

Family Expectations and Social Pressures: A Case Study of Late Marriage in Kashmir

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the intricate relationships between social forces, personal preferences, and family expectations that underlie the late marriage phenomena in Kashmir. We employed a qualitative research methodology to interview thirty people who had postponed marriage over the customary age. Our research indicates that while social pressures and family expectations are important factors in influencing the decision to put off marriage, personal preferences and goals are also quite important. The study has implications for practitioners, policymakers, and individuals attempting to negotiate the intricacies of marriage and family life. It also emphasises the need for a nuanced knowledge of the variables affecting late marriage in Kashmir.

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Introduction

In Kashmiri society, marriage is a monumental event that is frequently perceived as a familial and social institution rather than an individual decision (Bhat, 2017). Marriage is traditionally assumed to occur while a person is relatively young, with women marrying in their late teens or early twenties and men marrying in their early twenties (Kaur, 2016). Nonetheless, there has been a trend in recent years towards delayed marriage, with many young Kashmiris opting to wait till their late 20s or even 30s to be married (Hussain, 2020).



Literature Review

Studies on late marriage in Kashmir are scarce, but they indicate that social pressures and family expectations are important factors in determining whether or not to delay marriage (Bhat, 2017; Kaur, 2016). Nonetheless, personal decisions and goals are also quite important; many young Kashmiris want to go to college, start their own businesses, and become financially secure before getting married (Hussain, 2020).

Methodology

A qualitative research methodology was employed in this study, and thirty people who had postponed marriage over the customary age were interviewed in-depth. Using a snowball sampling technique, initial participants recommended friends and acquaintances who fit the selection criteria in order to recruit new participants. Interviews were audio recorded with consent and conducted in either English or Kashmiri, based on participant preference.

Findings

Our results imply that the decision to put off marriage is significantly influenced by social pressures and family expectations. In order to pursue their education, occupations, or personal objectives, several participants choose to postpone marriage despite feeling pressure from their relatives to get married young.

One person stated, "I wanted to complete my education and find employment before getting married." "But my parents were pressuring me to get married, saying that I was getting too old."

But the decision to put off marriage was also heavily influenced by personal preferences and goals. Before getting married, several participants said they wanted freedom, personal development, and financial security.

Another participant stated, "Until I was financially stable, I didn't want to get married." "I wanted to be able to support myself and my future family."



Discussion

Our results demonstrate the complexity of social forces, personal preferences, and family expectations that all play a role in Kashmir's late marriage phenomena. Delaying marriage is influenced by a variety of factors, including social pressures and family expectations, but personal preferences and goals are also quite important.

The study has ramifications for practitioners, legislators, and anybody attempting to negotiate the challenges of marriage and family life. It draws attention to the need for a comprehensive knowledge of the variables affecting late marriage in Kashmir and recommends that practitioners and policymakers treat the needs of young people holistically.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this study has examined the intricate relationships between social influences, personal preferences, and family expectations that lead to the occurrence of late marriage in Kashmir. Our results point to the need for a more sophisticated understanding of the variables affecting late marriage and recommend that practitioners and policymakers treat young people's needs holistically.

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