

Perceptions of girls regarding their spouse selection



M.Phil. Thesis: PSY699

Amber Zahra

Participant ID#: 14001238003

Session (2014 – 2016)

Supervisor

Azher Hameed Qamar

Department of psychology

School of social sciences and humanities

University of management & technology

Lahore

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School of social sciences and humanities

University of management & technology

Lahore

Declaration

I, Ms. Amber Zahra, Student Id No: 14001238003, student of M.Phil. in the subject of psychology, session of 2014 - 2016, hereby declare that the material printed in this thesis titled **“Perceptions of Girls Regarding their Spouse Selection”** is original work and has not been printed, published or submitted as research work, thesis or publication in any form in any university, research institution in Pakistan or abroad.

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Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to my beloved husband Muhammad Saqib Maqsood and my supervisor Mr. Azher Hameed Qamar for their support and encouragement in completing my thesis.

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All praise to Almighty Allah, the most merciful and compassionate, who enabled me to complete this research.

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I would also like to give tribute to my beloved land Pakistan, as it gives me enough courage to live independent with pride. And psychologically make us capable to compete with the people of other nations.

Amber Zahra

Abstract

This study investigates the desired traits perceived by the girls for selecting their spouses and explains the factors affecting their spouse selection criteria. In addition to this, it also compares the perceptions of the girls and their parents about the spouse selection criteria (as told by the girls). The research is based upon 6 in-depth qualitative interviews using purposive sampling technique. According to the nature of the research design, a semi structured questionnaire constructed from previous literature was used. The interviews are analyzed by using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA). The themes and sub themes extracted during the analysis are discussed further in the light of literature review. The results highlight the importance of mate selection in Pakistan. It also brings out the difference between the perceptions and choices of young girls and their parents for their future spouses. The girls view physical appearance, nature or personality, education and family background to be the preferable criteria for selecting a spouse, while the parents consider religiosity, socioeconomic status and family background to be more important in spouse selection criteria. In Pakistani culture, most of the girls do not tell their parents about what kind of life partner they want to be married. But, they are willing to agree to what their parents will select for them because of their parents' experience and trust.

Keywords: Marriage, Spouse selection criteria, spouse selection procedure, perceptions about spouse selection, gaps between parents and daughters.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Marriage is a legal or religious accustomed consent for the establishment of forming a new family. Selecting a spouse for marriage is a process which is defined culturally. The rules and processes that lead to spouse selection vary widely from society to society and are often complex (Alam & Safdar, 2006). Spouse selection is a very important topic and important event in a person's life. It is considered the turning point in life and first step towards a new life. With a rapid change in societies, the trends for marriages and their importance as well the effect of these trends need to be realized (Rehman, 2002).