

Short Communication

Perceptions of Married Women Towards Different Rituals of Marriage and Impact of Marriage Ordinance

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of the study was to study the variation if any in the attitudes of the respondents of different characteristics i.e. income and occupation towards Marriage Ordinance Act 1997, (XXI). The universe for the present study was Gulberg Colony, Faisalabad city. A multistage random sampling technique was used to select a sample of 100 households. In each of the sample house one married female was selected as respondents of the study. The data were collected through comprehensive interview schedule. The data were analyzed statistically. The main findings show that there is no association between the income and occupation of the respondents and the extent of their favorability towards Marriage Ordinance.

Key Words: Marriage ordinance; Married women; Attitudes

INTRODUCTION

1. Marriage and family can be discussed as an interwoven and interconnected part of a total process. Islam unlike other religions is a strong advocate of marriage. Marriage is bond between husband and wife protected by law and customs and it's a legal relationship between husband and wife and the children born by such couple are legitimate.

1. Many of the sociologists believe that marriage is a social institution, instead of the family. Marriage is more important than family due to fact that if one of the partners is dead or separated the family then called a broken family. Marriage is a complex norm controlling and defining the relation of the mated pair to each other and with off spring, relatives and society. It provides the young male and female a chance to enter into new relation and leads to the establishment of family life. In both cases born male and female have their responsibility according to the rules and regulations of their society (British Association for the Advancements of Science. 1954). The present study was carried out, i) to study the attitudes of married women towards Marriage ordinance, 1997, ii) to study the variation if any in the attitudes of the respondents of different characteristics i.e. income and occupation towards marriage ordinance, 1997, and iii) to ascertain the respondent perceptions to make the Marriage Ordinance (1997) more acceptable and useful.

METHODOLOGY

The universe for the present study was Gulberg Colony, Faisalabad City. A multistage random sampling technique was used to select a sample of 100 household in

each of the sample house, on married female was selected as respondent of the study. Date were collected through comprehensive interview schedule. The interview schedule consisted of structured and unstructured questions. The first part of interview schedule was concerned with the basic information about the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents. Second part dealt with respondent's attitudes/perceptions regarding the Ordinance (ban on serving meals)

Scaling and indexation of attitudinal statements. The responses of the interviewees on attitude statement were recorded using the following response categories i.e. great some extent and not at all. In order to quantify the responses, like type of scaling technique was used through assigning certain scores to each of the response (Hubort & Block, 1960.; Nachmias & Nachmias, 1986). The scores for each respondent were then added. The range of total score on selected attitudes statements was 23 to 43. To reflect the extent of favorability towards marriage Ordinance, the respondents were categorized into three categories i.e. low, medium and high favorability towards the marriage Ordinance.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Occupational status of the respondents. Majority of the respondents i.e. 93% were house wife or have traditional status. Among the remaining, 2% were doctors, 4% teachers and 1% domestic servants, respectively. In the present study, the researcher has taken occupation of the respondents as well as of their husbands occupational status.

It was found that 54% were pursuing some sought of business and husbands of 30% respondents were in

government or private service; while 6% were skilled labor, and 10% respondents were widows.

Family income. It is sum of income of all family members from all resources (salaries, land, Business etc.). The distribution of percent respondents in different income categories is given in Table I.

Attitudes of respondents toward marriage ordinance. Data presented in Table II reveal majority i.e. 43% and 52% respondents perceived that there was compliance “to a great extent” and “some extent” respectively. Only 5% respondents perceived/believed that people did not accept the spirit of ordinance on serving meals and reported that some people manage to serve the meal at different locations.

It was interesting to note that majority i.e. 89% of the respondents believed in discriminate implementation of the ordinance for rich and poor section of population. Among these 60% believed that rich people were still serving meals in their spacious lawns. Another 16% reported that rich people arrange meals in hotels and other places. Another interesting reporting by 13% respondents was that rich people have no fear as they manage to serve meals by influencing/bribing the concerned authorities.

Majority (71%) of the respondents reported that the Ordinance has created some difficulties for the host families such as “the relatives and specially in laws are not happy if food is not served”. On the other hand 29% of the respondents reported that the Ordinance has not at all created any difficulty for the host families. The data indicated that 93% of the respondents reported that rituals like “Dholac”, “Mehndi” are traditional. Only 7% of the respondents believed that “Dholac”, “Mayun” and “Mehndi” are related to Islamic values. A huge majority i.e. 87% of the respondents agreed that people over spend on these ceremonies/rituals. Only 13% of the respondents did not agree that these rituals are waste of money.

A huge majority i.e. 89% of the respondents agreed that people are not interested in attending marriage because food is not served. Whereas 11% of the respondents disagreed that people are not in attending marriage because food is not served.

The results revealed that 10% of the respondents said that the Ordinance brought simplicity ‘to a great extent’. Another 60% of the respondents reported that the Ordinance brought simplicity ‘to some extent’. However 30% of the respondents said that this Ordinance has not at all brought simplicity in marriage ceremonies.

Differentials attitudes towards marriage ordinance.

Extent of favorability of attitudes of the respondents towards marriage Ordinance (Act XXI, 1997) was ascertained by assigning scores to the attitude statements (using Liker Type Scale); the respondents were then categorized into three categories i.e. high, medium and low, favorability.

Value of chi-square in Table III shows that there was no association between the family occupation and extent of favorability of the respondents towards the Marriage

Table I. Percentage Distribution of the Respondents with regard to their Family Income

Income Categories (In Rs./Month)	Frequency	Percentage
1000-5000	22	22.0
5001-10000	21	21.0
10001-15000	17	17.0
15001-20000	15	15.0
20001-25000	14	14.0
25000 +	11	11.0
Total	100	100.00

Table II. Respondents Perception regarding the Extent of Compliance to the Marriage Ordinance by General public

Perceived Extent of Compliance	Frequency	Percentage
Great Extent	43	43.0
Some Extent	52	52.0
Business Not at all	5	5.0
Total	100	100.0

Table III. Association between the Respondents Family Occupation and Extent of their favorability towards Marriage Ordinance

Occupational Status	Extent of Favorability			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
Govt. Private	6 (20.0)	23 (76.7)	1 (3.3)	30 (100.0)
Service Business	9 (16.7)	41 (75.9)	4 (7.4)	54 (100.0)
Casual/Skilled	0 (0.)	12 (75.0)	4 (25.0)	16 (100.0)
Labor				
Total	15 (15.0)	76 (76.0)	9 (9.0)	100 (100.0)

Chi-square = 8.7775 Significant level = .0669 d.f = 4

Table IV. Association between Family Income and Extent of their Favorability towards Marriage Ordinance

Family Income	Extent of Favorability			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
5000-1000	9 (20.9)	28 (35.1)	6 (14.0)	43 (100.0)
10001-20000	2 (9.4)	28 (87.5)	1 (3.1)	32 (100.0)
20000 +	3 (12.0)	20 (80.0)	2 (8.0)	25 (100.0)
Total	15 (15.0)	76 (76.0)	9 (9.0)	100 (100.0)

Chi-square = 8.2776 Significant level = .0159 d.f = 4

Ordinance. Value of chi-square in Table IV shows that there was no association between the income of the respondents and extent of their towards the Marriage Ordinance.

The study was aimed at finding the attitudes of married females. Such a study should be conducted for male members as well. Further more the present study has been conducted on a very small sample. Nature of study demands that attitudes of larger section of population be sought to produce a better basis for the generalization of the study.

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