

A Study of Evolved Gender Differences in Mate Selection Preferences among Students and their Parents

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Abstract

The current study was about identifying generation gap in preferences of students and their parents while looking for proposals. Quantitative method was used by collecting data through self-constructed checklist for mate selection preferences. The sample was comprised of 240 participants with convenient sampling technique. The findings revealed gender differences in preferences and generation gap is existing regardless of family and social pressures, that was clearly evidenced with respect to few indicators, i.e. ideal age of marriage, age gap with spouse, and type of productive marriage. The results explored numerous range of preferences made by boys and girls for their spouses or fathers and mothers for their son-in-law and daughter-in-law respectively. The results indicated that despite of modernization people still don't admire wife and daughter-in-law as a working woman although they surfaced their various physical and behavioral characteristics rather than professional. The study concluded that every gender has its preference for spouse selection. Also, generational gap was found to be linked with gender roles and socio-cultural dynamics of society.

Keywords: Mate Selection, Preferences, Generational Gap, Socio-Cultural Dynamics, Modernization.

Introduction

The phenomenon of human mate selection has been involved several factors that varies for every individual either male or female. When anybody has to choose a life partner, they must have been showing different choices and preferences according to their needs and expectation so they would be enjoying their whole life peacefully. Family characteristics have been followed more logically which imposed obligations on every individual, despite of existing need of financial support a family member are less attractive toward potential mates whose parents are both not alive in Japan (MHLW, 2013)

Marriage has been defined as a contractual bound which assimilate male and female with their mutual consent. Worldwide, arrange marriage has been considered royal or noble and mostly practicing in middle and Southeast Asian countries. Every individual keeps looking various characteristics either physical or social attributes while choosing for a life partner, males most likely to desire slim or modal figure on the other hand some males go for a chubby wife. Likewise, females also have their priorities while choosing a life partner, some like to have either tall heightened or muscular body counterpart. Furthermore, in western societies individuals are independent is choosing mate, whether marriage partner, dating partner or cohabiting partner. They don't face any interference by family and society, they have their own preferences and choices (Harris, 2006).

Schwartz (2013) argued that marriage and even mate selection has always been primarily linked to some crucial factors such as; ethnic background, socio-economic status, race, and religion. Worldwide, people have been attracted towards individual having same socialization, environment, attitudes, lifestyle, values and background regardless of their differences in ethnicity and interracial conflicts (Sterbova and Valentova, 2012).

In adult life, parents' involvement regarding partner selection is not a new phenomenon but nowadays friends' involvement while choosing a partner is a new and influential phenomenon (Harris, 2006). In reality, parental love and care has always been crucially important for surviving of their children, which can't even be disputed. Aside from the necessities of food/shelter, children have been benefited from the development of social skills and abilities which might be fostered by their parental inspiration as

well as accessible resources. Moreover, Parents are more concerned about their children's well-being. As a result, youngsters exhibit an interest in remembering their parents' choices and support (Buun, Park, & Duncan, 2010).

In every society, people preferred to choose their life partners on their own, which makes life easy and comfortable. A research conducted that showed that married people are healthier than unmarried people, especially mentally. Both men and women have different preferences while choosing their life partners. While in a few features they have similarities in choices. Both attracted for kind qualities and mature person. Men are more attracted to females' physical appearance. Women are more attracted to possession and prominence. The choices made by both men and women are not always different but varied according to their situation (Lindsey, 2011).

Objectives

The objectives of the study were as following:

1. To identify the gender differences in preferences for spouse selection.
2. To identify comparison between preferences of the old generation (parents) with the current generation (students/ children).

Literature Review

Every culture has different criteria when choosing a spouse. In western societies, people choose their partners by choice but in south Asian societies parents and relatives choose partners for their children. In many cultures, they are limited to marrying in a particular social class and caste system but in some areas, the person is restricted to choosing a person from the opposite social class. A study found that Parents have greater control over their daughters' mating decisions and sexual activity than they do over their boys. They have greater influence over their daughters than their boys since they are genetically linked to them and have more power. They make life decisions for their daughters, including picking an acceptable mate for their married life (David & Diana, 2008).

In research by Buun, Park & Duncan (2009) students and young people from various cultures were interviewed, and their replies were graded using a scale. The predicted outcome was that the Kurdish sample had a higher

level of parental control than the Dutch group. Samples from Canadian individuals with an Asian context and more exposure to conventional models revealed stronger parent influence in mate choice than those with a European background.

Another study by Perilous, Fleischman and Buss (2011) revealed that parents and children have Faith was valued more highly by parents than by children. Most of the individuals have higher importance for physical characteristics rather than their parents. Parents valued economic capacity and intellectual success higher in their daughters' friends than in their boys' friends. The responses of children, revealed a significant disparity in in regards to physical beauty and status among their peers.

The study carried out by Li, Valentine, and Patel (2010) that found the fact that men and women had been followed distinct spouse preferences for decades. Men appear to prioritize physical appearance in their long-term partner, whilst women appear to prioritize social position. Males and females both place higher importance on a variety of other characteristics. The study's sample size was 407 people, including 124 females and 83 males from the United States. These scholars come from a variety of backgrounds. There were 126 ladies and 74 men among the Singapore testers, who came from a variety of ethnic origins. They analyze spouse preferences in both the US and Singapore samples using a budget allocation technique. The findings show that not only do traditional sex differences exist but that male valued physical attributes more than women and women have been prioritized social standing as a key prerequisite in long-term relationships. The study also demonstrates that both sexes, male and female, consider physical appearance to be an important want in potential partners. The results confirm previous budget allocation findings.

A research found that the desire for fair women is a global bias that pervades many areas of people's relationships, notably in the selection of spouses. Furthermore, it was shown that due to the quick development in Internet networking and husband selection, this discriminatory attitude has had a significant impact on darker-skinned women. The findings revealed that males had a strong preference for partners who are more attractive than themselves. Men were shown to have a greater preference for fair skin in their prospective marriages than women. They use terms like gorgeous and appealing to describe their dream mate for this aim. Most notably, the

success tale marriage photographs always featured more attractive ladies than males. Women of color were almost absent from these marital success tales (Sonora and Mara, 2009)

Rational of the study

Every study in history revealed that choosing a partner for marriage has a great role. Everyone has different opinions and views, so they would like to have a partner according to social expectations. Various agents play an important role that includes Parents, peers, religion, society, educational background, financial capability, and personality characteristics. The current study tried to fill the gap by identifying gender differences in preferences of the old generation (parents) with the current generation (students/ children) with socio-cultural context of Punjab. Family system is too strong in Pakistan and parents are the most important agent in this matter, which definitely influence each other's decisions and liberalization has also been penetrated so far in our values and perception. So the present research tried to explore the transition in gender perception and decision making power in mate selection process.

Methodology

Research Design

The quantitative method design was used to explore the choices of men and women regarding their spouses across two different generation.

Sampling

Purposive sampling technique was used to collect data from 240 participants, student (60 males and 60 females) with age range 17- 27 years old from colleges and universities and 120 parents (60 fathers and 60 mothers) with age range 39-66 years old. The students were enrolled in intermediate, bachelors and master's program of different department from different universities of Lahore.

Tool for Data Collection and Analysis

In the present study, self-constructed checklist '*Spouse Preferences among Individuals and Parents Perspective Checklist*' was used to find the preferences of students for their life partners. The same checklist was also

shared with their parents to know preferences for son-in-law and daughter-in-law as well. The checklist had different questions enlisted for the spouse qualities. Individuals had to give five preferences to write from highly preferred to least preferred. For statistical analysis of data the SPSS was used by applying descriptive analysis for identification of frequencies and percentage.

Hypothesis

These hypotheses formulated were as following;

1. There is gender difference in preferable age of marriage by male and female.
2. There is gender difference in age gap preference for life partners by male, female, and their parents.
3. There is gender difference in permission to students by parents to choose their life partners.
4. There is gender difference in preference about which type of marriage is productive.
5. There is gender difference in preferences of characteristics for selecting a spouse.
6. There is gender difference in preferable age of marriage by parents.
7. There is gender difference in parents' response about elder in marriage.
8. There is gender difference in permission for choosing a life partner to parents at their time of marriage
9. There is gender difference in preference of parents that which type of marriage is productive at their time
10. There is a gender difference in preferences of parents for choosing their daughters-in-law.
11. There is a gender difference in preferences of parents for choosing their son-in-law.

Procedure

In the present study, the researcher went to different colleges and universities including, LCWU, GCU, KC, PU for data collection. The respondents were briefly told about purpose of the research and ensured that their information will be kept confidential. When the researcher gave

consent, the data was gathered and clustered in different domains and categorized as following. (Table 1)

Table 1

<i>Demographic variables</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
Students		
M	60	50.0
F	60	50.0
Parents		
Mother	60	47.3
Father	60	37.3
Education of students		
Intermediate	40	33.3
Bachelors	40	33.3
Masters	40	33.3
Marital Status of parents		
Married	116	96.7
Divorce/Widow	4	3.3
Family Structure of students		
Joint	56	46.7
Nuclear	64	53.3
Income of parents		
10,000-30,000	18	15.0
40,000-70,000	66	55.3
80,000 and above	36	30.0

Results

Note. f = Frequency, % = Percentage

The above table is depiction of the demographical facts associated with respondents and their parents (Table 1).

Table 2

Gender Difference in Preferable age of marriage

<i>Ages</i>	<i>Girls (f)</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Boys (f)</i>	<i>%</i>
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18	0	0	1	1.7
20	1	1.7	0	0
22	3	5.0	0	0
23	3	5.0	0	0
24	21	35.0	0	0
25	14	23.3	6	10.0
26	8	13.3	2	3.3
27	8	13.3	9	15.0
28	1	1.7	22	36.7
29	1	1.7	7	11.7
30	0	0	13	21.7

The above table depicted that most of the girls preferred 24 to 25 years of age is perfect for marriage. Mostly, boys prefer to get married at the age of 28 and 30. (Table 2)

Table 3

Gender differences in age gap preference of life partners.

<i>Age difference for spouse</i>	<i>Girls (f)</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Boys (f)</i>	<i>%</i>
1	7	11.7	0	0
2	23	38.3	5	8.3
3	19	31.7	11	18.3
4	6	10.0	23	38.3
5	4	6.7	18	30.0
6	1	1.7	1	1.7
10	0	0	2	3.3

Above table showed that 2 and 3 years age gap was preferable by girls between their life partners. Boys preferred 4 and 5 years age difference between their life partners. Rarely prefer more age difference than that. (Table 3)

Table 4

Gender difference in Preference of who should be elder.

Elder	Girls (f)	%	Boys (f)	%
Respondents	4	6.7	55	91.7
Spouse	56	93.3	5	8.3

Table 4 indicated most of the girls preferred elder life partners for marriage. Most of the boys expected their life partners must be younger than them while rarely some boys expected elder life partners.

Table 5

Gender difference in permission to students by parents to choose their life partners

Permission	Girls (f)	%	Boys (f)	%
Yes	38	63.3	49	81.7
No	22	36.7	11	18.3

Above table indicated that girls had permission to choose their life partners. In many families girls didn't have even right or permission to about choosing their life partner. Boys of the 21st century got permission from their parents regarding choosing their life partners. (Table 5)

Table 6

Gender differences in preference about which type of marriage is productive

Opinion regarding marriage	Girls (f)	%	Boys (f)	%
Love marriage	12	20.0	19	31.7
Arrange marriage	8	13.3	15	25.0
Both	40	66.7	26	43.3

The above showed that most of the girls prefer both love and arrange marriages are productive than boys. Marriage is successful no matter it is love or arrange marriage. Most of the boys thought that arrange and love both marriages are productive in their ways. (Table 6)

Table 7
Gender differences in preferences of characteristics for life partners.

<i>Preferences</i>	<i>Girls (f)</i>		<i>%</i>	<i>Boys (f)</i>		<i>%</i>
Economically Stable	30	50.0	0	0		
Physical Appearance	14		23.3	25	41.7	
Educated	12		20.0	16	26.7	
Respectful	9		15.0	0		0
Honest	7	11.7		0	0	
Domestic	0		0	13		21.7
Soft Nature	0		0	14		23.3
Social	0		0	10		16.7
Strong personality	9		15.0	1		1.7
Capable of Everything	1		1.7	1		1.7
Loyal	4		6.7	1		1.7
Obedient	1		1.7	2		3.3
Religious	1		1.7	2		3.3
Same Caste	1		1.7	4		6.7
Broadminded	1		1.7	4		6.7
Compatible	2		3.3	4		6.7
Faithful	2		3.3	1		1.7
Liberal	1		1.7	1		1.7
Well behaved	2		3.3	1		1.7
Communicative	1		1.7	0		0
Fun loving	1		1.7	1		1.7
Generous	1		1.7	1		1.7
Jolly	1		1.7	1		1.7
Trustworthy	4		6.7	1		1.7
Understanding	4		6.7	1		1.7
Adjustable	2		3.3	1		1.7
Family background	1		1.7	1		1.7
Good cook	1		1.7	5		8.3
Sincere	2		3.3	1		1.7
Creative	2		3.3	1		1.7

Cooperative	2	3.3	1	1.7
Intellectual	4	6.7	1	1.7
Outspoken	2	3.3	1	1.7
Responsible	2	3.3	1	1.7
Sharp	1	1.7	1	1.7
Sophisticated	4	6.7	1	1.7
Well-mannered	0	0	1	1.7
Fun loving	0	0	3	5.0
Funny	0	0	1	1.7
Good listener	0	0	1	1.7

The above table 7 showed that students both girls and boys had varied preferences for their ideal life partner while looking for a marriage proposal.

Table 8

Gender differences in parents’ response about who was elder in marriage

<i>Elder</i>	<i>Father (n)</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Mother (n)</i>	<i>%</i>
Respondent	52	86.7	5	8.3
Spouse	8	13.3	55	91.7

The table 8 indicated that most of the fathers are elder than their life partners. Few of them have elder life partners and most of the women are younger than their life partners and very few of them are elder than their men’s life partners.

Table 9

Gender differences in permission for choosing a life partner to parents at their time of marriage

<i>Permission</i>	<i>Father (n)</i>	<i>%.</i>	<i>Mother (n)</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes.	21	35.0.	19	31.7
No.	39	65.0.	41	68.3

Table 9 revealed that most of the fathers didn't have permission for choosing their life partners. In the past, women didn't have permission and right for choosing their partner. Only a few of them had permission while choosing a partner.

Table 10

Gender differences in preference of parents that which type of marriage is productive at their time

Marriage	Father (n)	%	Mother (n)	%
Love marriage	12	20.0	5	8.3
Arrange marriage	32	53.3	20	33.3
Both	16	26.7	35	58.3

Fathers preferred that arranged marriages are more productive than love marriages. Most of the mothers preferred that love and arrange marriages are productive in their way. (Table 10)

Table 11

Gender differences in preferences of parents for choosing their daughters-in-law.

Preferences	Father (f)	%	Mother(f)	%
Educated	44	73.3	12	20.0
Domestic	41	68.3	49	81.0
Physical Appearance	13	21.7	9	15.0
Soft Nature	11	18.3	0	0
Respectful	8	13.3	0	0
Understanding	0	0	23	38.3
Social	0	1.7	13	21.7
Noble	1	1.7	0	0
Cooperative	1	1.7	0	0
Experienced	1	1.7	0	0
Helper	1	1.7	0	0

Quiet	1	1.7	0	0
Religious	1	1.7	0	0
Strong personality	2	3.3	0	0
Active	2	3.3	0	0
Cooperative	1	1.7	0	0
Confident	1	1.7	0	0
Honest	4	6.7	0	0
Loyal	2	3.3	0	0
Obedient	2	3.3	0	0
Sincere	4	6.7	0	0
Same caste	1	1.7	0	0
Ethically good	2	3.3	0	0
Family oriented	1	1.7	0	0
Jolly	1	1.7	0	0
Obedient	2	3.3	0	0
Outgoing	1	1.7	1	1.7
Good cook	0	0	1	1.7
Submissive	0	0	1	1.7
Compromising	0	0	1	1.7
Sacrificing	0	0	1	1.7
Sincere	0	0	1	1.7
hardworking	0	0	1	1.7
well behaved	0	0	1	1.7

The results in table 11 revealed that most of the father wanted that here daughter in law should be educated while mother preferred for a daughter-in-law who has ability in managing in household affairs.

Table 12

Gender differences in preferences of parents for choosing their sons-in-law

Preferences	Mother (f)	%	Father (f)	%
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Educated	14	23.3	51	
85.0				
Economically Stable	53	88.3	46	
76.7				
Family Background	30	50.0	41	
68.3				
Same Caste	13	19.0	13	
19.0				
Strong Personality	12	20.0	15	
25.0				
Understanding	8	13.3	8	
13.3				
Hardworking	1	1.7	1	1.7
Soft nature	4	6.7	0	0
Honest	1	1.7	1	1.7
Physical appearance	4	6.7	0	0
Same caste	1	1.7	1	1.7
Sincere	1	1.7	1	1.7
Trustable	1	1.7	1	1.7
Well-mannered	1	1.7	1	1.7
Healthy	1	1.7	1	1.7
Honest	1	1.7	1	1.7
Loyal	4	6.7	0	0
Noble	2	3.3	0	0
Obedient	2	3.3	0	0
Physical Appearance	4	6.7	0	0
Religious	2	3.3	0	0
Respectful	1	1.7	1	1.7
Compromising	2	3.3	0	0
Funny	1	1.7	1	1.7
Less Demanding	1	1.7	1	1.7
Obedient	2	3.3	0	0
Outgoing	2	3.3	0	0
Respectful	2	3.3	0	0
Responsible	1	1.7	1	1.7
Sensible	1	1.7	1	1.7

Social	4	6.7	0	0
Helpful	1	1.7	1	1.7
Less aggressive	1	1.7	1	1.7
Loyal	4	6.7	0	0
Respect other	1	1.7	1	1.7

The above table 12 showed that both parents wanted to have their son-in-law educated, economically stable, family background and strong personality.

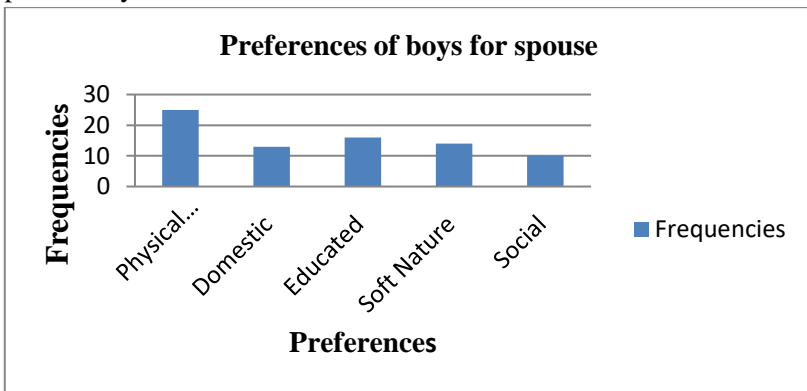


Figure 1 First five preferences made by boys for spouse

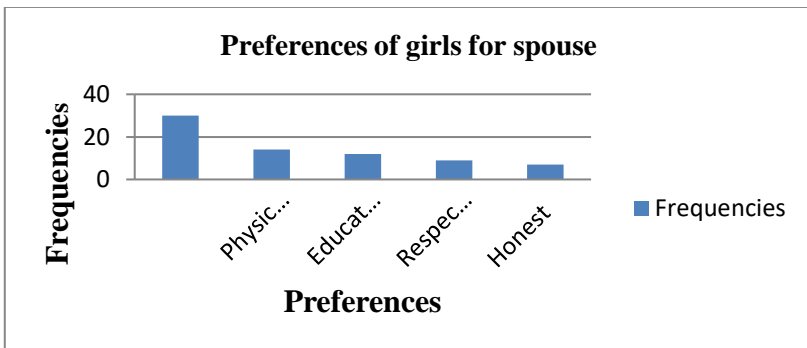


Figure 2 First five preferences made by girls for spouse

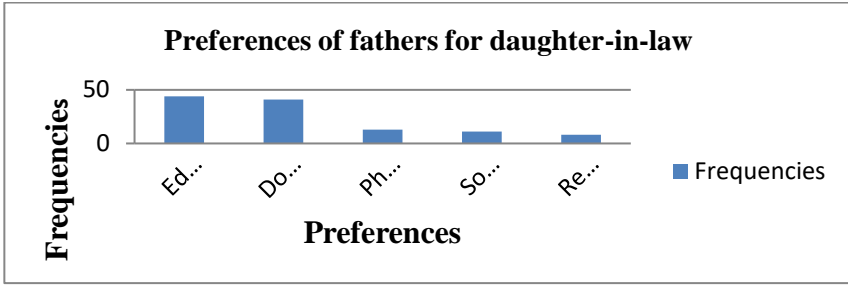


Figure 3 First five preferences made by fathers for choosing their daughter-in-laws

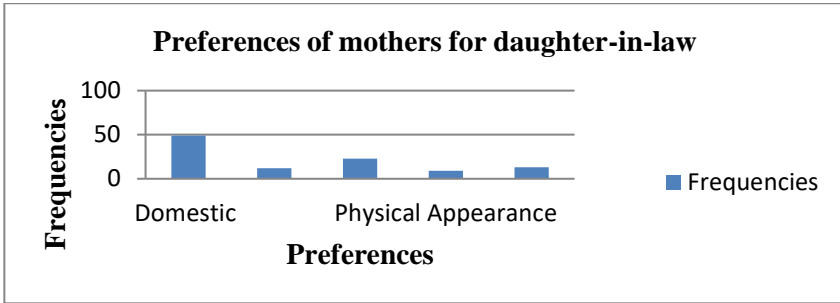


Figure 4 First five preferences made by mothers for choosing their daughter-in-laws

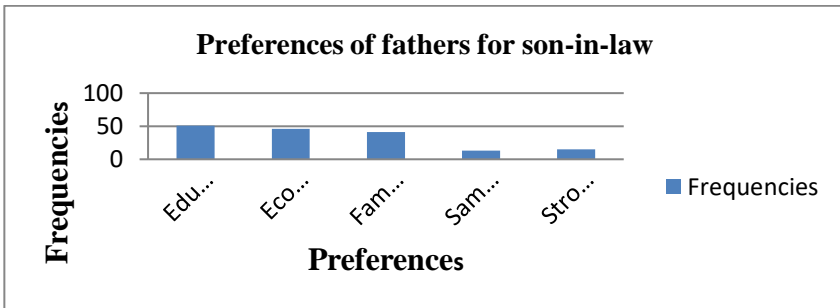


Figure 5 First five preferences made by fathers for choosing their son-in-laws

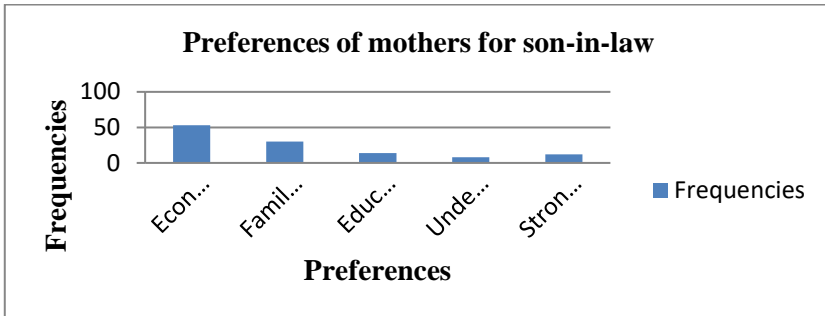


Figure 6 First five preferences made by mothers for choosing their son-in-laws

Discussion

The present study identified gender differences in preferences with respect to preferable demographics for ideal partner across different generation including students and their parents. Mostly boys preferred to marry young and beautiful women as they had standards for beauty, while women have been found to be more materialistic in preferences for spouse selection, they wanted to marry a man with solid resources, economic stability, and luxury lifestyle that would secure their future. With the passage of time, the advancement in technology gender differences in trends among individuals (boys and girls) and parents (mothers and fathers) for spouse selection have been evolved and somewhere still being persistent due to cultural expectation and mindset.

The present study identified some preferences that were enlisted by the participants in checklist which indicated the extent of preferences among males and females in spouse selection and regarding the selection of son-in-laws and daughter-in-laws by parents-in-law. The first hypothesis revealed that mostly girls preferred 24 to 25 years of age is ideal age for marriage than boys who were preferred to get married at the age of 28 and 30. That might be due to socially constructed expectation and societal pressure but when we look around people have been getting married according to their life circumstances regardless of social pressure.

The second hypothesis explored that mostly girls preferred 2 and 3 years age gap between them and their life partners. Boys preferred 4 and 5 years age difference with their life partners. Rarely preferred higher age

difference. That is also social expectation, although people are now getting married with a large age gap.

The third hypothesis found that all the boys wanted to be elder than their partner that is also due to patriarchal nature of society so they would be able to dominate and rule on their life partner and societal shame has also been associated with it if their partner will be elder than them. While girls also expected the same due to social mind set and practices. A study revealed that fathers occasionally promised their children that when the two children would reach age of agreement, they will consummate the engagement with the one they choose, and they tend to finish the relationship before marriage if they find the better option in Royal Rome (Corbier, 1991).

Fourth hypothesis indicated that the girls had permission to choose their life partners but in many families girls didn't have even right or permission to about choosing their life partner. Mostly boys of the 21st century got permission from their parents regarding choosing their life partners because boys are dominating and aggressive, they have more rights than girls. But trends have been changing gradually (Table 4). The in-depth interviews were conducted to explore dating, mate selection preferences and experiences of male and female belong to immigrant families. The results found that mostly immigrant parents had endogamy views and date experience of youngster was more likely inclined towards gender, birth order, and family. On the contrary, generally second generation preferred to have bicultural preference for partners (Nesteruk and Gramescu, 2012). Fifth hypothesis revealed that marriage can be successful either arranged or love, it all depends on our psychological and familial environment and relations that have been playing crucial role in this regard. But boys supported more for love marriage than girls. In the 21st century both boys and girls have become demanding due to excessive use of technology and social exposure, they know their rights and preferences for mate selection. In the present study sixth hypothesis explored the characteristics in demand by girls and boys for their life partner. The preferences, generated from the checklist were as following; Economically, Stable, Physical Appearance, Educated, Respectful, Honest, Domestic, Soft Nature, Social, Strong personality, Capable of Everything, Loyal, Obedient, Religious, Same, Caste, Broadminded, Compatible, Faithful, Liberal, Well behaved,

Communicative, Fun loving, Generous, Jolly, Trustworthy, Understanding, Adjustable, Family background, Good cook, Sincere, Creative, Cooperative, Intellectual, Outspoken, Responsible, Sharp, Sophisticated, Well-mannered, Funny, and Good listener.

Most of the boys demanded qualities for their spouse were shown in (Figure 1) i.e. physically beautiful, domestic, soft nature, educated and socially courteous wives. Mostly girls preferred to get married with a boys having following characteristics i.e. financially strong, physically strong/muscular, respectful, educated and honest as shown in (Figure 2). A study explored differences of mate selection among single adult by using national probability sample. Their preferences were identified by giving them 12 possible traits possess by a person. The results found that across different age groups and races, physical attractiveness and youthfulness were found to be important for men while for women .earning potential was found to be prioritized (Sprecher, Sullivan, & Hatfield, 1994).

Seventh hypothesis found the right to choose life partner by parents of the same students' in 20th century. Mostly older of the family member fixed their marriage while mostly father had permission to choose life partner. At that time people rely on their elders for their decisions.

Eight hypotheses found the perception of parents about productivity of type of marriage; both parents supported for arrange marriage because they look for proposal according to social standards. (Table 8) A study was carried out in china for identifying patterns of dating and mate selection, the results revealed that despite of modernization and economic change, young women preferred for a dating partner with the materialistic qualities of a man as compared to young men's preferences who had been focus more upon a women's physical appearance (Blair, 2021).

When the parents preference for being elder in marriage was explored in ninth hypothesis, it was revealed that mostly fathers were elder in age to their mother just 5 mothers were elder to their husbands. We are living in Pakistan where age is big factor causing hindrance in marriage for many girls in our society and it is socially constructed expectation that males should be elder than female while looking for a marriage proposal. So it was found that generation gap in ages is still persisted.

When parents right of choosing mate at their young age was analyzed, the tenth hypothesis revealed that 25-30 years ago, most of the fathers had right to choose life partners while scarcely mothers had choice or will in this regard. In contemporary world, females still couldn't have this right. In bagalkot, a study was conducted to explore trends and patterns in mate selection among student. The interviews were conducted from 762 respondents. The findings revealed that for marriage the caste with parents' consent and traditional rituals, matching of horoscope was favored while dowry was considered evil tradition. Male respondents preferred to get married with younger female, on the other hand females prefer near their own age or older 2-3 years of age (SJ, 2013).

When eleventh hypothesis explored the opinion of parents according to their life experiences about marriage type which could be productive, mostly fathers were of the opinions that arrange marriage is successful as compare to love marriage. On the other hand mothers also supported the same for arrange marriage but mostly mothers showed their agreeableness for both type of marriages.

When twelfth hypothesis was analyzed to find gender differences in preferences of parents for choosing their daughters-in-law, following preferences were identified from checklist i.e. Educated, Domestic, Physical Appearance, Soft Nature, Respectful, Understanding, Social, Noble, Cooperative, Experienced, Helper, Quiet, Religious, Strong personality, Active, Cooperative, Confident, Honest, Loyal, Obedient, Sincere, Same caste, Ethically good, Family oriented , Jolly, Obedient, Outgoing, Good cook, Submissive, Compromising, Sacrificing, Sincere, Hardworking, and Well behaved.

The results revealed that mostly fathers expected their daughter-in-law should be educated, physically beautiful, soft nature, educated and respectful as shown in (Figure 3). While mothers preferred for more educated, domestic, understanding, beautiful, and social nature for daughter-in-law, which might be proved the traditional or stereotypical expectation based on socially constructed roles and duties expected by society (Figure 4). The finding of a study revealed implication of society is based on model of traditional perspectives for mate preferences, which assumed that the opposite-sex parent has greater influence on adult preferences and ethological models assumed that parent's sex might not be

the indicator to influence on mate preferences (Heffernan, Chong, & Fraley, 2019).

When gender differences in preferences of parents for choosing their son-in-law were identified following codes were generated from the checklist i.e. Educated, Economically Stable, Family Background, Physical Appearance, Soft Nature, Respectful, Understanding, Social, Noble, Helper, Religious, Strong personality, Honest, Loyal, Same caste, Obedient, Compromising, Sincere, Hardworking, Trustable, well mannered, Healthy, Funny, Less demanding, outgoing, Respectful, Responsible, Sensible, Less aggressive, and Respect others.

Most of the fathers preferred for educated, family background, same caste, strong personality, and economic stability in their son-in-law, as shown in (Figure 5). A research identified single adult preferences for their future partners' family configurations by using online dating records from a matchmaking agency in Japan. The result found that partners' family characteristics stem from social stereotypical family traits that were based to avoid large families (Yu, & Hertog, 2018).

On the other hand, when the preferences of mother for choosing their sons-in-law were identified, the most frequent answers were well educated, good family background, strong personality, understanding, and economically stable as shown in (Figure 6). The research by Sepehri and Bagherian (2013) found that mothers of girls prefer highly qualified, handsome salaries and attractive kind of son-in-law for their daughters. The findings made the present study significant as it depicted the socio-cultural patterns for choosing mate by all the participants i.e. boys, girls, mothers and fathers.

Conclusion

The research gave us a view that how a person chooses a spouse with their parent's perspective that couldn't be changed over the time. The study focused on two generations' perceived preferences of qualities for choosing their partners. The study was also compared with the literature of older studies to provide the best knowledge about spouse selection in Lahore.

According to the current study most frequently, boys preferred physically attractive, educated, domestic women who would manage the home, children, and their parents. On the other hand, women preferred

financially strong, educated, elder, mature, and practical. The study also explored the generation gap in decision making and freedom to choose life partners with respect to few indicators such as ideal age of marriage, age gap with spouse, and type of productive marriage. Gender differences were found to be clearly evident across generations.

The findings revealed sorts of qualities that might be looking while selection of daughter-in-law and son-in-law. Usually parents preferred that their daughter-in-law should have quality to handle domestic chores and educated. Most of the parents preferred to have son-in-law belong to good family background and have solid resources so that their daughters would have a good future with all the facilities of life. The current study also explained that parent's plays a significant role in the process of spouse selection and favor them if child wants to get married to a spouse who will be acceptable by their parents and society. It was identified from the analysis that parents' acceptance of choosing a partner would be the top priority for marriage. The present study came into limelight that people are inspired by professional women but they still don't prefer working female while looking for a proposal regardless of education. That socially constructed mind set for gender roles has been prevailing in Pakistan.

Furthermore, every society has been undergone through considerable transition of modernization and economic status; young people still have the same basic goal as previous generations to find an intimate partner and eventually a spouse. A contemporary pattern of mate selection has been practicing within the same context of traditional gender role, ideologies and considerations by various families in Pakistan.

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