

Socio-economic adjustment of late age married working couples

■ Gaytri Tiwari* and Jaswant Deora

College of Home Science, Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, UDAIPUR (RAJASTHAN) INDIA

ARTICLE INFO :

Received : 14.10.2017
Revised : 05.11.2017
Accepted : 19.11.2017

KEY WORDS :

Marital adjustment, Life satisfaction, Health, Late age couples

HOW TO CITE THIS ARTICLE :

Tiwari, Gaytri and Deora, Jaswant (2017). Socio-economic adjustment of late age married working couples. *Adv. Res. J. Soc. Sci.*, 8 (2) : 343-348, DOI: 10.15740/HAS/ARJSS/8.2/343-348.

*Author for correspondence

ABSTRACT

As divorce has become common in almost all countries, many social scientists are attempting to understand the factors that hold marriages together or contribute to divorce. Micro-level research has related divorce to various demographic, socio-economic, and social-psychological factors recent research has usually reported an inverse association between the socio-economic status of the late age married working couples. On the one hand, the socio-economic differentials in divorce risk could be expected to increase with time in the marriage. This is because the socio-economic status of spouses as well as the spouses' perceptions and evaluations of the family's socio-economic status should crystallize as the duration of marriage increases and as the spouse's age. Economic insecurity and a low socio-economic adjustment are frequent among late age married working spouses, who are just establishing their families, beginning their work lives. The socio-economic adjustment of late age married working couples is usually lower. The present study "socio-economic adjustment in late age married working couples" was undertaken with specific objectives : 1) To explore the socio-economic adjustment. The sample for the purpose, was comprised of total 60 couples(120 subjects) between the age range of 32-45 years. Subjects selected were late age married working couples living in nuclear and joint family set-up. A marital adjustment Scale(MAS) was developed by the researcher to find the socio-economic adjustment level of couples.

INTRODUCTION

Marriage is a complex phenomenon in today's changing society. People marry for various reasons. Besides sex and sexual attraction which are primary considerations, love, economic security, companionship, protection, emotional security, escape from loneliness and unhappy home situation, adventure of common interests, and children are the few other reasons that may constitute person's disposition for marriage. It is a well-known fact that the age-at marriage of couples is changing over a period of time, because of the social changes like

modernization and greater awareness about the ill-effects of early marriages and due to industrialization, urbanization. The life style and attitude of people have remarkably changed. This has brought about changes in the values relating to marriage and the trend towards late marriage, which has come about in the society. Women started postponing their marriages and concentrating more on careers. This has not only affected their adjustment but health too, which includes psycho-physical and sexual health in particular. Successful marriage is an important issue in the pursuit of effective performance of marital roles. In spite of many researches

done in this area, the various psychological parameters are not fully explored. Marital adjustment problems and dissolution of marriages of late married couples are increasing day by day. It shows that there has been a lacuna in this direction. Therefore, in the present study, an attempt has been made to study the, psycho-physical health of late married couples. Discussing problems together, sharing views, and sacrificing self-interest to the extent that other may enjoy some privileges and opportunities are important aspects of the modern marriage. Changes in the family systems have brought different attitudes. The health of a person is very important as it affects his total Functioning. The person who is not physically and psychologically healthy cannot stay happy and shows signs of depression, frustration and inferiority. Such a person cannot contribute anything to the family and society and would rather hamper the progress of others and the nation. Men and women have adapted changes in marriage preferences according to the changing demands of the society. In retrospect what has affected them to go for late marriage or delayed marriage is a question of vital importance. Are late married couples happy and satisfied with their own decision or with this trend and how has this affected their psycho-physical health is main concern.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study entitled “Socio-economic adjustment of late age married working couples.” was carried out during the year 2015-2016 in Udaipur city of Rajasthan.

This section deals with the approach that was followed to accomplish the objectives of the present study. The worth of all research findings depends heavily on the manner in which the data was collected and analyzed. Hence, this chapter deals with the detailed description of method and procedures followed in carrying out the present study under the following headings:

Research design:

Exploratory research design was followed to find the socio-economic adjustment of late married couples.

Locale of study:

The present study was conducted in Udaipur city of Rajasthan purposively in view of ease of operation of

the study.

Sample design :

The sample was comprised of 120 respondents (60 dual earner couples) which were selected through purposive sampling technique.

Sample characteristics :

The sample design is given below:-

Rajasthan



Udaipur



60 late age married (dual earner couples)

The age range selected for the study was 32 years to 45 years belonging to nuclear and joint middle class families *i.e.* having monthly per capita income ranging from Rs. 30000/- to Rs. 70000/- (Urban Improvement Trust, Udaipur, 2007) residing within the municipal limits of Udaipur city.

In all, 60 male and 60 female in the age range of 32 to 45 years of nuclear and joint families were selected. The sample for the present study was constituted with only late married dual earner couples.

Procedure for sample selection:

For the purpose of sample selection 120 respondents (60 Dual earner late age married couples) of Udaipur City were personally contacted by the investigator to seek them permission. After seeking the permission a survey was conducted for final sample selection by using preliminary proforma. Total eligible subject were 120.

Research tools and their description :

Selection and development of tools to achieve the objectives of the research is an important step in any research. Keeping in mind the purpose of the study and it's inherent research variables, the investigator used following major research tools for data collection:

Marital adjustment scale (MAS) :

First step of scale development process, wherein the items related to different aspects of a measurable set of attributes were listed through reference work. The items related to socio – economic adjustment was formulated from the literature available in books, journals and various other literature sources. This helped in

generating an exhaustive list of items. In all 36 items were formulated to measure the socio – economic adjustment.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results obtained from the present investigation as well as relevant discussion have been summarized under following heads :

Socio – economic adjustment :

Marriage is a complex phenomenon in today's changing society. People marry for various reasons. Besides sex and sexual attraction which are primary considerations, love, economic security, companionship, protection, emotional security, escape from loneliness and unhappy home situation, adventure of common interests, and children are the few other reasons that may constitute person's disposition for marriage, stated by Bowman (2015)

Percentage (%) distribution of overall socio – economic adjustment level of couples

The adjustment level of couples with socio – economic aspects. Majority of couples (n=62, 51.67%) reported less adjustment level with socio-economic adjustment (aspects included as- societal pressure, approval and disapproval of society, social support, life partner higher position developed inferiority, shy with children, adjustment problems) while 37.50% couples (n=45) stated that they were average adjusted with socio – economic aspects. Only 5% couples (n=6) were fall into the category of least adjusted with their socio – economic status. Surprisingly, in spite of dual earning only 4 couples (4.17%) were well adjusted followed by very well adjusted (n=2,1.67%) with their socio-economic aspects.

Fincham and Beach (2000) summarized that the term socio-economic as circumstances or development involves combination of social and economic factors. Economic means concern with the organization of the money, whereas socio is an adjective that refers to something that related to social factor, means relating to the status or rank that someone has in society. In short, socio-economic is defined as things that are related with organization of money and how it may affect the status or rank of a person in society. Bradbury *et al.* (2000) noted that socio-economic factor is one of the important factors in determining couple's marital satisfaction. It is

crucial and important for the survival of the family life.

In case of adjustment with socio-economic, the section concludes that financial problem can shake even the strongest and happiest dual earner couples. Furthermore, the reason is that couples who have a good financial saving can use it to buy facilities that can help their togetherness for long. If the economic management is not mutual than conflicts arises between couples. It goes without saying that good financial condition will tend to bring a satisfied marital relationship.

Socio- economic adjustment level of husband and wife:

Only one husband reported that he was well adjusted (n=1, 1.67%) followed by same finding in the category of very well adjusted (n=1, 1.67%) with socio-economic

Table 1 : Percentage (%) distribution of overall socio – economic adjustment level of couples (n=120)

Adjustment level	n	Percentage
Least adjusted	6	5.00
Less adjusted	62	51.67
Average adjusted	45	37.50
Well adjusted	5	4.17
Very well adjusted	2	1.67
Total	120	100

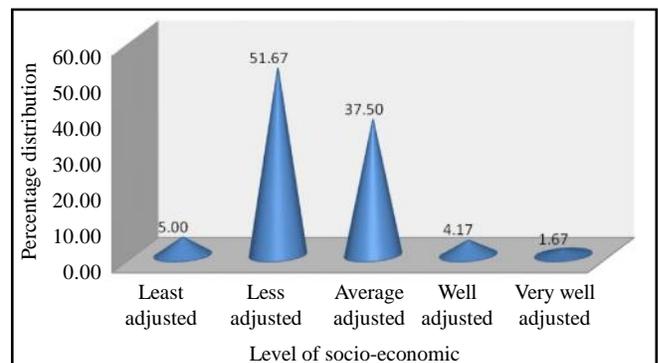


Fig. 1 : Percentage (%) distribution of overall socio – economic adjustment level of couples

aspects. Majority of them (n=39, 65%) opined that they were less adjusted with their socio-economic adjustment (aspects included as- fight immediately after stress, argue with each other on household chores, unequal conviction in god, think early marriage is more beneficial). About one forth, that is 25% husband (n=15) said that their adjustment level with socio-economic aspect was average

and rest of the husband (n=4, 6.67%) stated that they were least adjusted.

As table delineates that 50% of wife (n=30) were belong to the category of average socio-economic adjustment (aspects included as- working status is a reason of quarrel, interpersonal relationship, stress due to working statu, feel comfortable in social function and activities, social prestige, less dependency, able to fulfill family requirement) followed by less adjusted (n=23, 38.33%) and least adjusted (n=2, 3.33%). Only 4 wife opined that their life with socio-economic aspects was well adjusted (n=4, 6.67%) and merely one wife was very well adjusted (n=1, 1.67%).

Clements *et al.* (2004) explored that husband and wife experience marriages differently and have different expectations from it. Research suggests that husband generally report higher levels of marital satisfaction when compared to wives and that wives marital experiences are more negative than those of husband. This, especially

when coupled with careers, can lead to a different set of expectations and role reversals on several fronts. For instance, the high level of education that goes with a career status and the financial independence that a career accords a woman, may enable her to be more vocal regarding disagreements with the spouse and she may have greater expectations from her husband on sharing of household tasks.

Wilkie *et al.* (1998) revealed that role preference affects marital satisfaction mainly through perceptions of “fairness”. Both husbands and wives, feeling as if one is doing more than their fair share is dissatisfying. In relation to the wife’s percentage income over the combined income of husband and wife, a high percentage of the wife’s income may be interpreted by the wife as an unfairness in part of the husband. The wife may think that she is doing more than her fair share, because the husband is not doing his breadwinner role, therefore it leads to dissatisfaction with male adjustment level.

Table 2 : Percentage (%) distribution of husband and wife in socio – economic adjustment (n=120)

Adjustment level	Husband		Wife	
	n	Percentage	n	Percentage
Least adjusted	4	6.67	2	3.33
Less adjusted	39	65.00	23	38.33
Average adjusted	15	25.00	30	50.00
Well adjusted	1	1.67	4	6.67
Very well adjusted	1	1.67	1	1.67
Total	60	100	60	100

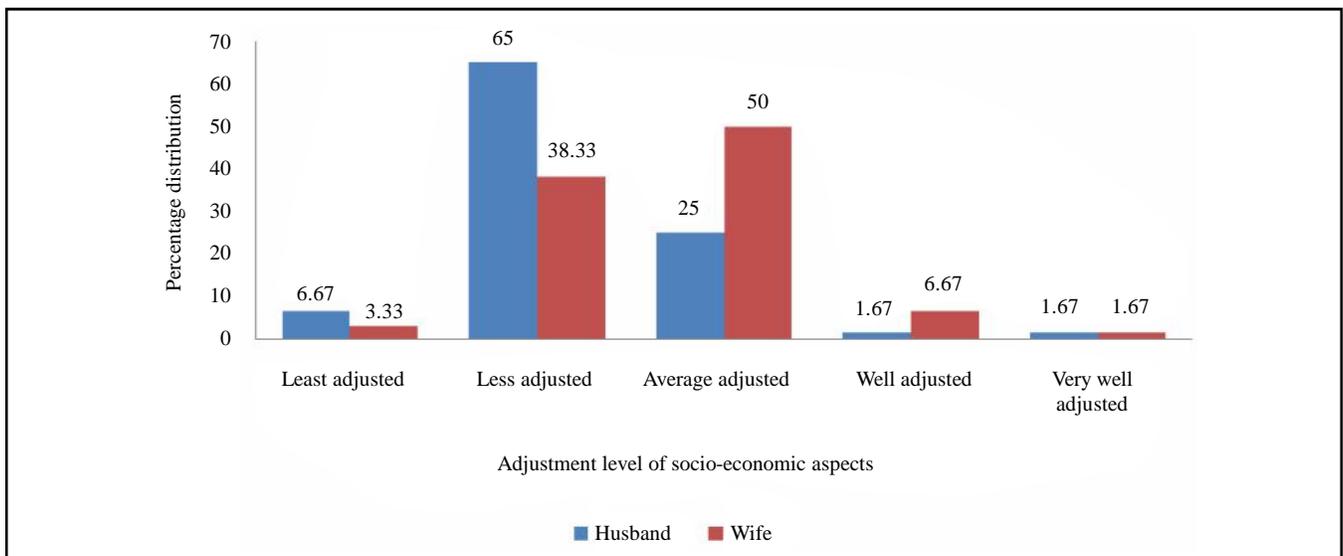


Fig. 2 : Percentage (%) distribution of husband and wife in socio-economic adjustment gender wise difference in socio-economic adjustment level of couples

Table 3 : Gender wise difference in socio – economic adjustment level of couples					(n=120)	
Husband (n=60)		Wife (n=60)		t-value	Result	
Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.			
64.1	16.16	77.9	13.51	5.075	Significant	

Level of Significance = 5%

This part concludes that husband have less socio-economic satisfaction It is also possible that the negative decrease of marital satisfaction experienced by the wife who has higher income than the husband is caused by the negative reaction of the husband towards the wife's higher earnings. The wife's income negatively affects marriage by threatening the spouse's role complementarities, as the husband perceives this as a challenge to his status as the family's primary breadwinner.

Findings of, Henry and Parthasarathy (2010) envisaged that the dual-earning couple's situation furnishes compelling evidence of the increasing educational and career aspirations of wife. A significant proportion of these wives in the workforce comprise wives and mothers whose employment status will demand a significant change in their pattern of activities, commitments and responsibilities, requiring a reassessment of the family environment. Rangarao and Sekhar (2002) reported that the changing cultural practices, growing instances of marital breakdown, and the nuclearisation of families, point to the possibility of heightening intra- and inter-familial tensions, affecting the quality and satisfaction of the marital relationship itself. Kausar (2003) studied the effect of personality traits and socio-economic status on marriage adjustment in working women and found no difference between marital adjustment of working women of low, middle and high socio-economic background and attributed that personality trait could be the factor liable for the marital adjustment in working and non-working female rather than being the socio-economic factor.

Overall picture of this aspect of the study shows that the correlation between some of the socio-economic variables such as the wife's income, husband's income, and the combined income of husband and wife do not yield any significant result with wife's marital satisfaction. However, it was found that there is a negative correlation between the percentage of wife's income (over the combined income of husband and wife) and her marital satisfaction. The higher the percentage of the wife's income (over the combined income), the lower

her marital satisfaction.

Table highlight that adjustment level of female couples was better than their corresponding couples regarding socio-economic aspects. Statistically t-value shows that adjustment level of female couples was significantly higher than the male couples.

Greenhaus and Beutell (1985) reported that socio-economic status management is the major challenge, faced by dual earner couple. Philliber and Hiller (1983) asserted that problems do occur in marriages when the wife's attainments are higher than her husband's. Marital and life satisfactions were less among men whose attainments were less than their wives and among women whose attainments were greater than their husbands'. The relationship is even stronger among people with high achievement orientation.

To wrap up the research suggests that the amount of money that the couple's have may not be that crucial in determining wife's marital satisfaction. This finding would give hope that those who have less in terms of socio-economic status can still achieve a high level of marital satisfaction. At the same time, it gives warning to those who have a higher socio-economic status that there is no guarantee that their high socio-economic status will make them experience high level of marital satisfaction.

Conclusion:

Husband have less socio-economic satisfaction as compare to wife. It is also possible that the negative decrease of marital satisfaction experienced by the wife who has higher income than the husband is caused by the negative reaction of the husband towards the wife's higher earnings. The wife's income negatively affects marriage by threatening the spouse's role complementarities, as the husband perceives this as a challenge to his status as the family's primary breadwinner. To wrap up the research suggests that the amount of money that the couple's have may not be that crucial in determining wife's marital satisfaction. This finding would give hope that those who have less in terms of socio-economic status can still achieve a high level of

marital satisfaction. At the same time, it gives warning to those who have a higher socio-economic status that there is no guarantee that their high socio-economic status will make them experience high level of marital satisfaction.

REFERENCES

- Bowman (2015). *Marriage for moderns*. (7th Ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill Books.
- Bradbury, T.N., Fincham, F.D. and Beach, S.R.H. (2000). Research on the nature and determinants of marital satisfaction: A decade in review. *J. Marriage & Family*, **62**: 964-980.
- Clements, M.L., Stanley, S.M. and Markman, H.J. (2004). Discriminating among marital outcomes. *J. Marriage & Family*, **66** : 613–626.
- Greenhaus, J. and Beutell, N. (1985). Sources of conflict between work and family roles. *J. Management Review*, **10**: 76-88.
- Henry, J. and Parthasarathy, R. (2010). The family and work connect: A case for relationship-focused family life education. *Indian J. Occupational & Environ. Med.*, **14** (1): 13-16.
- Kausar, A. (2003). Personality traits and socio-economic status as predictors of marital adjustment in working women. PhD Thesis, University of Karachi.
- Philliber, W.W. and Hiller, D.V. (1983). Relative occupational attainments of spouses and later changes in marriage and wife's work experience. *J. Marriage & Family*, **45**:161-170.
- Rangarao, A. and Sekhar, K (2002). Divorce: Process and correlates a cross-cultural study. *J. Comparative Family Studies*, **33** (4): 541-63.
- Wilkie, J.R., Ferre, M.M. and Ratcliff, K.S. (1998). Gender and fairness: Marital satisfaction in two-earner couples. *J. Marriage & Family*, **32** (3): 54-63.

8th
Year
★★★★★ of Excellence ★★★★★