

**A PATTERN OF DELAYED MARRIAGE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE,
REASONS AND CONSEQUENCES: A STUDY OF BAGGAMARH
VILLAGE IN DISTRICT JAMMU**

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ABSTRACT

The present paper is about the positive and negative impacts of late marriage. The present study was conducted among unmarried population of village BaggaMarhin district Jammu. Late marriage is a factor that has both advantages and disadvantages. Some people prefer to get married at late age while some do not get opportunity to marry at suitable age due to various factors. Both of such categories face consequences of late marriage. Nowadays, both men and women prefer late marriage because they want economic empowerment in their life. Career targets make people delay their marriages even if they have a partner in their life. When they delay their marriage age, they may face advantages such as, time for personal growth, education and Career opportunities, good mental health, freedom and disadvantages such as, risk of infertility, disagreement between spouses, rejection from partner etc. Based on these variables this paper aims to comprehend and explain why people delay their marriages and various impacts of late marriage among people in BaggaMarh Village in district Jammu. Other indicators of impact of late marriage like age, birth rate etc. have also taken into account.

KEYWORDS: *Late Marriage, Birth Rate, Education, Career Opportunities.*

INTRODUCTION

Marriage as a social, legal and religious institution has undergone a number of modifications and changes. As a social institution, it has taken different forms in different societies. Marriage has been characterized as a legitimately endorsed joining between two consenting partners. A shared, elite, deep rooted bond in which two individuals submit themselves completely. A complicated individual phenomenon called marriage with very strong familial and social interlocks can be studied at different levels. The suitable age for marriage in India has been set as 18 for girls and 21 for boys as per Hindu marriage act, 1955. However pattern of marriage age has undergone a lot of change nowadays. Both men and women prefer late marriage because they want economic empowerment in their life. Delaying marriage age, they may face advantages such as time for personal growth, education and career opportunities, good mental health and disadvantages such as birth rate, less options for partner, disagreement between spouses, ageing, societal pressure, etc.

Over the past few decades the age of marriage has been increasing in every region of the world for both men and women; furthermore more than half of marriages occur after age 30 in many

developed nations (Carroll, 2017) Marriage rate decreases have usually accompanied by non-marital cohabitation and pre-marital childbearing (Maharaj & Shangase, 2020).” There is a paradox “Older is Better” paradox. Many young adults think that marriage is a transition of harm rather than the transition of benefit; for this reason, the adults wait for getting married until almost their thirties (Carroll, 2017).

Objectives

1. The main aim of present study is to understand the reasons primarily involved in the practice of late marriage among young and mature unmarried people of BaggaMarh village in district Jammu.
2. Secondly, the consequences of delayed marriage both positive as well as negative that they face in their routine life.
3. Lastly, the impact of this pattern of late marriage on society is to be analysed through this research.

Methodology

The present study is purely qualitative in nature. The study is based on field work conducted in village BaggaMarh in district Jammu. Various methods of data collection have been used such as observation, interview, focussed group discussion etc. Secondary data has also been used in present study using research articles and reference books related to this study.

Reasons For Delay In Marriages:

Late marriages have multiple reasons not just one. The prominent ones found in people of BaggaMarh village are like women want financial independence. For that they go for higher studies then look for jobs. Before getting involved in marital relationship they want to be financially secured. This is prominent reason among men also. Unemployment rates are also very high. Getting jobs are not easier nowadays. It takes years to get suitable qualification and experience for a required job.

Some people prefer to marry late because they want to enjoy life of freedom and lesser responsibility. It is undeniable fact that marriage comes with a lot of responsibilities. Single life is free from stress and burdens. So, people want to remain single for maximum years as in their opinion marriage can be delayed.

Personal growth is a significant factor for delaying marriage and both men and women take care of it. Women who get married early and give birth cannot focus on their personality growth because of other responsibilities.

One of the other reasons for marrying late found in BaggaMarh village is being too choosy for partner. Families keep on searching daughter-in-law for years. They want everything to be perfect. From good height, weight, good looks to better qualification and knowing all household chores is Priority of family members while choosing daughter-in-law. Some men prefer an employed wife while some prefer their future wife to live as housewife only. These conditions of marriages become reasons for delay in marriages.

According to social science circles, late marriage has many positive effects. However, it can also be a reason for many troubles in family stability and coupling patterns . So, although

late marriage has positive effects on people, it also has many negative effects. This paper touches on both the positive effects and negative effects on people

Consequences Of Late Marriages:

Consequences are both Positive and Negative in Nature.

Some Positive Consequences are:

Time for Personal Growth

When people get married, they might not have enough time for the development of their personality. In the modern era, personality growth begins to be more important than before because many people have started to give importance to their careers as well as their personalities. Besides women, men may also have to delay their plans related to their personality growth; therefore, late marriage can be a way of developing people's personalities (Haotanto, 2016). So, personal growth is a significant factor in delaying marriage, and both men and women take care of it. Due to late marriage, many people focus on their career development and personalities. For this reason, focusing on personal growth is one of the advantages of delaying marriage for people.

Marital Stability and Adjustment

At an early age, marriages can be at a higher risk of disruption because the spouses are more likely to be based on mistaken expectations. The young spouses might have insufficient self-knowledge and be unconfident about their own and their partners' potential characteristics. According to a study, late marriage declines the possibility of divorce, and the data reveals that each supplemental year of age at the time of matrimony diminishes the divorce by eleven percent. Because of age, the level of maturity in people's thinking and behavior increases; therefore, people deliberate more virtually on what they desire from a lifetime relationship as they grow older (Haotanto, 2016). On the other hand, marital adjustment can be enough between the spouses even if there is no child. Before expressing the marital adjustment between the spouses, it is significant to examine the meaning of marital adjustment. Marital adjustment is a term that encompasses the way to modify, acquire, or adjust an individual and couple's exemplary behaviour and association to achieve the most intense satisfaction in the relationship. Although there is no child, and a woman cannot be childbearing, the marital adjustment between the woman and the man does not affect in a bad way.

Education and Career Opportunities

Some people do not think about marriage because they do not give importance to their marriage age. They might take care of their economic status and career development. In particular, many women delay their marriage because of childbearing and the unfavorable effects of being married on work-life. Besides women, some men also do not prefer to get married due to their career development. Late marriage can provide people to pursue their career and educational dreams. Some people postpone their marriage due to their career pursuits as well as some people delay because of their educational plans (Haotanto, 2016). In today's opportunities, education has become an essential need for people. Notably, the increase in the number of women's places in both education and work environment has become a fundamental reason for delaying marriage. To sum up, late marriage let people continue their education life and focus on their career choices.

Good Mental Health

Some comprehensive researches indicate that married people are more likely to have general life pleasure than their single or divorced partners (Vitelli, 2017). People who get divorced tend to declare emotional troubles, for example, depression. The age difference between the participants was a useful way of making a comparison. People who marry earlier might encounter challenges because of the extra duties of instituting a family at an early age. That can retain a quite hardship in achieving their educational purposes or career goals. Early marriage may ensue due to raised force from family fellows or an unpredictable pregnancy that can be a big reason for early marriage (Vitelli, 2017). So, it is possible to say that marriage affects mental status. People who get married later in their life can be happier than people who get married early.

Some Negative Consequences of Delayed Marriage:

The Decline in Birth Rate

Not just other health issues like obesity, stress etc causes decline in birth rate but one of the most major negative impacts of late marriage is delayed childbearing which impresses population growth. Because women delay their marriage, this decreases their fertile years, and giving birth may become difficult. Today the median age of first marriage for women is over 28 years. The median age of first marriage represents that half of all women get married for the first time when even more aged, with many not attempting pregnancy until well after age 30. As it is mentioned above, if fertility starts to decrease in women's twenties, the possibility of getting pregnant might be more difficult in their almost thirties than in their twenties.

Abnormality in Children and Difficult Pregnancy

Late marriage can also be a reason for abnormality in children. Even if the women can give birth, sometimes these births result in children having mental problems. An older mother might face some risks during her pregnancies, for example, miscarriage, birth defects, high blood pressure, gestational diabetes, and difficult labor. The problems of the babies are not just related to mothers, older fathers' can also be one of the main reasons.

Societal Pressure and Family Tension

Delay in marriages brings a lot of societal pressure, negative comments and gossips. Unmarried aged person has to bear a lot of gossiping and societal pressure for marriage. When everyone around you is getting married your family may feel that you are the problem since everyone around you is engaged and settled but you are not. Research conducted in BaggaMarhmade me conclude that overaged persons were brave enough to walk a different path while society pressurise them to get married. According to them it is easy to feel pressured by family, friends and relatives to take a plunge and tie a knot especially in family gatherings.

Disagreement between the Spouses

These differences are a factor for disagreements even if the couples are young. However, a few of these differences are life experiences, likes, and dislikes that are essential for people who get married in their late ages. These are important because when a person is aging, his/her life perspective shapes, and this person may get difficult to agree with her/his husband or wife. People who delay marriage and get married later would have strict rules; therefore, these people would not be easygoing. For this reason, compromise becomes difficult for the spouses. In this sense, the problem of marital adjustments occurs between the spouses. People can develop their

personalities if they get married late. They have time to travel, learn, etc. However, while people get older, their rules and characteristic skills develop, and they have many borderlines (Haotanto, 2016). These borderlines can block some agreements between spouses. That is why some older spouses cannot make a compromise, and they want to divorce.

Generation Gap between Children and Parents

The generation gap is another important factor because if the age gap between parents and children is too much, there are always conflicts. These conflicts might result in inadequate communication in the family. The definition of the generation gap is an irritating absence of contact between young and old or a valuable period that divides culture within a society permitting them to evolve their personality. This gap provokes a lack of touch and arrangement between the two ages since the old generation's and the new's belief of the world was dyed by how the community operated during their youth. Late marriage is a way of this generation gap, and there are many disagreements between children and parents. For example, different generations sometimes speak different languages even though they speak the same language. Also, parents tolerate their children's mistakes rarely because of their view of the world, so this lack of tolerance can result in a lack of communication and understanding. Besides these, late married couples and their children cannot have enough interactions. For example, older parents can get tired easily and cannot play with their children.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, this research paper aims to discover the main reasons for delay in marriages among young people and the consequences they face in later ages. Late marriages is becoming popular in BaggaMarh village and adjoining areas. On the other hand, with the increase in career opportunities for both women and men, they do not want to have a baby or get married early or on time. Few paradoxes make young adults be away from the idea of marriage. However, late marriage becomes a major problem for population growth instead of its benefits. In addition to this, late marriage also affects women's pregnancy period and childbearing due to birth timing. Late marriage also has some advantages, such as personal growth, financial independence, and other opportunities. All advantages and disadvantages should not be ignored by people and society. While some societies support late marriage, other societies do not sustain it because of population increase and other reasons. In this paper, the main aim is research of reasons and consequences of delayed marriage in BaggaMarh village in Jammu district. As mentioned above, nowadays many people delay their marriages because of education and career opportunities, difficulty to find the right person, getting used to a single life, and becoming normal with pre-marital sex and living together. While their delaying process is continuing, they just see the advantages; however, when they decide to get married, they also face the disadvantages. For this reason, this paper tries to point out both reasons and corresponding outcomes.

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