 1,419 participated in the study. The result revealed that university undergraduates' socio-economic status significantly influenced their preferences in marriage partner's selection in terms of personality traits, socio-economic status and physical attractiveness. It is recommended among others that undergraduates should not choose marriage partners that were committed to money and pleasure alone but to loving attitude which was the most basic characteristic that was preferred. It was preferred that know their potential marriage partners well enough before they make the final decision, not just looking at the potential marriage partner's high socio-economic status.

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Bakhshi and Baker (2012) carried out a study to investigate British Indian men and women's perceptions of Indian physical appearance ideals and related attributes. The findings indicated that participants perceived few cultural similarities in the Indian and Western standards for physical appearance. Internalisation of Indian body ideals (including fair skin and slimness) were linked to finding a suitable partner for marriage for women. The results indicated that gender was influential one in determining the physical, psychological and social implications of attempting to conform to the cultural - physical appearance ideals and related attributes.

Boxer (2012) studied basic sex differences in spouse preferences. The findings showed that males prefer attractiveness and females prefer resources in potential partners, and in general, they prefered partners who were similar, rather than different, to them, males who anticipated enacting the "traditional" male role of "provider" within their marriage tended to prefer spouses who would fulfill the caregiver role, compared to males who did not anticipate such "traditional" gender divisions within the family. Interestingly, females who anticipated the "traditional" caregiving role did not in turn prefer spouses who fulfill the "provider" role; they instead preferred a spouse who was family-oriented.

Zietsch *et al.* (2012) studied the ariation in human mate choice: simultaneously investigating heritability, parental influence, sexual imprinting, and assortative mating on a large community-based sample of twins and their partners and parents (N > 20,000 individuals). The study revealed near-zero genetic influences on male and female mate choice over all traits and no significant genetic influences on mate choice for any specific trait. A significant family environmental influence was found for the age and income of females' mate choices, possibly reflecting parental influence over mating decisions. They also tested for evidence of sexual imprinting, where individuals acquired mate-choice criteria during development by using their opposite-sex

parent as the template of a desirable mate; there was no such effect for any trait.

Hattori *et al.* (2013) studied on the relevant characteristics in potential mates during adolescence and assessed their level of importance. Samples were made up of 467 Brazilian students. Similarities between the sexes emerged in the analysis. The updated list of traits considered important by adolescents during mates' choice.

Mendez (2013) examined the demographic variables of gender, ethnicity, income, and the perception of success in interethnic/interracial couples. The college students involved in the study were 153. The study revealed ethnicity not as a variable of interest, income was the only significant variable in perception of success. A partial correlation analysis controlling for age revealed no changes in the relationship between income combinations and the Modern Racism Scale. Previous dating history did not moderate the relationship between perceived success across income pairings. The relationship between modern racism and perceived success also remained significant across three of the four income groups. Partial correlations by gender, residential region, and parents' education did not reveal any relationship between modern racism and ratings based on income combinations.

Onu and Armstrong (2013) investigated the qualities that influenced mate selection among female undergraduate students on a sample of 483 female students. The study demonstrated that in spite of modernization, the choice of a life partner are guided by religion, social status, security, love among other qualities. Increasingly the female exercised their freedom to choose or select those they wanted to spend their life with, sometimes even in apparent disobedience to their parents.

Sandhya (2013) examined the differences in undergraduates' socio-economic status on their preferences to marriage partner selection in terms of their personality traits, socio-economic status and physical attractiveness. A

total of 770 respondents participated in this study. The results revealed that the respondents' socio-economic status significantly influenced their preferences in marriage partners selection in terms of personality traits, socio-economic status and physical attractiveness.

Sandhya (2013) studied the mate selection preferences of 762 college students 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. The study revealed that most of the respondents considered marriage was an important and an inevitable event in every body's life. Choice of marriages within the caste with parental consent and with traditional rituals were preferred followed by matching of the horoscope was favoured, while dowry was considered as an evil of society. The male respondents preferred partners younger than themselves while females preferred mates nearer to their age or older by 2-3.

Sepehri and Bagherian (2013) conducted study on 150 young boys and 150 girls and their mothers. To study their views about ideal or preferred criteria when looking for their mates. The results showed that physical beauty was more important to boys than to girls while the criteria of responsibility and being loved were more important to girls than to the boys. Income, field of study, and being handsome were the more important criteria for mothers when choosing son-in-law than when selecting daughter-in-law. The girls paid more attention to loving and being loved and relations before marriage than their mothers. Choosing a handsome bride was the more important criterion for boys than for their mothers. Gender and generation differences found in the study indicated the gap between girls and boys and also the generation gap between youth and their parents in mate selection.

Alahdad *et al.* (2014) study intended to identify major traits of personality that affected life satisfaction among married participants in Universiti Teknologi Malaysia. The sample consisted of 158 married students.

The results showed that major traits such as self-confidence, extrovert, and resiliency were found to have strong effect on life satisfaction.

Alavi *et al.* (2014) studied to identify mate selection criteria of Malaysian postgraduate students. The participants were 30. The findings showed that Malaysian postgraduate students valued mates' background such as religion and the physical qualities such as attractiveness in mate selection.

Bejanyan *et al.* (2014) studied on romantic ideals, mate preferences, and anticipation of future difficulties in marital life of young adults in India and America. The findings suggested that Indian youth actually possessed stronger romantic ideals than did their American counterparts. While it was still crucial for collectivist youth to be pragmatic in their mate choices, this did not detract from their desire for love and romance. They further found that Indians' gender role traditionalism and collectivism were associated with stronger desires for a partner with traditional mate characteristics and greater anticipation of future difficulties in marital life.

Cuthbert and Faisal (2014) studied on the perception and attitude of Ghanaian tertiary students towards marriage and family formation. The study revealed that majority of students did not intend to marry but wanted to have children. It was also observed that marriage under the ordinance was the most preferred form of marriage by tertiary students while monogamy (single marriage) was the most preferred type of marriage among respondents. While educational status, ethnicity, religious affiliation and financial status came up as the top most factors students would consider in selecting a potential spouse, nuclear family remained the most preferred family type to the traditional African extended family type.

Olusola and Elem (2015) studied on the factors that necessitate the choice of mates among adolescents on 240 students. It was observed that qualities that influenced short-term relationship are the same qualities that influenced a long-term relationship and despite the qualities identified by these adolescents, divorce was on the increase in the society.

Wincenciak *et al.* (2015) studied correlation between mate preference & mate choice. The participants' own attractiveness modulated the relationship between their preferences and choice. Fifty-one heterosexual romantic couples took part in the study. The results showed that preferences for healthy-looking other-sex faces predicted third-party ratings of partner's facial health better among women whose faces were rated as more attractive by third parties. This pattern of results was not seen for men. These results suggested that the relationship between mate preference and mate choice was more complex than was assumed. The results also highlighted the utility of biological theories for understanding the links between mate preference and partner choice.

Beam and Buss (2016) studied about how are mate preferences linked with actual mate selection. Tests of mate preference integration lagorithms using computer simulations and actual mating couples. They found that actual mates were close in multidimensional preference space to the preferences of their partners. Moreover, this euclidean preference fulfillment was greater for people who had higher mate value.

2.3 Types of Marriages

Saroja and Surendra's study carried out in Dharwad (1990) on the preferences of postgraduate students for the types of marriage indicated that a higher percentage of the boys (53.5 %) as compared to the girls (28.6%)preferred love marriage where as it was vice-versa in relation to the arranged marriage (girls-72 percent, boys 47 percent).

Audinarayana and Uma (1991) conducted a study on the opinions of marriage patterns of youth and adults. It was an inter generational study conducted in the Pallapalayam village of Tamil Nadu. The sample consisted of 348 female respondents. Out of it, 174 youth (unmarried) and 174 adults (mothers of these unmarried).Personal interviews were conducted separately with the youth and their mothers. The results revealed that the female youth were more in favour of the love marriage as compared to their older generation (mothers).

Saroja and Surendra (1991) had conducted a study on 395 postgraduate students at UAS Dharwad. The study showed that about 58 percent of the PG students reported to have preferred arranged marriage and the remaining of them (42%) preferred love marriage.

Bharati and Patnam (1995) conducted a study in Parbhani town on 270 college girls (18-24 yrs).It was found that about 85 percent girls gave first preference to have the traditional marriage method followed by the registered marriage. Majority of the girls gave first preference to the marriage arranged by the parents / elders with their consent.

Bhandari and Patnam (1996) studied the perceptions of the college boys about marriage and mate selection by selecting a stratified random sample of 180 college boys (18-24 yrs) from Parbhani town. The sample boys belonged to middle and high SES groups. All the college boys expressed that marital success is under couples' control and 2-4 yrs time gap was preferred in between engagement and wedding time. About 61-75 percent college boys in both the SES groups stated that marriage was an important event in one's life. All the boys preferred first traditional method of marriage followed by the traditional cum registered marriage. About 81-88 per cent college boys in middle SES group gave first preference to self choice marriage with parental consent and to the arranged marriage, after seeking boys consent. On the other hand in high SES group the corresponding percentages were 76 and 53. Irrespective of the socio-economic status fifty one to eighty one per cent college boys gave first preference to non consanguineous marriage, while 36-49 per cent gave second preference to consanguineous marriage.

Audhinarayana and Krishnamurthy (1998) researched to know the determinants of consanguinity in South India. It was found from the study that the extent of consanguinity (34.6%) and the mean coefficient of inbreeding (0.019) were high. There was a significant negative effect women's education and age at marriage on consanguinity.

Badami and Patnam (2010) studied on the perceptions of postgraduate students about marriage and mate selection. 150 boys and 150 girls from low SES and middle SES were involved in the study. The results showed that irrespective of SES 63 percent of PG boys and only 35 percent of PG girls wanted to have self choice marriage while the remaining of them wanted to have arranged marriage.

Badami and Patnam (2010) studied on the perceptions of postgraduate students about marriage and mate selection. 150 boys and 150 girls from low SES and middle SES were involved in the study. The results showed that irrespective of SES, 45 percent PG boys and 32 percent PG girls opined to have traditional cum registered marriage for the Indian culture followed by traditional methods of marriage.

2.4 Modes of Mate Selection

Laumann *et al.* (1994) studied the social organization of sexuality. The study revealed that the best way to find the future marriage partner is through an introduction by family, friends or acquaintances. It was found that social networks are important in bringing up individuals of similar interests and backgrounds. According to the National Survey of Sexuality, 60 percent of the married people stated that they were introduced to each other by family friends, co-workers or other acquaintances.

Bhandari and Patnam (1996) conducted a study on 180 college students (18-24 yrs). The results indicated that irrespective of SES groups 58-62 per cent college boys preferred first the mode of mate selection in which parents / elders of boys family negotiate first with the girl/girl's family and screening the mate followed by self selection through dating (39-40%) and parties / celebrations (21-32%).

Deshpande and Patnam (2000) studied 200 slum girls (15-18 yrs) of Parbhani town. The results indicated that above 70 per cent of high school educated and primary school educated slum girls opted the method of selecting the mate from the alliances referred by their parents or relatives, while the

remaining of them preferred the method of selecting the mate on their own from Melas and in social functions. Significantly a higher percentage of primary school educated slum girls wanted their parents to choose their life partner.

Carter and Buckwalter (2009) investigated the effects of a broadly adopted online matchmaking site on the nature and quality of married couples. Measures of personality, emotion, interests, values and marital adjustment were collected from a sample of married couples who had been introduced by an online matchmaking service, and from a sample of married couples who had met through unfettered choice. The results showed that couples introduced to the online matchmaking site were more similar, in using the current measures was a strong predictor of marital adjustment in both online matched and comparison couples. Marriages resulting from the online matchmaking service were observed to have significantly higher scores for marital adjustment.

Badami and Patnam (2010) studied on the perceptions of postgraduate students about marriage and mate selection. 150 boys and 150 girls from low SES and middle SES were involved in the study. The results showed that irrespective of SES, PG students suggested multiple modes for selection of their prospective mate. All PG boys and girls deserved to have the mate from the proposals referred by mediators/ family friends followed by selecting mate personally in functions and marriages of relatives and from vadhu var melas.

2.5 Ideal Age for Marriage

Shrinivas *et al.* (1991) studied the knowledge and perceptions of 241 adolescents of Pondicherry about ideal age at marriage. Majority of respondents stated that the ideal age at marriage for girls was 18 years and for boys was 18-21 yrs. However, 25 percent each girls and boys were still in favour of the early marriage.

Mukherjee (1992) studied the age at marriage and family welfare of various communities. It was found that in Sikh and Christian communities, people marry much later than 18 yrs as compared to the Muslims, Hindus or

others, while Malhotra and Tusi (1996) found that in Srilanka and in India in 20th century the age at marriage was 20-21 yrs on an average for the urban girls.

Bharati and Patnam (1995) studied 270 college going girls (135 from high SES and 135 from middle SES) of Parbhani town. The results indicated that about 70 per cent and 51 per cent college going girls in high and middle SES groups respectively reported that ideal age at marriage for girls was 23-25 yrs followed by 20-22 yrs (16 % and 27%), 25 -27 yrs (12 % and 19%) and 18-20 yrs (2% and 3%). The results also indicated that the ideal age at marriage for girls stated by the college going girls found to have increasing trend with increase in their age.

Bhandari and Patnam (1996) studied the perceptions of college going boys about marriage and mate selection. The sample consisted of 180 students in the age range of 18-24. The study showed that in middle SES group irrespective of the age groups, 48 per cent college boys stated 23-25 yrs was ideal age for boys to get married followed by 25 - 27 yrs (36.66%), 27-29 yrs (13.33%) and 21-23 yrs (2.22%), while the corresponding percentages in high SES group were 34, 47 and 19. The study also showed that irrespective of the socio-economic status and age, above 95 per cent college boys stated that they prefer to get married after completion of higher studies and after getting a suitable job.

Sheela conducted the study in 1998 to know the different factors that affect the mate selection process and females age at marriage in India. About 600 married women from Salem district, Tamil Nadu, were interviewed. It was evident from the results that the age at initiation of marriage process after menarche played a significant role in deciding the age at marriage of women irrespective of their area of residence. This indirectly indicates the importance of age at menarche to initiate the process of mate selection. Caste endogamy has also played an important role in influencing the age at marriage of women both in rural and urban areas. The age at marriage of women was positively

related to the amount of dowry paid at the time of their marriage. Further the practice of horoscope matching led to early marriage of women, more significantly in rural areas where such practices were more prevalent.

Surrender *et al.* (1998) conducted a study in Tamil Nadu, on 3948 married couples to examine the impact of mate selection on female's age at marriage, pregnancy wastages and survival status of the first child. The results indicated that marriage between close relatives resulted in women marrying at very young age and experiencing higher percentages of pregnancy wastage and loss of the first child.

Saroja and Manava (1999) reported in their study that the women's age was lesser at the time of their marriage than their spouses. Most of the men were married between 21-25 yrs followed.

Vue (2000) examined the corelational study on perception of early marriage and future educational goals of female adolescents. A significant difference was found when there was a positive perception of early marriage and lower educational goals for the respondents. This research also found that even though respondents' parents were not educated, the respondents still have high educational goals. No significant difference was found for educational goals for married and single female respondents. The study further showed that married respondents without children had higher educational goals when compared to married respondents with children.

Hyattsville (2002) studied how the age categories are delineated and the length of the time period covered after marriage. The teenage marriages were recorded to have two to three times more likely to end up with divorce as compared to the marriages performed at the older ages of the couples. A recent government study found that 59 percent of marriages for women under age 18 were ended up with divorce or separation within 15 yrs of marital life as compared to the 36 percent divorced couples who married at the age 20 yrs or older.

Lehrer (2006) did the analyses based on cycles 5 and 6 of the national survey of family growth to show that the relationship between age at marriage and marital instability was strongly negative up to the late twenties.

Xu (2012) studied the extent to which women's desire for marriage has been affected by factors like education, age, economic status, and gender role attitudes. The research population was 11,439 women students enrolled in Iowa State University. The results indicated that education and age have little influence on college women's desire for marriage. Among overall expectation for marriage, a strong expectation to enter adulthood was the most important factor affecting desire to marry. The study also indicates that those who hold a traditional view of gender role, especially concerning having kids and possessing traditional spouse identity, will have a relatively strong desire to marry.

Wiik and Holland (2015) study addresses the relationship between the partner choice and the timing of first marriage among all migrant- and non-migrant-background individuals born between 1972 and 1989, who were either native-born or who immigrated prior to age 18 (generation 1.5). Multivariate results confirmed that in both the countries the marital timing patterns of migrant-background individuals who married exogamously were more similar to the majority populations than among those who married another migrant-background individual. Their findings thus suggested that the Scandinavian pattern of late marriage tends to dominate, even where the immigrant-background composition of the couple is mixed.

2.6 Types of Readiness Required for Successful Marriage

Bharati and Patnam (1995) conducted the study in Parbhani town on 270 college girls (18-24 yrs) and found that majority of the college girls expressed the need of different types of readiness for having successful marriage. The time gap required between engagement and wedding suggested was 2-4 yrs. Above 91 percent girls expressed views against dowry to be given in their marriage.

Bhandari and Patnam (1996) studied the perceptions of college boys about marriage and mate selection of 180 college boys (18-24 yrs) from Parbhani town. From the results it is clear that all the college boys expressed that marital success was under couples' control and 2-4 yrs time gap was preferred in between engagement and wedding time. All of them stated that physical maturity was very essential for marital success followed by mental maturity (97%), sexual maturity (85-97%), social maturity (97%) and attainment of financial independence (94%) were the essential readiness to be attained before marriage for leading happy married life.

Gunjal and Patnam (2001) conducted a study on 190 rural girls of 5 villages of Kalam taluka, Osmanabad district, Marathwada region of Maharashtra state. The study showed that irrespective of the types and SES of families, majority of the rural girls opined that physical maturity must be acquired by the couples for making marriage a successful one followed by social maturity (40-56%), emotional maturity (17-47%) and mental maturity (29-41%).Acquiring of economic independence was reported by the 31-39 percent rural girls of nuclear and joint families while it was 30-41 per cent in middle and high SES groups.

2.7 Dating for Mate Selection

Markstorm (1991) studied the attitudes of 36 mormon and 47 non-mormon adolescents towards inter-faith dating, mate selection and marriage. It was found that mormon adolescents identified more barriers to inter-faith dating than the non-mormon adolescents and also anticipated that mate selection as one of the functions of dating. Significant difference was found in the attitudes of mormon and non-mormon respondents towards dating, mate selection and marriage.

Bharati and Patnam (1995) studied 270 college going girls of Parbhani town. In both the high and middle SES groups 80-90 per cent girls expressed their desire to date with finance for the reasons of getting to know more about

him for judging the degree of compatibility and preparing oneself to match to each other.

Bhandari and Patnam (1996) conducted a study on 180 college students of Parbhani. The results indicated that about 81-88 per cent college boys wanted to date with their fiancé irrespective of their age and SES groups for getting to know each other thoroughly, while the rest of the boys were not for it (12-19%) for the reasons that it leads to bad reputation of their families.

Basu and Ray (2000) studied the perceptions of youth about mate dating and cross-sex friendships. The study was conducted on 240 college students. The results showed that girls had put greater emphasis on demographical features and psychological characteristics, while the boys emphasized more on physical traits of mates while dating. The boys perceived women as combination of sex object, where as the dating mates as companions without much commitment.

Susan *et al.* (2003) study showed that the dating referred to a process of pairing involved open choice of mate selection and engagement allowed people to get to know each other. A potentially negative experience of dating had intimate relationship with violence. The research indicated that the rate of nonsexual courtship violence ranged from 9 percent to 65 percent.

Levesque and Caron (2004) studied the dating preferences of women belonging to different age groups. The sample included for the study was 81 each non married, divorced or widowed and non- cohabiting women, in which 39 percent were in the age group of 20-25 yrs and 42 percent were the age group of 35 -50 yrs. The study revealed that many of the older women wanted to choose a mate who was younger to them.

Miller (2011) explored the social approval of internet dating through the ranking of vignette scenarios. In the conclusion, support was found for low cultural approval of internet dating. Conditions of face-to-face interaction, issues of trust, and affinity to the internet demonstrate clear effects on the approval of relationships formed through internet dating.

2.8 Premarital Counselling

The study conducted by Bharati and Patnam (1995) on 270 college girls (18-24 yrs) of Parbhani town revealed that most of the sample girls suggested that premarital counselling is required for proper mate selection and for successful marital life. Above 91 percent girls expressed views against dowry to be given in their marriage.

Bhandari and Patnam (1996) studied the perceptions of 180 college boys (18-24 yrs) from Parbhani town about marriage and mate selection. They belonged to middle and high SES groups. Sixty one to seventy seven percent of the college boys desired to seek premarital counselling for leading a successful marital life

Deshpande and Patnam (2000) studied the views of 200 slum girls (15-18 yrs) of Parbhani town (MS).Out of 200 slum girls 130 were high school educated and the remaining 70 were primary school educated. Regarding the premarital counselling, 82-86 percent of the slum girls in both the groups thought that counselling was needed while remaining girls never felt the need of it. The aspects of premarital counseling suggested by them were home management (100%), understanding and adjustment to family customs, traditions and relatives (63-100%) followed by adjust to spouse (42-94%); in laws (82-89%) and parenthood (75-89%).Fifty-eight to sixty five percent slum girls reported that 13-15 yrs age range was ideal for seeking premarital counselling while remaining stated that it should be at the age of 18-23 yrs.

Patnam and Badami (2010) studied the Views of Maharashtrian postgraduate students about premarital counseling and types of readiness for successful marriage. The study revealed that irrespective of SES, majority of the Maharashtrian PG students expressed favourable opinions about the need of premarital counseling for many benefits which in turn indicates their awareness and modern outlook. Irrespective of SES, all the PG students stated that physical and mental maturity, skills for proper communication and problem solving were essential followed by financial sufficiency, good interpersonal

relationships and normalcy in sexual behavior are the must for successful marital life.

Kepler (2015) examined the connection between premarital and marital counseling and marital satisfaction for couples. Twenty-seven individuals responded to the survey. A trend was detected showing that individuals who took part in premarital counseling indicated greater marital satisfaction than those who did not take part in premarital counseling.

2.9 Dowry Practice

Nadagouda and Saroja (1990) conducted a study on the attitudes of 200 unmarried and married Hindu working women towards dowry. The women were of Dharwad city. The findings indicated that in both the groups the women belonged to higher SES found to have favourable attitudes toward dowry while the women of lower SES were against it.

Bharati and Patnam (1995) conducted a study in Parbhani town on 270 college girls (18-24 yrs). Above 91 percent girls expressed views against the dowry practice.

Bhandari and Patnam (1996) studied the perceptions of the college boys about marriage and mate selection by selecting a stratified random sample of 180 college boys (18-24 yrs) from Parbhani town. It was interesting to note that 35-53 percent of the college boys in both the SES groups expressed views against the dowry system while the rest of them were in favour of it.

Joglekar (1999) studied 395 girls from Rohini Marriage bureau and on that basis it was concluded that only 12 percent girls gave first choice for inter caste marriage. Seventy to eighty percent girls preferred matching of horoscope in fixing up a mate. All of them were against giving of dowry in their marriages.

Mayuri (1999) studied 389 youth and adults of Baroda city in which 120 were in the age range of 40 - 50 yrs and 105 in the age of 18 - 23 yrs. All the respondents belonged to middle and upper SES groups. The majority of the

respondents expressed both advantages and disadvantages of the dowry practices. As compared to the advantages the disadvantages quoted were many like the harassment of the brides (42%), loss of social status for the girls (32%), economic insecurity (19%), financial burden for girl's parents (33%) and making marriage a materialistic transaction (19%).

The study conducted by Deshpande and Patnam (2000) on 200 slum girls (15-18 yrs) of Parbhani town (MS).Out of 200 slum girls 130 were high school educated and the remaining 70 were primary school educated. From the study it was evident that majority of the high school educated (80%) slum girls were against the dowry to be given in their marriage while majority of the primary school educated (65%) slum girls were in favour of it. Significantly a higher percentage of high school educated slum girls were in favour of dowry as the girls get better treatment and good acceptance at in-laws place and dowry helps in establishing their new home.

Badami and Patnam (2013) studied the views about dowry, divorce, remarriage and singlehood of three hundred Maharashtrian postgraduate students (21-26 yrs). The study revealed that majority of the PG boys and girls expressed unfavourable views about taking or giving dowry in marriage. Significantly a higher percentage of the Maharashtrian PG girls reported positive views about divorce for valid reasons as compared to their male counterparts. Majority of them had favourable views about remarriage of divorced / widow / widower for the reason of preventing problems of singlehood and to have a partner to lead a happy life. Majority of them also have not favoured singlehood for the reasons - difficult to live without a companion and exploitation of self by people. Significant differences were found in their views based on SES and gender.

2.10 Premarital and Extramarital Sexual Relationships

Liu (1991) studied on premarital and extramarital sexual relationship in Chinese youth. The study revealed that about 69 percent of the respondents mentioned that there was nothing wrong in having extramarital affair. From the

study conducted by Pan (1991) on 600 young couples, it was found that about 10 percent of them found to have extramarital relations.

Byline and Wetzstein's (2005) study showed that the America's sexual revolution greatly affected the young people, the young women especially becoming more permissive in their attitudes and behaviour in the past 20 yrs. It resulted in six fold increase in young women's approval of premarital sex which was found to be the biggest change as compared to the research findings of 1970-1980. The young women's approval of premarital sex role from 12 percent to 73 percent.

Rachna (2005) conducted a study to know the premarital sexual behaviour among unmarried college students in Mumbai. The sample size was 966 and were from low income group. It was found that 26 percent and 3 percent of male and female students respectively were involved in premarital sexual relationship. The Gujarat Behavioural Surveillance Survey (2000) showed that 18 percent of male students were involved in such type of premarital sexual relationships. The research studies conducted in 2 university settings in Delhi also revealed that 39 percent of male and 20 percent of female students were engaged in pre-marital sex (Sachdev, 1998)

Ghule *et al.* (2007) studied the attitudes of rural college students in Maharashtra towards premarital sex. The sample size was 1500 (800 male and 700 female students) and were in the age group of 15-24 yrs. The results clearly showed that majority of the students expressed conservative attitudes towards premarital sexuality. Majority of them disagreed for casual sex and also considered it as an immoral act. Their affairs were also reflected in their attitudes about gender bias i.e permitting premarital sex for males and not for females. The study also indicated that female students from science faculty had more liberal attitudes towards sexuality as compared to their counter parts from the art faculty.

Shekhar *et al.* (2007) studied the adolescents of std 9th and 10th in Patna. The results indicated that 10 percent and 1 percent of male and female students respectively were engaged in premarital sexual relations.

2.11 Cohabitation, Divorce and Remarriage

Schoeh and Weihick (1993) studied on partner's choice in marriage and cohabitation of 13017 individuals in the age range between 19 and 29 yrs and both were married and cohabitating respondents in Hopkins University. The results indicated that as, compared to the married couples cohabiting couples were more homogenous with respect to age, religion and criteria for mate selection.

Forste and Tanfer (1996) studied 1235 women of age group of 20 - 37 yrs. The study indicated that women, who had cohabited before the marriage were 3.3 times more likely to have secondary sex partner after marriage. It was also found that married women were 5 times less likely to have secondary sex partner than cohabiting women and cohabiting relationships appeared to be more similar to dating relationship than to marriage.

Joyce (1998) reported from the study conducted by the National Council on Family Relations on 309 newly wedded couples. The study revealed that those who cohabited first were less happier in marriage. It was found that cohabitation had a negative effect on the quality of a subsequent marriage. Cohabiters without plans to marry were found to be more inclined to argue, hit, shout and have an unfair division of labor than married couples.

The study was conducted by Cohan *et al* (2003) to know the relationship between cohabitation and marital quality & stability. The study showed that people having cohabitating relationship before the marriage were more likely to experience marital conflicts, marital unhappiness and divorce. It was also noted that the couples who were married between 1981 and 1997, the negative effects of cohabitation persisted more among younger cohorts and the cohabitation before marriage lead to lot of problems in their marriage.

Rhoades *et al.* (2006) had conducted longitudinal research work on 197 sample on the basis of premarital cohabitation. The research revealed that men who cohabited with their partner before the engagement were less dedicated than men who cohabited only after engagement or not at all before marriage.

Brown *et al.* (2008) surveyed 13,000 people. The study revealed that about 40 percent of the cohabiting pairs in US broke up without getting married. The reasons for it were; cohabiting partners differed from their ideal criteria for mate selection. However, it was found that 19 percent of the men married the person with whom they were cohabitating.

Stanley *et al.* (2009) studied the impact of the timing of engagement and premarital cohabitation effect on 1050 men and women. The results indicated that about 43 percent couples who cohabited before the engagement reported to have lower level of marital satisfaction, dedication and confidence and also had more negative communication and greater potential for divorce than those who cohabited only after engagement (16.4%) or not all cohabited until their marriage (40.5%).

Goldstein and Kenney (2001) conducted a study to know the impact of college education on their marriage. According to the study majority of the college educated women and men were married and less divorced than the people with lower levels education. The study also indicated that the college educated women's chances of marrying were better than the less educated women.

Zaitsev and Zaitsev (2006) conducted the study in Russia which indicated that increased rate of deviation in sexual behaviour among young people and the number of divorced among young couples provided evidence of the urgent relevance of value and sex education for the young people of Russia.

Gunjal and Patnam (2001) conducted study on 190 rural girls of 5 villages of Kallam taluka, Osmanabad district, Marathwada region of Maharashtra state. The study showed that 68 percent and 38 percent rural girls

in nuclear and joint families reported to be in favour of remarriage of girls or women while remaining of them were not in favour remarriage of girls or women. It was noted that about 52- 56 percent rural girls in middle and high SES families reported to be in favour of remarriage of girls while the remaining of them were not in favour of remarriage of girls or women. Majority of the rural girls from nuclear and joint families stated that girls or women should get remarried for getting socio-emotional security (88-94%). Significantly more number of the rural girls in nuclear families were in favour of remarriage of girls or women while no significant differences were found in the views of the rural girls upon remarriages of girls or women based on their SES of families.

Raley and Bumpass (2003) studied on probability of divorce using data from the 1995 NSFG. These results indicate that examining only marital transitions obscures the growth in family instability that has resulted among some groups because an increasing proportion of unions began as cohabitation.

Gerstein (2005) reported in the New York Times of US Census results analysis, that about 51 percent of the women indicated that they were living without a spouse, (include women of all ages).The analysis also showed that the older women who were widowed or divorced were more likely to delay their remarriage. It was also found that men remarried within two years of being widowed or divorced, while the women did it after five years.

Waller and Peters (2007) examined how unmarried parents' risk of divorce influences their decision to delay marriage. The samples were married mothers and parents who were unmarried at the time of their child's birth. The conclusion drawn that high rates of divorce in the population have led to a fear of divorce among unmarried parents of young children which reduced their probability of marriage.

Wilson and Smallwood (2008) explored the age difference of married and divorced couples by using marriage and divorce data for England and Wales from 1963 to 2005. The main finding was that between 1963 and 2005, the distribution of age differences for all marriages was very similar in each

year to the distribution of age differences for the subset of couples who married in that year.

Badami and Patnam (2010) studied on the perceptions of postgraduate students about marriage and mate selection. 150 boys and 150 girls from low SES and middle SES were involved in the study. The results showed that irrespective of SES, 46 percent of PG boys and 10 percent of PG girls expressed favourable views about cohabitation.

Goodwin *et al.* (2010) conducted research on marital and cohabiting relationships in the United States among men and women aged 15–44 in 2002. The results indicated that men and women were likely to cohabit prior to becoming married. Marriages were longer lasting than cohabiting unions; about 78% of marriages lasted 5 years or more, compared with less than 30% of the cohabitations. Cohabitations were shorter-lived than the marriages in part because about half of cohabitations transitioned to marriage within 3 years.

Manning and Cohen (2011) examined whether and to what extent variation in premarital cohabitation experiences influence marital stability by drawing on the 2006-2008 national survey of family growth. The analyses revealed that a 'cohabitation effect' exists only for early marriage cohorts (women married prior to 1996) and there was no cohabitation effect among more women married since 1996. More specifically, among women married prior to 1996 they found that only white and foreign-born Hispanic women experienced a cohabitation effect. In addition, the cohabitation effect among women in the later marriage cohort were masked until marriage plans were considered.

Bruze *et al.* (2012), estimated a dynamic model of marriage, divorce, and remarriage using 27 years of panel data for the entire Danish cohort born in 1960. The marital surplus is identified from the probability of divorce and the surplus shares of husbands and wives from their willingness to enter marriage. Education and marriage order are complements in generating gains from marriage. Educated men and women received a larger share of the marital gains

but this effect is mitigated when their proportion increased. Education stabilized marriage and second marriages were less stable. As the cohort ages, uneducated men were the most likely to be single.

Badami and Patnam (2013) studied the views about dowry, divorce, remarriage and singlehood of three hundred Maharashtrian postgraduate students (21-26 yrs). The study revealed that majority of the PG boys and girls expressed unfavourable views about taking or giving dowry in marriage. Significantly a higher percentage of the Maharashtrian PG girls reported positive views about divorce for valid reasons as compared to their male counterparts. Majority of them had favourable views about remarriage of divorced / widow / widower for the reason of preventing problems of singlehood and to have a partner to lead a happy life. Majority of them also have not favoured singlehood for the reasons - difficult to live without a companion and exploitation of self by people. Significant differences were found in their views based on SES and gender.

Lampard (2013) studied on relationship between women's ages at first marriage and marriage cohort divorce rates, assessing the importance of relative ages at marriage (based on rankings within marriage cohorts) and of absolute, chronological ages at marriage, and evaluating the contribution of changes in the age at marriage distribution to observed divorce rates. Based on published marriage and divorce data for the 1974-1994 marriage cohorts in England and Wales. The results suggest that much of the impact of age at marriage is linked to relative ages, reducing the extent of this 'braking' effect. It also appears that a positive effect of relative age at marriage on the risk of divorce for later marriages is outweighed by the negative effect of absolute age at marriage at higher ages.

Brown *et al.* (2014) studied on quality relationships of cohabiting versus married couples by using data from the nationally representative 2010 Married and Cohabiting Couples (MCC) survey of different-sex cohabiting and married couples. It was found that the relationship between union type and relationship

quality is bifurcated with direct marrieds reporting the highest relationship quality and cohabitors without marriage plans reporting the lowest marital quality. In the middle were the two largest groups: marrieds who premaritally cohabited and cohabitors with plans to marry. These two groups did not differ in terms of relationship quality among them.

From the above research studies it can be inferred that the attitudes, interests and expectations of boys / men and girls / women about various aspects of marriage and mate selection significantly differed based on their gender, SES and educational levels. Positive and negative influence of changing culture with time also recorded in their views about different aspects of marriage and mate selection in the reviewed literature.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

CHAPTER-III

MATERIALS AND METHOD

The present study, on **"Perceptions of Undergraduate Female Students about Marriage and Mate Selection"** was conducted in the Vasanthrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth Parbhani, Parbhani district of Maharashtra state. The details of the research tools & techniques adopted in the study are given below

3.1 Locale of the Study

3.2 Selection of the Sample for Study

3.3 Research Tools Used in Study

3.4 Methods Adopted for Data Collection

3.5 Research Design Adopted

3.6 Plan of Statistical Analysis

3.1 Locale of the Study

One hundred and fifty undergraduate female students were chosen at random from the Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth Parbhani. Parbhani district, Maharashtra state.

3.2 Selection of the Sample for Study

A random sample of 150 undergraduate female students in the age range of 18-21 yrs were selected from all the colleges of Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani campus, Parbhani city.

3.3 Research Tools Used in Study

3.3.1 Developing interview schedule cum checklist

A structured and open ended interview schedule cum checklist was prepared to elicit information from the undergraduate female students about various aspects of marriage and mate selection. Before finalization, the interview schedule cum checklist was pretested for its clarity, validity and

adequacy on 20 undergraduate female students in the group 18-21 yrs who are exclusive of the final sample. Later necessary modifications and additions were made in finalized interview schedule cum checklist in order to overcome the limitations at the time of date collection.

3.3.2 Socio-Economic Status Scale

The revised Socio-Economic Status Scale of Kuppuswamy was administered for assessing the SES of the families of UG female students. It is inclusive of parental education, occupation and monthly income. Based on the score obtained on the SES scale, the UG female students were categorized into different SES groups.

Categories of Socio-Economic Status	Range of Score Obtained
Low SES	0-9
Middle SES	10-21

3.4 Methods Adopted for Data Collection

The undergraduate female students selected at random were personally interviewed on the campus of the VNMKV Parbhani during their free time before and after the college timings by the investigator, based on the finalized interview schedule cum checklist. Each student took 2-3 sittings for duly filling up the complete interview schedule. The time required for it ranged between 1-2 hr.

3.5 Research Design Adopted

The variables tested in this investigation included of independent variables such as

1 Socio-economic status of the undergraduate female students

3.6 Plan of Statistical Analysis

Z test is applied to compare the percentages of responses of the UG female students based on their SES for all the dependent variables to study the differences among them. The formula applied was

$$Z = \frac{P_1 - P_2}{\sqrt{P_1\frac{(1-P_1)}{n_1} + P_2\frac{(1-P_2)}{n_2}}}$$

Calculations of Weightages Given to Different Parameters by the Undergraduate Female Students

The undergraduate female students were instructed to add or delete the criteria of the mate selection mentioned in the open ended interview schedule cum checklist and later on to give any one preference to each criterion finalized by them from choosing from first to tenth preference. After the data collection, it was felt convenience to club the meager percentages of undergraduate female students whose preferences ranged between 6th and 10th for the criteria of mate selection and they were put as above fifth preference where ever required to have meaningful expression to the views of the sample students. Later on to calculate the weightages given to criteria of mate selection, points in descending order were given to the preferences starting from first preference.

i.e.

First preference	-	5 points
Second preference	-	4 points
Third preference	-	3 points
Fourth preference	-	2 points
Fifth preference	-	1 point
Above fifth preference	-	0.5 point

Weightage of each parameter was calculated by using the formula given below

Number of UG female students responded to the parameter / item X Number of points given to that opted preference

Example- 22 students gave first preference to an item

Weightage for it is …. $22 \times 5 = 110$ points.

In this way weightages were computed and later its total is made.

Results And Discussion

CHAPTER-IV

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study entitled Perceptions of Undergraduate Female Students about Marriage and Mate Selection was carried out in Parbhani town, Parbhani district of Marathwada region of Maharashtra State by randomly selecting 150 undergraduate female students from Vasantrao Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth Parbhani. The data pertaining to the study was collected through structured cum open ended interview schedule. The collected data was pooled, analyzed, tabulated and discussed under the following heads

4.1 Family Background Information of the Sample UG Female Students

4.2 Perceptions of UG Female Students about Getting Married, Their Criteria for Mate Selection and Its Preferences

4.3 Perceptions and Preferences of Undergraduate Female Students for Different Types and Modes of Mate Selection, Readiness Required by Youth for Happy Marital Life and Time Gap Required Between Engagement and Marriage

4.4 Undergraduate Female Students Attitudes about Premarital and Extramarital Sexual Relationships and Their Reasons for it

4.5 Undergraduate Female Students Perceptions about Divorce, Dowry Remarriage, Singlehood, Premarital Counselling and Cohabitation and Their Reasons for it

4.1.1 Family Background Information of the Sample UG Female Students

Table 1 indicates family background information of the sample undergraduate female students. Irrespective of the SES, 66 percent UG female students belonged to nuclear families while the remaining belonged to joint families. Fifty two percent UG female students belonged to small size families followed by middle size families. Fifty five percent UG female students'

Table 1 Family background information of the sample undergraduate female students

Background variables	SES group and percentages of undergraduate female students							
	Irrespective of SES (150)		Low SES (81)		Middle SES (69)		Z Values	
Family type								
Nuclear	66.66 (100)		60.90(49)		73.91 (51)		1.70^{NS}	
Joint	33.33 (50)		39.50 (32)		26.08 (18)		1.71^{NS}	
Family Size								
Small (below 5)	52.00		45.67 (37)		59.42 (41)		1.72^{NS}	
Middle (5-9)	48.00		54.32 (44)		40.57 (28)		1.73^{NS}	
Parental monthly income								
Below Rs 15000	44.66 (67)		70.37 (57)		14.49 (10)		8.50**	
Rs 15000-25000	55.33 (83)		29.62 (24)		85.50 (59)		8.45**	
	M (141)	**F (139)**	**M (76)**	**F (78)**	**M (65)**	**F (61)**	**M**	**F**
Parental literacy								
Graduates	24.82 (35)	36.69 (51)	-	10.25 (8)	53.84 (35)	70.49 (43)	-	9.30**
H.Sc educated	41.84 (59)	34.53 (48)	38.15 (29)	38.46 (30)	46.15 (30)	29.5 (18)	0.99^{NS}	1.17^{NS}
Non-literates	33.33 (47)	28.77 (40)	61.84 (47)	51.28 (40)	-	-	-	-
Parental occupation								
Semiprofessionals	10.63 (15)	30.90 (43)	-	10.25 (8)	23.07 (15)	57.37 (35)	-	6.88**
Non professionals	89.36 (126)	69.06 (96)	100.00 (76)	89.74 (70)	76.92 (50)	42.62 (26)	4.66**	6.82**

Figures in parentheses indicate number of undergraduate female students

Ns-Non Significant **-P<0.01 level

parental monthly income ranged between Rs 15000 – 25000 followed by below Rs 15,000 (44%). Majority of the UG female students' mothers (41%) and 34 percent fathers were H.Sc educated, while 33 percent of the mothers and 28 percent of the fathers were non-literates, only 24 percent of the mothers and 36 percent of the fathers were graduates. Only 10 percent of the mothers and 30 percent of fathers of the UG female students were reported to be semiprofessionals, like lecturers, teachers, bank officers, contractors and special officers, while the remaining parents found to be non professionals like farmers, shopkeepers, businessman, clerks and laborers etc. Few significant differences were noted in the background information of the UG female students with respect to their socio-economic status. There was no significant difference in their family type and family size while there was significant difference in their parental monthly income. There was significant difference in the parental literacy of UG female students with respect to their SES. There was significant difference in maternal and paternal occupation with respect to their SES. All mothers in low SES group were non professionals where there were a few semiprofessional mothers in middle SES group. Significant difference was found in the paternal occupation, of the sample students. There were higher percent of non professional fathers in low SES group and higher percent of semiprofessional fathers in middle SES group.

4.2.1 Perceptions of Undergraduate Female Students About Getting Married and Their Reasons for It

Table 2 illustrates the opinions of UG female students about getting married and their reasons for it. Irrespective of the SES of UG female students 81 percent of them wanted to get married for the reason to have best permanent companion (100%) to have someone to care and share forever (100%) to gain social acceptance and identity (94%) to continue the progeny (83%) , to make parents happy (62%) , as it is an important developmental task to attain complete maturity in life (48%) and to have new life style with the life partner (33%). Only 18 percent UG female students expressed that there is no need to

Table 2 Perceptions of undergraduate female students about getting married and their reasons for it

Opinions and reasons of UG students	SES group and percentages of undergraduate female students			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z Values
Like to get married	81.33 (122)	79.01 (64)	84.05 (58)	0.79 NS
To have a best and permanent companion	100.00 (122)	100.00 (64)	100.00 (58)	-
To have someone to care and share for ever	100.00 (122)	100.00 (64)	100.00 (58)	-
To gain social acceptance and identity	94.26 (115)	93.75 (60)	94.82 (55)	0.25 NS
To continue progeny	83.60 (102)	90.62 (58)	75.86 (44)	2.20**
To make parents happy	62.29 (76)	78.12 (50)	44.82 (26)	3.99**
It is an important developmental task to attain complete maturity	48.36 (59)	67.18 (43)	27.58 (16)	4.77**
To have new life style with the life partner	33.60 (41)	39.06 (25)	27.58 (16)	1.35NS
Do not like to get married	18.66(28)	20.98 (17)	15.94 (11)	0.79 NS
Lack of freedom after marriage	92.85 (26)	94.11 (16)	90.90 (10)	0.30 NS
It demands for lot of adjustments	89.28 (25)	100.00 (17)	72.72 (8)	2.03**
It will create lot of problems in life	89.28 (25)	100.00 (17)	72.72 (8)	2.03**
Can remain alone happy and can achieve set goals	46.42 (13)	47.05 (8)	45.45 (5)	0.08 NS

Figures in parentheses indicate number of undergraduate female students

NS-No Significant **-P<0.01 level

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get married as they feel there will be lack of freedom after marriage (92%) followed by marriage demands for lot of adjustment (89%) , marriage creates lots of problems in life (89%) and one can remain alone happy and can achieve set goals (46%). Based on the SES of female students it was found that there was no significant difference in the opinions to get married by the UG female students based on their SES. These findings are in line with the findings reported by Bharati and Patnam (1995), Deshpande and Patnam (2000) and Gunjal and Patnam (2001), which in turn also indicate that opinions of college students seem to remain in similar trend in the past two decades (1995 to 2016).

4.2.2 Perceptions of Undergraduate Female Students Regarding the Success of Their Prospective Marriage

Table 3 indicates the opinions of UG female students regarding the success of their prospective marriage. Irrespective of the SES 74 percent UG female students opined that their prospective marriage success would be based on their adjustment with their life partner and family, while the remaining (26%) of them stated that it is determined by fate. No significant differences were found in their such opinions based on SES of UG female students. There findings are in agreement with the findings reported by Bhandari and Patnam (1996) in their research study, which focuses that the opinions of college students about success of their prospective marriage tends to remain the same.

4.2.3 Ideal Age Range Suggested for the Marriage of Boys and Girls By the Undergraduate Female Students

The ideal age range suggested for marriage of boys and girls by the sample UG female students is detailed in table 4. Irrespective of SES of the UG female students, 46 percent UG female students reported that the ideal age range for girls and boys to get married is 20 – 23 years followed by 24 – 27 years (30%), 28 – 31 years (12%) and 32 – 35 years (10%). Significantly a higher percentage of the low SES group reported 20 – 23 years as ideal age range for boys and girls to get married as compared to their counterparts in

Table 3 Perceptions of undergraduate female students regarding the success of their prospective marriage

Opinions of UG students on marital success	SES group and percentages of undergraduate female students			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z Values
Based on adjustment with life partner and family	74.00 (111)	70.37 (57)	78.26 (54)	1.11 NS
It is determined by fate	26.00 (39)	29.62 (24)	21.73 (25)	0.85 NS

Figures in parentheses indicate number of undergraduate female students

NS-Non Significant

Table 4 Ideal age suggested for the marriage of boys and girls by the undergraduate female students

Ideal age range for Marriage of boys and girls (yrs)	SES groups and percentage of undergraduate female students			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z Values
20 – 23	46.66(70)	61.72(50)	28.98(20)	4.26**
24 – 27	30.66(46)	18.51(15)	44.92(31)	3.57**
28 – 31	12.66(19)	11.11(9)	14.49(10)	0.61 NS
32 – 35	10.00(15)	08.64(7)	11.59(08)	0.59 NS

Figures in Parenthesis indicate number of undergraduate female students

NS- Non Significant **-P<0.01 level

middle SES group. Significantly a higher percentage of the middle SES group students reported 24 – 27 years as ideal age range for boys and girls to get married as compared to their counterparts in low SES group. While such significant difference was not recorded in the remaining age range suggested by them. These findings are in line with the findings reported by Srinivas (1991), Mukharjee (1992) and Saroja and Manava (1999), which in turn indicates that their attitudes towards ideal age at marriage seem to remain consistent over past 25 years.

4.2.4 Family Background Variables and Its Preferences Reported by the UG Female Students for Selection of Their Prospective Life Partner

The family background variables enlisted by the sample undergraduate female students are family size and type socio-economic status, family customs, religion caste area of residence, state of residence, number of siblings, reputation of family, food habits, health history of family and parents heritage of mate in the selection of their prospective life partner, which are depicted in table 5

Table 5 elaborates the preferences given by the UG female students for different family background variables for selection of their prospective life partner. Irrespective of their SES, the UG female students gave **first preference** to the family customs of the prospective mate (20%) followed by socio-economic status of family (19%), family size (16%), family type (16%), caste (6%) and Religion (5%).

Low SES UG female students gave first preference to family customs (20%), followed by socio-economic status (18%), family size (16%), family type (16%) and caste (8%). On the other hand middle SES UG female students preferred for socio-economic status (20%) and followed by family customs (18%), family size (17%), family type (15%) and religion (7%). No significant differences were noticed between low SES and middle SES female students in giving the first preference to different variables of family background of mate.

Table 5 Family background variables and its preferences of the undergraduate female students for selection of their prospective life partner

Family background variables of life partners and its preferences	Preferences and percentages of UG female students											
	First				Second				Third			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Family Type	16.00 (24)	16.04 (13)	15.94 (11)	0.01 NS	11.33 (17)	19.75(16)	01.44 (1)	3.93**	16.00 (24)	16.04 (13)	15.94 (11)	0.01 NS
Nuclear	15.33 (23)	16.04 (13)	14.49 (10)	026 NS	10.00 (15)	17.28 (14)	01.44 (1)	3.56**	15.33 (23)	16.04 (13)	14.49 (10)	026 NS
Joint	0.66 (1)	---	01.44 (01)	---	01.33 (2)	02.46 (2)	---	---	---	---	1.44 (1)	---
Family size	16.66 (25)	16.04(13)	17.39 (12)	0.21 NS	08.66 (13)	01.23 (1)	17.39 (12)	3.41**	16.66 (25)	16.13 (13)	17.39 (12)	0.21 NS
Small (1-5)	16.66 (25)	16.04 (13)	17.39 (12)	0.21 NS	12.00 (08)	01.23 (1)	15.94 (11)	3.21**	12.00 (18)	12.34 (10)	11.59 (8)	0.14 NS
Middle (5-8)	---	---	---		0.66 (1)	---	01.44 (1)	---	04.66 (7)	03.70 (3)	05.79 (4)	0.59 NS
Socio- economic status	19.33 (29)	18.51 (15)	20.28 (14)	0.27 NS	27.33 (41)	23.45 (19)	31.88 (22)	1.15 NS	11.33 (17)	11.11 (9)	11.59 (8)	0.09 NS
Higher	19.33 (29)	18.51 (15)	20.28 (14)	0.27 NS	19.33 (29)	18.51 (15)	20.28 (14)	0.27 NS	08.66 (13)	06.17 (5)	11.59 (8)	1.15 NS
Same	---	---	---		08.00 (12)	04.93 (4)	11.59 (8)	1.46 NS	02.66 (4)	04.93 (4)	---	---
Family customs	20.00 (30)	20.98 (17)	18.84 (13)	0.32 NS	27.33 (41)	30.86(25)	23.18 (16)	1.06 NS	11.33 (17)	12.34 (10)	10.14 (7)	0.42 NS
Same	18.00 (27)	20.98 (17)	14.49 (10)	1.04 NS	22.66 (34)	24.69 (20)	20.28 (14)	0.64 NS	10.66 (16)	11.11 (9)	10.14 (7)	0.19 NS
Different	02.00 (3)	---	04.34 (3)		04.66 (12)	06.17 (5)	02.89 (2)	0.97 NS	0.66 (1)	01.23 (1)	---	---

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS- Non Significant **-P<0.01 level

Cont..... Table 5

Family background variables of life partners and its preferences	Preferences and percentages of UG female students							
	Fourth				Fifth			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Family Type	16.66 (25)	13.58 (15)	14.49 (10)	0.66 NS	08.00 (12)	06.17 (5)	10.14 (7)	0.88 NS
Nuclear	11.33 (17)	12.34 (10)	10.14 (7)	0.42 NS	05.33 (8)	04.93 (4)	05.79 (4)	0.23 NS
Joint	02.00 (3)	---	04.34 (3)	---	02.66 (4)	02.66 (1)	04.34 (3)	1.13 NS
Family size	14.00 (21)	13.58 (11)	14.49 (10)	0.16 NS	08.66 (13)	11.11 (9)	05.79 (4)	1.18 NS
Small (1-5)	10.66 (16)	07.40 (6)	10.14 (10)	1.37 NS	08.66 (13)	11.11 (9)	05.79 (4)	1.18 NS
Middle (5-8)	03.33 (5)	06.17 (5)	---	---	---	---	---	
Socio- economic status Higher	10.66 (16)	13.58 (11)	07.24 (5)	1.28 NS	06.00 (9)	09.87 (8)	01.44 (1)	2.33**
Same	08.66 (13)	09.87 (8)	07.24 (5)	057 NS	03.33 (5)	04.93 (4)	01.44 (1)	1.24 NS
	02.00 (3)	03.70 (3)	---	---	02.66 (4)	04.93 (4)	---	
Family customs	10.66 (16)	07.40 (6)	14.49 (10)	1.37 NS	09.33 (14)	07.40 (6)	11.59 (8)	0.86 NS
Same	07.33 (11)	06.17 (5)	08.69 (6)	0.58 NS	05.33 (8)	04.93 (4)	05.79 (4)	0.23 NS
Different	03.33 (5)	01.23 (1)	05.79 (4)	1.48 NS	04.00 (6)	02.47 (2)	05.79 (4)	1.00 NS

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant **-P<0.01 level

Cont..... Table 5

Family background variables of life partners and its preferences	Preferences and percentages of UG female students							
	Above fifth preference				No preference			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Family Type	20.66 (31)	18.51 (15)	23.18 (16)	0.70 NS	11.33 (17)	4.93 (4)	18.84 (13)	2.62**
Nuclear	12.66 (19)	02.34 (10)	13.04 (09)	0.12 NS				
Joint	08.00 (12)	06.17 (5)	10.14 (7)	0.88 NS				
Family size	20.00 (30)	20.98 (17)	18.84 (13)	0.32 NS	15.33 (23)	20.98 (17)	8.69 (6)	2.17*
Small (1-5)	17.33 (26)	18.51 (15)	15.94 (11)	0.41 NS				
Middle (5-8)	02.66 (4)	02.46 (2)	02.89 (2)	0.16 NS				
Socio-economic status	17.33 (26)	17.28 (14)	17.39 (12)	0.01 NS	8.00 (12)	6.17 (5)	10.14 (7)	0.88 NS
Higher	12.66 (19)	13.58 (11)	11.59 (08)	0.36 NS				
Same	04.66 (7)	03.70 (3)	05.79 (4)	0.59 NS				
Family customs	16.66 (25)	16.04 (13)	17.39 (12)	0.21 NS	4.66 (7)	4.93 (4)	4.34 (3)	0.17NS
Same	11.33 (17)	13.58 (11)	08.69 (6)	0.95 NS				
Different	05.33 (8)	02.46 (2)	08.69 (6)	1.63NS				

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant *-P<0.05 level **-P<0.01 level

Cont..... Table 5

Family background variables of life partners and its preferences	Preferences and percentages of UG female students											
	First				Second				Third			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Religion	05.33 (8)	03.70 (3)	07.24 (5)	0.94^{NS}	05.33 (8)	03.70 (3)	07.24 (5)	0.94^{NS}	13.33 (20)	14.81 (12)	11.59 (8)	0.58^{NS}
Same	05.33 (8)	03.70 (3)	07.24 (5)	0.94^{NS}	05.33 (8)	03.70 (3)	07.24 (5)	0.94^{NS}	13.33 (20)	14.81 (12)	11.59 (8)	0.58^{NS}
Caste	06.00 (9)	08.64 (7)	02.89 (2)	1.54^{NS}	05.33 (8)	06.17 (5)	04.34 (3)	0.50^{NS}	12.00 (18)	11.11 (9)	13.04 (9)	0.36^{NS}
Same	06.00 (9)	08.64 (7)	02.89 (2)	1.54^{NS}	05.33 (8)	06.17 (5)	04.34 (3)	0.50^{NS}	11.33 (17)	11.11 (9)	11.59 (8)	0.09^{NS}
Different	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		0.66 (1)	---	01.44 (1)	---
Area of residence	03.33 (5)	01.23 (1)	05.79 (4)	1.48^{NS}	02.00 (3)	01.23 (1)	02.89 (2)	0.70^{NS}	03.33 (5)	01.23 (1)	05.79 (4)	1.48^{NS}
Urban area	03.33 (5)	01.23 (1)	05.79 (4)	1.48^{NS}	02.00 (3)	01.23 (1)	02.89 (2)	0.70^{NS}	03.33 (5)	01.23 (1)	05.79 (4)	1.48^{NS}
Rural area	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		---		---
State of residence	03.33 (5)	04.93 (4)	01.44 (1)	1.24^{NS}	02.66 (4)	03.70 (3)	01.44 (1)	0.88^{NS}	04.00 (6)	06.17 (5)	01.44 (1)	1.55^{NS}
Intra state	03.33 (5)	04.93 (4)	01.44 (1)	1.24^{NS}	02.66 (4)	03.70 (3)	01.44 (1)	0.88^{NS}	04.00 (6)	06.17 (5)	01.44 (1)	1.55^{NS}
Number of siblings	01.23 (2)	02.46 (2)	---	---	02.00 (3)	02.46 (2)	01.44 (1)	0.45^{NS}	04.66 (7)	01.23 (1)	08.69 (6)	2.06*
Should have siblings	01.23 (2)	02.46 (2)	---	---	02.00 (3)	02.46 (2)	01.44 (1)	0.45^{NS}	04.66 (7)	01.23 (1)	08.69 (6)	2.06*

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS- Non Significant *-P<0.1 level

Cont..... Table 5

Family background variables of life partners and its preferences	Preferences and percentages of UG female students							
	Fourth				Fifth			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Religion	11.33 (17)	09.87 (8)	13.04 (9)	0.60 NS	17.33 (26)	17.28 (14)	17.39 (12)	0.01 NS
Same	11.33 (17)	09.87 (8)	13.04 (9)	0.60 NS	17.33 (26)	17.28 (14)	17.39 (12)	0.01 NS
Caste	12.00 (18)	14.81 (12)	08.69 (6)	1.17 NS	16.66 (25)	14.81 (12)	18.84 (13)	0.65 NS
Same	12.00 (18)	14.81 (12)	08.69 (6)	1.17 NS	16.66 (25)	14.81 (12)	18.84 (13)	0.65 NS
Different	---	---	---					
Area of residence	08.00 (12)	06.17 (5)	10.14 (7)	0.88 NS	11.33 (17)	12.34 (10	10.14 (7)	0.42 NS
Urban area	08.00 (12)	06.17 (5)	10.14 (7)	0.88 NS	11.33 (17)	12.34 (10)	10.14 (7)	0.42 NS
Rural area	---	---	---		---	---	---	
State of residence	07.33 (11)	08.64 (7)	05.79 (4)	0.67 NS	09.33 (14)	09.87 (8)	08.69 (6)	0.24 NS
Intra state	07.33 (11)	08.64 (7)	05.79 (4)	0.67 NS	09.33 (14)	09.87 (8)	08.69 (6)	0.24 NS
Number of siblings	05.33 (8)	06.17 (5)	04.34 (3)	0.50 NS	04.66 (7)	04.93 (4)	04.34 (3)	0.17 NS
Should have siblings	05.33 (8)	06.17 (5)	04.34 (3)	0.50 NS	04.66 (7)	04.93 (4)	04.34 (3)	0.17 NS

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS- Non Significant

Cont..... Table 5

Family background variables of life partners and its preferences	Preferences and percentages of UG female students							
	Above fifth preference				No preference			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Religion	21.33 (32)	17.28 (14)	26.08 (18)	1.30 NS	26.00 (39)	33.33 (27)	17.39 (12)	2.29**
Same	21.33 (32)	17.28 (14)	26.08 (18)	1.30 NS				
Caste	23.33 (35)	27.16 (22)	18.84 (13)	1.21 NS	24.66 (37)	17.28 (14)	33.33 (23)	5.52**
Same	23.33 (35)	27.16 (22)	18.84 (13)	1.21 NS				
Different	---	---	---	---				
Area of residence	52.66 (79)	64.19 (52)	39.13 (27)	3.16**	19.33 (29)	13.58 (11)	26.08 (18)	1.91 NS
Urban area	52.66 (79)	64.19 (52)	39.13 (27)	3.16**				
Rural area	---	---		---				
State of residence	52.00 (78)	40.74 (33)	65.21 (45)	3.09**	21.33 (32)	25.92 (21)	15.94 (11)	1.52 NS
Intra state	52.00 (78)	40.74 (33)	65.21 (45)	3.03**				
Number of siblings	54.00 (81)	53.08 (43)	55.07 (38)	0.24 NS	28.00 (42)	29.62 (24)	26.08 (18)	0.48 NS
Should have siblings	54.00 (81)	53.08 (43)	55.07 (38)	0.24 NS				

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS- Non Significant **-P<0.01 level

Cont..... Table 5

Family background variables of life partners and its preferences	Preferences and percentages of UG female students											
	First				Second				Third			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Reputation of family	0.66 (1)	---	01.44 (1)	---	2.66 (4)	02.46 (2)	02.46 (2)	1.66 NS	04.66 (7)	07.40 (6)	01.44 (1)	1.83 NS
Very good	0.66 (1)	---	01.44 (1)	---	2.66 (4)	02.46 (2)	02.46 (2)	1.66 NS	04.66 (7)	07.40 (6)	01.44 (1)	1.83 NS
Food habits	01.33 (2)	01.23 (1)	01.44 (1)	0.11 NS	02.00 (3)	01.23 (1)	02.89 (2)	0.70 NS	0.66 (1)	---	01.44 (1)	---
Vegetarian	01.33 (2)	01.23 (1)	01.44 (1)	0.11 NS	02.00 (3)	01.23 (1)	02.89 (2)	0.70 NS	0.66 (1)	---	01.44 (1)	---
Non Vegetarian	---	---	---		---	---	---		---	---	---	---
Both	---	---	---		---	---	---		---	---	---	---
Health history of family	03.33 (5)	04.93 (4)	01.44 (1)	1.24 NS	01.33 (2)	01.23 (1)	01.44 (1)	0.11 NS	---	---	---	---
Parental heritage	03.33 (5)	01.23 (1)	05.79 (4)	1.48 NS	02.00 (3)	02.46 (2)	01.44 (1)	0.45 NS	12.66 (1)	01.23 (1)	---	---

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant

Cont..... Table 5

Family background variables of life partners and its preferences	Preferences and percentages of UG female students							
	Fourth				Fifth			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Reputation of family	02.66 (4)	04.93 (4)	---	---	02.66 (4)	03.70 (3)	01.44 (1)	0.88 NS
Very good	02.66 (4)	04.93 (4)	---	---	02.66 (4)	03.70 (3)	01.44 (1)	0.88 NS
Food habits	03.33 (5)	---	07.24 (5)	---	02.66 (3)	---	04.34 (3)	---
Vegetarian	02.66 (4)	---	05.79 (4)	---	01.33 (2)	---	02.89 (2)	---
Non Vegetarian	---	---	---	---	0.66 (1)	---	01.44 (1)	---
Both	0.66 (1)	---	01.44 (1)	---	---	---	---	---
Health history of family	---	---	---	---	02.00 (3)	03.70 (3)	---	---
Parental heritage	---	---	---	---	03.33 (5)	02.46 (2)	04.34 (3)	0.62 NS

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant

Cont..... Table 5

Family background variables of life partners and its preferences	Preferences and percentages of UG female students							
	Above fifth preference				No preference			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Reputation of family	56.66 (85)	54.32 (44)	59.42 (41)	1.63 NS	30.00 (45)	27.16 (22)	33.33 (23)	0.82 NS
Very good	56.66 (85)	54.32 (44)	59.42 (41)	1.63 NS				
Food habits	52.00 (78)	50.61 (41)	53.62 (37)	0.36 NS	38.66 (58)	46.91 (38)	28.98 (20)	2.30**
Vegetarian	18.00 (27)	18.51 (15)	17.39 (12)	0.17 NS				
Non Vegetarian	16.66 (25)	17.28 (14)	15.94 (11)	0.22 NS				
Both	17.33 (26)	14.81 (12)	20.28 (14)	0.87 NS				
Health history of family	47.33 (71)	46.91 (38)	47.82 (33)	0.11 NS	46.00 (69)	43.20 (35)	49.27 (34)	0.74 NS
Parental heritage	54.66 (82)	61.72 (50)	46.37 (32)	1.90 NS	36.00 (54)	30.86 (25)	42.02 (29)	1.42 NS

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant **-<0.01 level

These results are in line with the findings reported by Bharati and Patnam (1995), Fossett and Kiecot (1993), and Bhandari and Patnam (1996).

With regard to the UG female students, **second preference** was given to family background of prospective mate. Irrespective of SES the UG female students preferred socio-economic status (27%), followed by family customs (27%), family type (11%), family size (8%), religion (5%) and caste (5%). The corresponding percentages of low SES UG female students for it were 23, 30, 19, 1, 3, 6 and 1. The corresponding percentage of middle SES UG female students for it were 31, 23, 1, 17, 7 and 42. No significant differences in family background variables were recorded except for family type and size.

With regard to the **third preference**, irrespective of SES status the UG female students preferred for family type (16%) followed by family size (16%), religion (13%), caste (12%), socio-economic status (11%) and family customs (11%). The corresponding percentages of low SES UG female students for it were 16, 16, 14, 11, 11 and 12. Similarly the corresponding percentages of middle SES UG female students for it were 15, 17, 11, 13, 11 and 10. There were no significant differences between the low SES and middles SES groups of samples except for a variable of the family background of the prospective mate.

With regard to the **fourth preference**, irrespective of SES, the UG female students preferred in 4th position for family type (16%), followed by family size (14%) caste (12%) and religion (4%). The corresponding percentages of low SES UG female student for it were 13, 13, 14 and 9. Similarly the corresponding percentages of middle SES UG female students for it were 14, 14, 8 and 13. No significance differences were found between low SES and middle SES UG female students in the family background variables which got fourth preference.

With regard to **fifth preference**, irrespective of SES of the UG female students preferred for religion (17%) in 5th place followed by caste (16%), area of residence (11%), state of residence (9%), family customs (9%) and family

type (8%). The corresponding percentages of low SES UG female students for it were 17, 14, 12, 9, 7 and 6. Similarly the corresponding percentages of middles SES UG female students for it were 17, 18, 10, 8, 11 and 10. There were no significant differences in fifth preference given by low and middle SES UG female students for the family background variables except in socio-economic status.

With regard to **above fifth preference**, irrespective of SES the UG female students about 56 percent preferred for reputation of family of the prospective mate followed by parental heritage (54%), number of siblings (54%), area of residence (52%), food habits (52%), state of residence (52%), health history of family (47%), caste (23%), religion (21%), family type (20%), family size (20%), socio-economic status (17%) and family customs (16%). The corresponding percentages of low SES UG female students for it were 54, 61, 53, 64, 50, 40, 46, 27, 17, 18, 20, 17 and 16. Similarly the corresponding percentages of middle SES UG female students for it were 59, 46, 55, 39, 53, 65, 47, 18, 26, 23, 18, 17 and 17. Significant differences were recorded for only two variables of the family background of the prospective mate. Similar type of results were seen in the studies conducted by Fossett and Kiecolt (1993), Bharati and Patnam (19995) and Bhandari and Patnam (1996).

Some of the UG female students did not give any preference to the family background variables. Irrespective of SES of the UG female students **no preferences** were given to health of family (46%), followed by food habits (38%), parental heritage (36%), reputation of family (30%), number of siblings (28%), religion (26%), caste (24%) state of residence (21%), area of residence (21%), family size (15%) and family type (11%). The corresponding percentages of low SES UG female students for it were 43, 46, 30, 27, 29, 33, 17, 25, 13, 20 and 4. Similarly the corresponding percentages of middle SES UG female students for it were 49, 28, 42, 33, 26, 17, 33, 15, 26, 8 and 18. Significant differences were noticed between low SES and middle SES group

in giving no preference for a few variables of the family background of the prospective mate.

4.2.5 Weightages Given by the Undergraduate Female Students to the Family Background Variables of Their Prospective Mate

Table 6 and fig 1 indicate the weightages given by the undergraduate female students to the family background of the prospective mate. Irrespective of SES the UG female students gave more weightage of 411 to the family customs followed by for socio-economic status (401), family type (314), family size (307), caste (192), state of residence (95), area of residence (93), number of siblings (66), reputation of family (54), parental heritage (45), food habits (38), and health history of family (36). The corresponding wightages given by low SES female students for it were 233, 208 195, 139, 118, 93, 69, 32, 35, 37, 18, 9 and 27. Similarly the wightages given by the middle SES UG female students for it were 178, 193, 119, 168, 74, 99, 26, 61, 31, 17, 27, 29 and 9. Most of the findings reported in the table 6 are in agreement with the findings reported in the research studies of Bharati and Patnam (1995), Deshpande and Patnam (2000), and Gunjal and Patnam (2001), which in turn indicates that there was not much change in the weightages given to the criteria of mate selection by the college students based on their SES.

4.2.6 UG Female Students' Criteria for Personal Variables of Their Prospective Life Partner and its Preferences for it

The criteria for personal variables enlisted by the sample undergraduate female students were age difference, educational qualification, occupation, monthly income, birth order, spoken language, match of horoscope, blood group and Rh factor, physical features, such as height, body built, complexion, facial features, body language, hair texture, hair colour and dressing style of mate in the selection of their prospective life partner which are depicted in table 7.

Tale 6 Weightages given by the undergraduate female students to the family background variables of their prospective Mate

Family background variables of prospective mate	Weightages given by the UG female students		
	Irrespective SES (150)	**Low SES (81)**	**Middle SES (69)**
Family customs	411	233	178
Socio-economic status	401	208	193
Family type	314	195	119
Family size	307	139	168
Caste	192	118	74
Religion	192	93	99
State of residence	95	69	26
Area of residence	93	32	61
Number of siblings	66	35	31
Reputation of family	54	37	17
Parental heritage	45	18	27
Food habits	38	09	29
Health history of family	36	27	09
Average	**172.61**	**93.31**	**79.31**

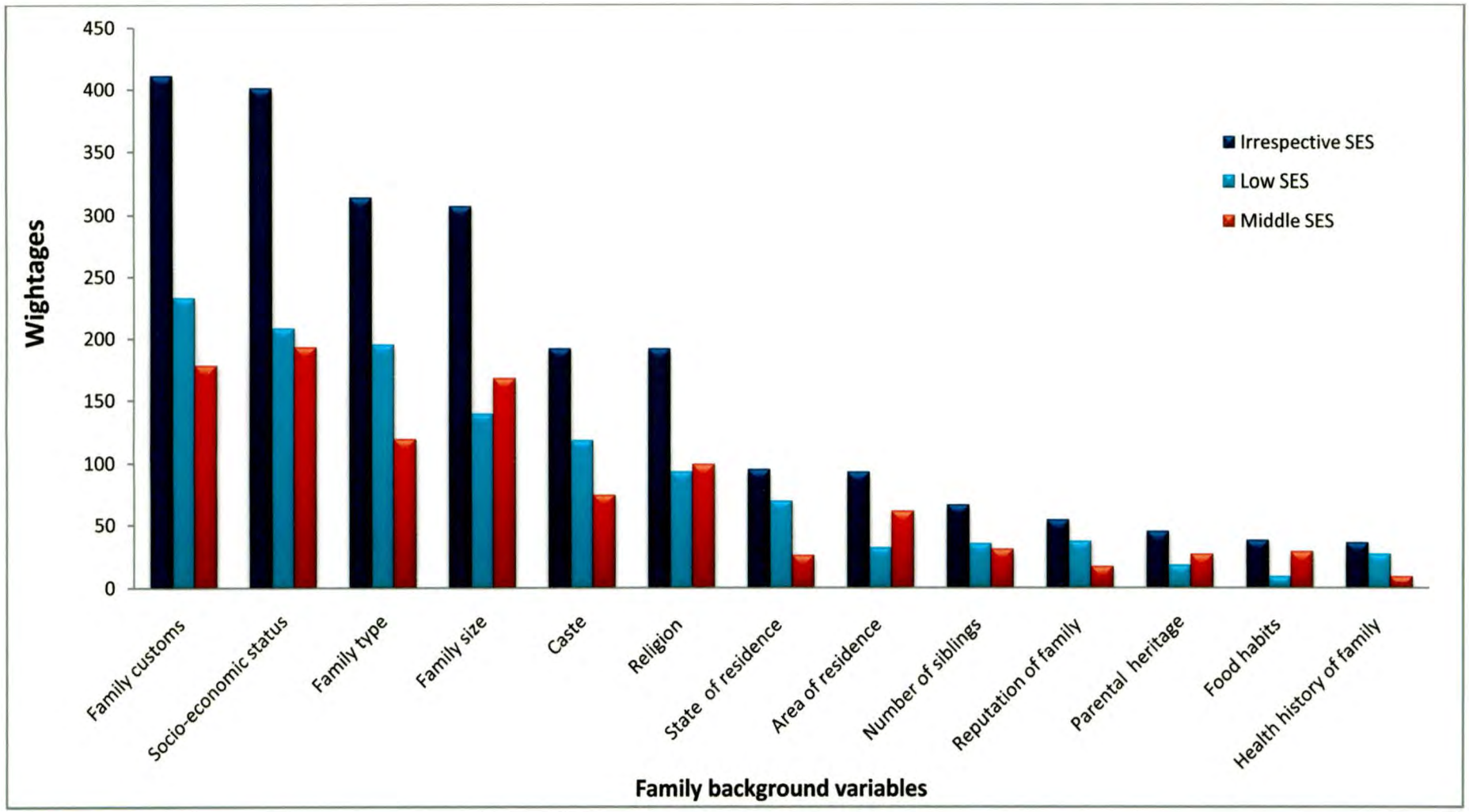

Fig. 1 Weightages given by the undergraduate female students to the family background variables of their prospective mate

Table 7 indicates reported personal variables and the preferences of the sample students about their prospective mate. Irrespective of SES, the UG female students gave **first preference** to the height (21%) followed by monthly income (20%), occupation (18%), dressing style (18%), age difference (16%), complexion (16%), body language (16%), matching of horoscope (15%), facial features (15%), educational qualification (14%), body built (11%) and blood group & Rh factor (8%). The corresponding percentages of low SES UG female students for it were 23, 22, 16, 16, 16, 16, 16, 14, 14, 16, 11 and 6. Similarly the corresponding percentages of middle SES UG female students for it were 18, 17, 20, 21, 15, 14, 17, 15, 15, 13, 11 and 11. No significant differences were recorded in low and middle SES UG female students preferences for the personal variables of the prospective life partner enlisted in the table.

With regard to second preference, irrespective of SES, the UG female students gave **second preference** to occupation (28%) followed by body built (84%), age difference (22%), height (20%), complexion (19%), body language (16%), educational qualification (15%), monthly income (15%), match of horoscope (13%) and facial features (9%). The corresponding percentages of low SES UG female students for it were 30, 23, 22, 23, 13, 14, 12, 9, 8 and 6. Similarly the corresponding percentages of middle-SES, UG female students for it were 26, 24, 21, 17, 5 20, 18, 15, 18, 17 and 10. There were no significant differenees in the second preference given for personal variables of their prospective mate by the low & middle SES UG female students.

With regard to **third preference**, irrespective of SES, the UG female students gave third preference to educational qualification (36%) followed by body built (24%), height (20%), age difference (18%), occupation (16%), body language (16%), monthly income (14%), complexion (13%), facial features (13%), dressing style (12%) and birth order (8%). The corresponding percentages of low SES UG female students for it were 37, 27, 19, 19, 18, 18, 12, 12, 11, 11 and 7. Similarly the corresponding percentages of middle SES

Table 7 UG female students criteria for personal variables of their prospective life partner and their its preferences for it

Personal variables of prospective mate & its preferences	Preferences and percentages of UG female students											
	First				Second				Third			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Age difference	16.00 (24)	16.04 (13)	15.94 (11)	0.017 NS	22.00 (33)	22.22 (18)	21.73 (15)	0.07 NS	18.66 (28)	19.75 (16)	17.39 (12)	0.37 NS
(1-3 yrs)	10.60 (16)	12.34 (10)	8.69 (6)	0.73 NS	12.66 (19)	12.34 (10)	13.04 (9)	0.12 NS	9.33 (14)	9.87 (8)	8.69 (6)	0.24 NS
(3-5yrs)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1.33 (2)	2.46 (2)	---	---
Same	5.33 (8)	3.70 (3)	7.24 (5)	0.94 NS	9.33 (14)	9.87 (8)	8.69 (6)	0.24 NS	8.00 (12)	7.40 (6)	8.69 (6)	0.28 NS
Educational Qualification	14.66 (22)	16.04 (13)	13.04 (9)	0.52 NS	15.33 (23)	14.81 (12)	26.08 (18)	0.64 NS	36.00 (54)	37.03 (30)	34.78 (24)	0.28 NS
Doctorates	2.00 (3)	---	4.34 (3)	---	4.66 (7)	3.70 (3)	15.94 (11)	0.61 NS	8.00 (12)	4.93 (4)	11.59 (8)	1.46 NS
Postgraduates	12.66 (19)	16.04 (13)	8.69 (6)	1.38 NS	10.66 (16)	11.11 (9)	10.14 (7)	0.19 NS	28..00 (42)	32.09 (26)	23.18 (16)	1.22 NS
Graduates	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Occupation	18.00 (27)	16.04 (13)	20.28 (14)	0.66 NS	28.66 (43)	30.86 (25)	26.08 (18)	0.64 NS	16.66 (25)	18.51 (15)	14.49 (10)	0.66 NS
Class I officers	14.00 (21)	12.34 (10)	15.94 (11)	0.62 NS	18.00 (27)	19.75 (16)	15.94 (11)	0.61 NS	14.00 (21)	13.58 (11)	14.49 (10)	0.16 NS
Class II officers	4.00 (6)	3.70 (3)	4.34 (3)	0.19 NS	10.66 (16)	11.11 (9)	10.14 (7)	0.19 NS	2.66 (4)	4.93 (4)	---	---
Class III officers	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		---	---	---	---

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant

Cont..... table 7

Personal variables of prospective mate & its preferences	Preferences and percentages of UG female students											
	Fourth				Fifth				Above 5th preferences			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Age difference	15.33 (23)	16.04 (13)	14.49 (10)	0.26 NS	11.33 (17)	11.11 (9)	11.59 (8)	0.60 NS	16.66 (25)	14.81 (12)	18.84 (13)	0.65 NS
(1-3 yrs)	9.33 (14)	9.87 (8)	8.69 (6)	0.24 NS	7.33 (11)	6.17 (5)	8.69 (6)	0.58 NS	8.00 (12)	6.17 (5)	10.14 (7)	0.88 NS
(3-5yrs)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Same	6.00 (9)	6.17 (9)	5.79 (4)	0.09 NS	4.00 (6)	4.93 (4)	2.89 (2)	0.64 NS	8.66 (13)	8.64 (7)	8.69 (6)	0.01 NS
Educational Qualification	15.33 (23)	14.81 (12)	15.94 (11)	0.19 NS	8.00 (12)	6.17 (5)	10.14 (7)	0.88 NS	10.66 (16)	11.11 (9)	10.14 (7)	0.19 NS
Doctorates	7.33 (11)	4.93 (4)	10.14 (7)	1.19 NS	2.66 (4)	---	5.79 (4)	---	5.33 (8)	4.93 (4)	5.79 (4)	0.23 NS
Postgraduates	8.00 (12)	9.87 (8)	5.79 (4)	0.93 NS	5.33 (8)	6.17 (5)	4.34 (3)	0.50 NS	5.33 (8)	6.17 (5)	4.34 (3)	0.50 NS
Graduates	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Occupation	17.33 (26)	18.51 (15)	15.94 (11)	0.41 NS	12.00 (8)	7.40 (6)	17.39 (12)	1.84 NS	7.33 (11)	8.64 (7)	5.79 (4)	0.67 NS
Class I officers	10.00 (15)	11.11 (9)	8.69 (6)	0.49 NS	8.66 (13)	7.40 (6)	10.04 (7)	0.58 NS	7.33 (11)	8.64 (7)	5.79 (4)	0.67 NS
Class II officers	5.33 (8)	3.70 (3)	7.24 (5)	0.94 NS	3.33 (5)	---	7.24 (5)	---	---	---	---	---
Class III officers	2.00 (3)	3.70 (3)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant

Cont .....Table 7

Personal variables of prospective mate & its preferences	Preferences and percentages of UG female students											
	First				Second				Third			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Monthly Income (Rs)	20.00 (30)	22.22 (18)	17.39 (12)	0.74 NS	15.33 (23)	12.34 (10)	18.84 (13)	1.08 NS	14.66 (22)	12.34 (10)	17.39 (12)	0.86 NS
Above 60,000	16.00 (24)	14.81 (12)	17.39 (12)	0.42 NS	12.00 (18)	7.40 (6)	17.39 (12)	1.84 NS	13.33 (20)	9.87 (8)	17.39 (12)	1.33 NS
40,000-60,000	4.00 (6)	7.40 (6)	---	---	3.33 (5)	4.93 (4)	1.44 (1)	1.24 NS	1.33 (2)	2.46 (2)	---	---
20,000-40,000	---	---	---	---	---		---	---	---	---	---	---
Birth order	4.66 (7)	3.70 (3)	5.79 (4)	0.59 NS	2.00 (3)	3.70 (3)	---	---	8.66 (13)	7.40 (6)	10.14 (7)	0.58 NS
First born	3.33 (5)	3.70 (3)	2.89 (2)	0.27 NS	2.00 (3)	3.70 (3)	---	---	2.66 (4)	2.46 (2)	2.89 (2)	0.16 NS
Middle born	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Not particular	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Spoken language	1.33 (2)	2.46 (2)	---	---	3.33 (5)	6.17 (5)	---	---	1.33 (2)	2.46 (2)	---	---
Same	1.33 (2)	2.46 (2)	---	---	3.33 (5)	6.17 (5)	---	---	1.33 (2)	2.46 (2)	---	---
Difference	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant

Cont .....Table 7

Personal variables of prospective mate & its preferences	Preferences and percentages of UG female students											
	Fourth				Fifth				Above 5th preferences			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Monthly Income (Rs)	22.66 (34)	22.22 (18)	23.18 (16)	0.14 NS	14.00 (21)	13.58 (11)	14.49 (10)	0.16 NS	13.33 (20)	17.28 (14)	8.69 (6)	1.59 NS
Above 60,000	22.66 (34)	22.22 (18)	23.18 (16)	0.14 NS	14.00 (21)	13.58 (11)	14.49 (10)	0.16 NS	10.00 (15)	11.11 (9)	8.69 (6)	0.49 NS
40,000-60,000	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3.33 (15)	6.17 (5)	---	---
20,000-40,000	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Birth order	7.33 (11)	6.17 (5)	8.69 (6)	0.58 NS	16.00 (24)	12.34 (10)	20.28 (14)	1.30 NS	61.33 (92)	66.66 (54)	55.07 (38)	1.45 NS
First born	2.66 (4)	1.23 (1)	4.34 (3)	1.13 NS	6.66 (10)	3.70 (3)	10.14 (7)	1.53 NS	13.33 (20)	14.81 (12)	11.59 (8)	0.58 NS
Middle born	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	2.00 (3)	---	4.34 (3)	---
Not particular	4.66 (7)	4.93 (4)	4.34 (3)	0.17 NS	9.33 (14)	8.64 (7)	10.14 (7)	0.31 NS	46.00 (69)	51.86 (42)	39.13 (27)	1.57 NS
Spoken language	5.33 (8)	9.87 (8)	---	---	10.66 (16)	17.34 (10)	8.69 (6)	0.73 NS	78.00 (117)	66.66 (54)	91.30 (63)	3.94**
Same	5.33 (8)	9.87 (8)	---	---	10.66 (16)	12.34 (10)	8.69 (6)	0.73 NS	78.00 (117)	66.66 (54)	91.30 (63)	3.94**
Difference	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant **-<0.01 level

Cont.....Table 7

Personal variables of prospective mate & its preferences	Preferences and percentages of UG female students											
	First				Second				Third			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Match of horoscope	15.33 (23)	14.81 (12)	15.94 (11)	0.19 NS	13.33 (20)	9.87 (8)	17.39 (12)	1.33 NS	4.00 (6)	2.46 (2)	5.79 (4)	1.00 NS
Blood group & Rh factor	8.66 (13)	6.17 (5)	11.59 (8)	1.15 NS	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Physical features												
a) Height	21.33 (32)	23.45 (19)	18.84 (13)	0.69 NS	20.66 (31)	23.45 (19)	17.39 (12)	0.92 NS	20.00 (30)	19.75 (16)	20.28 (14)	0.08 NS
Tall	17.33 (26)	19.75 (16)	14.49 (10)	0.85 NS	14.66 (22)	17.78 (14)	11.59 (8)	0.99 NS	13.33 (20)	11.11 (9)	15.94 (11)	0.85 NS
Moderate	4.00 (6)	3.70 (3)	4.34 (3)	0.19 NS	6.00 (9)	6.17 (5)	5.79 (4)	0.09 NS	6.66 (10)	8.64 (7)	4.34 (3)	1.08 NS
b) Body built	11.33 (17)	11.11 (9)	11.59 (8)	0.09 NS	24.00 (36)	23.45 (19)	24.63 (17)	0.16 NS	24.00 (36)	24.69 (20)	23.18 (16)	0.21 NS
Moderate	7.33 (11)	6.17 (5)	8.69 (6)	0.58 NS	18.66 (28)	16.04 (13)	21.73 (15)	0.88 NS	18.00 (27)	19.75 (16)	15.94 (11)	0.61 NS
Slim	4.00 (6)	4.93 (4)	2.89 (2)	0.64 NS	5.33 (8)	7.40 (6)	2.89 (2)	1.27 NS	6.00 (9)	4.93 (4)	7.14 (5)	0.58 NS
c) complexion	16.66 (25)	18.51 (15)	14.49 (10)	0.66 NS	19.33 (29)	18.51 (15)	20.28 (14)	0.27 NS	13.33 (20)	12.34 (10)	14.49 (10)	0.38 NS
fair	8.66 (13)	7.40 (6)	10.14 (7)	0.58 NS	6.66 (10)	7.40 (6)	5.79 (4)	0.29 NS	3.33 (5)	3.70 (3)	2.89 (2)	0.27 NS
moderate	8.00 (12)	11.11 (9)	4.34 (3)	1.58 NS	12.66 (19)	11.11 (9)	14.49 (10)	0.61 NS	10.00 (15)	8.64 (7)	11.59 (8)	0.59 NS

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant

Cont.....Table 7

Personal variables of prospective mate & its preferences	Preferences and percentages of UG female students											
	Fourth				Fifth				Above 5th preferences			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Match of horoscope	11.33 (17)	8.64 (17)	14.49 (10)	1.11 NS	26.00 (39)	33.33 (27)	17.39 (12)	2.29**	30.00 (45)	30.86 (25)	28.98 (20)	0.25 NS
Blood group & Rh factor	4.66 (7)	2.46 (2)	7.24 (5)	1.33 NS	2.00 (3)	3.70 (3)	---	---	84.66 (127)	87.65 (71)	81.16 (56)	1.08 NS
Physical features												
a) Height	16.00 (24)	17.28 (14)	14.49 (10)	0.46 NS	8.00 (12)	7.40 (6)	8.69 (6)	0.28 NS	14.00 (21)	8.64 (7)	20.28 (14)	2.02*
Tall	13.33 (20)	16.04 (13	10.14 (7)	1.08 NS	7.33 (11)	6.17 (5)	8.69 (6)	0.58 NS	12.66 (19)	8.64 (7)	17.39 (12)	1.58 NS
Moderate	2.66 (4)	1.23 (1)	4.34 (3)	1.03 NS	0.66 (1)	1.23 (1)	---	---	1.33 (2)	---	2.89 (2)	---
b) Body built	17.33 (26)	16.04 (13)	18.84 (13)	0.44 NS	8.00 (12)	8.64 (7)	7.24 (5)	0.31 NS	15.33 (23)	16.04 (13)	14.4 (10)	0.26 NS
Moderate	12.00 (18)	12.34 (10)	11.59 (8)	0.14 NS	5.33 (18)	4.93 (4)	5.79 (4)	0.23 NS	11.33 (17)	13.58 (11)	8.69 (6)	0.95 NS
Slim	5.33 (8)	3.70 (3)	7.24 (5)	0.94 NS	2.66 (4)	3.70 (3)	1.44 (1)	0.88 NS	4.00 (6)	2.46 (2)	5.79 (4)	1.86 NS
c) complexion	14.66 (22)	13.58 (11)	15.94 (11)	0.40 NS	11.33 (17)	12.34 (10)	10.14 (7)	0.42 NS	24.66 (37)	24.69 (20)	24.63 (17)	0.007 NS
fair	2.66 (4)	---	5.79 (4)	---	6.00 (9)	6.17 (5)	5.79 (4)	0.09 NS	8.66 (13)	7.40 (6)	10.14 (7)	0.58 NS
moderate	12.00 (18)	13.58 (11)	10.14 (7)	0.65 NS	5.33 (8)	6.17 (5)	4.34 (3)	0.50 NS	16.00 (24)	17.28 (14)	14.49 (10)	0.46 NS

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant *-<0.05 level **-<0.01 level

Cont.....Table 7

Personal variables of prospective mate & its preferences	Preferences and percentages of UG female students											
	First				Second				Third			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values
d) facial features	15.33 (23)	14.81 (12)	15.94 (11)	0.19 NS	9.33 (14)	8.64 (7)	10.14 (7)	0.31 NS	13.33 (20)	11.11 (9)	15.94 (11)	0.85 NS
sharp	5.33 (8/)	6.17 (5)	4.34 (3)	0.50 NS	4.66 (7)	4.93 (4)	4.34 (3)	0.17 NS	11.33 (17)	11.11 (9)	11.59 (8)	0.09 NS
Moderate	10.00 (15)	8.64 (7)	11.59 (8)	0.59 NS	4.66 (7)	3.70 (3)	5.79 (4)	0.59 NS	2.00 (3)	---	4.34 (3)	---
e) Body language	16.66 (25)	16.04 (13)	17.39 (12)	0.21 NS	16.00 (24)	13.58 (11)	18.84 (13)	0.86 NS	16.00 (24)	18.51 (15)	13.04 (9)	0.92 NS
Decent	16.66 (25)	16.04 (13)	17.39 (12)	0.21 NS	16.00 (24)	13.58 (11)	18.84 (13)	0.86 NS	16.00 (24)	18.51 (15)	13.04 (9)	0.92 NS
f) Hair texture	---	---	---	---	1.33 (2)	2.46 (2)	---	---	0.66 (1)	1.23 (1)	---	---
little curly	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
straight	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Not particular	---	---	---	---	1.33 (2)	2.46 (2)	---	---	0.66 (1)	1.23 (1)	---	---
g) Hair colour	---	---	---	---	1.33 (2)	2.46 (2)	---	---	0.66 (1)	1.23 (1)	---	---
Black	---	---	---	---	1.33 (2)	2.46 (2)	---	---	0.66 (1)	1.23 (1)	---	---

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant

Cont..... Table 7

Personal variables of prospective mate & its preferences	Preferences and percentages of UG female students											
	Fourth				Fifth				Above 5th preferences			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values
d) facial features	20.00 (30)	20.98 (17)	18.86 (13)	0.32 NS	22.00 (33)	20.98 (17)	23.18 (16)	0.32 NS	20.00 (30)	23.45 (19)	15.94 (11)	1.16 NS
sharp	12.00 (18)	9.87 (8)	14.49 (10)	0.85 NS	11.33 (17)	7.40 (6)	15.94 (11)	0.61 NS	14.66 (22)	14.81 (21)	14.49 (10)	1.77 NS
Moderate	8.00 (12)	11.11 (9)	4.34 (3)	1.58 NS	10.66 (16)	13.58 (11)	7.24 (5)	1.28 NS	5.33 (8)	8.64 (7)	1.44 (1)	2.09*
e) Body language	17.33 (26)	16.04 (13)	18.84 (13)	0.44 NS	10.66 (16)	9.87 (8)	11.59 (8)	0.33 NS	23.33 (35)	25.92 (21)	20.28 (14)	0.82 NS
Decent	17.33 (26)	16.04 (13)	18.84 (13)	0.44 NS	10.66 (16)	9.87 (8)	11.59 (8)	0.33 NS	23.33 (35)	25.92 (21)	20.28 (14)	0.82 NS
f) Hair texture	1.33 (2)	2.46 (2)	---	---	3.33 (5)	6.17 (5)	---	---	93.33 (140)	87.65 (71)	100.00 (69)	3.77**
little curly	---	---	---	---	0.60 (1)	1.23 (1)	---	---	12.00 (18)	12.34 (10)	11.59 (8)	0.14 NS
straight	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	28.00 (42)	28.39 (23)	27.53 (19)	0.11 NS
Not particular	1.33 (2)	2.46 (2)	---	---	2.66 (4)	4.93 (4)	---	---	53.33 (80)	46.91 (38)	60.86 (42)	1.72 NS
g) Hair colour	2.66 (4)	4.93 (4)	---	---	1.33 (2)	2.66 (4)	---	---	94.00 (141)	88.88 (72)	100.00 (69)	3.18**
Black	2.66 (4)	4.93 (4)	---	---	1.33 (2)	2.66 (4)	---	---	94.00 (141)	88.88 (72)	100.00 (69)	3.18**

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant *-<0.05 level **-<0.01 level

Cont..... Table 7

Personal variables of prospective mate & its preferences	Preferences and percentages of UG female students											
	First				Second				Third			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values
h) Dressing style	18.66 (28)	16.04 (3)	21.73 (15)	0.88 NS	7.33 (11)	6.317 (5)	8.69 (6)	0.58 NS	12.00 (18)	11.11 (9)	13.04 (9)	0.36 NS
Modern	10.66 (169)	7.40 (6)	14.49 (10)	1.37 NS	6.66 (10)	4.93 (4)	8.69 (6)	0.90 NS	10.00 (15)	9.87 (8)	10.14 (7)	0.05 NS
Normal	8.00 (12)	8.64 (7)	7.24 (5)	0.31 NS	0.66 (1)	1.23 (1)	---	---	2.00 (3)	1.23 (8)	2.89 (2)	0.70 NS

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students

NS-Non Significant

Cont.....Table 7

Personal variables of prospective mate & its preferences	Preferences and percentages of UG female students											
	Fourth				Fifth				Above 5th preferences			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values
h) Dressing style	10.66 (16)	8.64 (7)	13.04 (9)	0.86 NS	34.66 (52)	30.86 (25)	39.13 (27)	1.05 NS	16.66 (25)	27.16 (22)	4.34 (3)	4.13**
Modern	5.33 (8)	4.93 (4)	5.79 (4)	0.23 NS	23.33 (35)	19.75 (16)	27.53 (19)	1.11 NS	8.00 (12)	11.11 (9)	4.34 (3)	1.58 NS
Normal	5.33 (8)	3.70 (3)	7.24 (5)	0.94 NS	11.33 (17)	11.11 (9)	11.59 (8)	0.09 NS	8.66 (13)	16.04 (13)	---	---

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant **-<0.01 level

UG female students for it were 34, 23, 20, 17, 14, 13, 17, 14, 15, 13 and 10. No significant differences were reported in the third preference given by the low and middle SES UG female students for personal variables of their prospective mate.

With regard to **fourth preference,** irrespective of SES, the UG female students gave fourth preference to monthly income (22%), followed by facial features (20%), occupation (17%), body built (17%), body language (17%), height (16%), age difference (15%), complexion (14%), match of horoscope (11%) and dressing style (10%) of the mate. The corresponding percentages of low SES UG female students for it were 22, 20, 18, 16, 16, 17, 16, 14, 13 and 8. Likely the corresponding percentages of middle SES UG female students for it were 23, 18, 15, 18, 14, 14, 15, 15, 14 and 13. There were no significant differences in the fourth preference given by low and middle SES UG female students for the personal variables of the prospective life partner.

With regard to **fifth preference**, irrespective of SES, the UG female students gave fifth preference to dressing style (34%) followed by match of horoscope (26%), facial features (22%), educational qualification (18%), birth order (16%), monthly income (14%), occupation (12%), age difference (11%), complexion (11%), body language (11%), spoken language (11%), height (8%) and body built (8%). The corresponding percentages of low SES UG female students for it were 30, 33, 20, 6, 12, 13, 7, 11, 12, 9, 12, 7 and 8. Similarly the corresponding percentages of middle SES UG female students for it were 39, 17, 23, 10, 20, 14, 17, 11, 10, 11, 8, 8 and 7. There were no significant differences in the fifth preference given by low and middle SES UG female students for the personal variables of their prospective life partner.

With regard to **above fifth preference**, irrespective of SES, the UG female students gave above fifth preference to hair colour (94%) followed by hair texture (93%), blood group & Rh factor (84%), spoken language (78%), birth order (61%), match of horoscope (30%), complexion (24%), body language (23%), facial features (20%) , dressing style (16%), age difference

(16%), body built (15%), height (14%) and monthly income (13%). The corresponding percentages of low SES UG female students for it were 88, 87, 87, 66, 66, 30, 24, 25, 23, 27, 14, 16, 8 and 17. Similarly the corresponding percentages of the middle SES UG female students for it were 100, 100, 81, 91, 55, 28, 24, 20, 15, 4, 18, 14, 20 and 8. Significant differences were noticed between low and middle SES groups' sample students in giving above fifth preference to personal variables of their prospective life partner. Similar types of results were indicated in the studies carried out by Firdous and Akbar (1991) and Bharati and Patnam (1995), which shows that the trend of variables and preferences to prospective mate's personal variable did not change much over the 25 years period.

4.2.7 Weightages Given By the UG Female Students To the Personal Variables of Their Prospective Life Partner

Table 8 and fig 2 indicate weightages given by the undergraduate female students to the personal variables of their prospective life partner. Irrespective of SES, the UG female students gave more weightage of 2260 to physical features in mate selection followed by occupation (452), height (434), educational qualification (422), body built (401), age difference (399), monthly income (397), complexion (372), body language (361), facial features (324), dressing style (322), match of horoscope (286), birth order (132), blood group & Rh factor (82), spoken language (68), hair colour (22) and hair texture (21). The corresponding weightages given by the low SES group UG female students for it were 1215, 246, 253, 232, 214, 220, 207, 197, 188, 166, 151, 139, 65, 32, 62, 22 and 21. Similarly the corresponding weightages given by the middle SES group UG female students for it were 1045, 206, 181, 190, 187, 179, 190, 175, 173, 158, 171, 147, 67, 50, 6, nil and nil. Most of the findings reported in table 8 are in agreement with the findings reported in the research study of Patnam and Vasekar (1991), Bharati and Patnam (1995), Patan(1998), Kerr (2000) and Jiali Ye (2005), which in turn indicate that college girls

Table 8 Weightages given by the UG female students to the personal variables of their prospective life partner

Personal variables of prospective mate	Weightages given by the UG female students		
	Irrespective of SES (`150)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)
Physical features	2260	1215	1045
Height	434	253	181
Body built	401	214	187
Complexion	372	197	175
Body language	361	188	173
Facial features	324	166	158
Dressing style	322	151	171
Hair colour	22	22	---
Hair texture	21	21	---
Occupation	452	246	206
Educational qualification	422	232	190
Age difference	399	220	179
Monthly income	397	207	190
Match of horoscope	286	139	147
Birth order	132	65	67
Blood group & Rh factor	82	32	50
Spoken language	68	62	6
Average	**397.35**	**213.53**	**183.82**

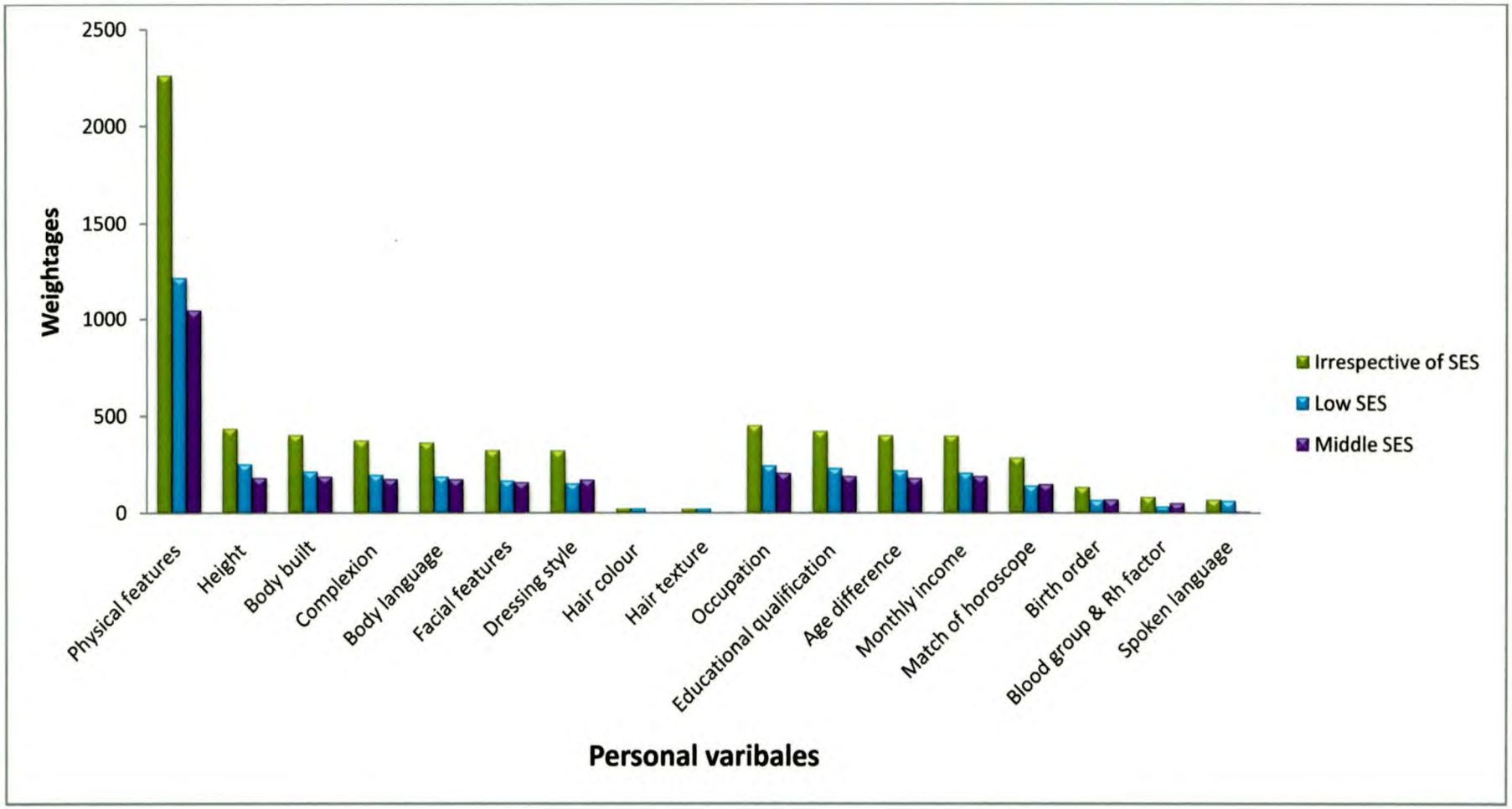

Fig.2 Weightages given by the UG female students to the personal variables of their prospective life partner

views about criteria of personal variables in mate selection have mostly remained same over the 25 years period.

4.2.8 Personality Traits and Preferences Quoted By UG Female Students for Their Prospective Life Partner

The criteria for personality traits enlisted by the sample undergraduates females students for choosing life partner were broad minded, affectionate and caring, loyal, ambitious, courageous, adaptable, independent, humorous, intelligent, not having bad habits, romantic responsible, social, on dominating, sensitive, optimistic, unselfish, reciprocative, energetic, friendly, respecting parents- in-laws and others which are depicted in table 9.

Table 9 illustrates the criteria and its preferences given for personality traits of mate by the UG female students. Irrespective of their SES, about 24 percent of UG female students gave **first preference** to caring and affectionate trait of mate followed by broad mindedness (18), friendly (10%) and sensitive (18%) trait of mate. The corresponding percentages of low SES group's sample students for it were 24, 18, 8 and 6. Similarly the corresponding percentages of middle SES group's sample students for it were 23, 18, 11 and 10. There were no significant differences in the first preference given by low and middle SES groups for selected personality traits of their prospective life partner.

With respect to giving **second preference**, irrespective of SES, about 17 percent of UG female students reported to give second preference to broad mindedness of the prospective mate followed by caring and affectionate (16%), friendly (11%), romantic (9%), adaptable (5%), intelligent (5%), not having bad habits (5%), social (5%) and sensitive (5%). The corresponding parentages of low SES group's for it were 22, 16, 9, 8, 4, 4, 4, 6 and 4. Similarly the corresponding percentages of middles SES group for it were 11, 15, 13, 10, 5, 5, 5, 4 and 5. There were no significant differences between the low and middle SES groups in giving second preference to the selected personality traits for mate selection.

Table 9 Personality traits and preferences quoted by UG female students for mate selection

Mate's personality traits & its preferences	Preferences and percentages of UG female students											
	First				Second				Third			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z Values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Broad minded	18.66 (28)	18.51 (15)	18.84 (13)	0.05 NS	17.33 (26)	22.22 (18)	11.59 (8)	1.76 NS	11.33 (17)	14.81 (12)	7.24 (5)	1.50 NS
Caring & affectionate	24.00 (36)	24.69 (20)	23.18 (16)	0.21 NS	16.00 (24)	16.04 (13)	15.94 (11)	0.01 NS	10.00 (15)	11.11 (9)	8.69 (6)	0.49 NS
Loyal	---	---	---	---	2.00 (3)	4.66 (7)	---	---	4.00 (6)	3.70 (3)	4.34 (3)	0.19 NS
Ambitious	---	---	---	---	1.33 (2)	---	2.89 (2)	---	2.66 (4)	4.93 (4)	---	---
Courageous	---	---	---	---	2.00 (3)	---	4.34 (3)	---	4.00 (6)	7.40 (6)	---	---
Adaptable	---	----	---	---	5.33 (8)	4.93 (4)	5.79 (4)	0.23 NS	---	---	---	---
Independent	4.00 (6)	7.40 (6)	---	---	4.66 (7)	---	10.14 (7)	---	2.66 (4)	4.93 (4)	---	---
Humorous	---	----	---	---	---	---	---	---	4.66 (7)	3.70 (3)	5.79 (4)	0.59 NS
Intelligent	3.33 (5)	---	7.24 (5)	---	5.33 (8)	4.93 (4)	5.79 (4)	0.23 NS	4.66 (7)	6.17 (5)	2.89 (2)	0.97 NS
Not having bad habits	5.33 (8)	6.17 (5)	4.34 (3)	0.50 NS	5.33 (8)	4.93 (4)	5.79 (4)	0.23 NS	4.66 (7)	8.64 (7)	---	---
Romantic	5.33 (8)	3.70 (3)	7.24 (5)	0.94 NS	9.33 (14)	8.64 (7)	10.14 (7)	0.31 NS	4.66 (7)	2.46 (2)	7.24 (5)	1.33 NS
Responsible	7.33 (11)	8.64 (7)	5.79 (4)	0.67 NS	2.00 (3)	3.70 (3)	---	---	6.66 (10)	6.17 (5)	7.24 (5)	0.26 NS
Social	6.00 (9)	7.40 (6)	4.34 (3)	0.80 NS	5.33 (8)	6.17 (5)	4.34 (3)	0.50 NS	3.33 (5)	---	7.24 (5)	---

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant

Cont.....Table 9

Mate's personality traits & its preferences	Preferences and percentages of UG female students							
	Fourth				Above 4th preferences			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Broad minded	11.33 (17)	12.34 (10)	10.14 (7)	0.42 NS	41.33 (62)	32.09 (26)	52.17 (36)	2.52**
Caring & affectionate	10.66 (16)	9.87 (8)	11.59 (8)	0.33 NS	39.33 (59)	38.27 (31)	40.57 (28)	0.28 NS
Loyal	3.33 (5)	6.17 (5)	---	---	90.66 (136)	86.41 (70)	95.65 (66)	2.03*
Ambitious	4.00 (6)	3.70 (3)	4.34 (3)	0.19 NS	92.00 (138)	91.35 (74)	92.75 (64)	0.31 NS
Courageous	4.00 (6)	4.93 (4)	2.89 (2)	0.64 NS	90.00 (135)	87.65 (71)	92.75 (64)	1.60 NS
Adaptable	1.33 (2)	2.46 (2)	---	---	93.33 (140)	92.59 (75)	94.20 (65)	0.39 NS
Independent	3.33 (5)	6.17 (5)	---	---	85.33 (128)	81.48 (66)	89.85 (62)	1.48 NS
Humorous	2.00 (3)	3.70 (3)	---	---	93.33 (140)	92.59 (75)	94.20 (65)	0.39 NS
Intelligent	5.33 (8)	4.93 (4)	5.79 (4)	0.23 NS	81.33 (122)	83.95 (68)	78.26 (54)	0.88 NS
Not having bad habits	5.33 (8)	6.17 (5)	4.34 (3)	0.50 NS	79.33 (119)	74.07 (60)	85.50 (59)	1.77 NS
Romantic	8.66 (13)	9.87 (8)	7.24 (5)	0.57 NS	72.00 (108)	75.30 (61)	68.11 (47)	0.97 NS
Responsible	5.33 (8)	2.46 (2)	8.69 (6)	1.63 NS	78.66 (118)	79.01 (64)	18.26 (54)	0.11 NS
Social	4.00 (6)	3.70 (3)	4.34 (3)	0.19 NS	81.33 (122)	82.71 (67)	79.71 (55)	0.46 NS

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant *-P<0.05 level **-P<0.01 level

Cont.....Table 9

Mate's personality traits & its preferences	Preferences and percentages of UG female students											
	First				Second				Third			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z Values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Non dominating	6.00 (9)	4.93 (4)	7.24 (5)	0.58 NS	0.66 (1)	1.23 (1)	---	---	5.33 (8)	6.17 (5)	4.34 (3)	0.50 NS
Sensitive	8.00 (12)	6.17 (5)	10.14 (7)	0.88 NS	5.33 (8)	4.93 (4)	5.79 (4)	0.23 NS	5.33 (8)	9.87 (8)	---	---
optimistic	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3.33 (5)	---	7.24 (5)	---
Unselfish	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	5.33 (8)	6.17 (5)	4.34 (3)	0.50 NS
Reciprocative	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	2.66 (4)	---	5.79 (4)	---
Energetic	2.00 (3)	3.70 (3)	---	---	4.00 (6)	3.70 (3)	4.34 (3)	0.19 NS	2.00 (3)	---	4.34 (3)	---
Friendly	10.00 (15)	8.64 (7)	11.59 (8)	0.59 NS	11.33 (17)	9.87 (8)	13.04 (9)	0.60 NS	5.33 (8)	3.70 (3)	7.24 (5)	0.94 NS
Respect parents & intows	---	---	---	---	2.66 (4)	4.93 (4)	---	---	4.00 (5)	---	8.69 (6)	---
Respect spouse	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3.33 (5)	---	7.24 (5)	---

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant

Cont.....Table 9

Mate's personality traits & its preferences	Preferences and percentages of UG female students							
	Fourth				Above 4th preferences			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Non dominating	2.66 (4)	---	5.79 (4)	---	85.33 (128)	87.65 (71)	82.60 (57)	0.86 NS
Sensitive	4.66 (7)	4.93 (4)	4.34 (3)	0.17 NS	76.66 (115)	74.07 (60)	79.71 (55)	0.82 NS
optimistic	2.66 (4)	4.93 (4)	---	---	94.00 (141)	95.06 (77)	92.75 (64)	0.58 NS
Unselfish	2.66 (4)	---	5.79 (4)	---	92.00 (138)	93.82 (76)	89.85 (62)	0.88 NS
Reciprocative	6.66 (10)	6.17 (5)	7.24 (5)	0.26 NS	90.66 (136)	93.82 (76)	86.95 (60)	1.41 NS
Energetic	4.00 (6)	---	8.69 (6)	---	88.00 (132)	92.59 (75)	82.60 (57)	1.84 NS
Friendly	2.00 ()2	---	4.34 (3)	---	71.33 (107)	77.77 (63)	63.76 (44)	1.89 NS
Respect parents & intows	---	---	---	---	93.33 ()140	95.06 (77)	91.30 (63)	0.90 NS
Respect spouse	6.00 (9)	7.40 (6)	4.34 (3)	0.80 NS	90.66 (136)	92.59 (75)	88.40 (61)	0.86 NS

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant

With respect to giving **third preference** to mate's personality traits about 11 percent of UG female students gave third preference to broad mindedness of the prospective mate followed by caring and affectionate (10%), responsible (6%), non dominating (5%), sensitive (5%), friendly (5%) and unselfish (5%). The corresponding percentages of low SES group sample students for it were 14, 11, 6, 6, 9, 3 and 6. Similarly the corresponding percentages of middle SES group sample students for it were 7, 8, 7, 4, nil, 5 and 2. There were no significant differences between low and middle SES groups' sample students in giving third preference to the selected personality traits of their prospective life partner.

With respect to their **fourth preference,** irrespective of SES, 11 percent of UG female students gave fourth preference to broad mindedness of the prospective life partner followed by caring and affectionate (10%), romantic (8%), respects spouse (6%), reciprocative (6%) , intelligent (5%), do not have bad habits (5%), responsible (5%) and sensitive (4%). The corresponding percentages of the low SES group sample students for it were 12, 9, 9, 7, 6, 4, 6, 2 and 4. Similarly the corresponding percentages of the middle SES group sample students for it were 10, 11, 7, 4, 7, 5, 4, 8 and 4. There were no significant differences between low and middle SES groups' UG female students in giving fourth preference to their selected personality traits of the prospective life partner.

With respect to **above fourth preference**, irrespective of SES, the UG female students gave 4th preference for the personality factors like – optimistic nature of mate (94%) followed by adoptable (93%), humorous (93%), respect parents and in-laws (93%), ambitious (92%), unselfish (92%), loyal (90%), courageous (90%), reciprocative (90%), respect spouse (90%), energetic (88%), independent (85%), non- domination (85%), intelligent (81%), social (81%), do not have bad habits (79%), responsible (78%), sensitive (76%), romantic (72%), friendly (71%), broad minded (41%) and caring & affectionate (39%). The corresponding percentages of the low SES group

sample students for it were 95, 92, 92, 95, 91, 93, 86, 87, 93, 92, 92, 81, 87, 83, 82, 74, 79, 74, 75, 77, 32 and 38. Similarly the corresponding percentages of middle SES group sample students for it were 92, 94, 94, 91, 92, 89, 95, 92, 86, 88, 82, 89, 82, 78, 79, 85, 78, 79, 68, 63, 52 and 40. No significant differences were noticed between low SES and middle SES group female students' preferences to mates' traits except for broad mindedness and loyalty of the life partner. Many of these results of the table 9 are in agreement with the findings reported in the research studies of Patnam and Vasekar (1991), Bhandari and Patnam (1996) and Patani (1998), which reflects that the views of college girls about personality traits of life partner in mate selection have not changed much even over the period of 25 years.

4.2.9 Weightages Given By the UG Female Students To The Personality Traits of Their Prospective Life Partner

Table 10 and fig 3 show the weightages given by the undergraduate female students to the personality traits of their prospective life partner. Irrespective of SES, the UG female students gave more weightage to caring and affectionate mate (353) followed by broad minded (329), friendly (173), romantic (143), sensitive (130), responsible (113), not having bad habits (109), social (104), intelligent (94), non dominating (81), independent (80), energetic (60), courageous (42), loyal (40), adaptable (36), respect spouse (33), ambitious (32), unselfish (32), reciprocative (32), respect parents & in- laws (30), humorous (27), and optimistic nature (23). The corresponding weightages given to them by low SES group sample students were 195, 203, 76, 65, 73, 66, 72, 56, 39, 39, 52, 27, 26 and 31. Similarly the corresponding weightages given for them by middle SES group sample students were 158, 126, 97, 78, 57, 47, 37, 48, 55, 42, 28, 33 and 16. Many of these results from table 10 are in agreement with findings reported in the research studies of Patnam and Vasekar (1991), Bhandari and Patnam (1996) and Patani (1998), which reveals that even over

Table 10 Weightages given by the UG female students to the personality traits for choosing prospective life partner

Personality traits of mate	Weightags given by the UG female students		
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES (81)	Middles SES (69)
caring and affectionate	353	195	158
Broad minded	329	203	126
friendly	173	76	97
Romantic	143	65	78
Sensitive	130	73	57
Responsible	113	66	47
Not having bad habits	109	72	37
Social	104	56	48
Intelligent	94	39	55
Non dominating	81	39	42
Independent	80	52	28
Energetic	60	27	33
Courageous	42	26	16
Loyal	40	31	9
Adaptable	36	20	16
Respect spouse	33	12	21
Ambitious	32	18	14
Unselfish	32	15	17
Reciprocative	32	10	22
Respect parents & in-laws	30	12	18
Humorous	27	15	12
Optimistic	23	8	15
Average	**95.27**	**51.36**	**43.91**

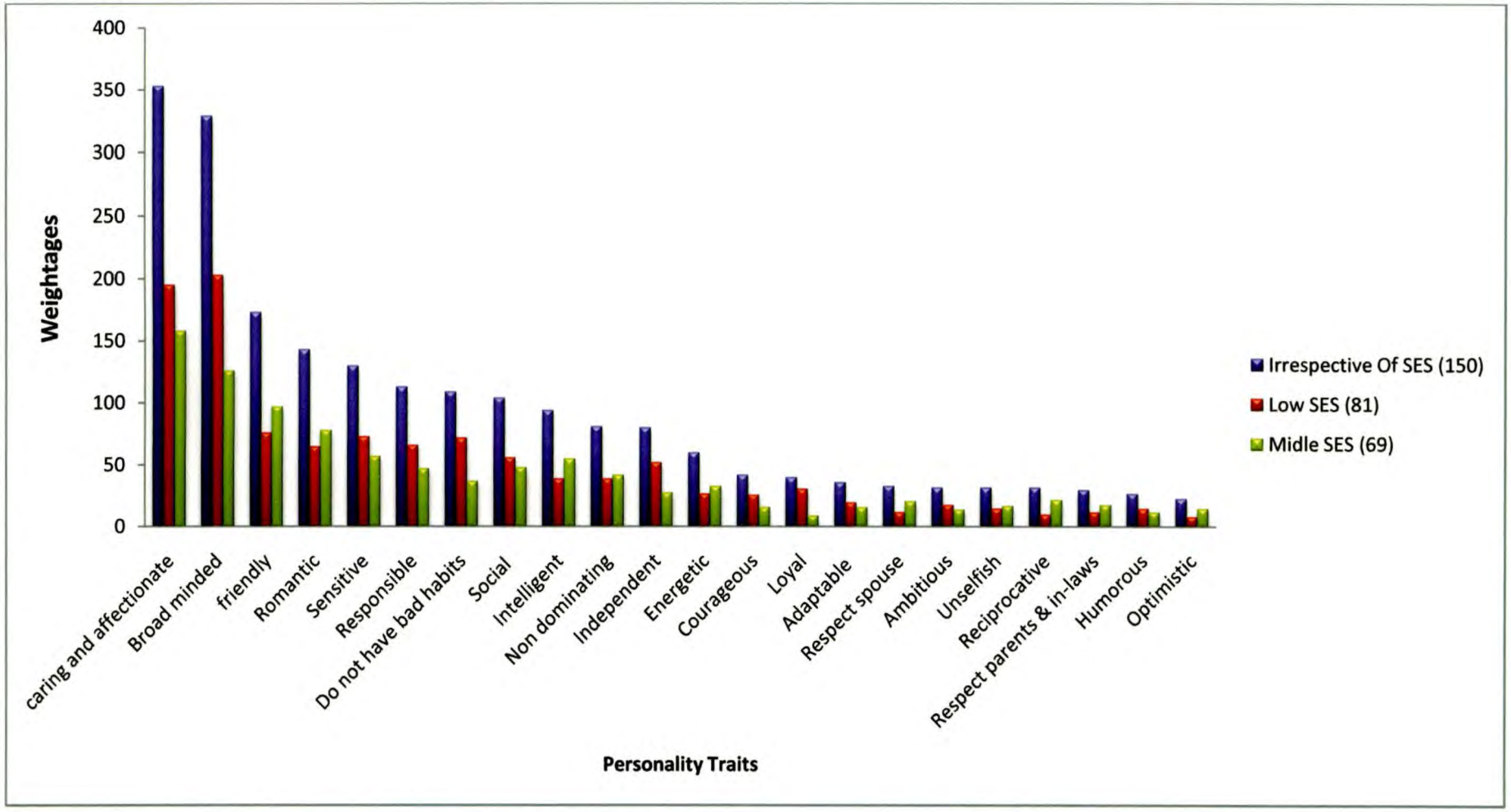

Fig. 3 Weightages given by the UG female students to the personality traits for choosing prospective life partner

the period of 25 years, the views of college girls about personality traits of life partner in mate selection remained persistent.

4.2.10 Expectations of UG Female Students About Interests of Their Prospective Partner and Its Preferences

The criteria for interests of the prospective partner enlisted by the sample undergraduate female students are sports and games, viewing TV and films, listening to music and attending concerts, composing poems and attending poets workshop, attending social functions, drawing and painting, cooking and home decoration, shopping and child care which are depicted in table 11.

Table 11 indicates the preferences given by the UG female students for the interests of mate in the selection of their prospective life partner. Irrespective of SES, 21 percent of UG female students gave **first preference** to viewing TV & films followed by shopping (16%), listening to music & attending concerts (15%), sports and games (11%), child care (10%) and cooking & home decoration (8%). The corresponding percentages of the low SES group sample students for it were 25, 19, 12, 12, 11 and 8. Likewise the corresponding percentages of middle SES group sample students for it were 15, 11, 18, 10, 8 and 7. There were no significant differences between low and middle SES groups in giving first preference to the interests of their prospective life partner.

In giving second preference to mates interests about 20 percent UG female students irrespective of their SES gave second preference to composing poems & attending poet workshops followed by attending social functions (20%), drawing and painting (20%), viewing TV & films (11%), listening to music & attending concerts (10%) and cooking & home decoration (8%). The corresponding percentages of low SES group female students for it were 27, 20, 19, 6, 9 and 9. Likewise the corresponding percentages of middle SES group female students for it were 13, 18, 20, 17, 10 and 7. Few significant

Table 11 Perceptions of UG female students about interests of their prospective partner and its preferences

Interests of life Partner	Preferences and percentages of UG female students											
	First				Second				Third			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z Values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Sports and games	11.33 (17)	12.34 (10)	10.14 (7)	0.42 NS	6.00 (9)	4.93 (4)	7.24 (5)	0.58 NS	6.00 (9)	4.93 (4)	7.24 (5)	0.58 NS
Viewing TV & films	21.33 (32)	25.95 (21)	15.94 (11)	1.52 NS	11.52 (17)	6.17 (5)	17.39 (12)	2.12*	4.66 (7)	3.70 (3)	5.79 (4)	0.59 NS
Listening to music & attending concerts	15.33 (23)	12.34 (10)	18.84 (13)	0.08 NS	10.00 (15)	9.87 (8)	10.14 (7)	0.05 NS	11.33 (17)	9.87 (8)	13.04 (9)	0.60 NS
Composing poems & attending Poet work shops	7.33 (11)	6.17 (5)	8.69 (6)	0.58 NS	20.66 (31)	12.16 (22)	13.04 (9)	2.20*	2.00 (30)	16.04 (13)	24.63 (17)	1.30 NS
Attending social functions	7.33 (11)	3.70 (3)	11.59 (8)	1.79 NS	20.00 (30)	20.98 (17)	18.84 (13)	0.32 NS	15.33 (23)	14.81 (12)	15.94 (11)	0.19 NS
Drawing and painting	3.33 (5)	---	7.24 (5)	---	20.00 (30)	19.75 (16)	20.28 (14)	0.08 NS	12.66 (19)	18.51 (15)	5.79 (4)	2.46**
Cooking & Home decoration	8.00 (12)	8.64 (7)	7.24 (5)	0.31 NS	8.66 (13)	9.87 (8)	7.24 (5)	0.57 NS	17.33 (26)	19.75 (16)	14.49 (10)	0.85 NS
Shopping	16.00 (24)	19.75 (16)	11.59 (8)	1.39 NS	2.00 (3)	---	4.34 (3)	---	5.33 (8)	2.46 (2)	8.69 (6)	1.63 NS
Child care	10.00 (15)	11.11 (9)	8.69 (6)	0.49 NS	1.33 (2)	1.23 (1)	1.44 (1)	0.11 NS	7.33 (11)	9.87 (8)	4.34 (3)	1.34 NS

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant *-P<0.05 level **P<0.01 level

Cont.....Table 11

Interests of life Partner	Preferences and percentages of UG female students							
	Fourth				Above 4th preferences			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Sports and games	13.33 (20)	20.98 (17)	4.34 (3)	3.23**	63.33 (95)	56.79 (46)	71.01 (49)	1.83 NS
Viewing TV & films	14.66 (22)	17.28 (14)	11.59 (8)	0.99 NS	48.00 (72)	46.91 (38)	49.27 (34)	0.28 NS
Listening to music & attending concerts	12.66 (19)	6.17 (5)	20.28 (14)	255**	50.66 (76)	61.72 (50)	37.68 (26)	3.02**
Composing poems & attending Poet work shops	6.00 (9)	3.70 (3)	8.69 (6)	1.25 NS	46.00 (69)	46.91 (38)	44.92 (31)	0.24 NS
Attending social functions	4.00 (6)	2.46 (2)	5.79 (4)	1.00 NS	53.33 (80)	58.02 (47)	47.82 (33)	1.25 NS
Drawing and painting	11.33 (17)	7.40 (6)	15.94 (11)	1.61 NS	53.66 (79)	54.32 (44)	50.72 (35)	0.43 NS
Cooking & Home decoration	7.33 (11)	6.17 (5)	8.69 (6)	0.58 NS	58.66 (88)	55.55 (45)	62.31 (43)	0.84 NS
Shopping	12.00 (18)	12.34 (10)	11.59 (8)	0.14 NS	64.66 (97)	65.43 (53)	63.76 (44)	0.21 NS
Child care	18.66 (28)	23.45 (19)	13.04 (9)	1.67 NS	62.66 (94)	54.32 (44)	72.46 (50)	2.35**

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant **P<0.01 level

differences were noticed between low and middle SES groups in giving second preference for interests of their prospective life partner.

With regard to giving **third preference** for it about 20 percent UG female students irrespective of their SES, preferred in third place the mates composing poems and attending poet workshops followed by cooking & home decoration (17%), attending social functions (15%), Drawing and painting (12%), listening to music & attending concerts (11%) and child care (7%). The corresponding percentages of low SES group female students for it were 16, 19, 14, 18, 9 and 9. Likewise the corresponding percentages of meddle SES group female students for it were 24, 14, 15, 5, 13 and 4. Except for drawing and painting there were no significant differences between low and middle SES groups' third preferences for interests of their prospective life partner.

With regard to giving **fourth preference** for it, about 18 percent UG female students irrespective of their SES gave fourth preference to child care interest of life partner followed by viewing TV & films (14%), sports and games (13%), listening to music & attending concerts (12%), shopping (12%), drawing and painting (11%) and cooking & home decoration (7%). The corresponding percentages of lows SES group female students for it were 23, 17, 20, 6, 12, 7 and 6. Likewise the corresponding percentages of middle SES group female students for it were 13, 11, 4, 20, 11, 15 and 8. Significant differences were noticed in giving fourth preference to the interests of their prospective life partner between low and middle SES groups.

With regard to giving **above fourth preference** about 64 percent UG female students irrespective of their SES gave above fourth preference to the shopping interest followed by sports and games (63%), child care (62%), cooking & home decoration (58%), drawing and painting (53%), attending social functions (53%), listening to music & attending concerts (50%), viewing TV & films (48%) and composing poems and attending poets workshops (46%). The corresponding percentages of low SES group female students for it were 65, 56, 54, 55, 54, 58, 61, 46 and 46. The corresponding percentages of

middle SES group female students for it were 63, 71, 72, 62, 50, 47, 37, 49 and 44. Few significant differences were noticed between low and middle SES UG female students in giving above fourth preference to the interests of prospective life partner in mate selection.

4.2.11 Weightages Given By the UG Female Students to the Interests of Prospective Life Partner In Mate Selection

Table 12 and fig. 4 indicate weightages given by the undergraduate female students to the interests of prospective life partner in mate selection. Irrespective of their SES the UG female students gave more weightage of 293 to the interest of mate for viewing TV & films followed by composing poems and attending poet workshops (287), listening to music and attending (264), attending social functions (256), cooking & home decoration (212), shopping (192), sports & games (192) and child care (172). The corresponding weightages given by low SES UG female students for it were 162, 158, 116, 123, 121, 125, 106, 112 and 111. Similarly, the corresponding weightages given by middle SES UG female students for it were 131, 129, 148, 133, 115, 87, 86, 80 and 61.

Overall from tables 5 to 12 the results indicate the criteria for mate selection, its preferences and weightages given by UG female students, to mate's family background, personal variables, personality traits and interests. It can be concluded that irrespective of SES, 20-27 percent of the UG female students gave either first or second preference and weightage of 411 to the family customs of mate, followed by 19-27 percent to socio-economic status of family and weightage of 401, 11-16 percent to family type and weightage of 314 and 8-16 percent to family size and weightage of 307. With regard to mate's personal variables, either first or second preference was given to physical features of mate by 20-21 percent female students and the weightage - 2260 followed by to occupation of mate (18-28%, weightage - 434), to educational qualification of mate (14-15%, weightage - 422), to age difference of mates (16-22%, weightage-399) and to mate's monthly income (15-20%,

Table 12 Weightages given by the UG female students to the interests of their prospective life partner.

Interests of Prospective mate	Weightages given by the UG female students		
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low (81)	Middle SES (69)
Viewing TV & films	293	162	131
Composing poems & attending poet workshops	287	158	129
Listening to music & attending concerts	264	116	148
Attending social functions	256	123	133
Drawing and painting	236	121	115
Cooking & home decoration	212	125	87
Shopping	192	106	86
Sports & games	192	112	80
Child care	172	111	61
Average	**233.77**	**126.00**	**107.77**

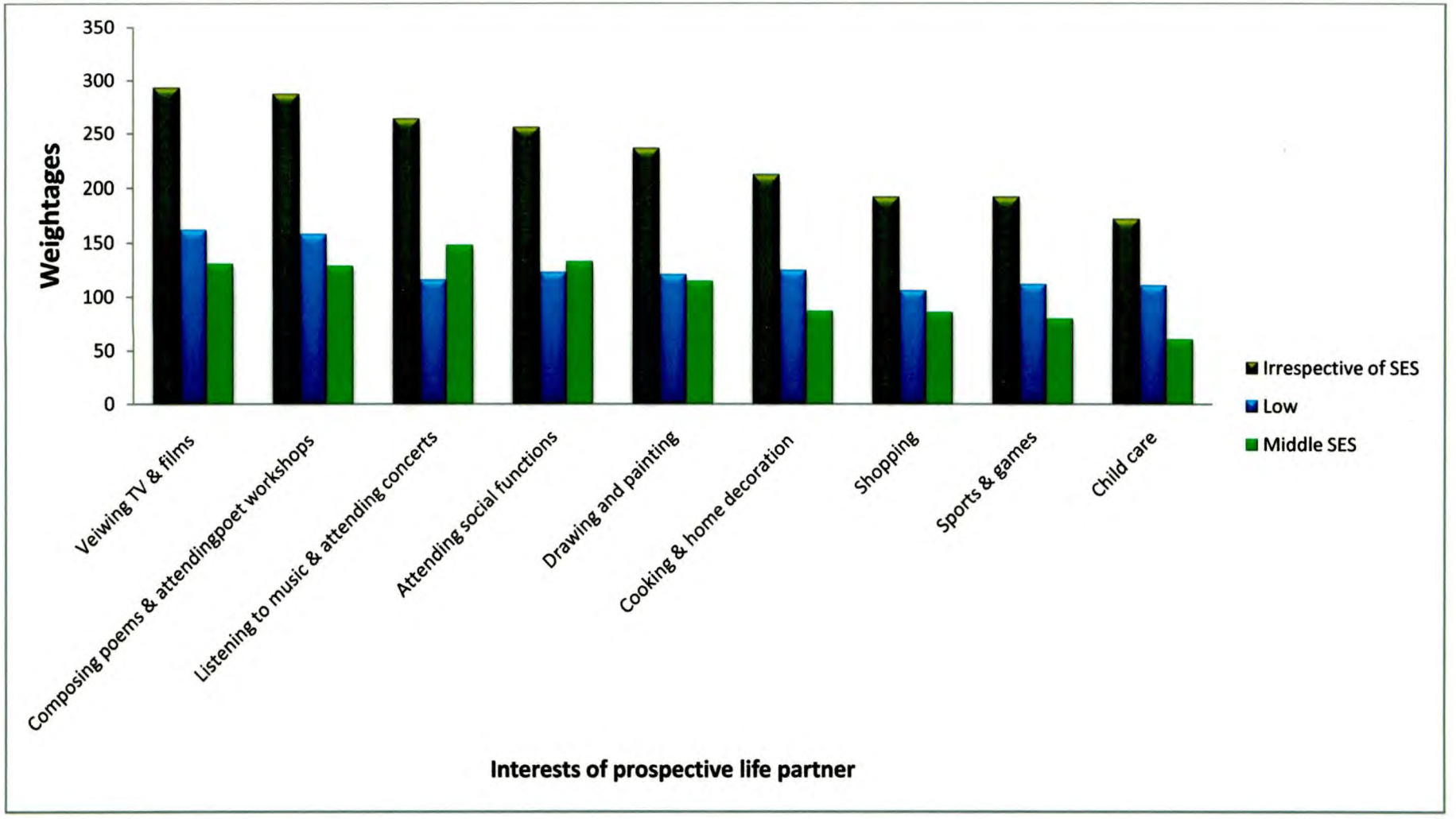

Fig. 4 Weightages given by the UG female students to the interests of their prospective life partner

weightage-397). Related to personality factors of mate about 16-24 percent of UG female students gave either first or second preference and weightage of 353 to caring and affectionate nature of mate followed by broad minded (17-18%, weightage -329). With regard to interests of mate, 11-21 percent of UG female students gave either first or second preference and weightage of 293 to the mate who is interested in viewing TV & films followed by 7-20 percent to composing poems and attending poet workshops (weightage-287) and 10-15 percent to listening to music & attending concerts(weightage - 264).

On the other hand about 16 percent of UG female students gave either third or fourth preference to family type with the weightage of 314 followed by family size (14-16%, weightage-307), religion (11-13%, weightage- 192), caste (12%, weightage-192), socio-economic status (10-11%, weightage – 411). With regard to mate's personal variables either third or fourth preference was given by 15-36 percent female students to educational qualification and weightage - 422 followed by to body built (17-24%, weightage-401), to height(16-20%, weightage-434), age difference of mates (15-18%, weightage-399), occupation (16-17%, weightage - 452), body language (16-17%,weightage - 361), monthly income (14-22%, weightage-397), complexion (13-14%, weightage-372), facial features (13-20%, weightage-324) and dressing style (10-12%, weightage-322). Related to personality factors of mate about 11 percent of UG female students gave either third or fourth preference and weightage of 329 to broad minded mate followed by caring and affectionate (10%, weightage-352) and responsible (5-6%, weightage-113). With regard to interests of mate, 6-20 percent of UG female students gave either third or fourth preference and weightage og 287 to the mate who is interested in composing poems & attending poet workshops followed by cooking and home decoration (7-17%, weightage-212), attending social functions (4-15%, weightage-256), drawing and painting (11-12%, weightage236), listening to music and attending concerts (11-12%, weightage-264) and child care (7-18%, weightage 172).

4.2.12 Average of Weightages Given By the UG Female Students for Various Aspects of Life Partner In Mate Selection

Table 13 and fig 5 indicate that the sample UG female students irrespective of their SES gave more weightage of 397 to personal variables of mate like their physical aspects, psychological, socio-economic status, spoken language etc. followed by to the interests of mate (233), family background of mate (172) and to the personality traits of mate (95). Only fig. 5 indicates that there were little differences in the average weightages given by low and middle SES group female students. Though the trend for it remained the same. These results clearly indicate that personality traits of mate relatively got lower weightage as compared to the mate's physical attributes, SES, interests and their family background. The results advocate the need for giving premarital counselling to the female students for proper mate selection by focusing on the importance of personality traits of mates in happy and successful marriage.

4.3.1 Perceptions of Undergraduate Female Students About Choosing Their Prospective Life Partner

Table 14 indicates the views of undergraduate female students regarding their prospective marriage and life partner. Irrespective of SES, about 60 percent of sample girls wanted parental choice with self concent in choosing life partner followed by self choice with parental concent(26%), and remaining 12 percent sample girls wanted their marriage to be done with self chosen life partner without concerns for parental consent and all sample girls wanted life partner to be a non relative.

In low SES group about 55percent sample girls wanted their partner to be chosen by parents but their with self concent followed by self choice with parental concent (29%) and self choice without parental consent (14%). All sample girls wanted their life partner to be a non relative.

Similarly in middle SES group about 66percent sample girls wanted their life partner to be chosen by parents with self consent followed by self choice with parental consent (23%) and self choice without parental consent

Table 13 Average of weightages given by the UG female students for various aspects of life partner in mate selection

Variables of mate	Average of weightages given by the UG female students		
	Irrespective SES	Low SES	Middle SES
Personal variables (physical, physiological, SES and language etc.)	397	219	183
Interests of mate	233	126	107
Family background of mate	172	93	79
Personality traits of mate (psychological)	95	51	43

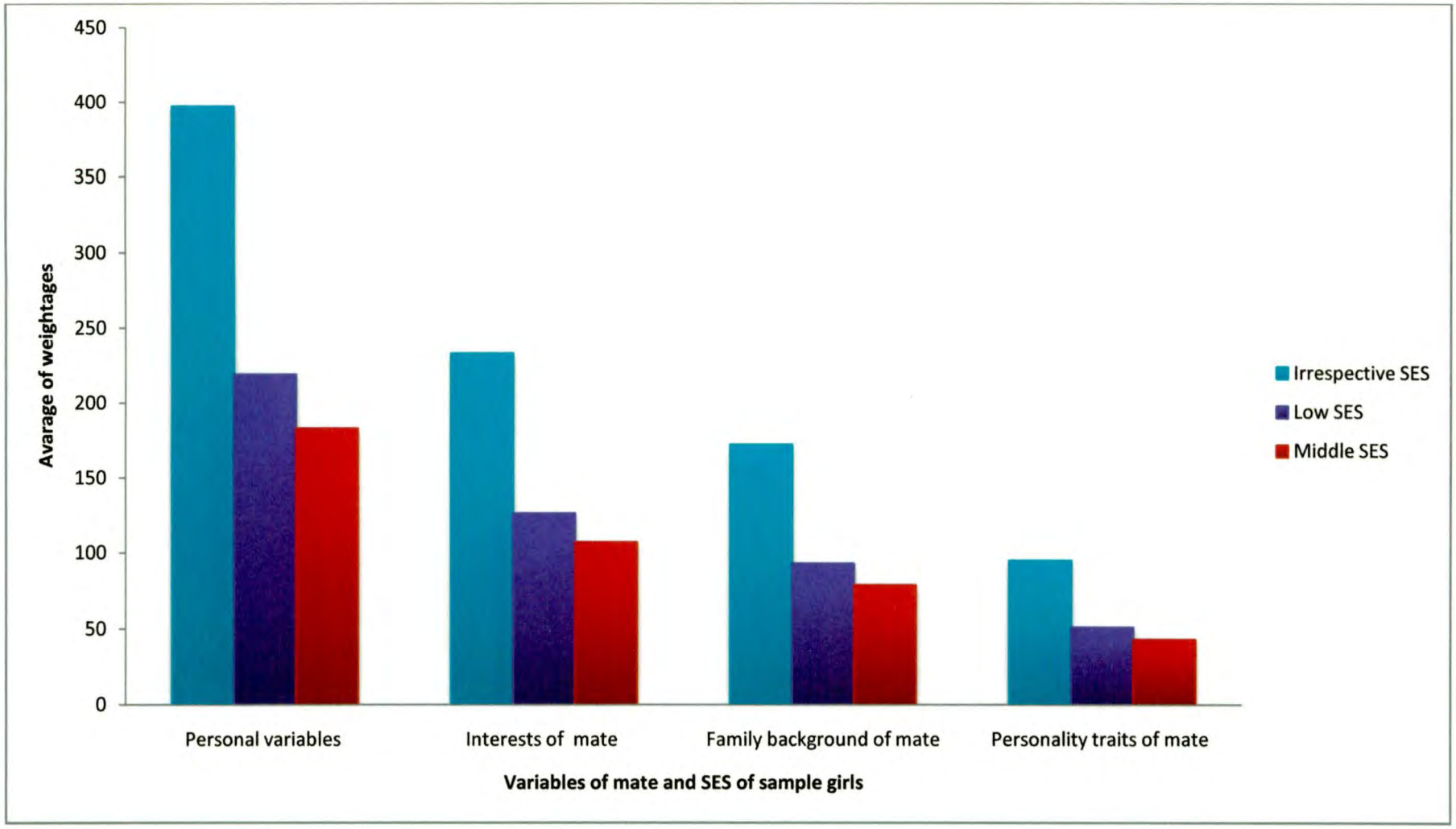

Fig. 5 Average of weightages given by the UG female students for various aspects of life partner in mate selection

Table 14 Perceptions of undergraduate female students about selection of their prospective life partner

Perceptions of girls about choosing life partner	SES groups & percentages of UG female students			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z Values
1. About mate selection				
a) Self choice without concern for parental consent	12.66 (19)	14.81 (12)	10.14 (7)	0.87 NS
b) Self choice with parental consent	26.66 (40)	29.62 (24)	23.18 (16)	0.89 NS
c) Parental choice with self consent	60.66 (91)	55.55 (45)	66.66 (46)	1.40 NS
2. About life partner.				
a) From non relatives	100.00 (150)	100.00 (81)	100.69 (69)	---

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant

(10%). All sample girls wanted their life partner to be a non relative. No significant differences were noticed between low SES and middle SES groups in their views about selection of prospective life partner. These findings are in agreement with the findings reported in the studies of Saroja and Surendra (1990) and Bharati and Patnam (1995) which in turn reflect that the UG female students' perceptions about selection of life partner have not changed much over 27 years period and are practical and scientific in their approach to it.

4.3.2 Awareness of UG Female Students About Different Modes of Mates Selection

Table 15 illustrates the awareness of UG female students about different modes of mate selection. Irrespective of SES, all the UG female students were aware of dating, video dating, telephone calls, computerized mate fixing, social networking cites, vadhu var melava marriage bureau, matrimonial adds of news paper and magazines, functions and marriage and professionals referred by mediators / family friends. That is why there was no difference at all in the awareness of low SES and middle SES group about different popular modes of mate selection. The reason for this could be use of electronic gadgets – TV, computers, cell phones and free internet facility by all the sample girls.

4.3.3 Preferences of Undergraduate Female Students for Modes of Prospective Mate Selection

The modes of prospective mate selection were enlisted by the undergraduate female students are dating, video dating, telephone calls, computerized mate fixing, social networking cites, vadhu var melava, marriage bureau, matrimonial adds of newspaper and magazines, functions marriages and mates referred by mediators / family friends which are depicted in the table 16.

Table 16 indicates the preferences given by the UG female students for the known modes of mate selection for choosing their partner. Irrespective of SES, about 54 percent UG female students gave **first preference** to mates referred mediators/ family friends followed by mates met in functions and

Table 15 Awareness of UG female students about different modes of mate selection

Different modes of mate selection	Percentages of UG female students			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z Values
a) Dating with boys	100.00 (150)	100.00 (81)	100.00 (69)	---
b) Video dating with boys	100.00 (150)	100.00 (81)	100.00 (69)	---
c) Telephone calls with boys	100.00 (150)	100.00 (81)	100.00 (69)	---
d) Computerized mate fixing	100.00 (150)	100.00 (81)	100.00 (69)	---
e) Social networking cites	100.00 (150)	100.00 (81)	100.00 (69)	---
f) Vadhu var melava	100.00 (150)	100.00 (81)	100.00 (69)	---
g) Marriage bureau	100.00 (150)	100.00 (81)	100.00 (69)	---
h) Matrimonial adds of news paper & magazine	100.00 (150)	100.00 (81)	100.00 (69)	---
i) Functions & marriages	100.00 (150)	100.00 (81)	100.00 (69)	---
J) Mates referred by mediators & family friends	100.00 (150)	100.00 (81)	100.00 (69)	---

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students

marriages (20%), mate referred by marriage bureau (10%), through dating boys (8%) and vadhu var melava (6%). The corresponding percentages of low SES group female students for it were 56, 20, 8, 7 and 6. Similarly the corresponding percentages of middle SES group female students for it were 52, 20, 11, 10 and 5. No significant difference were found between low and middle SES groups of UG female students in giving first preference to different modes of their prospective mate selection.

With regard to **second preference** about 32 percent of UG female students irrespective of SES gave second preference to selecting the mate in functions and marriages followed by mates referred by mediators/family friends (24%) and vadhu var melava (11%), marriage bureau (7%) and dating (7%). The corresponding percentages of low SES group for it were 17, 25, 9, 9 and 4. Similarly the corresponding percentages of middle SES group female students for it were 50, 21, 13, 4 and 10. There were no significant differences in the modes of mate selection chosen by the UG female students.

With regard to **third preference**, about 26 percent of UG female students irrespective of SES gave third preference to selection of mate through marriage bureau followed by meeting mate in functions and marriages (24%), mates referred by mediators /family friends (18%), vadhu var melava (16%) and dating (14%). The corresponding percentages of low SES group for it were 14, 29, 17, 29 and 8. The corresponding percentages of middle SES group female students for it were 40, 18, 20 nil and 20. Significant differences were recorded in the modes of mate selection UG female students based on their SES groups.

With regard to **fourth preference**, about 34 percent of UG female students gave fourth preference to mate selection through vadhu var melava and marriage bureau and through dating (23%). The corresponding percentages of low SES group female students for it were 30, 43 and 25. Similarly the corresponding percentages of middle SES group female students for it were 39,

Table 16 Preferences given by undergraduate female students for the known modes of mate selection for choosing their life partner

Modes of mats selection	Percentages and Preferences of UG female students											
	First				Second				Third			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z values
a) Dating wit boys	8.66 (13)	7.40 (6)	10.14 (7)	0.58 NS	7.33 (11)	4.93 (4)	10.14 (7)	1.19 NS	14.00 (21)	8.64 (7)	20.28 (14)	2.02*
b) Video dating with boys	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
c) Telephone calls with boys	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
d) Computerized mate fixing	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
e) Social networking cites	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
f) Vadhu var melava	6.00 (9)	6.17 (5)	5.79 (4)	0.09 NS	11.33 (17)	9.87 (8)	13.04 (9)	0.60 NS	16.00 (24)	29.62 (24)	---	---
g) Marriage bureau	10.00 (15)	8.64 (7)	11.59 (8)	0.59 NS	7.33 (11)	9.87 (8)	4.34 (3)	1.34 NS	26.66 (40)	14.81 (12)	40.57 (28)	3.62**
h) Matrimonial adds of news papers and magazines	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant *-P<0.05 level **-P<0.01 level

Cont.....Table 16

Modes of mats selection	Preferences and percentages of UG female students							
	Fourth				Above 4th preferences			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values
a) Dating with boys	23.33 (35)	25.92 (21)	20.28 (14)	0.82 NS	46.66 (70)	53.08 (43)	39.13 (27)	1.72 NS
b) Video dating with boys	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
c) Telephone calls with boys	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
d) Computerized mate fixing	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
e) Social etworking cites	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
f) Vadhu var melava	34.66 (52)	30.86 (25)	39.13 (27)	1.05 NS	32.00 (48)	23.45 (19)	42.02 (29)	2.44**
g) Marriage bureau	34.66 (52)	43.20 (35)	24.63 (7)	5.01**	21.33 (32)	23.45 (19)	18.84 (13)	0.69NS
h) Matrimonial adds of news papers and magazines	---	---	---	---	100.00 (150)	100.00 (81)	100.00 (69)	---

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant **-P<0.01 level

Cont.....Table 16

Modes of mats selection	Percentages and Preferences of UG female students											
	First				Second				Third			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values
i) Meeting mate in function & marriages	20.66 (31)	20.98 (17)	20.28 (14)	0.10 NS	32.66 (49)	17.28 (14)	50.72 (35)	4.55**	24.66 (37)	29.62 (24)	18.84 (13)	1.55 NS
j) Mates referred by mediators & family friends.	54.66 (82)	56.79 (46)	52.17 (36)	0.56 NS	24.00 (36)	25.92 (21)	21.73 (15)	0.60 NS	18.66 (28)	17.28 (14)	20.28 (14)	0.46 NS

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant **-P<0.01 level

Cont.....Table 16

Modes of mats selection	Preferences and percentages of UG female students							
	Fourth				Above 4th preferences			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES 81	Middle SES (69)	Z values
ii) Meeting mate in function & marriages	4.66 (7)	---	10.14 (7)	---	---	---	---	---
j) Mates referred by mediators & family friends.	2.66 (4)	---	5.79	---	---	---	---	---

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students

24 and 20. No significant differences were recorded in the modes of mate selection based on their SES groups.

With regard to giving **above fourth preference**, all students (100%) gave above fourth preference to the modes video dating, telephone calls, computerized mate fixing, social networking cites and matrimonial adds of news papers and magazines, about 46 percent UG female students irrespective of SES gave above fourth preference to dating followed by vadhu var melava (32%) and marriage bureau (21%). In low SES group about 53 percent sample girls gave above fourth preference to dating, 23 percent to vadhu var melava and 23 percent to marriage bureau. On the other hand in middle SES group, 42 percent UG female students gave above fourth preference to vadhu var melava followed by to dating (39%) and marriage bureau (18%). Few significant differences were recorded in the mode of mate selection preferred by UG female students based on their SES group. These results are in line with the results reported in the studies of Laumann (1994) and Deshpande and Patnam (2000), which indicates that there are no significant changes in preferred modes of selection of life partner of the college going girls.

4.3.4 Weightage Given by the UG Female Students to the Modes of Mate Selection

Table 17 and fig 6 illustrates the weightages given by the undergraduate female students to the modes of mate selection. Irrespective of SES the sample girls gave highest weightage of 646 to mates referred by mediator & family friends followed by choosing mate in functions and marriages (580), marriage bureau (343), vadhu var melava (289) and dating (242). The corresponding weightages given by low SES group female students for it were 356, 317, 173, 179 and 109. Similarly the corresponding weightages given by middle SES group female student for it were 290, 263, 170, 110 and 133. The results are in agreement with the results reported in the studies of Laumann (1994) and Deshpande and Patnam (2000), which indicates that the trend of modes of mate

Table 17 Weightages given by the UG female students to the modes of mate selection

Modes of mate selection	Weightages given by UG female students		
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low (81)	Middle SES (69)
Mates preferred by mediator & family friends	646	356	290
Meeting mate in functions and marriages	580	317	263
Marriage bureau	343	173	170
Vadhu var melava	289	179	110
Dating	242	109	133
Video dating	---	---	---
Telephone calls	---	---	---
Computerized mate fixing	---	---	---
Social networking cites	---	---	---
Matrimonial adds of news paper and magazines	---	---	---
Average of weightages	210	113.4	96.6

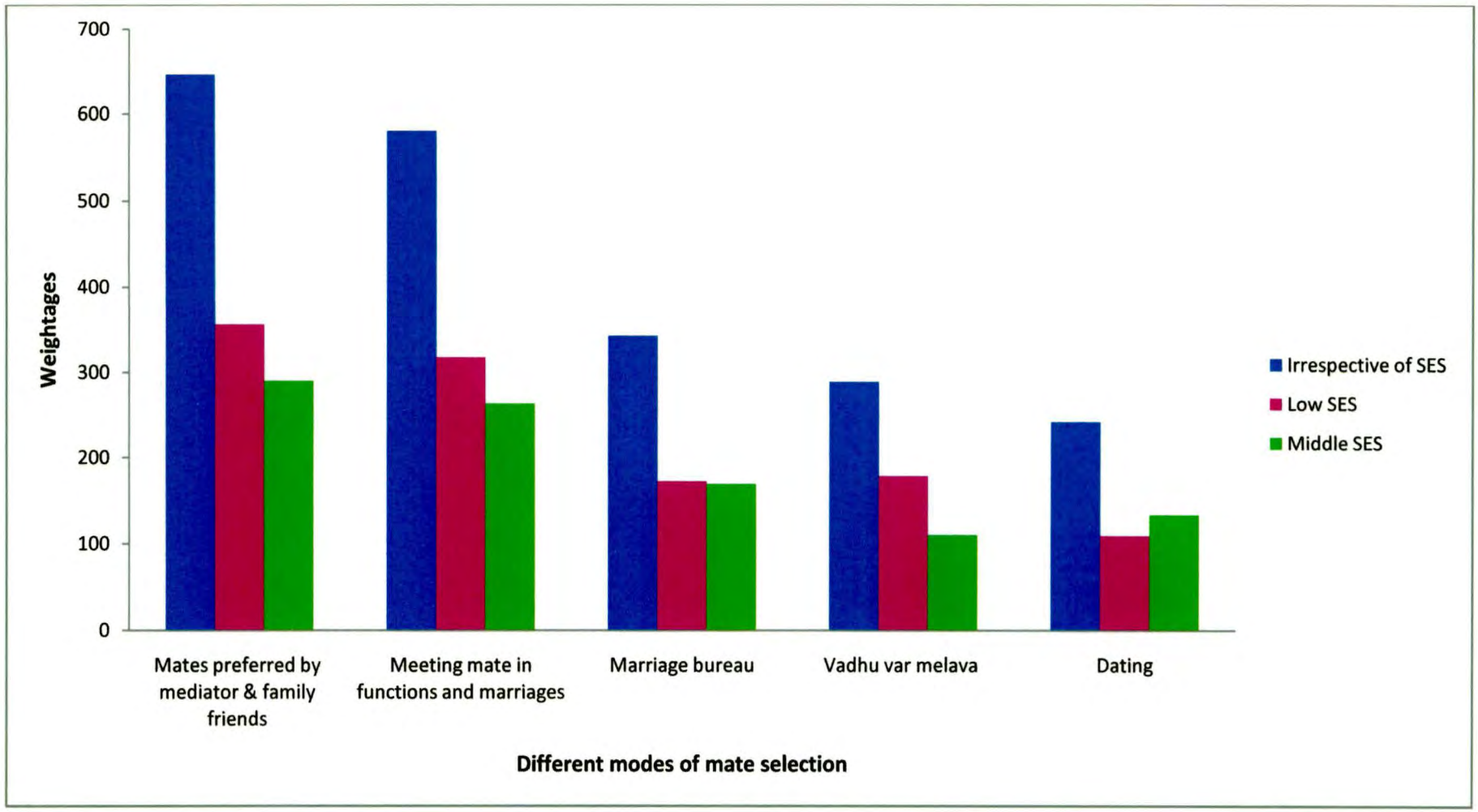

Fig. 6 Weightages given by the UG female students to different mode of mate selection

selection preferred by the college going girls remains constant despite socio-cultural changes.

4.3.5 Perceptions of Undergraduate Female Students About Method of Performing Their Prospective Marriage and Their Reasons For It

Table 18 elaborates the opinions of undergraduate female students about method of performing their prospective marriage and their reasons for it. Irrespective of SES, 44 percent sample girls opined to have traditional cum registered marriage for the reason that it is a safe method and also helps in maintenance of Indian culture followed by the traditional method of marriage (39%) for the reasons were that it provides an opportunity for all relatives and friends to get together and to have fun (100%), and helps in transmitting culture from one generation to another (75%), by registered marriage (13%) for the reasons that it helps in saving money and other resources (100%), easy and safe method for security (100%), and suits to modern life style (50%) and by temple marriage (3%) for the reasons that it is simple and a traditional one (100%), and helps in saving many resources (100%). In low SES group 41 percent of sample girls desired to have traditional cum registered marriage followed by traditional method of marriage (37%), registered marriage (17%), and temple marriage (3%) for the reasons enlisted in the table. On the other hand in middle SES group, 46 percent female students preferred to have traditional cum registered marriage followed by traditional method of marriage (42%), registered marriage (8%), and temple marriage (2%). There were no significant differences between low and middle SES groups female students with regard to methods of performing their prospective marriage. The results clearly indicates that the UG female students gave importance to their life security and Indian culture while considering the method of their prospective marriage. Similar trend of results were reported in the study of Bhandari and Patnam (1996), which in turn indicates that the trend remains persistent even over 25 years period.

Table 18 Perceptions of Undergraduate female students about method of performing their prospective marriage and their reasons for it

Opinions of UG female students about method of performing marriage & its reasons	SES groups and percentages of UG female students			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z values
1. Traditional method of marriage	39.33 (59)	37.03 (30)	42.02 (29)	0.62 NS
• All relatives and friends get together and have fun	100.00 (59)	100.00 (30)	100.00 (29)	---
• Helps in transmitting culture from one generation to other	76.27 (45)	83.33 (25)	68.96 (20)	1.31 NS
2. Registered marriage	13.33 (20)	17.28 (14)	8.69 (6)	1.59 NS
• Helps in saving money and other resources	100.00 (20)	100.00 (14)	100.00 (6)	---
• Suits modern life style	50.00 (10)	42.85 (6)	66.66 (4)	
• Easy and safe method for security	100.00 (20)	100.00 (14)	100.00 (6)	1.01 NS ---
3. Traditional cum registered marriage	44.00 (66)	41.97 (34)	46.37 (32)	1.20 NS
• Safest method also and takes care of maintenance of Indian culture	100.00 (66)	100.00 (34)	100.00 (32)	---
4. Samoohik vivah mela	---	---	---	---
5. Temple marriage	3.33 (5)	3.70 (3)	2.89 (2)	0.27 NS
• Simple and traditional	100.00 (5)	100.00 (3)	100.00 (2)	---
• Helps in saving many resources	100.00 (5)	100.00 (5)	100.00 (5)	---

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant

4.3.6 Perception of Undergraduate Female Students About Types of Readiness Required by Life Partners for Leading Successful Marital Life

Table 19 indicates the views of undergraduate female students about types of readiness required by the life partners for leading successful marital life. Irrespective of SES, all the UG female students (100%) stated that physical & mental maturity and financial sufficiency are essential for the life partners to lead successful marital life followed by proper attainment of communication and problem solving skills (94%), normalcy in sexual behavior (94%), socio-emotional maturity (92%), and proper attainment of skills for good inter personal relationships within and outside the family (91%). In low SES group all UG female students stated that physical & mental maturity and financial sufficiency were essential for the life partner followed by proper attainment of communication and problem solving skills (96%), normalcy in sexual behavior (92%), socio-emotional maturity and proper attainment of skills for good interpersonal relationships within and outside the family (91%). The corresponding percent ages of the middle SES group female students for it were 100, 100, 100, 92, 95, 92 and 91. There were no significant differences in the perceptions of low and middle SES group UG female students regarding types of readiness required for secured marital life. It is obvious from the results that the UG female students were more understanding about various types of readiness required by the life partners for leading successful marital life and also were more sensitive regarding physical & mental maturity and financial sufficiency required for marital success as compared to other readinesses. These findings are in line with the findings reported in the research studies of Bharati and Patam (1995) and Bhandari and Patnam (1996).

Table 19 Perceptions of undergraduate female students about types of readiness require by life partner for leading successful.

Types	SES groups and percentages of UG female students			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Physical maturity	100.00 (150)	100.00 (81)	100.00 (69)	---
Mental maturity	100.00 (150)	100.00 (81)	100.00 (69)	---
Financial Sufficiency	100.00 (150)	100.00 (81)	100.00 (69)	---
Socio-emotional maturity	92.00 (132)	91.35 (74)	92.75 (64)	0.31 NS
Normalcy in sexual behavior	94.00 (141)	92.59 (75)	95.65 (66)	0.80 NS
Proper attainment of communication and problem solving skills	94.66 (142)	96.29 (78)	92.75 (64)	0.94 NS
Proper attainment of skills for good interpersonal relationships within and outside the family	91.33 (137)	91.35 (74)	91.30 (63)	0.01 NS

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant

4.3.7 Perceptions of Undergraduate Female Students About Dating With Fiancé and Reasons for It

Table 20 elaborates the opinions of undergraduate female students about dating with fiancé and their reasons for it. Irrespective of SES, 86 percent of UG female students wanted to date with fiancé for the reasons like to understand & help each other for building a good relation before stating marital life (100%) followed by to check up the mental compatibility of the life partner for rejecting or accepting the proposed fiancé (95%), to get to know more about each others' views and nature (82%), to understand each other families well for building good social network (82%) and to plan for future life (45%). Similar trend of results were noticed in low SES and middle SES groups. Significantly higher percentage of middle SES UG female students wanted date with fiancé for the reason to understand each other's families well for building good social networks as compared to low SES UG female students. While in the rest of the enlisted reasons there were no significant differences between low SES and middle SES groups. On the other hand 14 percent of UG female students irrespective of SES did not want to date with fiancé for the reason that the family customs do not permit it. Similar trend of results were noticed in low SES and middle SES groups. No significant differences were noticed in the opinion of female students not wanting to date with fiancé and reasons for it between low SES and middle SES groups.

Irrespective of SES, about 52 percent of UG female students expressed that they would dare to refuse fiancé if he does not meet the expectations during dating for the reason that she cannot adjust for whole life with that shortcoming. On the other hand about 33 percent of UG female students reported that they would not refuse the fiancé if he does not meet expectations for the reasons that it would break the heart of both the families (100%) and one has to adjust in one or the other thing with every person in life (70%). Similar trend of results were noticed in the UG female students of low SES and middle SES groups. No significant differences were found in the female

Table 20 Perceptions of undergraduate female students about dating with fiancé and reasons for it

Opinions of UG female students about dating with fiancé and its reasons	SES groups and percentages of UG female students			
	Irrespective of SES (50)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z values
1. Want to date	86.00 (129)	83.95 (68)	88.40 (61)	0.79 NS
Reasons				
• To get to snow more about each others views and nature	82.94 (107)	77.94 (53)	88.52 (54)	1.63 NS
• To plan for future life	45.73 (59)	47.05 (32)	44.26 (27)	0.31 NS
• To understand & help each other's for building a good relation before starting marital life.	100.00 (129)	100.00 (68)	100.00 (61)	---
• To understand each others families well for building good social network	82.94 (107)	75.00 (51)	91.80 (56)	2.65**
• To checkup the mental compatibility of the life partner for rejecting or accepting the fiancé	95.34 (123)	95.58 (65)	95.08 (58)	0.13 NS
Do not want to date	14.00 (21)	16.04 (13)	11.59 (8)	0.79 NS
Reason				
• The family customs do not permit it	100.00 (21)	100.00 (13)	100.00 8)	---

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant **-P<0.01 level

Cont.....Table 20

Opinions of UG female students about dating with fiancé and its reasons	SES groups and percentages of UG female students			
	Irrespective of SES (50)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z values
2. Would dare to refuse the fiancé if he doesn't meet the expectations reasons	52.66 (79)	54.32 (44)	50.72 (35)	0.85 NS
• She cannot adjust for whole life with that shortcoming.	100.00 (79)	100.00 (44)	100.00 (35)	---
Do not like to refuse the fiancé if he doesn't meet the expectations Reasons	33.33 (50)	29.62 (24)	37.68 (26)	0.85 NS
• That would break the heart of both the families	100.00 (50)	100.00 (24)	100.00 (26)	---
• One has to adjust in or other thing with every person	70.00 (35)	75.00 (18)	65.38 (17)	0.74 NS

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant

students' perceptions about it between low SES and middle SES groups in daring. The results in turn indicate that there is an increasing trend of modernity and practicality in UG female educated youth students perceptions in taking precautions for trends about the survival of their marriage. These results are supported by the findings indicated in the studies carried out by Bharati and Patnam (1995), Bhandari and Patnam (1996) and Badami and Patnam(2010), which shows that educated girls in general are very sure not to accept a incompatibility mate as their life partner.

4.3.8 Perceptions of Undergraduate Female Students About Time Gap Required Between Engagement and Wedding Ceremonies and Its Reasons

Table 21 illustrates the opinions of undergraduate female students about time gap required between engagement and wedding ceremonies and its reasons. Irrespective of SES, 80 percent of UG female students opined that there should be time gape of 1-2 yrs between engagement and marriage ceremonies for the reasons like, it gives sufficient time to life partners to understand each other well (100%) followed by it helps both partners' families for doing marriage preparations (75%) and helps both partners families to understand each other's culture and expectations (62%). Similar trend of results were recorded in the low SES and middle SES groups. No significant differences were noticed for female students in the opinions of UG female students of low SES and middle SES groups for it. However 19 percent UG female students opined that time gap between engagement and marriage ceremonies is not at all required for the reasons that to prevent problems that may crop up between partners and their families (100%) and they want to live with fiancé soon after engagement (68%). Similar trend of results were noticed in the female students of low SES and middle SES groups. No significant differences were recorded in the views of UG female students about not having time gap between engagement and marriage ceremonies and in the reasons stated for it. These results are similar to the findings reported by Bharati and

Table 21 Perceptions of undergraduate female students about time gap between engagement and wedding ceremonies and its reasons.

Opinions of UG female student and its reasons	SES groups and percentages of UG female students			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Time gap of 1-2 yrs is required between engagement and marriage ceremonies is	80.66 (121)	80.24 (65)	81.15 (56)	0.14 NS
Reasons				
• Gives sufficient time to life partners to understand each other well	100.00 (121)	100.00 (65)	100.00 (56)	---
• Helps both partners' families to understand each others' culture and expectations	62.80 (76)	61.53 (43)	64.28 (36)	0.31 NS
• Helps both partners' families for doing marriage preparations	75.20 (91)	66.15 (43)	85.71 (48)	1.60**
Time gap between engagement and marriage ceremonies is not at all required	19.33 (29)	19.75 (16)	18.84 (13)	0.14 NS
• Want to live with fiancé soon after engagement	68.96 (20)	81.25 (13)	53.84 (7)	1.61**
• To prevent problems that may crop up between partners and their families	100.00 (29)	100.00 (16)	100.00 (13)	---

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant **-P<0.01 level

Patnam(1995), Bhandari and Patnam(1996) and Badami and Patnam(2010) in their research studies.

4.4.1 Attitudes of Undergraduate Female Students About Premarital and Extra Marital Sexual Relationships and Reasons for It

Table 22 illustrates the attitudes of undergraduate students about premarital and extramarital sexual relationships and reasons for it. Irrespective of SES all (100%) UG female students expressed negative views about premarital sexual relationship. All (100%) of them expressed the reasons that it gets social stigma as it is not accepted in society and also leads to various problems in marital life followed by one can become victim of sexually transmitted diseases (68%). Similar trend of results were noticed in the UG female students of low SES and middle SES groups. No significant differences were noticed between low SES and middle SES groups in the negative views about premarital sexual relationship and reasons for it.

All the UG female students irrespective of their SES and with respect to their SES expressed negative attitude towards extramarital sexual relationship as it leads to crisis in marital life and gets social stigma followed by loose respect and identity in family & society (88%) and one can become victim of sexually transmitted diseases (86%). Significantly a higher percentage of middle SES UG female students reasoned that one can become victim of sexually transmitted diseases compared to low SES UG female students. These results are supported by the findings stated in the research study of Ghule (2007) and also differed from the research findings quoted by Liu (1991) and Byline and wetzstein (2005), which subsequently indicate that educated girls seemed to be very careful about their safety and protect them from the dire consequences of premarital and extramarital relationships.

Table 22 Attitudes of undergraduate female students about premarital and extramarital sexual relationships and reasons for it

Attitude of UG female students and reasons for it	SES groups and percentages of UG female students			
	Irrespective of SES (50)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Negative views about premarital sexual relationship	100.00 (150)	100.00 (81)	100.00 (69)	---
Reasons				
• Gets social stigma as it is not accepted in the society	100.00 (150)	100.00 (81)	100.00 (69)	---
• It leads to various problems in marital life	100.00 (150)	100.00 (81)	100.00 (69)	---
• Can become victims of sexually transmitted diseases.	68.00 (102)	66.66 (54)	69.56 (48)	0.36 NS
Negative attitudes towards extramarital sexual relationships	100.00 (150)	100.00 (81)	100.00 (69)	---
Reasons				
• Leads to crisis in marital life	100.00 (150)	100.00 (81)	100.00 (69)	---
• Can become victim of sexually transmitted diseases	86.00 (129)	80.24 (65)	92.75 (64)	2.31**
• Loose respect and identity in family & society	88.00 (132)	91.35 (74)	84.05 (58)	1.35 NS
• Get social stigma	100.00 (150)	100.00 (81)	100.00 (69)	---

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant **-P<0.01 level

4.4.2 Perceptions of Undergraduate Female Students About Having a Boyfriend

Table 23 illustrates about perceptions of undergraduate female students about having a boyfriend and the reasons for it. Irrespective of SES about 92 percent of UG female students expressed that they do not like to have a boyfriend for the reasons that it is against family customs (100%) and boys may abuse girls (52%). Similar trend of results were noticed in the low SES and middle SES groups. No significant differences were noticed between the responses of UG female students of low SES groups' and middle SES groups' female students. A meager percent (8%) of UG female students liked to have a boyfriend for the reasons that they can understand boys better (100%) followed by for their security (50%) and it is suitable to modern life (41%). Similar trend of results were noticed in the perceptions of female students of low SES and middle SES group about having a boyfriend and reasons for it. NO significant differences were noticed in it based on their SES groups.

Irrespective of SES about 92 percent of UG female students do not like the boyfriend to become the life partner for the reason that it brings social stigma and it is against family customs and the remaining 8 percent of UG female girls would like their boyfriend to become their life partner for the reason that there will be understanding and supportive. Similar trend of results were noticed in the perceptions of female students of low SES and middle SES groups. No significant differences were recorded in the perceptions about it.

Irrespective of SES, a meager percent of UG female students (4%) desired to talk about boyfriend to fiancé in future for the reason to avoid misunderstandings. On the other hand a meager (4%) UG female students do not like to inform about boyfriend to fiancé for the reason not to create misunderstanding. Similar trend of results were noticed in the UG female students of low SES and middle SES groups. No significant difference was noticed in their perceptions about it. Overall the results indicate that the college

Table 23 Perceptions of undergraduate female students about having a boyfriend and reasons for it

Views of UG female students about boyfriend	SES groups and percentages of UG female students			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z values
1. Would like to have a boyfriend	8.00 (12)	8.64 (7)	7.24 (5)	0.31 NS
• It is suitable to modern life	41.66 (5)	42.85 (3)	40.00 (2)	0.09 NS
• To understand male member better	100.00 (12)	100.00 (7)	100.00 (5)	---
• For having security	50.00 (6)	57.14 (4)	40.00 (2)	0.59 NS
Do not like to have a boyfriend	92.00 (138)	91.14 (74)	92.75 (64)	0.31 NS
• It is against family customs	100.00 ((138)	100.00 (74)	100.00 (64)	---
• Boys may abuse girls	52.89 (73)	60.81 (45)	43.75 (28)	2.02*
2. Would like the boyfriend to be the life partner	8.00 (12)	8.64 (7)	7.24 (5)	0.31 NS
• He will be understanding & supportive	100.00 (12)	100.00 (7)	100.00 (5)	---
Do not like the boyfriend to be the life partner	92.00 (138)	91.35 (74)	92.75 (64)	0.31 NS
• Social stigma and it is against family customs	100.00 (138)	100.00 (74)	100.00 (64)	---
3. Would like to talk about boyfriend to fiancé	4.00 (6)	4.93 (4)	2.89 (2)	0.56 N
• To avoid misunderstanding	100.00 (6)	100.00 (4)	100.00 (2)	---
Do not want to talk about boyfriend to fiancé	4.00 (6)	3.70 (3)	4.34 (3)	0.59 NS
• Not to create misunderstanding	100.00 (6)	100.00 (3)	100.00 (3)	---

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant

girls still respect family customs and parents views though they are getting modernized in many other aspects of marriage & mate selection.

4.5.1 Perceptions of Undergraduate Female Students About Divorce and Reasons for It

Table 24 elaborates the views of undergraduate female students about divorce and their reasons for it. Irrespective of SES, 59 percent UG female students expressed unfavorable views about divorce for the reasons that couple may face family and social problems (94%) followed by divorced parent have to shoulder dual responsibilities of father and mother (85%) and children get deprived of both parental love and care (79%). However, on the other hand 40 percent of UG female students irrespective of their SES expressed favorable views about divorce for the reasons that it helps to get rid of pain in marriage (77%) and to put on end to interpersonal bitter relations (59%). Similar trend of results were noticed in the low SES and middle SES group. No significant differences were noticed in their such perceptions of female students in perceptions about it based on their socio-economic status. These findings are in agreement with the findings of Badami and Patnam (2010) in their study, which indicates that particularly the UG female students (youth) are getting more practical and modern in their outlook towards divorce and women's issues in general.

4.5.2 Perceptions of Undergraduate Female Students Regarding Dowry and Their Reasons

Table 25 illustrates the opinion of undergraduate female students about dowry and their reasons for it. Irrespective of SES, 82 percent of UG female students expressed that dowry should not be given in marriage for the reason that it can lead to ill treatment of married women (83%) followed by already girls' parents spend a lot on upbringing of girls (78%) and it is an illegal social practice (70%). Similar trend of results were noticed in their perceptions of UG female students of low SES and middle SES groups. Significantly a higher percentage of middle SES girls expressed that giving dowry can lead to ill

Table 24 Perceptions of undergraduate female students about divorce and reasons for it

Views of UG female students about divorce and its reasons	SES groups and percentages of UG female students			
	Irrespective of SES (50)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Unfavourable views about divorce	59.33 (89)	59.25 (48)	59.42 (41)	0.02 NS
• Children get deprived of both parental love and care	79.77 (71)	77.08 (37)	82.92 (34)	0.69 NS
• Divorced parent have to shoulder dual responsibilities of father mother	85.39 (76)	81.25 (39)	90.24 (37)	1.27 NS
• Couples can face family and social problems	94.38 (84)	93.75 (45)	95.12 (39)	0.28 NS
Favourable Views about divorce	40.66 (61)	40.74 (33)	40.57 (28)	0.02 NS
• To get rid of pain in marriage	77.04 (47)	72.72 (24)	82.14 (23)	0.88 NS
• To put an end to interpersonal bitter relations	59.01 (36)	51.51 (17)	67.85 (19)	1.31 NS

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant

Table 25 Perceptions of under graduate female students regarding dowry and their reasons.

Opinions and reasons of UG female students	SES groups and percentages of UG female students			
	Irrespective of SES (50)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z values
1. Favourable views	17.33	18.51	15.94	0.14 NS
Dowry should be given in the marriage	(16)	(15)	(11)	
Reasons				
• Comes in handy for establishing new home	53.84 (14)	40.00 (6)	72.72 (8)	1.77 NS
• It helps in solving family problems	53.84 (14)	60.00 (9)	45.45 (5)	0.74 NS
				0.41 NS
Unfavourable views	82.66	81.48	84.05	
Dowry should not be given in marriage	(124)	(66)	(58)	
Reasons				0.71 NS
• Parents spend on girls a lot on upbringing	78.22 (97)	75.75 (50)	81.03 (47)	
				0.66 NS
• It is an illegal social practice	70.16 (87)	(72.72 (48)	67.24 (39)	
				2.98**
• It can lead to ill treatment of married women	83.06 (103)	74.24 (49)	93.10 (54)	

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant **-P<0.01 level

Cont.....Table 25

Opinions and reasons of UG female students	SES groups and percentages of UG female students			
	Irrespective of SES (50)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z values
2. Will wait till get the mate who does not take dowry	83.06 (103)	81.81 (54)	84.48 (49)	0.39 NS
Reasons				1.90 NS
• Do not want to keep financial burden on parents	82.52 (85)	75.92 (41)	89.79 (44)	
• Want the mate (groom)who values the mate (bride) more than money	74.75 (77)	72.22 (39)	77.55 (38)	0.62 NS
Will not wait till she gets the mate who does not take dowry	16.93 (21)	18.18 (12)	15.51 (9)	0.39 NS
Reason				
• Age of girls increases which still makes it harder to find a good mate	100.00 (12)	100.00 (12)	100.00 (9)	---

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant

treatment of married women as compared to their counterparts in low SES groups. On the other hand, a meagre percent of (17%) UG female students stated that dowry must be given in marriage as it comes handy for establishing new home (53%) and it helps in solving family problems (53%) . Similar trend of results were noticed in the perceptions of UG female students of low SES and middle SES groups. No significant differences were noticed between low SES and middle SES groups' of female students about dowry and reasons for it.

Irrespective of SES about 83 percent of UG female students opined that they will wait till they get the mate who does not take dowry for the reasons that they do not want to put financial burden on parents (82%) and they want the groom who values the bride more than money (74%). On the other hand 16 percent of UG female students irrespective of SES opined that they will not wait till they get the mate who does not take dowry for the reason that if their age increases it makes still harder to find a good mate. Similar trend of results were recorded in perceptions of UG female students in low SES and middle SES groups. No significant differences were noticed among them in their views and reasons for it. The results are in favour of the findings reported in the research studies of Bharati and Patnam (1995), Joglekar (1999), Mayuri (1999) and Badami and Patnam (2010) and not in agreement with the findings reported in the studies of Nadagouda and Saroja (1990) and Deshpande and Patnam (2000), which clearly indicate that edueated female students (youth) are getting well aware of the ill effects of dowry system and also developing egalitarian attitudes towards life partner, which might have made them to develop unfavorable attitude towards dowry system.

4.5.3 Perceptions of Undergraduate Female Students About Seeking Premarital Counseling and Reasons For It

Table 26 indicates the views of undergraduate female students about seeking premarital counselling and their reasons for it. Irrespective of SES, 82 percent of UG girls expressed that it is good to seek premarital counselling for

Table 26 Perceptions of Undergraduate female students about seeking premarital counselling and reasons for it.

Premarital counseling and its reasons	SES groups and percentages of UG female students			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z values
1. Good to seek premarital counselling	82.66 (124)	83.95 (68)	81.15 (56)	0.44 NS
• Helps in adjusting to partner & other family members	100.00 (124)	100.00 (68)	100.00 (56)	---
• To prevent problems in marital life	100.00 (124)	100.00 (68)	100.00 (56)	---
• To know to tacts of handling life partner and in-laws for successful marital life	67.74 (84)	66.17 (45)	69.64 (39)	0.41 NS
2. Not necessary to seek premarital counselling	17.33 (26)	16.04 (13)	18.84 (13)	0.44 NS
• Partners will get maturity being grownup adults to cope with martial life situations	100.00 (26)	100.00 (13)	100.00 (13)	---
• Understanding will develop along	84.61 (22)	69.23 (9)	100.00 (13)	2.40**

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant **-P<0.01 level

the reasons that it helps to adjust with family members (100%), prevent problems in marital life (100%), and to know the tacts of handling in- laws and partner for marital success (67%). The trend of results were similar for the UG female students in low and middle SES groups. There were no significant differences between low and middle SES UG female students' favorable views about premarital counselling and reasons for it. On the other hand irrespective of SES of sample girls, 17 percent UG female students expressed unfavorable views about it as they felt it was not necessary to seek premarital counselling for the reasons that partners will get maturity as they grow up as adults to cope with marital life situations (100%) and understanding of them will develop along with the time (84%). Similar type of results were recorded in UG female students of low SES and middle SES groups. There were no significant differences between the low SES and middle SES groups' female students with regard to unfavorable views about premarital counselling. Overall a few significant differences were recorded in the different views of undergraduate female students about seeking premarital counseling for marital success based on SES. These findings clearly indicate that the educated youth are getting more aware about the advantages of premarital counselling due to changing socio-cultural scenario. These findings are very well supported by the conclusions drawn in the research studies of Bharati and Patnam (1995), Bhandari and Patnam (1996) and Shalaka and Patnam (2000).

4.5.4 Perceptions of UG Female Students About Seeking Premarital Counselling In Different Aspects of Marital Life

Table 27 indicates the opinion of UG female students about seeking premarital counselling in different aspects like mate selection, marital adjustment to spouse, in laws, parenthood and family customs and managing finance budgeting whole house, parenthood, child raising & family planning and job management. Irrespective of SES about 95 percent UG female students desired to seek premarital counselling in job management followed by child raising & family planning (89%), marital adjustment to in-laws (89%),

Table 27 Perceptions of UG female students about seeking premarital counselling in different aspects of marital life

Aspects of premarital counselling	SES groups and percentages of UG female students			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z values
1. Mate selection	70.00 (105)	69.13 (56)	71.01 (49)	0.25 NS
2 Marital adjustment to				
a) Spouse (husband)	71.33 (107)	56.79 (46)	86.95 (60)	4.41**
b) In-laws	89.33 (134)	96.29 (78)	81.15 (50)	2.93**
c) Parenthood	76.66 (115)	83.95 (68)	68.11 (47)	2.28**
d) Family customs	47.33 (71)	41.97 (34)	53.62 (37)	1.43 NS
3. Managing				
a) Finance budgeting	88.66 (133)	91.35 (74)	85.50 (59)	1.11 NS
b) Household chores	48.00 (72)	49.38 (40)	46.37 (32)	0.36 NS
c) Parenthood	76.66 (115)	83.95 (08)	68.11 (47)	2.28**
d) Child raising & family planning	89.33 (134)	86.41 (70)	92.75 (64)	1.28 NS
e) Job management	95.33 (143)	96.28 (78)	94.20 (65)	0.59 NS

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant **-P<0.01 level

managing finance/ budgeting (88%), adjusting to parenthood and managing it (76%), marital adjustment to spouse (husband) (71%), mate selection (70%), managing whole house (48%) and marital adjustment to family customs (47%). The corresponding percentages of low SES group female students for it were 96, 86, 96, 91, 83, 56, 69, 49 and 41. On the other hand the corresponding percentages of middle SES group female students for it were 94, 92, 81, 85, 68, 71, 46 and 53. There were few significant differences between low and middle SES female students regarding it. In addition to this, many of the sample girls desired to seek premarital counselling in job management in marital life as girls active participation in financial contribution to family increasing. These findings clearly indicate that the educated youth are getting more aware about the advantages of premarital counselling and different aspects of it due to changing socio-cultural scenario. These findings are in line with the conclusions drawn in the research studies of Bharati and Patnam (1995) and Deshpande and Patnam (1996).

4.5.5 Ideal Age Range Suggested By the UG Female Students for Seeking Premarital Counselling and Reasons for It

Table 28 illustrates the ideal age range suggested by the UG female students for seeking premarital counseling and reasons for it. Irrespective of SES, about 80 percent of UG female students suggested that 18 – 21 yrs is the ideal age for seeking premarital conselling for the reasons that it is right age to get married and understand about it (100%), it is better to learn as early as possible to avoid problems (50%) and it is better to get counselling at the begining of the relationship (56%). The trend of results were similar for low SES and middle SES groups female students. There were no significant differences in the suggested age range and reasons for seeking premarital counseling given by female students based on their SES. On the other hand irrespective of SES about 20 percent of UG female students suggested that 21-25 yrs is the ideal age for seeking premarital counselling for the reason that it will be the age that the person is matured enough to understand about it

Table 28 Ideal age range suggested by the UG female students for seeking premarital counseling and reasons for it

Ideal age for premarital counseling and reasons for it	SES groups and percentages of UG female students			
	Irrespective of SES (150)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z values
18-21 yrs	80.00 (120)	79.00 (64)	81.15 (56)	0.32 NS
• It is right age to get married and understand about it	100.00 (120)	100.00 (64)	100.00 (56)	---
• It is better to learn as early as possible to avoid problems	50.00 (60)	56.25 (36)	42.85 (24)	1.47 NS
• It is better to get counseling at the beginning of the relationship	56.66 (68)	62.50 (40)	50.00 (28)	1.38 NS
21-25yrs	20.00 (30)	20.98 (17)	18.84 (13)	0.32 NS
• Will be mature enough to understand	100.00 (30)	100.00 (17)	100.00 (13)	---

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant

(100%). The trend of results were similar for female students in both low SES and middle SES groups. There were no significant differences recorded in the suggested age range and reasons for it. These findings clearly indicate that the educated youth are getting more aware about premarital counseling and right age to seek it for different reasons. These findings are a bit different from the conclusions drawn in the research studies of Deshpande and Patnam (2000) which indicate changing socio-cultural scenario and involvement of youth in process marriage at higher ages as compared to the past years.

4.5.6 Perceptions of Undergraduate Female Students About Remarriage and Reasons for It

Table 29 illustrates the views of undergraduate female students about remarriage of divorced / widow/ widower and their reasons for it. Irrespective of SES, 86 percent UG female students expressed favorable views about remarriage of divorced / widow/ widower for the reasons that he/ she gets a life partner for leading happy life and for maintenance of family (79%) and to prevent problems of singlehood (69%). Similar trend of results were noticed in the perceptions of female students in low SES and middle SES groups. Significantly a higher percentage of middle SES UG female students reasoned for it was to prevent problems of singlehood than low SES UG female students. On the other hand, about 14 percent of UG female students irrespective of their SES gave unfavorable views about remarriage for the reason that it is difficult for many woman to adjust with new life partner and marital life (100%). Similar trend of results were noticed in the perceptions of female students in low SES and middle SES groups. No significant difference was noticed in the perceptions of female students of low SES and middle SES groups for it. These findings are in agreement with the inferences drawn in the study of Gunjal and Patnam (2001) and Badami and Patnam (2010). The results also indicate that the sample UG female students have realistic and practical approach towards remarriage of women / men (divorced/ widow/ widower) due to the impact of mass media and relaxation in family/ marriage customs in current society.

Table 29 Views of undergraduate female students about remarriage and reasons for it

Views of female students about remarriage and reasons for it	SES groups and percentages of UG female students			
	Irrespective of SES (50)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Favourable views about remarriage	86.00 (129)	85.18 (69)	86.95 (60)	0.31 NS
• To get a life partner for leading happy life and for maintenance of family	79.84 (103)	78.26 (54)	81.66 (49)	0.48 NS
• Preventing problems of singlehood	69.76 (90)	56.52 (39)	85.00 (51)	3.77**
Unfavourable views about remarriage	14.00 (21)	14.81 (12)	13.04 (9)	0.31 NS
• Difficult to adjust for woman/ manwith new life partner & marital life	100.00 (21)	100.00 (12)	100.00 (9)	---

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant **-P<0.01 level

4.5.7 Perceptions of Undergraduate Female Students Regarding Singlehood and Reasons for It

Table 30 illustrates the views of undergraduate female students regarding singlehood and their reasons for it. Irrespective of SES 18 percent of sample girls expressed positive views about singlehood life (unmarried life) for the reason that it helps leading care free and independent life (100%) and helps in pursuing life goals (46%). The trend of perceptions about female students in low SES and middle SES groups was almost similar to above cited results. Overall significant differences were found in the positive views of them about singlehood life based on their socio-economic status. On the other hand 81 percent of UG female students irrespective of SES expressed negative views about singlehood life for the reasons that it is difficult to lead singlehood life, without a companion (86%) and people exploit singlehood women and her resources (78%). Similar type of results were recorded in the perceptions of female students in low SES and middle SES groups. No significant differences were found in the negative views of the sample UG female students about singlehood life. These results clearly indicate that college girls (youth) are well aware of singlehood problems and need of companion even though there is great desire for freedom and independent life. These results are in the line with the findings reported by Badami and Patnam (2010) in the research study.

4.5.8 Attitude of Undergraduate Female Students Towards Practice of Cohabitation and Reasons for It

Table 31 elaborates the attitudes of undergraduate female students towards the practice of cohabitation and reasons for it. Irrespective of SES, only 6 percent of UG girls expressed favorable views about adoption of cohabitation practice for the reason that it helps in understanding each other better for good footing in marriage. However, on the other hand, 94 percent UG female students irrespective of their SES showed unfavorable views about cohabitation practice for the reasons that it does not fit in their family customs (90%) and spoils family's and individual's reputation (70%). Similar trend of

Table 30 Views of undergraduate female students regarding singlehood and reasons for it

Views of female students about singlehood & reasons for it	SES groups and percentages of UG female students			
	Irrespective of SES (50)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Favourable views about singlehood life	18.66 (28)	20.98 (17)	15.94 (11)	0.79 NS
Reasons				
• Helps in leading carefree & independent life	100.00 (28)	100.00 (17)	100.00 (11)	---
• Helps in pursuing life goals	46.42 (13)	47.05 (8)	45.45 (5)	0.08 NS
Unfavourable views about singlehood life	18.33 (122)	79.01 (64)	84.05 (58)	0.79 NS
Reasons				
• Difficult to lead singlehood life for women with a companion	86.88 (106)	92.18 (59)	81.03 (47)	1.81 NS
• People tend to exploit singlehood women and her resources	78.68 (96)	73.43 (47)	84.48 (49)	1.51 NS

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant

Table 31 Perceptions of undergraduate female students towards practice of cohabitation and reasons for it

Perceptions of female students about cohabitation and reasons for it	SES groups and percentages of UG female students			
	Irrespective of SES (50)	Low SES (81)	Middle SES (69)	Z values
Favourable views about Cohabitation	6.00 (9)	4.93 (4)	7.24 (5)	0.58 NS
• Helps in understanding each other better for good footing in marriage	100.00 (9)	100.00 (4)	100.00 (5)	---
Unfavourable views about Cohabitation	94.00 (141)	95.06 (77)	92.75 (64)	0.58 NS
• Does not fit in their family customs	90.07 (127)	88.31 (68)	92.18 (59)	0.78 NS
• Spoils reputation of individual & family	70.92 (100)	68.83 (53)	73.43 (47)	0.60 NS

Figures in parentheses indicate number of UG female students NS-Non Significant

results were recorded in the perceptions of female students in low SES and middle SES groups. No significant differences were noticed in the attitude of undergraduate female students towards practice of cohabitation and reasons for it based on their socio-economic status. The results clearly indicate that the (youth) the UG female students are well aware about the negative effects of cohabitation, even though their perceptions have been rapidly changing about for aspects of marriage in the current socio-cultural scenario and they have not developed permissiveness attitude about sexual behavior and values of culture retained and maintained in their families. The trend of these results are in line with the findings quoted by Joyce (1998), Cohan (2003) and Stanely (2009).

Summary

CHAPTER-V

SUMMARY

The study on **Perceptions of Undergraduate Female Students About Marriage and Mate Selection** was carried out in Parbhani town of Marathwada region of Maharashtra State by randomly selecting 150 undergraduate female students from Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth Parbhani. The data pertaining to the study was collected by personally interviewing the sample UG female students based on the interview schedule cum checklist. The objectives of the study were as follows

- To study the perceptions of undergraduate female students about the significance of the marriage in their life, criteria of mate selection and their preferences for it.
- To study the awareness of undergraduate female students about different methods of mate selection and types of marriage and their preferences to it.
- To study the views of undergraduate female students about the types of readiness required for leading happy and successful married life
- To study the views of undergraduate female students about premarital and extra marital relationships of the couples
- To study the views of undergraduate female students about divorce, dowry, remarriage, singlehood and pre-marital counselling

Family Background Information of the Sample UG Female Students

Fifty four percent of the sample UG female students hailed from low SES group and the remaining 46 percent were from middle SES group. Few significant differences were recorded among UG female students with regard to income, literacy and types of occupation of their parents.

Perceptions of UG Female Students about Getting Married, Ideal Age at Marriage and Success of Marriage

Irrespective of the SES of UG female students 81 percent of them wanted to get married for the reason to have the best and permanent companion (100%), to have someone to care and share forever (100%), to gain social acceptance and identity (94%), to continue the progeny (83%) , to make parents happy (62%) , as it is an important developmental task to attain complete maturity in life (48%) and to have new life style with the life partner (33%). Only 18 percent UG female students expressed that there is no need to get married as they felt that feel there will be lack of freedom after marriage (92%) followed by marriage demands for lot of adjustments (89%) , marriage creates lots of problems in life (89%) and one can remain alone happy and can achieve set goals (46%). Based on the SES of female students it was found that there was no significant difference in the opinions to get married by the UG female students. Whereas there were significant differences in the reasons quoted for them. Irrespective of the SES of UG female students, 46 percent UG female students reported that the ideal age range for girls and boys to get married is 20 – 23 years followed by 24 – 27 years (30%), 28 – 31 years (12%) and 32 – 35 years (10%). Significantly a higher percentage of the low SES group reported 20 – 23 years as an ideal age range for boys and girls to get married as compared to middle SES group. Significantly a higher percentage of the middle SES group reported 24 – 27 years as an ideal age range for boys and girls to get married as compared to low SES group. While such significant differences were not recorded in the remaining age ranges suggested by them. Irrespective of SES 74 percent UG female students opined that their prospective marriage success is based on their adjustment with their life partners and family, while the remaining (26%) of them stated that it is determined by fate. No significant difference found in their such opinions based on the SES of UG female students.

Family Background Variables of Mate and Its Preferences & Weightages Given by UG female Students

The family background variable enlisted by the sample undergraduate female students were family size and type socio-economic status, family customs, religion caste area of residence, state of residence, number of siblings, reputation of family, food habits, health history of family and parents heritage of mate in the selection of their prospective life partner. Irrespective of their SES 20 percent UG female students gave **first preference** to the family customs of the prospective mate followed by socio-economic status (19%), family size (16%), family type (16%), caste (6%) and Religion (5%). Low SES UG female students gave first preference to family customs (20%) followed by socio-economic status (18%), family size (16%), family type (16%) and caste (8%). On the other hand 20 percent middle SES UG female students preferred for socio-economic status followed by family customs (18%), family size (17%), family type (15%) and religion (7%). There were no significant differences between low SES and middle SES female students in giving the first preference to family background variables of mate.

Irrespective of SES the UG female students gave maximum weightage of 411 to the family customs followed by for socio-economic status (401), family type (314), family size (307), caste (192), state of residence (95) and area of residence (93). The corresponding wightages given by low SES female students are 233, 208 195, 139, 118, 93 and 69. Similarly the wightages given by the middle SES UG female students are 178, 193, 119, 168, 74, 99 and 26.

Criteria for Personal Variables of Prospective Mate Its Preferences and Weightages Given by UG Female Students

The criteria for personal variables enlisted by the sample undergraduate female students were age difference, educational qualification, occupation, monthly income, birth order, spoken language, match of horoscope, blood group & Rh factor, physical features, such as height, body built, complexion, facial features, body language, hair texture, hair colour and dressing style of

mate in the selection of their prospective life partner. Irrespective of SES, the UG female students gave **first preference** to the height of mate (21%) followed by monthly income (20%), occupation (81%), dressing style (18%), age difference (16%), complexion (16%), body language (16%), match of horoscope (15%), facial features (15%), educational qualification (14%) and body built (11%). The corresponding percentages of low SES UG female students for it were 23, 22, 16, 16, 16, 16, 16, 14, 14, 16 and 11. Similarly the corresponding percentages of middle SES UG female students for it were 18, 17, 20, 21, 15, 14, 17, 15, 15, 13 and 11. There were no significant differences in the low and middle SES UG female students' perceptions for the personal variables preferred in the prospective life partner.

Irrespective of SES the UG female students gave maximum weightage of 2260 to the physical features in mate selection followed by occupation (452), height (434), educational qualification (422), body built (401), age difference (399), monthly income (397), complexion (372), body language (361), facial features (324), dressing style (322), match of horoscope (286), birth order (132). The corresponding weightages given by the low SES group for it were 1215, 246, 253, 232, 214, 220, 207, 197, 188, 166, 151, 139 and 65. Similarly the corresponding weightages given by the middle SES group for it were 1045, 206, 181, 190, 187, 179, 190, 175, 173, 158, 171, 147 and 67.

Personality Traits of Mate Its Preferences and Weightages Given by UG Female Students

The criteria for personality traits enlisted by the sample undergraduates females students were broad minded, affectionate and caring, loyal, ambitious, courageous, adaptable, independent, humorous, intelligent, not having bad habits, romantic responsible, social, on dominating, sensitive, optimistic, unselfish, reciprocative, energetic, friendly, respecting parents, in-laws and others of mate in the selection of their prospective life partner. Irrespective of their SES, about 24 percent of UG female student gave **first preference** to caring and affectionate prospective mates followed by broad mindedness (18),

friendly (10%), sensitive (18%), Responsible (7%), social (6%), non dominating (6%), do not have bad habits (5%), romantic (5%). The corresponding percentages of low SES group for it were 24, 18, 8, 6, 8, 7, 4, 6 and 3. Similarly the corresponding percentages of middle SES group for it were 23, 18, 11, 10, 5, 4, 7, 4 and 7. No significant differences were recorded in the first preferences given by low and middle SES groups for personality traits of prospective life partner.

Irrespective of SES the UG female students gave maximum weightage to caring and affectionate mate (353) followed by broad minded (329), friendly (173), romantic (143), sensitive (130), responsible (113), do not have bad habits (109), social low intelligent (94), non dominating (81), independent (80), energetic (60), courageous (42) and loyal (40). The corresponding weightages given by low SES group for it were 195, 203, 76, 65, 73, 66, 72, 56, 39, 39, 52, 27, 26 and 31. Similarly the corresponding weightages given by middle SES group for it were 158, 126, 97, 78, 57, 47, 37, 48, 55, 42, 28, 33, 16 and 9.

Interests of Prospective Life Partner Its Preferences and Weightages Given by UG Female Students

The criteria for interests of the prospective partner enlisted by the sample undergraduate female students are sports and games, viewing TV and films, listening to music and attending concerts, composing poems and attending poets workshop, attending social functions, drawing and painting, cooking and home decoration, shopping and child care. Irrespective of SES, 21 percent of UG female students gave **first preference** to viewing TV & films followed by shopping (16%), listening to music & attending concerts (15%), sports and games (11%), child care (10%), cooking & home decoration (8%), composing poem & attending poet workshops (7%), attending social functions (7%), and drawing and painting (3%). The corresponding percentages of the low SES group for it were 25, 19, 12, 12, 11, 8, 6, 3 and nil. Likewise the corresponding percentages of middle SES group for it were 15, 11, 18, 10, 8, 7, 8, 11 and 7. No significant differences were recorded between low and middle

SES groups in giving first preference to interests of their prospective life partner.

Irrespective of their SES the UG female students gave more weightage of 293 to the interest of in viewing TV & films followed by composing poems and attending poet workshops (287), listening to music and attending (264), attending social functions (256), cooking & home decoration (212), shopping (192), sports & games (192) and child care (172). The corresponding weightages given by low SES UG female students for it were 162, 158, 116, 123, 121, 125, 106, 112 and 111. Similarly, the corresponding weightages given by middle SES UG female students for it were 131, 129, 148, 133, 115, 87, 86, 80 and 61.

Perceptions of UG Female Students about Their Prospective Marriage and Types of Life Partner

Irrespective of SES about 60 percent of sample girls wanted to select life partner as per parental choice with self concent followed by self choice with parental concent (26%) and remaining 12 percent sample girls wanted their mate to be self chosen without concern for parental consent. All (100%) sample girls wanted life partner from non relatives. In low SES group about 55percent sample girls wanted their mate to be of parental choice with self concent, self choice with parental concent (29%) and self choice without parental consent (14%). All sample girls wanted their life partner to be a non relative. Likewise in middle SES group about 66percent sample girls wanted their mate to be of parental choice with self consent, self choice with parental consent (23%) and self choice without parental consent (10%). All sample girls wanted their life partner to be a non relative. No significant differences were noticed between low SES and middle SES groups in their views about prospective mate selection.

UG Female Students' Awareness of Different Modes of Mates of Selection Their Preferences and Weighage

Irrespective of SES 100 percent UG female students were aware of dating, video dating, telephone calls, computerized mate fixing, social networking cites, vadhu var melava marriage bureau, matrimonial adds of news paper and magazines, functions and marriage and mates referred by mediators / family friends. Similarly all sample girls of low SES and middle SES group were aware of all modes of mate selection.

Irrespective of SES, 54 percent UG female students gave **first preference** to mates referred by mediators/ family friends followed by functions and marriages (20%), marriage bureau (10%), dating (8%) and vadhu var melava (6%). The corresponding percentages of low SES group for it were 56, 20, 8, 7 and 6. Similarly the corresponding percentages of middle SES group for it were 52, 20, 11, 10 and 5. No significant differences were found between low and middle SES groups in giving first preference to modes of prospective mate selection.

Irrespective of SES the sample girls gave maximum weightage of 646 to mates referred by mediator & family friends followed by meeting mate in functions and marriages (580), marriage bureau (343), vadhu var melava (289) and dating (242). The corresponding weightages given by low SES group for it were 356, 317, 173, 179 and 109. Similarly the corresponding weightages given by middle SES group for it were 290, 263, 170, 110 and 133.

Perceptions of Undergraduate Female Students About Method of Performing Their Prospective Marriage and Their Reasons for It

Irrespective of SES, 44 percent sample girls opined to have traditional cum registered marriage for the reason that it is a safe method and also helps in maintenance of Indian culture followed by traditional method of marriage (39%) for the reasons that it provides an opportunity for all relatives and friends to get together to have fun (100%), and helps in transmitting culture from one generation to another (75%), by registered marriage (13%) for the

reasons that it helps in saving money and other resources (100%), easy and safe method for security (100%) and suits modern life style (50%) and by temple marriage (3%) for the reasons that it is simple and traditional (100%), and helps in saving many resources (100%). In low SES group 41 percent of sample girls desired to have traditional method of marriage (37), registered marriage (17%), and temple marriage (3%) for the reasons enlisted in the table. On the other hand middle SES group preferred to have traditional cum registered marriage (46%) followed by traditional method of marriage (42%), registered marriage (8%), and temple marriage (2%), there was no significant difference between low and middle SES groups with regard to methods of performing their prospective marriage.

Perceptions of Undergraduate Female Students About Types of Readiness Required By Life Partners for Leading Successful Marital Life

Irrespective of SES, all (100%) the UG female students stated that physical & mental maturity and financial sufficiency are essential for the life partners to lead successful marital life followed by proper attainment of communication and problem solving skills (94%), normalcy in sexual behavior (94%), socio-emotional maturity (92%), and proper attainment of skills for good inter personal relationships within and outside the family (91%). In low SES group all UG female students stated that physical and mental maturity and financial sufficiency are essential for the life partner followed by proper attainment of communication and problem solving skills (96%), normalcy in sexual behavior (92%), socio-emotional maturity and proper attainment of skills for good interpersonal relationships within and outside the family (91%). The corresponding percentages of the middle SES group for it were 100, 100, 100, 92, 95, 92 and 91. No significant differences were noticed between low and middle SES UG female students' perceptions about it.

Perception of Undergraduate Female Students About Dating With Fiancé and Reasons for It

Irrespective of SES, 86 percent of UG female students wanted to date with fiancé for the reasons like to understand & help each other for building a good relation before stating marital life (100%) followed by to check up the mental compatibility of the life partner for rejecting or accepting the proposed fiancé (95%), to get to know more about each others' views and nature (82%), to understand each other families well for building good social network (82%) and to plan for future life (45%). Similar trend of results were noticed in low SES and middle SES groups. Significantly higher percentage of middle SES UG female students wanted to date with fiancé for the reason to understand each other's families well for building good social networks as compared to low SES UG female students. No significant differences were noticed in the perceptions of female students of low SES and middle SES groups. On the other hard 14 percent of UG female students irrespective of SES do not wanted to date with fiancé for the reason that the family customs do not permit it. Similar trend of results were notice in low SES and middle SES groups.

Irrespective of SES, about 52 percent of UG female students would dare to refuse fiancé if he doesnot meet the expectations during dating for their reason that one cannot adjust for whole life with that shortcoming. On the other hand about 33 percent of UG female students would not refuse the fiancé if he doesnot meet expectations for the reasons that it would break the heart of both the families (100%) and one has to adjust in one or the other thing with every person (70%). Similar trend of results were noticed in low SES and middle SES groups. No significant differences recorded in it based on SES of UG female students.

Perceptions of Undergraduate Female Students About Time Gap Between Engagement and Wedding Ceremonies and Its Reasons

Irrespective of SES, 80 percent of UG female students opined that there should be time gape of 1-2 yrs between engagement and marriage ceremonies

for the reasons like, it gives time to life partners to understand each other well (100%) followed by it helps both partners' families for doing marriage preparations (75%) and helps both partners families to understand each other's culture and expectations (62%). Similar trend of results were recorded in the low SES and middle SES groups. No significant differences were noticed in the opinions of UG female students of low SES and middle SES groups, there was significant difference in the given reason. However 19 percent UG female students opined that time gap between engagement and marriage ceremonies is not at all required for the reasons that to prevent problems that crop up between partners and their families (100%) and they want to live with fiancé soon after engagement (68%). Similar trend of results were noticed in the low SES and middle SES groups. No significant differences were recorded in the views of UG female students about not having time gap between engagement and marriage ceremonies and in the reasons for it.

Attitudes of Undergraduate Female Students About Premarital and Extra Marital Sexual Relationships and Reasons for It

Irrespective of SES, all (100%) UG female students expressed negative views about premarital sexual relationship. All of them expressed the reasons that it gets social stigma as it is not accepted in society and also leads to various problems in marital life followed by one can become victim of sexually transmitted diseases (68%). Similar trend of results were noticed in low SES and middle SES groups. No significant differences were noticed in the perceptions about it based on SES of UG female students.

Perceptions of Undergraduate Female Students About Having A Boyfriend and Its Other Aspects

Irrespective of SES, about 92 percent of UG female students do not like to have boyfriend for the reasons that it is against family customs (100%) and girls may get abused (52%). Similar trends of results were noticed in the low SES and middle SES groups. No significant differences were noticed in the low SES and middle SES groups' female students' perceptions.

Irrespective of SES, about 92 percent of UG female students do not like to have their boyfriend to be the life partner for the reason that it brings social stigma and it is against our family customs remaining 8 percent of UG female girls would like their boyfriend to be life partner for the reason that he will be better understanding & supportive. Similar trend of results were noticed in low SES and middle SES groups. No significant differences were recorded in the perceptions of female students about it.

Perceptions of undergraduate female students about divorce and reasons for it

Irrespective of SES, 59 percent UG female students expressed unfavorable views about divorce for the reasons that couple can face family and social problems (94%) followed by divorced parents has to shoulder dual responsibilities of father and mother (85%) and children get deprived of both parental love and care (79%). However on the other hand 40 percent of UG female students irrespective of SES expressed favorable views about divorce for the reasons that it helps to get rid of pain in marriage (77%) and to put on end to interpersonal bitter relations (59%). Similar trend of results were noticed in the low SES and middle SES group. No significant differences were noticed in the views of undergraduate female students about it based on their socio-economic status.

Perceptions of Undergraduate Female Students Regarding Dowry and Their Reasons

Irrespective of SES, 82 percent of UG girls expressed that dowry should not be given in marriage for the reason that it can lead to ill treatment of married women (83%) followed by already parents spent a lot on upbringing of girls (78%) and it is an illegal social practice (70%). Similar trends of results were noticed in low SES and middle SES groups. Significantly a higher percentage of middle SES girls expressed that giving dowry can lead to ill treatment of married women compared to their counterpart low SES UG female students. On the other hand a meager percent (17%) UG female students stated

that dowry must be given in marriage as it comes handy for establishing new home (53%) and it helps in solving family problems (53%) . similar trend of results were noticed in low SES and middle SES groups. No significant differences were noticed between low SES and middle SES groups in the favorable views about dowry and reasons for it.

Irrespective of SES about 83 percent of UG female students opined that they will wait till they get the mate who does not take dowry for the reasons that they do not want to be a burden on parents (82%) and they want the mate who values the mate more than money (74%). On the other hand 16 percent of UG female students irrespective of SES opined that they will not be wait till they get the mate who does not take dowry for the reason that their age increases which makes it still harder to find a good mate. Similar trend of results were recorded in low SES and middle SES groups. No significant differences were noticed in their such perceptions based on their SES group.

Perception of Undergraduate Female Students About Seeking Premarital Counselling and Reasons for It

Irrespective of SES, 82 percent of the UG girls expressed that it is good to seek premarital counselling for the reasons that it helps to adjust to family members (100%), prevent problems in marital life (100%), and to know the tacts of handling in- laws and partner for marital success (67%). The trends of results were similar for UG female students in low SES and middle SES groups. There were no significant differences in the low SES and middle SES UG female students with regard to their favorable views about premarital counseling and reasons for it. On the other hand, irrespective of SES, 17 percent UG female students expressed unfavorable views as they felt it was not necessary to seek premarital counseling for the reasons that partners will get mature while growing up as adults to cope with marital life situations (100%), and understanding will develop along with the time (84%). Similar types of results were recorded in low SES and middle SES group. There were no significant differences in the perceptions of female students of low SES and

middle SES groups with regard to it. However significant differences were recorded in the reasons given for it.

Perceptions of UG Female Students About Seeking Premarital Counselling in Different Aspects, Ideal Age Range and Reasons for It

Irrespective of SES, about 95 percent UG female students desired to seek premarital counselling in job management followed by child raising & family planning (89%), marital adjustment to in-laws (89%), managing finance/ budgeting (88%), adjusting to parenthood and managing it (76%), marital adjustment to spouse (husband) (71%), mate selection (70%), managing whole house (48%) and marital adjustment to family customs (47%). The corresponding percentages of low SES group for it were 96, 86, 96, 91, 83, 56, 69, 49 and 41. On the other hand the corresponding percentages of middle SES group for it were 94, 92, 81, 85, 68, 71, 46 and 53. There were few significant differences between low SES and middle SES groups' female students perceptions regarding it.

Irrespective of SES about 80 percent of UG female students suggested that 18 – 21 yrs is the ideal age for seeking premarital conselling for the reasons that it is right age to get married and understand about it (100%), it is better to learn as early as possible to avoid problems (50%) and it is better to get counselling at the begging of the relationship (56%). The trends of results were similar for low SES and middle SES groups. There were no significant differences recorded in the suggested age range and reasons for seeking premarital counselling. On the other hand irrespective of SES about 20 percent of UG female students suggested that 21-25 yrs is the ideal age for seeking premarital counselling for the reason that it will be the age that the person is matured enough to understand about it (100%). The trends of results were similar for low SES and middle SES groups. There were no significant differences in the suggested age range and its reasons of female students for it.

Perceptions of Undergraduate Female Students About Remarriage and Reasons for It

Irrespective of SES, 86 percent UG female students expressed favorable views about remarriage of divorced / widow/ widower for the reasons to get a life partner for leading happy life and for maintenance of family (79%) and to prevent problems of singlehood (69%). Similar trend of results were noticed in low SES and middle SES groups. Significantly a higher percentage of middle SES UG female students reasoned to preventing problems of singlehood than the low SES UG female students. On the other hand, about 14 percent of UG female students irrespective of their SES gave unfavorable views about remarriage for the reason that it is difficult to adjust with new life partner and marital life (100%). Similar trend of results were noticed in low SES and middle SES groups. No significant differences were noticed in the perceptions of female students of low SES and middle SES groups about it.

Attitude of Undergraduate Female Students Towards Practice of Cohabitation and Reasons for It

Irrespective of SES, only 6 percent of UG female students expressed favorable views about cohabitation for the reason that it helps in understanding each other better for good footing in marriage. However, on the other hand 94 percent UG female students irrespective of their SES showed unfavorable views about cohabitation for the reasons that it does not fit in their family culture (90%) and spoils family and individual reputation (70%). Similar trend of results were recorded in low SES and middle SES groups. No significant differences were noticed in the attitude of undergraduate female students about it based on their socio-economic status.

Perceptions of Undergraduate Female Students Regarding Singlehood and Reasons for It

Irrespective of SES, 18 percent of sample girls expressed positive views about singlehood life (unmarried life) for the reason that it helps leading care free and independent life (100%) and helps in pursuing life goals (46%). The

trend of results in low SES and middle SES groups was almost similar. Overall significant differences were not found in their positive views about singlehood life based on their socio-economic status. On the other hand 81 percent of UG female students irrespective of SES expressed negative views about singlehood for the reasons that it is difficult to lead singlehood life without a companion (86%) and people exploit singlehood women and her resources (78%). Similar type of results were recorded in low SES and middle SES groups. No significant differences were found in the negative views of sample UG female students about singlehood life.

Implication

IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

The findings of the research study on **Perceptions of Undergraduate Female Students about Marriage and Mate Selection** world be very useful to youth, their families and to community for getting enlightened about the changing trends in mate selection and marriage and what type of care to be taken to prevent problems associated to it. In the rapidly changing socio-cultural scenario, the sustainability of marriages has become a matter of great concern to the partners as well as to their families. Modernization, individualism, materialism, permissiveness, falling down of ethical and moral standards, strong impact of electronic media and so on tend to create lot of risks to proper mate selection and survival of marriage. The findings of this study on criteria of mate selection definitely will alert youth and their families to take care of youth's views and also make sincere efforts to get success in proper mate selection. The views of youth on various aspects of dowry, premarital counselling, dating, types of marriage, modes of mate selection and cohabitation are very useful in sensitizing and advocating youth, families and community for leading happy and successful life. The findings of the study also alert youth, their families and community to understand modern, practical and scientific approach of educated youth towards criteria of mate selection and various aspects of marriage, which in turn definitely would help in bridging gap between different generations in families and in minimizing social evils and strengthening marital bonds as things would also be understood in a better way in light of these findings. The research findings will be useful to the educators and researchers in the fields of social work, sociology, human development and psychology.

Thesis Abstract

PERCEPTIONS OF UNDERGRADUATE FEMALE STUDENTS ABOUT MARRIGE AND MATE SELECTION

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College of Home Science
VNMKV Parbhani

One hundred and fifty undergraduate female students randomly selected from Vasanthrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth Parbhani were personally interviewed based on the interview schedule cum checklist. With respect to their SES of UG female students, 79 percent of low SES group and 84 percent of middle SES group wanted to get married for the reasons to have best and permanent companion and someone to care and share forever. No significant differences were noticed between them based on their SES. Majority of the sample students opined that their prospective marriage success is based on their adjustment to life partner and his family. The family background and personal variables that were given importance by giving either first or second preference and maximum weightage by them were family customs of mate followed by socio-economic status of family, family type and size; physical features of mate, occupation, educational qualification, age difference between mates and his monthly income. The UG female students also gave priority and maximum weightage to personality traits like caring, affectionate and broad minded nature of mate. The UG female students also gave priority and maximum weightage to the interests of mate like viewing TV and films, composing poems, attending poet workshops and listening to music & attending concerts in mate selection. Majority of the UG female students wanted to have the mate of parental choice with self consent and to be a non-relative. All UG female students were aware of different modes of mate selection and majority of them gave maximum weightage and priority to the

mode of mate selection by mediators and family friends followed by selecting the mate in functions and marriages of relatives. Majority of them preferred to have traditional cum registered marriage and premarital counselling for success of prospective marriage. A large majority of them expressed unfavourable views about dowry system, premarital and extramarital sexual relations, cohabitation practice and having a boyfriend for various valid reasons. Majority of the UG female students expressed favourable views about remarriage of divorced / widows / widower. Overall few significant differences were recorded in UG female students' perceptions about various aspects of marriage and mate selection based on their socio-economic status. These findings also reflect that with higher education female students' approach towards marriage and mate selection have become mature, practical, modern and scientific.

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Appendix

Annexure - I

PERSONAL INTERVIEW SCHEDULE OF YOUTH

Back ground information

1. Name and Address:
2. Age :
3. Caste :
4. Religion :
5. Ordinal position :
6. Family type: Nuclear /Extended/Joint/Single parent / Step parent or any other type
7. Family size : Small/Middle/Big
   (1-5) (5-8) 8 and above
8. i Education :

   ii Occupation :

9. Particulars about parents / guardian

	Age	Education	Monthly income(Rs)	Occupation
Father Mother Guardian				

10. What significance does the marriage has in your life? Why?
    Reasons in detail.

    ---

11. Would you like to get married?
    If yes, why? Detail the reasons

    If no, why? Detail the reasons

    ---

12. Do you think that marriage is essential to become a complete individual?

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13. What do you think about the success of your prospective marriage?

a. Within couples adjustment ( )
b. Determined by fate ( )
c. Any other thing ( )

14. What is the ideal age range for a girl/ a boy to get married? Why?

---

15. What are your criteria for choosing your prospective life partner? Criteria and your preference number for it? Why?

A Family background of mate											
Criteria	**Preference number**										**Why?**
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1. Family type											
a Nuclear											
b Extended											
c Joint											
2. Family size											
a Small (1-5)											
b Middle (5-8)											
c Big (Above 8)											
3. Socio-economic status											
a Same											
b Lower											
c Higher											
4. Family customs											
a Same											
b Different											
5. Religion											
a. Same											
b. Different											
6. Caste											
a. Same											
b. Different											
7. Area of residence											
a. Urban area											
b. Rural area											
8. State of residence											
a. Inter state											
b. Intra state											

9. Number of siblings											
a. Should have siblings											
b. Should not have siblings											
10. Reputation of family											
a. Very good											
b. Good											
c. Fair											
11. Food habits											
a. Vegetarians											
b. Non- vegetarians											
c. Both a & b											
12. Health history of family											
a. Very important											
b. Not essential											
13. Parental heritage											
a. Very important											
b. Not essential											
14. Anything else detail											
B Particulars of mate											
Particulars of mate	**Preference numbers**										**Why?**
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1 Age a. Older (how many yrs) b. Same c. Younger (how many yrs)											
2. Education (Specify)											
3. Occupations (Specify)											
4. Monthly income (Rs)											
5. Birth order a. First born											

b. Middle born c. Not particular											
6. Spoken language a. same b. Different											
7. Match of horoscope a. Essential b. Not essential											
8. Blood group & Rh factor a. Very important b. not essential											
9. physical features											
➢ **Height**											
a. Tall b. Moderate c. Short											
➢ **Body built** a. Fat b. Moderate c. Thin											
➢ **Complexion** a. Fair b. Moderate c. Dark											
➢ **Facial features** a. Sharp b. Moderate											
➢ **Body language** a. Decent b. Indecent											
➢ **Hair texture** a. Little curly b. Straight											

c. Not particular											
➢ **Hair color** a. Black b. Brown											
➢ **Dressing style** a. Modern b. Normal											
10. Anything else											
11. personality traits											
Traits	**Preference number**										**Why**
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Broad minded											
Caring affectionate											
Loyal											
Ambitious											
Courageous											
Adaptable											
Independent											

Humorous											
Intelligent											
Do not have bad habits											
Romantic											
Responsible											
Social											
Non dominating											
Sensitive											
Optimistic											
Unselfish											
Reciprocative											

Energetic											
Friendly											
Respect parents & in-laws											
Respect spouse											
Anything else											
12. Interests											
Traits	**Preference number**										**Why?**
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Sports and games											
Viewing TV and films											
Listening to music and attending concerts											
Composing poems and attending poet workshops											

Attending social functions											
Drawing and painting											
Cooking and home decoration											
Shopping											
Child care											

16. Which type of marriage you would like to have for yourself? Why?

1. **About marriage** Reason in detail

a. Self choice without parental consent ( ) ----------

b. Self choice with parental consent ( ) ----------

c. Parental choice with self consent ( ) ----------

d. Parental choice without self consent ( ) ----------

2. **About life partner** Reason in detail

a. Relatives related by blood ( ) ----------

b. From non relatives ( ) ----------

17. Are you aware of different modes of mate selection? Yes/no

a) Dating ( )
b) Video dating( )
c) Telephone calls( )
d) Computerized mate fixing( )
e) Social networking cites( )
f) Vadhu var melava( )
g) Marriage bureau ( )
h) Matrimonial adds of news papers and magazines( )
i) Functions and marriages ( )
j) Mates referred by mediators/ family friends( )

18. By which type of mode would you like to select your perspective mate? Give preference number.

Method		Why?
a) Dating	( )	----------
b) Video dating	( )	----------
c) Telephone calls	( )	----------
d) Computerized mate fixing	( )	----------
e) Social networking cites	( )	----------
f) Vadhu var melava	( )	----------
g) Marriage bureau	( )	----------
h) Matrimonial adds of news papers and magazines	( )	----------
i) Functions and marriages	( )	----------
j) Mates referred by mediators/ family friends	( )	----------

19. By which type of method you would like your marriage to be performed? Why?

Method	Reason in detail
a. Traditional	----------
b. Registered marriage	----------
c. Traditional cum registered marriage	----------
d. Samoohik vivah mela	----------
e. Temple marriage	----------

20. Which type of readiness required for making your marriage a successful? Why?

Particulars	yes/no	Reason in detail
Attainment of		
a. Physical maturity	( )	----------
b. Mental maturity	( )	----------
c. Financial sufficiency	( )	----------
d. Socio – emotional maturity	( )	----------
e. Normalcy in sexual behavior	( )	----------
f. Proper attainment of communication and problem solving skills	( )	----------
g. Proper attainment of skills for good interpersonal relationships within and outside the family	( )	----------
h. Anything else	( )	----------

21. Have you ever thought of seeking premarital counseling? Yes/No

If yes, why? Reasons

If no, why? Reasons

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22. On what all aspects of marriage you thought of seeking premarital counseling? Why?

Particulars	yes/no	Why?
1. Mate selection		----------
2. Marital adjustments to		----------
a. Spouse (husband)		----------
b. In-laws		----------
c. Parenthood		----------
d. Family customs		----------
Anything else		----------
3. Managing		
a. Finance / budgeting		----------
b. Whole house		----------
c. Parenthood		----------
d. Child raising family planning		----------
e. Job management		----------
Anything else		----------

23. At what age range you feel one has to seek premarital counseling (yrs)? Why?

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24. Would you like to have time gap between the engagement and wedding ceremonies? Yes/no

If yes, Days/months/years

a How much gap ----------

b Why? ----------

If no, why? ----------

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25. Would you like to have boy friend (just as a friend)? Yes/no

If yes, Reasons

If no, why Reasons

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26. Would you like your boy friend to be your life partner? Yes/no

If yes why?

If no why?

---

27. Would you like to inform about your boy friend to your fiance? Yes/no Reasons

If yes why?

If no

---

28. a) Would you like to date with fiance? Yes / no

If yes, why? Reasons

Where all? ---

If no, why? ---

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b) In dating if you come across that the mate is not up to your expectations would you dare to refuse him? Yes/no

If yes, Reasons

If no, Reasons

---

29. What are your views about the premarital sexual relationship?

Positive, why? Reason it

Negative, why? Reason it

---

30. What are your views about the extra marital sexual relationship?

Positive, why? Reason it

Negative, why? Reason it

---

31. Would you like dowry to be given in your marriage? Yes/no

If yes Reasons

If no Reasons

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32. If you do not like dowry to be given in your marriage, are you going to stay back till you get the mate who does not take dowry? Yes/no

If yes, why? Reason it

If no, why? Reason it

---

33. What is your opinion about divorce?

Favourable opinion why? Reason it

Unfavourable opinion why? Reason it

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34. What are your views about cohabitation?

Favourable opinion why? Reason it

Unfavourable opinion why? Reason it

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35. What are your views about remarriage?

Favourable opinion why? Reason it

Unfavourable opinion why? Reason it

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36. What are your views about singlehood?

Favourable opinion why? Reason it

Unfavourable opinion why? Reason it

Annexure -II

Revised Socio- Economic status Scale of Kuppuswamy

Name of the student:

Age:

S NO	Items	Weightage	Father	Mother
A	**Education**			
1	Professional degree or Degree or above	7		
2	B.A. or B.Sc. Degree	6		
3	Intermediate or post high school diploma	5		
4	High school certificate	4		
5	Middle school completion	3		
6	Primary school or literate	2		
7	No-literate	1		
B	**Occupation**			
1	Professional (Doctor, Engineer, Architect)	10		
2	Semi profession (Professor, Head, Bank Officer)	6		
3	Shops owners/farm owner/teacher	5		
4	Research associates	4		
5	Skilled worker	3		
6	Semiskilled worker	2		
7	Unskilled worker	1		
	Unemployed (Home maker)			
C	**Income per month**			
1	Above 80,000/-	12		
2	Between 50000-80000	10		
3	Between 20000-50000	8		
4	Between 17000-20000	6		
5	Between 14000-17000	4		
6	Between 11000-14000	3		
7	Between 8000-11000	2		
8	Below 8000	1		

Average of total score $\frac{(A+B+C)}{2}$

Total score	SES Class
0-9	Low SES
10-21	Middle SES
22-29	High SES