

EXPECTATIONS REGARDING MARRIAGE

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ABSTRACT

This case study aimed to describe the expectations regarding marriage among males and females. A semi-structured questionnaire was formed for this purpose, which served as the guideline for the interviewers. A sample of 8 participants was taken (7 females and 1 male). The age range was from 25 to 40 years. Participants were briefed about the purpose of the study and all queries were answered. Participants were instructed to reveal their inner feelings and to answer each question truly and honestly. Demographic information (Name, age, and gender: male/female, education, marital status, year of marriage, no. of children, permanent residence, designation, and place) was also taken. The time for each interview was 45 to 60 minutes. Results show that life before marriage is full of fantasies and a lot of desires that one wishes to fulfil but after marriage practical life starts and one has to keep mouth shut and ears big. The majority of the participants live a healthy and prosperous life because of deep understanding and a strong bond of love between them.

Keywords: expectations, desires, strong bond

INTRODUCTION

Two adults openly recognize their rights and responsibilities in a socially acknowledged, stable, and lasting partnership, thereby creating a new bond between their respective families. Marriage is a distinctive partnership between two people, each with their interests, desires, and needs, influenced by societal norms and legal structures. This relationship significantly impacts personal development and self-fulfillment (Ersanlı & Kalkan, 2008).

The concept of marriage is transforming into a structure defined by equality. Nevertheless, as divorce rates rise, the way marriage is viewed and the interactions between partners have gained greater importance (Celik, 2006). Simone de Beauvoir (2000) has observed that "Marriage" "is the destiny

traditionally offered by society. "However, marriage is no more than one event in a man's life, but the only important event in a woman's life.

1.2 Concept of South Asian Marriage.

The marriage traditions in South Asia differ significantly from those in East and Southeast Asia, especially due to parents' continued practice of arranged marriages. Understanding the marriage systems in South Asia thoroughly requires considering the prevailing kinship and family setups (Das Gupta, 2010).

Marriage holds great cultural and religious significance in South Asian nations. Traditionally, families have played a key role in arranged

marriages, considering factors such as family reputation, social status, and economic considerations. While arranged marriages are still common, there is an increasing trend towards love marriages, especially among younger individuals. However, family approval and involvement remain important, even in love-based unions.

1.3 Perception of marriage between boys and girls.

Marriage encounters challenges in modern society (Davis-Fine, 2011). The changing perspectives on family and marriage are heavily influenced by younger individuals who have been raised by unmarried or divorced parents. Our personal experiences greatly influence our attitudes and expectations toward marriage, ultimately impacting how we view relationships (Riggio and Weiser, 2008).

The quality of family and parental dynamics has been linked to more favorable attitudes toward marriage, as highlighted by (Akers-Woody, 2004). Research conducted by (Riggio and Weiser, 2008), building on the work of Prislin (Ovellette, 1996), suggests that deeply ingrained attitudes toward marriage are stronger predictors of opinions on general marriage issues and relationship scenarios than less firmly held beliefs. Additionally, societal influences such as divorce, culture, and religion shape individuals' perspectives on marriage, resulting in a wide range of both positive and negative viewpoints based on personal experiences. (Bharsakharte, 2013) observed that many people in today's society view marriage as an outdated institution that does not align with the complexities of modern life. Therefore, it is important to acknowledge that attitudes towards marriage can encompass both positive and negative elements.

Every person enters the marriage relationship with certain expectations. These expectations come from many sources such as parents, values, society, books, ideas, etc. It is very important to take the time to find out what these expectations are, which can be achieved, which are realistic, and how to handle them when things do not go according to plans. The word expectation carries with it the attitude of hope. Hope has been defined as "the anticipation of something good." Hope is necessary as it motivates us and often keeps us going. Other expectations include;

Emotional Closeness:

Emotional closeness is an emotional bond characterized by mutual understanding, trust, vulnerability, and communication. Being emotionally close to someone means feeling comfortable sharing thoughts, feelings, hopes, dreams, and fears without the fear of judgment. People in an intimate relationship possess a great deal of invested energy and emotions which as a result build a strong sense of emotional closeness between them Ben, A. (2012). According to Chaney, C. (2014). Emotional closeness is directly linked with the outcome of a stable relationship.

Physical Closeness:

People view dyadic proximity as an all-encompassing, satisfying feeling that cannot be divided. Three key differences can be used to conceptualize it: The created meanings of proximity against its representations; emotional versus physical closeness; and a comparatively steady relationship attribute versus a shifting situational state. (Adital Ben-Ari 2007)

Appropriate space:

Contemporary research on union formation frequently reflects the fact that marriage and modern society are inextricably interwoven. The study of traditional marriage is significantly more complex today than it was in the past due to unprecedented changes in the timing, duration, and sequencing of intimate co-residential relationships. (Sharon Sassler, Daniel T Lichter 2020)

Sharing:

The views of men and women in Pakistan regarding the roles that are expected of a husband and wife, and how marriage conflict and, in turn, intimate partner violence are addressed. Forty-one individual interviews, twenty from Pakistan and twenty from the UK, were used to gather data for this qualitative study in a community environment. Both of the primary themes each with two subthemes presented the findings. The themes of "provider and protector" and "caretaker and household manager" correspond to the roles that are expected of husbands and wives, respectively. Together with cultural and societal conventions, gender role views also influence the

many expectations husbands and wives have of one another. (Parveen Azam Ali 2022)

Responsibility:

Most people view marriage as a cultural construct in addition to a natural event. Because of this, the way that human marriages are formed varies depending on the cultural background of each group. Additionally, since marriage is closely related to the advancement of each person's cultural environment, the marriage bond that forms between two spouses may also differ.

Islam's teachings govern the responsibilities of husband and wife in Pakistani society. Given that they support and satisfy their financial needs with their wealth, it symbolizes men's role as maintainers of women. Islam assigns men the responsibility of providing for women's material needs. Men are held accountable for meeting the family's financial needs, while women are responsible for providing for the children's upbringing, education, grooming, and other necessities. It was determined that women are better suited for becoming homemakers due to their genetic makeup, while males are stronger physically and more responsible with money. She possesses the ability to become pregnant, carry and deliver the child, and then care for the newborn. Her compassionate, selfless, and gentle nature makes her the perfect child. (Nawaz. S, Kiran. A 2022)

Commitment:

Le and Agnew (2003) described commitment as a well-known but intricate and multi-dimensional concept. The majority of researchers concur that commitment involves assessing the costs and benefits, as well as various factors that strengthen the bond between partners and encourage them to invest in their relationship, rather than being swayed by appealing alternatives that might distract them (Rusbult, 1980). (Stanley and Markman, 1992) identified two key elements of commitment: personal dedication and constraint. Commitment may serve as an initial limitation, while other factors evolve gradually. These factors include financial obligations, parental responsibilities, societal and familial expectations, and a scarcity of choices. Such elements can help maintain the bond between couples during both challenging and favorable times (Waite et al., 2002; Reibstein, 1997; Stanley, 2002).

According to our religion, the Quran says that pairing is a concept that is not exclusive to humans. In pairs, Allah Almighty created the universe and all its components. This concept of pairing demonstrates Sunnat Ullah, showcasing Allah's intention for His creations. This principle is emphasized in various verses of the Qur'an, such as Surah Adz Dzariyat/51:49, which mentions:

وَمِنْ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ خَلَقْنَا زَوْجَيْنِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ

It means: "And all things we created in pairs that you might remember (the greatness of God)".

At the same place Allah (SWT) pays much importance to the equality of husband and wife and rightly explained the responsibilities they have towards each other. Allah (SWT) says: "Your wives are a garment for you, and you are a garment for them." (2:187) so a husband and wife complete each other - each one takes on a new aspect of their humanity, a new facet, and depth to their personality by entering into marriage and this is symbolized in this verse.

(Yamani, M, 2021) conducted research on potential racial or cultural divides, the essence of Islam should ideally foster unity among Muslims. Indeed, is it possible to identify a clear paternal and family-based bias in Islamic marriage generally? In the majority of Islamic Sunni civilizations, a woman needs to be given in Marriage by a male guardian rather than being able to enter into one on her own. Islamic law does not recognize joint property. Along with money from inheritance and gifts, a woman's dower makes up a portion of her wealth. Throughout history, we have been exchanged between groups of people to strengthen their political and economic links in the majority of cultures.

(Thuy-Trinh Ngo-Thi et al., 2022) The study looked at how premarital sexual permissiveness and expectations for marriage affect Vietnamese emerging adults' intentions to marry, this study looked at both direct and indirect impacts. The major conclusions showed that (i) premarital sexuality permissiveness mediates the relationship between expected actions for marital relationship and marital intention; (ii) individuals' expectations for marital relationships have a direct effect on marital intention; and (iii) sexual orientation has a significant effect on marital intention. When making marriage-related decisions, our findings provide significant

documentation and a better knowledge of the needs and expectations of emerging adults in a partnership. (S, MUTHULAKSHMI, 2022) The idea of create an integrated teaching program for Indian college students that includes their academic curriculum. It is based on current research on depression and marital expectations spanning ten years. This program may help students understand the implications of differences, prevent depression, and shape them at the right age to effectively manage expectations for generalized psychological and marital well-being. It may also encourage students to apply the material in their daily lives. The "Expectation towards marriage-Depression Cycle" theory is presented in this article and was produced after a review of the literature. This can help individuals break the problematic cognitive habits that lead to false expectations in therapy counseling sessions.

Estlein, R. (2022) the current study investigates the relationships between married couples' variations in proximity seeking and emotional closeness and their feelings of stress from everyday problems, as well as their overall assessments of their relationship and personality features. We used a mixed-method research design that included a daily diary as a repeated time sampling approach and survey instruments to document the associations between daily experiences of self-related, relational, and external sources of stress and both partners' regulation of closeness and distance, perceived marital quality, attachment, and neuroticism.

(Prause, N, 2021) Close relationships encourage positive health outcomes. The majority of relationship-encouraging interventions are verbal, which might not work for every couple. We examine the possibility that Orgasmic Meditation (OM), a partnered, structured, primarily nonverbal activity that involves genital contact, also fosters closer bonds between people. We hypothesized that OM would make partners—romantic and non-romantic—feel closer. This is significant because, according to psychologists, having personal contact with non-romantic partners can have negative effects and unintentionally heighten feelings of shame. Before and after OM, dyads ($n = 125$) talked about how close they felt to each other. Roughly 50% of the individuals were romantically involved, whilst the remaining 50% solely participated in non-romantic

OM together. Overall, after OM, individuals' levels of closeness increased. Compared to romantic dyads, non-romantic dyads promoted self-other overlap more. These findings bolster the idea that a coupled, mostly nonverbal practice is linked to enhanced experiences of intimacy in the present, even for single people.

(Ciritel, A. A, 2022) His studies on relationship satisfaction have drawn comparisons between married and cohabiting couples. Few studies include LAT relationships and those that do often exclude the sexual components of the partnerships. In this essay, the differences between married, cohabiting, and long-term committed partnerships in Britain are compared in terms of sexual intimacy and relationship satisfaction (defined as emotional closeness during sex, compatibility in terms of sexual preferences, and interest in having sex with a partner). To estimate ordered logistic regression models, rich data from the British National Study of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (NATSAL-3, 2010–2012) are employed. Although cohabiting people experience the same degrees of sexual closeness as married people, they report lower levels of relationship satisfaction.

METHODOLOGY

The present study aimed to investigate the expectations regarding marriage among males and females.

Research design

Case study i.e. qualitative research design was employed to conduct the study.

Sampling Technique

The convenient sampling technique was employed for the data collection. The sample was comprised of $N=8$ participants, age range of 25-40 years. The sample consists of married people. The representative population was continuously selected from different places.

Sampling method

The sample was collected by interviewing the participants about their expectations regarding marriage. The participants were allowed to talk freely about their feelings and the interview was

recorded which was later transcribed for the interpretation and analysis of results.

Demographic Information

The demographic form included questions about the participants like Name, Age, and Gender: Male/Female, Education, Marital Status, Year of Marriage, No. of Children, Permanent Residence, Designation, and Place.

ASSESSMENT

Tool of assessment

Interview

The interview is used as the tool of assessment. A semi-structured questionnaire was formed for this purpose, which served as the guideline for the interviewer. The interview is although open-ended, structured around the research questions defined at the start of the case study. This type of interview gives the researcher opportunities to probe further, yet is directed at obtaining particular information. The investigator notes points told during open-ended interviews and flags them for potential use in the final report.

Procedure

To assess the changes in marriage expectations, the case study method was used. The population for the

study was married individuals out of which a convenience sample was chosen. 8 married individuals (both males and females) were selected randomly as participants for this case study (n=8). A semi-structured interview was conducted with each participant using a self-constructed questionnaire. Participants were assured of the confidentiality of their information and informed consent forms were also signed by the participants to get a verification of their willingness to participate in the study. Before beginning the interview, participants were briefed about the purpose of the study, and their all queries were answered as well. They were instructed to reveal their inner feelings and to answer honestly. Approximately 30-40 minutes interview was conducted with each participant in an open-ended format and their responses were noted down. After the completion of the collection of data from each participant, the data was transcribed and analyzed. The data from the interview notes was coded and categorized by highlighting the main themes in the responses of the participants. Each meaningful segment of responses was assigned a code and this process was continued until all the obtained data of the sample was segmented and coded. In the end, results were prepared by summarizing the codes and discussing the transcribed data.

ANALYSIS

Summary of responses by female participants

I didn't have any ideals before marriage but like every girl; I wanted to have a settled life.

My all desires are almost fulfilled; my husband is a very caring and sincere person.

Weakness is that your responsibilities increase.

I believe you must give appropriate space to each other.

After spending five years together, now we openly express love for each other.

Before marriage, we formally talked with each other two or three times, but now we share everything.

If any misunderstanding occurred between us, We usually discuss the problem with each other; because I believe silence increases the distance.

Many habits were changed after marriage. We acquired many things from each other while living together as a couple.

Code

Settled Life

Caring and sincere Responsibilities increase

appropriate space

Expressive attitude

Shared everything

Discuss the issue

Habits changed

With the blessing of Allah, my spouse is fulfilling all his responsibilities. **Fulfilling responsibilities**
I think my desires and thinking patterns change after marriage. **Desires change**

Summary of responses by female participants**Codes**

Before marriage, I used to think that my husband would be a prince charming and I would be very comfortable, Alhamdulillah my husband is very cooperative and I have realized my responsibilities and how life changes after marriage. Whatever I expected from my in-laws they have proved themselves to be very kind-hearted for which I am extremely thankful to Allah Almighty.

Expectations and responsibilities realization

He hasn't changed at all after marriage. He is still caring, supportive, calm, a shopaholic, a food lover, very organized, and never smokes and I love him a lot.

Same traits

There is no weakness regarding marriage. My husband is my strength because he is the one with whom I can share my feelings and everything. He never gets angrier and I love the way he is.

Closeness

(a) I just want them to remain the same throughout their life
(b) Don't pressure me to do anything, let me enjoy my life as I am. I don't like anyone to interfere in my matter but as they

Maintain balance

I used to message him and was in a habit of appreciating the he dressed up and now I make him happy by making yummy food items.

Appreciating and cooking

There is nothing as such that I was reluctant to discuss with him.

No issues

Yeah, we don't have any sort of conflicts but sometimes I wake up late in the morning which he ignores by smiling.

No conflicts

Habits have not changed but after having a baby he has become a small kid himself he loves and cares a lot MashaAllah.

No change in habits.

Yes, he expresses his full commitment and gives a very considerate time to his family. He believes that family is his life and responsibility and he cannot live without us.

Full commitment

I wanted to enjoy my life fully and to shop a lot, have adventures, eat, etc (b) The desires have been fulfilled we went to Malaysia for our honeymoon, he gave me everything that I desired and we are living a very contented, peaceful and happy life.

Peaceful life

Summary of responses by female participants**Codes**

All my expectations have shattered badly. Before marriage I thought marriage would be as perfect as we read in novels and see in movies, life would be so peaceful and lovely. But I didn't know this **Shattered expectations**

was all my wishful thinking. Now I have so many responsibilities, so much work but no time for myself. Now the rule is I fulfill all my in-law's expectations but if I expect anything from them that is "Strictly not allowed."

No, my husband has not changed, thankfully, he is still the same as he was before marriage, still caring and considerate.

The weakness of my marriage is that my freedom has been lost. I cannot live as I want to live and spend my time. The environment has changed and it's frustrating and complicated to understand everyone's reactions at times. I miss the life of my parents' house. Strength is just I got free from everyone's asking "Why haven't you got married up till now?" and I have got a partner with whom I can share my deepest feelings.

I just want them to let me live my life as it was before, with no pressure regarding social meetings. (B) I prefer under-involvement, which gives me some space for me and my husband to enjoy the colors of life. Stop getting on my nerves. I think the factor of love has decreased from my side, and from my husband's side, it has increased. So many things have become easy to discuss now. I'm less reluctant to discuss any issue with my husband.

There were no such conflicts before marriage and now if we have simple conflicts usually resolve them.

Yes, habits have changed a lot. Now we are more dependent on each other. He has become more lethargic but the one thing that's the same is, his love for me.

He is still the same as he was during our engagement period.

(A) I want to for an outing with him, I want him to take me on holidays, and I want to enjoy life with him. But unfortunately, we both are working couples and do not get much time for such stuff.

(B). No, none of my expectations have been fulfilled. I have realized now that all the expectations I had before marriage were only expectations and fantasy worlds, reality is different. And now I do not have any more expectations. I am just living the life.

Same Characteristics

Freedom Lost, Removal of social pressure.

Give some space. Under-involvement

The same level of love

Discussions are easy now.

He resolves conflicts.

Habits have changed

Fully compliment.

(a) I want to enjoy and spend time with him.

(b) No expectations have come up to mark.

A summary of responses made by a female participant **Code**

Before marriage, I was afraid of marriage but now I have overcome those fears and hesitations.

Fears and Hesitations

I wanted my husband to be very loving and caring and fortunately, this expectation of mine has been fulfilled after marriage.

Care and love

I expected that he would be a fun-loving person.

Although he is very lively his working hours are so hectic that we don't get much time to hang out.

Compromises in demands

He is a little more mature than me emotionally so I sometimes feel we have differences in choices and thinking level.

Differences in choices and thinking

The weakness is that you have to be more responsible and change your routine and habits.

Adjustments with routine and habits.

Wanted my in-laws to be open-minded and easygoing but they are very interfering and demanding.

Need for space and interfering in-Laws

I believe in maintaining appropriate space with in-laws as over-involvement may bring more expectations and more issues.

Expectations bring issues.

I was very hesitant during the engagement period and couldn't express myself openly but now we are very expressive and sharing.

Expressing and sharing

Before marriage, I was conscious about expressing my demands for freedom openly to him as this might ruin my image but now we discuss everything.

Discuss everything

Before marriage, I was more worried about maintaining my image and saving our relationship but now after marriage, I feel more relaxed and less compromising.

Maintaining the image

Before marriage, we were reserved but now I feel more open and real.

Openness

My husband is still as caring and faithful as he was during the engagement period.

Loyalty

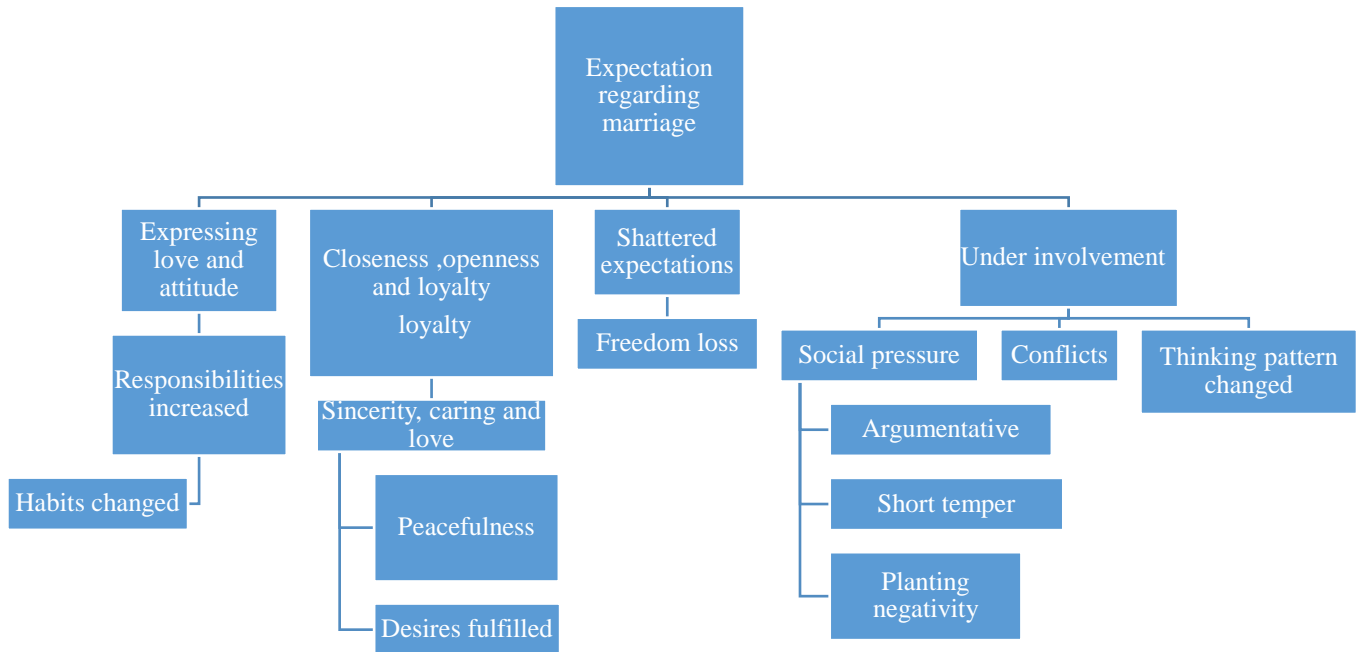
Summary of responses made by a female participant **Code**

My expectations were not so much before marriage from my spouse.	Low expectations
I wanted my husband to be educated, honest, Caring and understanding before marriage	Understanding and loving
My husband has all these qualities	Confident and Mature thinking
The strengths of my marriage are I got more confidence and learned a new aspect of life	Supportive and less involvement
Expect support from in-laws and space giving, I appreciate distance	Caring
I express love through caring for my spouse and keeping him happy	Good Openness
I have always been open with my spouse even before and after marriage.	Loud and over expression
Before marriage I was loud and over-expressive now after marriage I am quiet and calm.	Organized lifestyle
My habits have changed a lot I have become more organized and am always concerned for the comfort of my spouse	Full Commitment
Yes, my spouse is giving full commitment to our marriage as he expressed during our engagement period.	watching movies together
I expected to spend more time with my spouse, I liked watching movies with my spouse at least once in a month	Desires fulfilled
Mostly my concerns and desires all have been fulfilled but now my desires are not as they were before	

Categories of Reasons reported by both male and female participants

Statements	Codes
Before marriage expectations are very high and after marriage only it's about 30% of the total.	Expectations
Successful married Life depends upon two things: Patience and Compromise	Success ingredients
After marriage, you have to keep your mouth shut and Ears big. Before Marriage, you argue and argue and do not listen.	Expectations
In-laws are not 60% of what they were during the engagement period. They should give space to the couple after marriage.	In-laws involvement
Before marriage life is in a fantasy world but after marriage practical life starts.	Reality

Expectations Regarding Marriage Diagram



DISCUSSION

According to Aristotle a man (both female and male) always strives for stability. He is a social animal (Asikaogu, J. 2018), interacts with people, and fulfills their occupational, and social, needs. But, out of all relationships, a man searches (both consciously and unconsciously) for emotional bonding, and attachment to a specific partner. A relationship that may provide emotional, physical, and social support. To whom, the partner can share, thus; get emotional relief. With whom, a man may fulfill his physical needs? This ultimate relationship with the union of two souls, minds, hearts, and bodies is termed “marriage”, According to (Stone, 1939) marriage is the personal relationship between two opposite genders to mate and to reproduce.

The concept of marriage, varies from culture to culture, from religion to religion. Another extraneous variable may include, a person’s perception, and attitude towards marriage. His past experiences

regarding this, personality, flexibility, family system and status, upbringing styles, and situations, thus all these factors will contribute to the variation regarding expectations towards marriage which will differ in both gender cases; the boy & the girl.

Marriage is acknowledged in many cultures as a vital institution that promotes closeness and partnership, while also creating a safe space for child-rearing. It encourages sexual relationships and provides avenues for emotional development (Yavuzer, 2012). The concept of marriage has evolved significantly over the years, as discussed by (Campbell and Wright, 2010). In the mid-19th century, marriage primarily served social, economic, and political purposes. However, after the Industrial Revolution, the focus shifted towards love and personal fulfillment. This change in emphasis can sometimes lead to unstable relationships, as they may be vulnerable to decreasing affection, which can result in infidelity and divorce. According to

(Wardle, 2011), gender integration plays a crucial role in marriage, addressing specific goals such as promoting safe sexual relationships, ensuring responsible procreation, fostering effective child-rearing, nurturing healthy interpersonal relationships, and safeguarding women's roles for the overall benefit of society.

Several religions including Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, etc. have different concepts regarding marriage which will result in having different expectations of marriage. Marriage is seen as a sacred bond that not only brings two people together but also strengthens family ties and contributes to the well-being of the community. Marriage is often perceived differently based on gender, especially in traditional societies. For boys, marriage may be seen as a way to assert their masculinity, meet societal expectations of being a provider, and demonstrate their manhood. This perspective is often reinforced by cultural stories and social pressures. On the other hand, girls may view marriage as a relationship built on love and companionship, a source of security, and an opportunity to improve their social status. However, these gender-specific perceptions are not universally applicable and can be influenced by personal experiences, economic conditions, and changing gender roles.

According to Islam, the term "azwaj" is used for marriage. Azwaj means to join together. In Quran (4:21), the word "mithaq Ghalith" is used for marriage which means "strong pledge". Another saying from the Holy Quran is that marriage provides an individual with a supportive partner who offers comfort, thus aiding in the upbringing of a generation of believers Estlein et al., (2021). This concept is evident in the teachings of Allah in Surah Al-Furqan (25:74):

"And those who say, 'O our Lord, grant us our spouses and our offspring as comforters of (our) hearts, and make us leaders of the righteous."

While reaching puberty, or developing a sense of having some such belongingness, humans may possess some sorts of expectations such as some ideal personalities (their exact image of spouses). In this age, many infatuations, fantasies, and early adventures, are vital roots that involve variations of gender basis and socio-cultural influences. Some expectations are in the minds of youngsters regarding their spouses, these expectations differ from before

marriage to after marriage. Many boys may want to have a beautiful girl, with expertise in all household chores while girls may seek a handsome princess with a billionaire bank balance. What is expectation? The expectation is a hope, a standard, a need for a desirable result. According to (Bernad, 1972) expectations, sharing, and discussion are very necessary for both members for their stable relationship. In this study, we aimed to find out the subjective perspectives of both males and females regarding their expectations towards marriage. A questionnaire with a sampling method was conducted and 8 individuals were examined.

Accordingly, the results and the expectations before marriage can be categorized into four sub-domains to make it simpler. (I) expressing love (II) closeness, openness, and loyalty. (III) shattered expectations (IV) under-involvement.

Both genders tend to seek a similar expectation of "expression of love". This expectation in the case of girls before marriage is their set standard. For girls, this expression is the essence of relation, the praise words rooted with deep love expression are their expectation before marriage. After engagement, in Asian cultures, this expectation may be fulfilled, but according to the participants, after marriage when both individuals start living together, their expression of love gradually decreases. Many factors contribute to this, but the main factor is the "increase in responsibility" especially in the case of boys. Because now they have to feed their wives and have to secure a healthy living standard to reproduce a family. In this manner, the day and night, 24/7 gossip, romantic messages, praises, and love expression through different ways like giving roses, or sharing things day and night, and the willingness to talk at any time, gets changed. Life becomes more practical and hence, in both cases, a conflict arises between the expectations before marriage vs practicality after marriage.

The second and very positive response is "closeness, openness, and loyalty". Many individuals hope for a partner who is sincere, loyal, and caring. A spouse with whom they can share everything, who is very close to them. Many individuals stated that this expectations of theirs' fulfilled. Their partners are loyal to them. They can openly share their life and personal problems with them. Hence, in that

scenario, there is a peace element in their lives which makes this married life more beautiful.

The third expectation is “shattered” which is “loss of freedom”. For many people, it has also been considered that marriage is the loss of freedom. An individual’s autonomy, lifestyle, habitual patterns, non-restricted routines, care-free attitudes, friend time, etc. all are lost. According to (Berlin, 1969) this judgment, perception of bad and good, involving all other environmental stimuli including morals, religious values, ethics, etc. will visualize and predict the conception of loss of freedom or its still existence.

The last element is “under-involvement”. This is linked with social pressure, conflicts, and ultimately changes in thinking patterns. Many individuals stated that after marriage the involvement of in-laws in personal affairs is high while the couple’s decisive power is low. The pressure from the environment in all matters, including family, household chores, etc. may lead to argumentativeness and conflicts between husband and wife. The changed thinking patterns of both husband and wife may lead to undesirable outcomes.

The core specific reasons behind the change of expectation are; according to participants, patience and compromise are the success ingredients behind a successful marriage. Hence, all relations in our lives demand flexibility, adaptability, compromise, and sacrifice, exactly like this marriage which is a life-bond relation in which two different minds, souls, and hearts decide to legally and religiously live together and have to compromise and possess patience in different aspects. An individual must have to deal with all good and bad circumstances with patience and compromise.

The simple fact is that wants, needs and expectations can change drastically after marriage and usually do not remain the same as before marriage. It is so very important to sit down and discuss these things before tying the knot. One does not just marry someone she/he loves, but individuals are combining life experiences and possibly families.

LIMITATIONS

- The sample size comprised of females and one male only. Therefore, it is difficult to make

inferences about the meaning of results for both sexes

- The sample was restricted to ages 25 to 40, Thus it is difficult to conclude if the results can be generalized to older adults

- Moreover, the sample belonged to a middle-higher socioeconomic status. Individuals from lower socioeconomic status were ignored

- Sample size was relatively small comprising 8 individuals

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Future studies may aim at a large sample for enhanced accuracy of results.

- Greater number of Males should be included in the study to promote knowledge of gender differences.

- A longitudinal study on the same sample may be carried out to analyze the differences in the impact before and after marriage.

- Other factors such as positive ones should be focused upon.

CONCLUSION

Positive thinking, compromise, and patience are the fuel that drives the engine of success. If the partners are committed and agree to defining and meeting the expectations of each other to a level of satisfaction, the relationship will be successful. The life before marriage is full of fantasies and a lot of desires that one wishes to fulfil but after marriage the practical life starts and one has to keep mouth shut and ears big. The majority of the participants are living a very healthy and prosperous life because of deep understanding and a strong bond of love exists between them but arguments and under involvement of in-laws are a part of life that one cannot deny.

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