

Delayed Marriages and its Socio-Psychological Consequences



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Thesis submitted to the department of Anthropology, Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad, in partial fulfillment of the degree of Master of Science in Anthropology.

Department of Anthropology
Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad
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Formal Declaration

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November 11th 2021

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Final Approval of Thesis

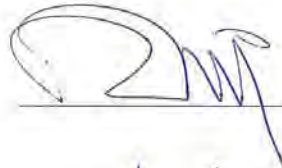
This is to certify that we have read the thesis submitted by Ms. Nafeesa Niaz. It is our judgment that this thesis is of sufficient standard to warrant its acceptance by the Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad for the award of the Degree of M.Sc in Anthropology.

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Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to my parents: my brothers and friend, who gave me the confidence to pursue a field of my interest and provided me favourable circumstances, and my mother, whose love, prayers, and unwavering faith in my abilities encouraged me and gave me unconditional support.

Acknowledgement

I would like to acknowledge and give my warmest thanks to my supervisor **Dr.Aneela Sultana** who made this work possible. Her guidance and advice carried me through all the stages of writing my Thesis. Special thanks to my role model, my mom, who brought me up and made me able to accomplish my goals. She is the only person, who made this possible for me to pursue my higher education. I am always indebted to her. I am also thankful to my Father, Sisters and my Brothers were always ready to help me in every difficult time of my life, in particular, they assisted me financially in acquiring my master's degree.

Finally, I would like to thank God, for letting me through all the difficulties. I have experienced your guidance day by day. You are the one who let me finish my degree. I will keep on trusting you for my future.

NAFEESA NIAZ

Abstract

Marriage is a legal union between wife and the husband. Moreover, this is a legally approved and socially endorsed institution. In the Pakistani context, what my research also tries to explore, the institution of marriage is largely confined to child rearing, female fertility and meeting some other psychological and social outcomes of the marrying individuals. After the women get married, they are required at their conjugal households to increase children by ensuring female fertility. Also, the wife and husband try to fulfill their psychological and social needs.

This study is unique in its efforts to explore the ‘age factor’ in the institution of marriage. Presently, in Pakistan, late marriage is one of the most burning issues and especially this is more so for women. In this research, I have tried to unearth late marriages and its ensuing implications on women. After they get married lately, the women face a lot of issues in their marital life. The issues are to a larger extent psychological and social. Psychologically, the women do not become content with their husbands and this may, in effect, leads to affect child rearing and female fertility which are the main objectives of the institution of marriage. This study has been conducted in G-5 and G-6 sectors in Islamabad. There, I have mainly focused on women who reside in the mentioned sectors of the capital. Also, this study is only confined to women and excludes men due to some limitations.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Marriage is a partnership between a woman and a man through sexual, social and cultural affection, begin to reside together and share livelihoods to live a life. It is the basic universal social institution that recognizes family life for males and females. It is a ubiquitous aspect of human social organization and possibly developed very early in the course of human social history. (Saleem, et al. 2015). There are many marriage roles that need to be performed, such as parental responsibility for children's long-term care and education, social management of sexual competition, coordination of the sexual division of labor, evaluation of the individual's social group and status, and the creation of alliances and inter-group exchanges. Royal Anthropological Institution 1951 defines as:

“Marriage is a union between a man and a woman such that children born to the woman are recognized as the legitimate offspring of both parents.”

One of the deepest and most dynamic implications of human partnerships is marriage. It is a pillar of community and a function of the social structure that is really important. It is a vital and spiritual connection for thoughts, attitudes, behavior's, and likes and dislikes between two personalities that combine into one. However, delay in marriage brings some complications of social, as well as biological. Particularly the physical implication of late marriages often impact women, causing complication in child bearing or fertility. (Jones, G. 2012). The institution of marriage has a great significance in any society. It is the phenomenon that lets society grow in numbers. The system and style of marriage may differ in various societies but its basic functions are the same anywhere in the world. (Martin, S. P. 2004).

Marriage is a compulsory condition and the first step towards forming a family in all areas of Pakistan. The primary function of marriage is reproduction for the continuity of society and secondly, it legalizes the sexual relationship between a man and a woman. Arranged marriage, teenage marriage, slavery, and once in a while force marriage, may be called a social phenomenon in the world.

Late marriage is one of the prevalent global patterns in which individuals plan to marry at a later age. Delayed weddings are an undeniable pattern in modern societies. By the early 1990s, the total marriage age for both men and women had increased to the peak amount in the 20th century. Since the mid-1980s, it has been gradually apparent that in a number of East and Southeast Asian countries, the age of marriage for women at first marriage has risen almost to 25 years (Karamat, K. 2016). There are different types of marriage pattern but current research study emphasis on the consequences of late marriage and the reasons behind it. Late marriage is seen as a means of psychological and mental exploitation of human beings, as a type of self-inflicted aggression and as a form of violence against women and men, as well as against the customs in various community. (Oderinde O. A. 2013). Late marriages can impact any individual, irrespective of gender, age, impairment, ethnic origin or sexual preference. This study will also focus on the psychological effects on the spouse's life and also its effects on their children, and the social problems created by this marriage in the area of research.

Marriage is a complex social phenomenon which occurs willingly and publically. However, the decision to marry can be affected by multiple factors, including physiological factors such as physical maturity, social factors (such as academic puberty and psychological puberty), spiritual and religious factors, social context, economic condition, level of schooling, community and ethnicity (Heidari, F. 2016; Mohammadi *et al.*, 2016). Analysis indicates an ideal age for marriage to have the greatest beneficial influence on mental, physical, and social well-being (Heidari, F. 2016). In addition, delayed marriage can lead to the suppression of sexual and emotional desires, which may influence multiple facets of health in turn. In addition to these individual impacts, late marriage or fewer marriage has adverse social damage on a broader scale (Mohammadi *et al.*, 2016). One of the consequences of the decreased marriage rate and advanced marriage age (Retherford, et al., 2001). is lower birth rates in the population. Since, on the one hand, marital age is the main predictor of the number of children in the family; on the other hand, as the age of first marriage rises, the incidence of contraceptive use, delay in childbearing, and abortion incidence will increase (Finlay, et al., 2016; Dovom, et al., 2014). Moreover, several studies have shown that delaying marriage may increase the risk of infertility in pairs (Kazemijaliseh, et al., 2015). Infertility places a lot of uncertainty and anger on couples, as well as financial pressures on families and the health care system. The overall fertility rate in Japan,

for example, is smaller than the replacement rate in the population, and it is predicted that in the future this nation will face a shortage of labour and a significant number of elderly people (Retherford, et al., 2001). The decline in the total fertility rate in Asia is slower than in western countries, but is expected to increase in the coming years (Finlay, et al., 2016; Jones, G. W. (2017).

Married age, by contrast, has the potential to control both mother and child's health. Pregnancy can have a number of irrecoverable consequences at an older age. Pregnancies above 35 years of age, for example, are at greater risk of health-related outcomes, including early termination, gestational diabetes and hypertension, preeclampsia, prolonged and difficult delivery, birth bleeding, perinatal foetal death, intrauterine development retardation, congenital chromosomal and non-chromosomal development, compared to pregnancies in women under 20 and 30 years of age. (Heidari, F. 2016)

1.2 Research questions

The major emphasis on the documentation of woman's perception and their understanding towards the actual situation regarding late marriage.

- What are the implications of late marriage on woman life?
- What is the prevailing perception regarding late marriages in working and educated women?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This research aims to discover the effects of late marriages on women's lives. It also attempts to identify the root reasons behind late marriage decisions, the social and psychological effects of late marriage on people's lives, and the behavior of community toward late-married couples, or what sort of health problems people experience in late marriage. My research goals and objectives are as follows.

1. To investigate the prevalence of women's marriage above the age of 35 years
2. To explore the social perception regarding late marriages.
3. To investigate the socio-psychological problems which are caused by late marriage.

1.4 Statement of the problem

Marriage is that social union which is approved by the society and religion. There are two basic aims of marriage; one is the legalization of sexual relations and the other is reproduction. Pakistan is historically identified with very early marriage, which can be described as an 'eastern marriage pattern' with early and universal marriage; in contrast to 'western marriage pattern,' we may call it late marriage. Pakistani people also follow this newly developed pattern of marriages. In our society, the common marriage time for a woman is 18-25 years. After this age, it is considered a late marriage.

The broad structure of late marriage, though, indicates that more specific influences are there. Increasing individualization, new economic possibilities, and new conceptions of the intention of late marriage have been correlated with accelerated economic growth, urbanization, mainstream schooling, reforming the family structure, and dowry. The consequences of late marriages surfaced in the form of issues in female fertility, and child rearing, social and psychological problems faced by the women.

1.5 Significance of the Study

There are too many articles that have been performed on subjects linked to marriage. Early childhood marriages were discussed by others; late marriages were discussed by others and the implications and repercussions of early-late marriages were discussed by some others. This thesis would be relevant since both the psycho-social issues of late marriage would be explored in this report. The health-related challenges confronted by couples after a late marriage would be described in this study. In this study, social activity plays a very significant role and the factors behind late marriage will also be addressed. Current research will add anthropological knowledge and it will provide information about the culture and economic life of the area. It will tell us about the consequences of late marriage and how this affects an individual's psychological

and biological behaviors. This study will also tell about people's perceptions about marriage and how late marriages affect their lives.

2 Literature Review

Reviewing literature is an integral aspect of any study. Writing audit appears like previous research work that demonstrates how alternative scientists have committed to this concept and how their work is identified with this study. Effective and clear writing audit made the study's finish conceivable. This writing explores the past analysis of late-relational unions. Writing uncovers that as time passes, nations are going on, people are being free of the implications for the general population's marriage period. Education is one of the most widely-recognized causes seen over the past couple of years. In particular, marriage age has gained much interest as a career contingency in educational attainment level study.

According to Karl Alexander Marriage, vis-à-vis education has attracted a lot of attention in research. Age at the time of marriage has a focus of great attention. First, the concept of late marriage was introduced in developed countries but now-a-day, the developing countries are also the concept of late marriage. Marriage is one of Pakistan's main social structures that establishes close links between families. “Marriage is a bond between a female and a male who start living together, having sexual, social, and cultural intimacy and share livelihood to live a life.” (Alexander, 1989)

According to Saleem, et al in our Pakistani society marriage is the major social institution that plays a very important role in our lives. Marriage helps us to create a strong bond between the families. Marriage is a relationship in which both, the male and female live together, having sexual relation, and spends their lives happily and also share their culture, and norms.

It is a “universal social institution.” In marriage, a child's birth, which instead reduces due to infertility, reinforce the close ties and affection. Late marriages between men and women within culture represent one of the root causes of this. (Saleem et al, 2015).

According to Nations United, marriage is a “universal social institution”. In the establishment of the marriage, the child’s birth increased a strong sense of attachment and intimacy and on the contrary, due to infertility, the child’s birth rate decreased. One of the main causes of this phenomenon is the late marriage of men and women in society, all over the world. (Nations, United, 1990)

Marriage is an important social institution. It is the first step towards the formation of a family which is a basic unit of society. Marriage, which is defined as a “union between a man and a woman such that children born to the woman are the recognized legitimate offspring of both partners”.

The most noticeable shift that is expected to arise as a consequence of growing age in women's marriage is a change in their rank. Before dreaming of married life, most females prefer to attain higher educational qualifications. Thus, extended years of studies render them older and appropriate for marriage out of the target age group. In the opposite, higher women's educational credentials, though, give the male folk a feeling of dominance and coercion that also delays marriages. People of all educational backgrounds have postponed weddings, but for the more highly qualified, the delay has been longer. (Nag, A., & Singhal, P. 2013).

According to Isen and Stevenson, there is a big change that occurs in our societies regarding the marriages of girls, the girls for getting marriages in the right places changes their status. Today women don't want to marry early because they want to have their career, education and rather than into parenthood and adulthood. So, they decided to delay marriage. Delay marrying allows women more time to focus on and complete their education. Some also want to establish their financial security through advanced education before marriage. Some want to enjoy their freedom. After that, they develop a sense of superiority and want a life partner of their choice. Most of the females change their status by getting high education; they are educated well, because of the requirement of the society. The people of society prefer educated girls then the uneducated ones. This education time-period makes hurdles in their marriage life because for bettering her status regarding the requirement of the society she spends half of her life in getting an education. When she gets it then society declares her that she is now not in the age of marriage. Society required an educated girl but not out of limited age which is best for the marriage. This tradition of getting higher education cause a lot of effects on the life of a girl. The male member of society rejects her because of the age factor. This effect and causes late marriages. This problem or issue is not only with the female member of the society the male members also in getting higher education waste lots of their time but being a male member of the society, they are not caused that much as the female are caused. The delay in early marriages is just because of getting a higher education. In search of a successful job and funds to satisfy their

lavish needs, today's men remain occupied. The social cause behind delayed marriages is the existence of "unmarried sisters" in the home. A brother with sisters, though delaying his marriage, must gain a great deal for his sisters' marriages. A "rise in educational attainment" is strongly correlated with one of the evolving patterns for delaying marriage. (Isen,2010)

Everyone wants a good career and luxurious life and wants to fulfill their needs and enjoy their lives according to their wishes. Men's marriage is mostly delayed due to social factors like the presence of unmarried sisters in the house and he has to earn a lot of money for her dowry. Bride carry the wealth from her family to the groom or his family, this termed as dowry. For the marriage of his sister, he delayed his marriage. Now there is a trend of higher education so men and women both want to get higher education and after that, they want well-educated partner too. Men demand a wife who is educated, beautiful, and perfect. As same women demand a husband who is educated, beautiful, and perfect. (Saleem, H., et al, 2015).

Consumption is the main concern since late engagement, and late marriage partners experience a number of maternity problems. With the age of the mother, fertility decreased. There is a major misunderstanding that man's fertility not declined, by the age of 35 to 40 man often decline his fertility. In late relationships, it is impossible to make conception positive; once it arises, for example, abnormality, miscarriages, preterm births, and more, there are a number of problems in it.

The origin of the postponement of marriage relates to the changed position and traditional status of women. The most critical shift that is expected to arise as a consequence of an increasing age in the marriage of women is the change in their rank. Many females prefer to get higher educational credentials until they conceive about a marital life. As a consequence, prolonged years of research bring them older and out of the ideal age range appropriate for marriage. (Saleem et al, 2015).

Aziz (2014) stated that there are a number of problems and impediments to ties in general. There is a dangerous trend for late relational unions, particularly in Pakistan. Union at the age of 35 and think of it as a late marriage. The most serious problem after late marriage is utilisation and late couples encounter a number of problems during pregnancy. Fertility decreased with age. There is a huge myth that man's intelligence did not degrade, except that by the age of 35 to 40, man

further decayed his capital. It's impossible to make conception optimistic in late relational unions, if it occurs then there's part of the intricacies in it for example: irregularity, early childbirth, low birth weight, preterm travel, and that's just the beginning.

Reasons are bound up with swift and instructive additions by males, major expands in the proportion of women who work for pay outside the household, real shifts in the composition and operation of the marriage sector, phenomenal rises in premarital sex predominance, and sweeping changes in the features of marriage and family existence. Women in Hong Kong also began to force back the period of engagement even sooner without a blunt word. Back in early boom days in 1981, 69% of women in the 25-29 age group were married, but the ratio fell to 54% in 1991, 42% in 2001 and 35% in 2006. As of 2006, around a fifth of 24 per cent-25 per cent of women in their 40s remained single relative to a tenth in 1981. (Retherford, 1993)

According to Chan (2011), the bulk of the reason is women's travelling position. Females also shown a credible point of concern to specialized education organizations in the previous decade, which indicates that women have led the information-based society. In the modern eras, women in Hong Kong are both highly educated and fiscally independent. Women in Hong Kong have begun to drive back the season of duty even sooner without any unforgiving language. Back in the early blast period in 1981, 69% of women aged 25 to 29 were impacted, but the percentage fell to 54% in 1991, 42% in 2001 and 35% in 2006.

Loughran and Zissimopoulos (2014) claimed that people who delay marriage receive stronger technological means and higher salaries. Analysis has shown that postponing marriage is desirable for women, but not for men. It is calculated that postponing marriage improves women's time-based compensation by almost four per cent each year they delay, resulting in substantial contrasts in time-based compensation at later ages. We also consider that in our example, labour generously discourages the development of women's compensation. We conjecture that the impact of postponing marriage on compensation is typically inferable from the point of view of the versatility of experience in facilitating job development at a more youthful period. Supporting evidence is documented that post-marital regional portability decays dramatically for high-capacity individuals. Taken together, our results suggest that in any case in this example, women's vocations should be given a lower priority than their husbands'

occupations. For a multitude of causes, people marry far later today than when the section of large quantities of women reached jobs and unregulated accessibility of useful ways of architectural prevention.

3 Research Methodology

The research methodology has used here is a qualitative research method. The reason for doing so is because most of the Anthropological studies employ the qualitative methods as this research design implores the questions of how and why instead of only answering what, when, where, or 'who'. The qualitative study helped to explore narratives and understandings instead of giving mere percentages and figures which assisted in a better understanding of how social principles work, act, and are made and further interpreted. The following qualitative methods have used in my research to collect the data.

Rapport Building:

Report building is the first phase in the sector. Anthropologists often tend to join the area of study as a blank document that has little relationship with the culture. Although there are unknown individuals, the researcher should know all those that are part of the culture, their traditions, observe their customs and abide by their rules and restrictions. For meaningful field study, the researcher might like to be close to exceptional, respected, and well-informed citizens.

Establishing a good rapport would allow me to quickly collect the accurate and necessary data. For good ties and community news, researcher is open-minded, straightforward, sensitive, communicative and welcoming to all of her respondents as well as community representatives.

During field work, researcher used this technique and various rapport building measures took directly or through key informants regarding this research. I have utilized the assistance provided by key informants in visiting the patients at their drug spots and even homes to meet their families. Good rapport building has helped me to spend considerable time among women to address the reasons and problems of late marriages.

Participant Observation:

Observation is the practice of living organisms such as humans, which consists of obtaining information from the outer world via the senses or in collecting data using scientific instruments. The word applied to all data gathered in the process of this operation. I have observed others' activities their emotional actions, understanding ability built through observation. It was a process to gather data mostly through vision but all senses have used to collecting data. The observation was needed to be direct and through vision. Through vision, the direct picture has observed and understood in a better way and this technique provided solid data without the involvement of the researcher in the action. As for the requirement of this research, I have used this technique during all my stay in the field area. This technique helped me to know the consequences of late marriage and the reason behind late marriages.

Participant observation is a key technique in qualitative research. The researcher has utilized this as well to collect data. After good rapport building, the researcher has resided with the women in the hostel and spend time to get maximum information regarding their choice of marriage, perception about late marriage, and factor influencing in doing late marriage and then its consequences.

Sampling:

Sample is a representative portion or subset of the overall population to be studies. This research has used nonprobability sampling technique to draw its sample. Non-probability sampling technique is often used in qualitative research, where the researcher's goal is to gain in-depth, idiographic understanding rather than more general, nomothetic understanding.

Purposive Sampling:

Purposive sampling is a form of non-probability sampling technique, in which researcher draw a purposive sample, by keeping in mind a specific perspective, that is desired to be examine and then seeks out research participants who cover that full range of perspectives. Thus, this research has contained approximately 25 participants, who are married in their late age, their close ones and families.

Key Informants:

The word main informant is largely linked, though not limited to subjective analysis in which a scientist uses the meeting of educated members as an integral part of the review technique. In the periodic time of hands-on work required by such analysis, a specific topic can become an especially valuable source of data, be encountered more than once and hence be allocated as a main source. It is not surprising in field investigation that at a particular moment, an investigator has a few sources that may be differentiated as performing in that part. Key observers have extended the perspective of the agent in situations where he or she has not or cannot be an immediate observer, and they can shed light on the effects of actions that the scientist may not receive. They have filled in as well as keep an eye on the data came from various outlets. Differentiating factors may decide who can complete the filling as a main source. "More than someone who has controlled a lot of culture information and is willing to talk to you is called a key informant"

Research Tools to collect data:

The data collection methodology is a driving skill in the field research and our local area is our vehicle. So, this is the methodology that has enabled me to drive the vehicle of the community. Following are the main anthropological techniques that have been used during my fieldwork.

1.1.1 In-depth Interview:

An in-depth interview is about an organized conference. It provides freedom for both the questioner and the interviewee to explore additional emphasis and if appropriate, to change direction. A subjective knowledge-gathering technique, top-to-bottom sessions, provides an opportunity to collect rich information on the behaviors, mentalities and attitudes of people, as well as nuanced processes. I have used this as an autonomous analysis strategy or as a part of a multi-strategic setup, depending on the study criteria. In-depth interviews are normally conducted in a near and intimate manner so that they can be consistent with the respondents.

Non-verbal communication in addition, I have used it to provide an altered state of perception of the required answers.

1.2.1 Case Study method:

The methodology of the case study is in actual the real ethnographic work because it is intensive research work on one or few units of the society under study which may be an individual or institution of the society. The major advantage of the case study lays in the richness of it described those results from the intensive study of one or few units. To have a clear understanding of certain phenomenon or situations in real-life scenarios I have used the methodology of case studies. I have conducted case studies, which have provided very helpful in understanding the consequences of late marriages, the reasons behind late marriage, and those problems which people faced after late marriage.

Informal Discussion:

Besides formal interviews, informal discussion has helped me to know about those facts which are otherwise not possible. This kind of indirect discussion has helped them to understand the customary laws prevailing in the area. This technique has helped me to build a good rapport with the respondent.

Data Analysis

The data collected then analysis has been used thematic analysis. Themes have been generated from the literature and findings have been described under themes and subthemes comprising.

4 Research Local

4.1 (Government hostel for women, G-5 and G-6, Islamabad)

The research local of my research is the Government hostel for women, G-5 and G-6, Islamabad, where the working females are residing. G-5 and G-6 are sectors in Islamabad Capital Territory. Most of the government offices and other business activities are ubiquitous in these sectors. These adjacent sectors are developed, economically diverse, and historically the oldest in Islamabad city. The people in these sectors are mostly government employees, students and other working class, having diverse family origin. The residents are thus found to be from almost from every province of Pakistan. This diversity of people in these sectors prompt the researcher to find out the marriage pattern they followed. Late marriages in Pakistan are not considered as commonly accruing phenomenon, however, the rising age of marriage is found to be prevalent in working and educated class. Thus the study will collect the data from the female hostels located in G-5 and G-6 sectors of Islamabad. Islamabad is in Potohar Plateau, northwest of the region. This region has been important in history as part of the Rawalpindi and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa crossroads (KPK). The town was established in the early 1960s to replace Karachi as the capital, which it had been since 1963. Compared to the other cities of Pakistan, Islamabad is considered as the cleanest, spacious and quietest of all with lots of greeneries.

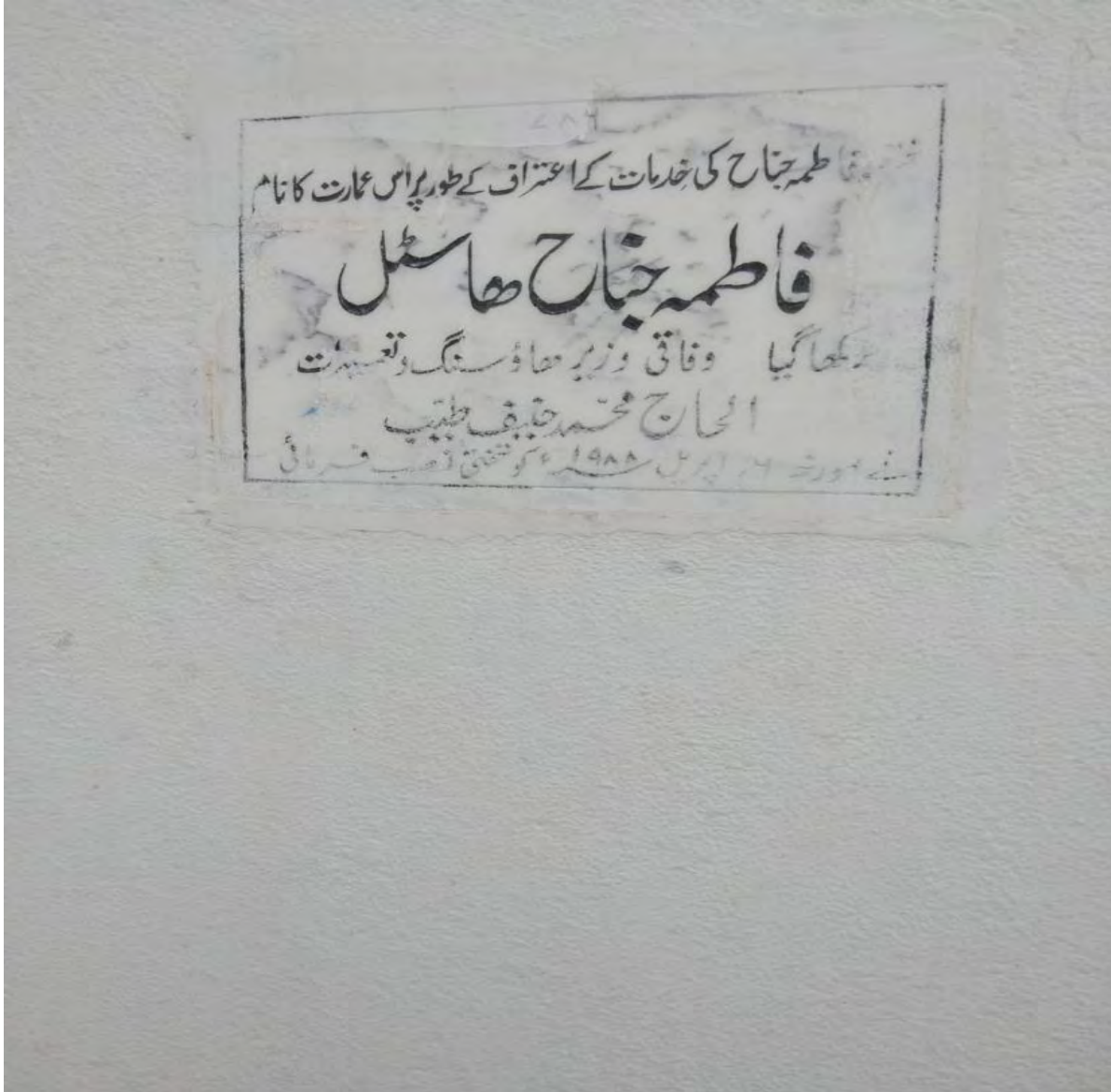


Figure 1 Fatima Jinnah Hostel for Girls Sources; Researcher

4.2 History of Fatima Jinnah Hostel

As far as the history of this hostel is concerned, it was established in 1988 as need for Government employees in the Islamabad city reached its apotheosis in late 1980s. The hostel is named after Fatima Jinnah (Sister of Quid-e-Azam) who had been influential in the

establishment of Pakistan. Her contributions in the development of this country has also been epic. It was owing to her contributions to the nation that Government of Pakistan named the hostel after her. The hostel comes directly under Ministry of Housing and Works which is responsible for developing and maintaining housing in the capital city. Under this Ministry, Pakistan Works Department (PWD) was established for developing Government buildings all across Pakistan.

4.3 Services of the hostel

Government Hostel for Women provides logistic support to Government as well as semi-government employees belonging to female faction of Pakistani society. In the hostel, there are plenty of rooms available for women, but allotted on strict merit enunciated in the rules and regulations of the hostel. According to the hostel officials, in the hostel, single seater as well as double seater rooms is available to accommodate women. It wholly depends on the needs and requirements of employees that officials allot rooms to them. Some require single seater room to be able to live a satisfactory life, but others prefer double seater. According to the hostel officials, generally, they charge PRs 150 to 165 per day and provide all facilities at their disposal . the rooms are fully furnished and provide healthy environment for studying and rest. All in all, charges for living in the hostel range from PRs 6200-6500 per month. Hostel also showers other facilities such as: cleaning, food and extra-curricular activities within its premises.



Figure 2 Inside location of the Hostel Source; Researcher

4.4 (PWD) is running the Hostel

Pakistan Works Department maintains this hostel and capital accrued from the occupants of this hostel goes into Ministry of Housing and Works' pocket. In turn, the Ministry releases money to maintain the hostel through (PWD) Pakistan Workers Department. The occupants of the hostel are of diverse background as they come from all over Pakistan. As the survey was being

conducted, it was found out that residence of the hostel are of all communities living in the country. In allotting rooms, system of meritocracy is followed. Moreover, not only all cultural communities of the country are present, but also religious communities are also equally represented. Needless to say, Pakistan is culturally and religiously diverse in its outlook. According to the officials, merit is followed even if minorities are to reside. The rules and regulations of the hostel are not relaxed for any religious or cultural community as it ensures the amiable character of officials. Apart from this, the occupants are of diverse government departments and scales. Some are affiliated with Ministry of Defense and Interior, others are playing a pivotal role in Parliament as officers. According to hostel officials, employees are no less than grade 17. In previous decade, some occupants had resided in the hostel while working as grade 16 officers. However, currently, every occupant is either of grades 17 or more.

As far as marriages of employees inhabiting the hostel is concerned, according to hostel officials, over 60 percent are unmarried. As an obscurantist country, women in the society are encouraged to stay in the four-walls to ensure child rearing effectively. Most women of the country perform this duty diligently and to best of their abilities. However, owing to ubiquitous media and educational opportunities, some have ventured to get education. In this regard, they are now employed in wide variety of departments in the country. Unfortunately, because of their exposure to the wider World and Government job, society now looks down at them as they are outcasts. In this vein, they are not accepted by conservative families as daughter-in-laws. It is because of this, majority of the occupants of the hostel are unmarried.

According to hostel officials, almost each and every state of the art facilities are offered to residents. Furnished rooms, clean environment 24 hours, water cold and warm as per the weather, pick and drop facility and food are all provided to the members. However, some

occupants use their own vehicles as per their own choice. It is, however, ensured that not a single male except workers do not breach the hostel's premises. In bottom, facilities of every kind are provided. As far as the timings of hostel is concerned, all residents are informed that they are supposed to enter in the hostel till 10:00 PM. Otherwise, the officials call explanation of those who breach the rules.

In bottom, Government Fatima Jinnah Hostel for Women was inaugurated in 1988 by the than Minister for Housing and Works, Alhaajj Muhammad Hanif Tayyab. Supreme purpose of the hostel was to provide residence to female employees of Federal Government of Pakistan. The hostel is maintained by parent department (PWD) which operates under Ministry of Housing and Works. Most of the occupants of the hostel are unmarried. It is pretty clear from the visit of the researcher that facilities of the hostel are of modern. The hostel provides residence to employees and above all, psychological and mental satisfaction owing to its healthy environment.

5 Early Marriages in Pakistani Society

Early marriage in Pakistan is being replaced by late marriage. The trend of late marriage may have both favorable and unfavorable social outcomes. On the former side, late marriage is creating hindrance to conceive children and some females' medical issues. In the current study the major emphasize has been given to understand the other social factors e.g. caste, economic position, income level, job, as well as physical beauty etc. such values which are always short-lived but become permanent hurdle in the path of relationship ties. It has radical consequence for individual, their families and for the society at large.

5.1 Late Marriage and Families

The concept of late marriage is growing social worries. Families under underneath marriage is the institution with worldwide acceptance. If, late marriages become the essence of the community, this may come with drastic change in the family institution and against the social values which are associated to the male and females of the families under particular age brackets. Late Marriages have far reaching impact that are not observed at this moment of society but can demonstrate themselves in hard hopeful impact in the future.

And the other side of the picture showed an independent, working lady who taking care of herself and the families when she was earning something. When question was asked to the respondents why they prefer late marriages some of them stated,

'I wanted to complete my education, that's why my age just passed which was considered the favorite age for marriage.'

Majority of the families looked at their young boys and girls in the context of Islamic age of marriage, as in Islam, Muslims believed on the spiritual inheritance and all values of *tawakal* and *Iman*. And according to the respondents,

'Just marriages result in divorce, because we are wasting values and sacrifices. There were past days when family members would surrender for each other for the improvement of their family and for the community at large, but now everyone

try to make him/herself comfortable that is why the marriages are not fulfilling their spirits.'

5.2 Marriage and its Functions

In Islam, marriage holds great significance and has been given a holy status. Every Muslim man and woman is ordered to make their marriage and fosters their partners as long as they live. It is greatly significant for Muslims to get the *nikkah* done which states that the man and woman are going to be spending their life together. Marriage has great significance in Islam, it stresses not to delay in marriage. It safeguards physical and spiritual purity and peace of a person. Marriage increases nourishment, love, respect, caring, selflessness and forgiving factors between husband and wife. Islam promotes love, care, and respect in the Muslim society where wife and husband live prosperously with their children and families.

A respondent (warden of the hostel) shared,

'Islam stresses that a Muslim should marry in order to lead a pure, peaceful and serene life. It is natural that a marriage at proper age keeps the individuals well engaged in the compact stream of life. Thus, later marriages have become one among other quandaries of an advanced age.'

5.3 Late Marriage and Pakistani Society

Pakistan is facing a problem of late marriages in urban areas generally and in rural areas to some extent. Girls face more issues when getting married at a later age. The existences of unmarried sisters at home desire that brothers must wait for the sisters to get married before they bring their partner at home. No, suitable proposal comes, sometime come from other castes; as a result of this the educated girls are not married and spend most of their lives in living at home or work in offices.

A respondent shared,

'Currently people spend large amounts of money on marriages. Some go to the extent of even spending their life savings, while others go as far as taking loans

from companies where they work. Thus, in their remaining lives the amount spent on paying back.'

Another respondent was of view,

'A happy married life is the target and dream of all educated girls.'

But cultural restrictions and the social statuses create hindrance in this scenario. As a result of being unemployed after higher education for a long duration girls are facing problem in getting suitable partners. Even the parents of their highly educated daughters find difficult to get a suitable match for their daughters. In this critical situation the girls after their reasonable education are compelled to go for further higher education or for a white collar job. Naturally with higher age, high quality and with their best job they prefer their partners to be on the same level, age and with the same type of qualification and good job status.

5.4 Ideal Age of Marriage

The question was asked to the respondents regarding their perception and view point of ideal age for being get married. Majority of the them stated that before 25' is the quite ideal age for marriage because at that point the social and emotional state of girls are very open and they are exploring things and world around them. The table below shows,

Table 1. Ideal age to get married

Sr. No.	Age for Getting Married	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	23-24	13	62
2	25-27	8	38
Total		21	100.0

According to respondents, 62% in the favor of first category that is very significant number of responses, average number of responses regarding the ideal age for marriage remained under the age of 27, as shown in the table. There were 38% of the respondents who were in the favor of marriage not later than 27th birthday. The overall understanding towards this age bracket is

majorly influenced by the cultural normative structure, before thirty is the actual and particular age for marriage because due to modernization till that age girls remained busy in academic lives and completion of first very common and after the second they got married.

The question was asked what was the age of the respondents, table shows that,

Table 2. Respondents' age of Marriage

Sr. No.	Age of the Respondents	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	25-27	7	33
2	28-30	9	42
3	31-32	3	14
4	32-33	2	9
Total		21	100.0

Table depicts four categories of the respondents ranging from 25 years' old to 33 years' old. In Pakistan early marriage is partially replaced by late marriage and there were different age of respondents who agree with late marriage trends. Age group categories are, 25-27, second 28-30, third 31-32 and fourth, 32-33. According to the data, 33% of the respondents belonged to 25-27 age bracket. Though in second category 28-30 had 42% respondents of the whole sample size. Whereas, 14% respondents agreed which belonged to age 31-32, in the last category of the age of the respondents when they are giving interviews, only 9% of the whole sample belonged to the 32-33 age bracket.

5.5 Marriage Patterns in the Family

Another question was asked regarding the family marriage patterns. The existing marriage types either inside the family or outside the family. And preference mechanism by the elders of the family. The table shows,

Table 3. Marriage Patterns in the Family

Sr. No.	Type of Marriage	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Exogamy	9	43
2	Endogamy	12	57
Total		21	100.0

The above table shows the type of marriages practiced in the families of the respondents. In Pakistan there were different marriage patterns practiced but endogamy is the most important and prestigious among rural and urban residential areas. Though the average to some extent is near but still you can find the increase of endogamous marriages. From whole sample size, 57% of the respondents belonged the endogamous marriage and remaining 43% outside the marriages. It was evident that due to high rates in education and professional involvement of the girls in earning sources.

Family related questions were also asked during interviews to develop an understanding that which type of family respondents have and how they get managed to work and participating in economic affairs of their families. The table shows the number of siblings,

Table 4. How many siblings

Sr. No.	Number of Siblings	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	1-2	7	33
2	3-4	11	52
3	5-6	1	4
4	7-8	2	9
Total		21	100.0

The stated table depicts that the respondents have various number of siblings, overall number of children ranging between 4-7 children. Table depicts that there were only seven families which have 1-2 children, there were 11 families which have 3-4 children and only 2 families which have more than 8 children. Stated data was collected from interviews when asked to the respondents regarding their number of family members. In early days families prefer large number of children, they think that the family have more children that gave them more strength, in the new trend, number of children directly linked to the marriage and mental capability of the husband and wife.

5.6 Ideal Age difference between Husband and Wife

Question was asked to the respondent regarding the ideal age difference among husband and wife, so many answers were documented and discussed here in tabular format.

Table 5. Age difference between you and your spouse?

Sr. No.	Age Difference	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	3 years	4	19
2	5 years	6	29
3	7 years	5	23
4	10 years	4	19
5	12 years	2	9
Total		21	100.0

In the above table data of the respondents categorically discussed to elaborate the ideal age difference of the husband and wife. It was evident that majority of the respondents 29% were in the favor that 5 year age difference between husband and wife is good and that make sense to the community and the couple as well. In Early marriage mostly the couple have more age difference. Families prefer elderly male over female but now a day age difference between husband and wife is become very less. As per data collection, different categories e.g. 3 year, 5 year, 7 year, 10 year, and 12 years. 19% of respondent have 3 year gap between spouses, 29% have 5 years, 23% have 7 years while 19% have 10 years whereas only 9% have 12 years gap between them.

Table 6. Ideal age difference between two married partners

Sr. No.	Ideal age difference	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Equal Age	11	52
2	5 years	9	43
3	10 years	1	4
Total		21	100.0

The stated table depicts the age difference between the couple. The married couple was a different age gap between them. The table represents the age gap in different sets: equal age, 5 years, and 10 years. In the first category, 52% of respondents prefer the equal age between married couples while 43% of respondents prefer 5 years gap and only 4 % of respondent think that the ideal age gap between married partners was 10-year.

5.7 Early Age Marriage Practices

One of the respondents stated that

'In our country marriage has always been considered as an important activity, an aged, educated girl cannot survive in isolation without a partner, the perception regarding such autonomous woman is very different and people thought about them very negatively.'

One elderly respondent stated that,

'In the past the boys and girls were married at a very early age. The priority of the parents was to get their daughters married at the age of 14 or 16 and their obligation was to see that their sons stand on their feet and take up the business of the father. But at present it's not the same. It is now strange to see that our unmarried grandparents' of a higher age are seeking suitable partners for their marriage.'

Women are facing so many problems nowadays, it was evident through literature and different case studies that,

'Girls face more problems when getting married at a later age. Height, skin color, and financial position are some of the elements which compensate the age at later age marriage.'

In this current situation it was observed that in later age the girls live glamour of bachelor life or a strictly religious devoted life.

No good proposal comes sometime come from the other affluent families as a result of this the educated daughters are not married and spend most of their life isolated at home or work in offices not favorable to their likes.

Another respondent shared,

'parents wanted their daughters to get married in their own social caste, and did not allow them to get married outside their caste, economic or lingual groups, due to less available opportunities in the families girls wait for long for a proposal from the same social caste.'

This is the demand of the time that educated girls try to make their own choices e.g. desire of an educated person to have economic status and handsome. This type of match keeps them waiting till late in life. Girls keep themselves in a disadvantageous position and they reach at the stage where proposals stop coming from the other the other side.

A case narrated by the respondent for the late marriages,

'in rural areas generally and in the feudal families particularly it is very difficult to take care of the marriage age, due to less match-able boys girls most of the time wait till later thirties or early thirties for a reasonable proposal.'

Majority of the girls nowadays trying to maintain their own living standards, due to inflation and lots of other social and economic problems, girls try to participate in the economic spheres. It was observed during interviews that the majority of the respondents were in the favor to get married but due to social and cultural restrictions and the list of demands they forced to act accordingly.

Another respondents shared,

'In order to have a career like professionalism, marriage postpone is just common like the early marriages. The parents of educated boys do not want to marry their boy to a woman over thirty, or even in her late twenties.'

Thus, in these unfortunate circumstance forced to delay their marriage. It was surprising that parents don't take the initiative to marry their daughters in their early twenties, due to some other economic reasons like the dowry etc.

Nowadays people spend huge amounts of money on marriages. Some go to the extent of even spending their life savings, while others go as far as taking loans from offices where they work and from friends and family members. Thus, in their rest of lives the amount spent on paying back. This amount is not a productive investment and all the money spent on luxurious weddings is wasted, but that wasted is only helpful to maintain the social prestige other than the utilization of the money for the best and better future of newly married couple.

It was observed all the respondents were choosing to marry later in life, many girls opting to marry in their thirties. The overwhelming majority of girls believe that the ideal age for marriage is by the age of 25 (which increase one year or decrease, it is up to the social status and the economic conditions of the families), all the interviews revealed that 55 per cent of respondents said that the ideal marriage age is 25. 26 per cent said 24 and remaining 19 percent said 23. 70 per cent from the total sample size prefer the marriage in late twenties and over 30 percent would expect to be married before they turned 30.

When asked to the respondents what they thought about the happy life which are associated to the married life according to the respondents,

'A happy married life is the dream of all educated girls, life in this world is for a short period, we should know what our Prophet (PBH) said; marriage itself is a Sunnah, which means that it is recommended, not obligatory to us. But here it is considered the obligation rather than the companionship of two individuals. That is why more girls try to go for this when they though they are now able to take care of themselves.'

5.8 Legal Justification

Age for the marriage is considered the most complex question in the country, there are various definitions from Islam, legal and the cultural observations, some aspects asked to wait up till the 18th birthday, some go for teenagers and various cultural practices are also creating confusion for the exact age for marriage among girls. It was observed marriage before 18 years is considered to be a harmful practice because it denies girls the right to general, sexual, and reproductive health, and to a life free from violence. Under-age marriage like practices in various parts of the country, also evolving around physical, emotional, and personal constraints with required maturity and successfully transition to adulthood. It on other hand limits the opportunities and rights of

education, life and the professional development for economic development and empowerment. It also undergo the opportunities to fully participate in the family's economic activities as well. According to the head,

'Under-age marriages leads towards the health issues and lack of emotional and psychological bound among both partners.'

There are various cultural parameters and religious restrictions around the marriage age and practices. Moreover, in religious understanding,

'For the marriage the puberty is the stage to get married for boys and girls to restrict them from sinful life.'

Women also tend to marry younger than men. For example, as study showed that about 80% of women aged 30-35 years were married by ages 25-29 years. One of the elderly respondents shared that,

'Implications for maternal and child mortality as well as psychological health of the mothers are the major issue of late marriages, due to lack of proper diet patterns and the exercise, late marriages come with various physical and psychological issues that add fuel in fire.'

5.9 Child Birth and Socialization

It was evident that late marriage on one hand provide a very limited timespan for the pregnancy and raring a child on the other hand it facilitates the agenda of 'a smaller number of children, prosperous future' the motto of the government of Pakistan. Not in the context of limited numbers but for their bright future and their better socialization. Late marriage also plays a very important role in lowering fertility levels from the biological maximum.

A respondent shared,

'Nowadays it is very difficult to provide bright future more than two children, cultural and religious proverbs for promotion of number of children are there but late age provide a natural hurdle for less number of children, in my point of view'

it is important for the health of mother and for the future of the new comers as well.'

When asked to the respondent regarding the medical fallibilities in their respective areas for the health of mother and new born child, overall all the respondents said the facilities are quite good but the access to such facilities are quite difficult due to mobility of the females in cultural appropriate manners. A respondent shared,

'Women who get married in their early ages (early twenties or in teen age) are therefore likely to have poorer access to and control over contraception, because of cultural and religious point of view, there is no particular description given to the married couple for the health of the couple other than forcefully get pregnant to maintain the honor of the families.'

5.10 Spouse Selection Criteria in the Family

The question was asked regarding the selection of spouse in the families from the respondents. As discussed earlier majority of the families practicing endogamous marriages i.e. 57% of the total sample size. Meanwhile who is more superior in the selection of spouse, table depicts some categories in the form of table.

Table 7. How you met your spouse

Sr. No.	Marriage process through	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Family	9	43
2	Family Friends	3	14
3	Love marriage	9	43
Total		21	100.0

In the above table the selection of the spouse criteria in the family were different in altered families. The norms and selection criteria was selected according to the family structure. In the modern society the marriages happened with the help of other than family society/social members. In previous times, only parents most specifically elderly parents supposed to do the *rishta* proposal of the boy or girl and no one can question them because they had the authority.

According to the above table the marriage proposals have been done through three particular mechanisms Family, Family Friends, and Love marriages. Love marriage and arrange marriage had the same 43% respondents, which showed the prominent development and prevailing process of the marriage proposals in the society. And there were only 14% who shared that the marriage proposals have been done through family or family friends.

Table 8. Spouse selection preferences in the family

Sr. No.	Selection of Spouse	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Parents	6	28
2	Parents + Self	6	28
3	Self	9	43
Total		21	100.0

The stated table depicts the preference in the family to select the spouse. The table was sorted in the different steps. First was parents, Second was Parents +Self and the last was Self. There were 28% of the respondent who preferably remained under the parents and parents plus self, marriage proposal and then marriage ceremonies. There were only 9 respondents which were the 43%, shared that they practice long marriage.

Table 9. Average age of marriage prevailing in family

Sr. No.	Age of the Respondents	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	18-20	11	52
2	20-22	2	8
3	23-25	4	19
4	25-28	4	19
Total		21	100.0

Table was extracted from the existing field data. In the above table the age of marriage prevailing in the family were recorded. The table was classified into different age limits which were preferably practiced in the families. The first category depicts that 52% of the families practice marriage between 18 to 20 years old. There were only 8% respondents who shared that

in their families usually marriage have been done in the age of 20 and the upper limit is the 22. There were only 36% respondents who remained under 23 to 28 years old when families get them married.

Table 10. Educational level Difference

Sr. No.	Educational Difference	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	5	24
2	No	16	76
Total		21	100.0

The stated table depicts that either the educational level among the spouses was found yes or no. In early time the concept of education for girls was totally different. They were not allowed to proceed education but, currently this trend have also been changed, that the male and female both have educational right equally. This table was categories either they have different educational level among the couple or not. 24% or respondents think the different educational level between couple but 76% was not agree in this statement.

5.11 Late Marriages and Social Issues

The question was asked to the respondent, either they found any issue related to the late marriage, a number of issues have been documented after interviews of the respondents, it was evident that various issues made the life of the women worse.

Table 11. Social or cultural factors responsible for delay in marriage

Sr. No.	Social and Cultural factors	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Dowry	3	14
2	Education	3	14
3	Well settlement	2	9
4	Out of Caste	4	19
5	Religious Difference	5	24
6	Geographical Difference	4	19
Total		21	100.0

The stated table depicts that various social and cultural factors were responsible for delay in marriage. In initial times the early marriage prefer to avoid the social and cultural factors but now a day the trend was totally changed people prefer to late marriage but they face a lot of social and cultural problems. In the current study the major emphasize has been given to understand the other social factors. In the above table the problem was categories into different stages that dowry, education, settlement, caste, religious difference, and geographical difference. There were 14% of the respondents who shared that dowry, and education is the third major indicator which was shared by the respondents. Dowry is the most important factor which cause delay in marriages, people found of dowry and middle-class or lower-middle-class people are not able to provide such lavish household accessories to the families of groom, that is why girls go for education and did odd jobs for their dowry preparation. Education is the second social issue in which those who girls who wanted to achieve their goals, try to avoid getting married during their educational time frame that is why their marriages done in late twenties, or early thirties. There were 24% of the respondents who shared that religious difference among the males and females are one of the most important factor which cause delay in marriage. It was evident that particular religious groups did not accept any marriage proposal from other religious sect. So, division of the religious sect is most important, consensus of families took lot of time for marriage. There were 19% of the respondents who shared that caste is another major issue which cause delay in marriage. Caste is very important in the community irrespective of rural or urban residential areas. It is the type of prestige, people looked more concerned to their social class 'caste'.

Table 12. Consequence of marrying late

Sr. No.	Consequences	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Difficulties in Spouse Selection	3	14
2	Beauty	3	14
3	Dowry	2	9
4	Health	13	62
Total		21	100.0

A number of variables have been extracted from interviews that what type of consequence women faced if they get married in their early thirties or late twenties which is known as the late marriage in Pakistan. In the above table there were different consequences of marrying late. According to the research the consequences which were extracted were difficulties in spouse selection, beauty, dowry, and on the health. Averagely, 14% of the respondents shared that beauty, the facial and physical appearance's damage is the important consequence, after that with increase in age the selection of spouse becoming more and more problematic because of some reasons. From whole sample size 62% of the respondents shared that health of women becoming more devastating with increase in age. No one directly discussed about mental or physical health but after probing some of the respondents shared mental health disturbed very bad.

Table 13. Why you married late

Sr. No.	Reason of Late Marriage	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Education	7	33
2	Want Economic power	9	43
3	No one was there to maintain the expenses	3	14
4	Family Issues	2	9
Total		21	100.0

The question was asked out of curiosity, that whether their intentions would be the reason of late marriage or there are some family or social issues which create hindrance in getting married in particular age. The responses were distributed into four categories, education, want economic power, daily expenses and family issues. There were only 9% of respondents who shared that it due to family issues they delayed their marriages. The majority of the respondents which were 43% shared that they want some economic development, some economic stability for their lives. The other reason which was the 14% of the total sample size was the responsibility of households.

Table 14. Marriage patterns are changing

Sr. No.	Status of Marriage Patterns	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	18	86
2	No	3	14
Total		21	100.0

The question was asked to the respondent that did they found any change in the existing pattern of marriage among their families or peer groups, in this regard 86% of the respondents stated that they observed change in the existing scenario of marriage spouse selection process. Whereas 24% of the respondents shared there is no difference between previous and current marriage practices.

Table 15. Modern changes involved in delaying Marriage

Sr. No.	Modern Changes for Delaying Marriage	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Professional Lives	9	43
2	Education	7	33
3	Well settlement	5	24
Total		21	100.0

It was found during the interviews that people have their own restrictions and reservations about the life patterns and lifestyle. It was found that 43% of the respondents stated that quest of professional life is one of the important thing which motivate individuals to let down the idea of marriage. The second important thing was the education which was 33% of the respondents' preference for delaying marriage. The well-being in the context of economic and health perspective was discussed by the respondents that they were trying to make their lives more appropriate.

Table 16. Perusing education cause the delay in marriages

Sr. No.	Social and Cultural factors	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	17	81
2	No	4	19
Total		21	100.0

As discussed in previous tables, it was documented that education was the only one reason which create hinder in early marriage. Delaying marriage is not the tactic which was used by the family of the respondents, in the interviews when asked to the respondents, 81% of the respondents shared that they wanted to pursue higher studies for the better future that is why their marriage delays. It was evident that delaying marriage is not the marriage after or during fifties. In local perspectives marriage age is different in rural and urban areas, among the respondents of the study the average age for the marriage was between 22-25 years. There were 19% of the respondents who agreed with the status that socio-cultural factors playing an important role for delaying marriage as discussed in previous tables.

Table 17. Society/family structure support the married working women

Sr. No.	Society/Family Support	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	8	38
2	No	5	24
3	Conditional	8	38
Total		21	100.0

In the above table the society/ family structure was support the married working women. In our society mostly families prefer the married working women. In early time women were not allowed to do outside work except of work chores. But now in the modern era women work outside as well as inside. Families were also support the married women for office work. In the above table the sets were divided as Yes, No or Conditional. 38% respondents were come to a settlement in support of married working women, while 24% was not agree, although 38% said that society or family structure support the married working women in different conditions.

5.12 Relationship with Husband

The theme was developed to discuss the interaction and type of relationship between husband and wife. After the marriage, the relationship of the husband and wife the heading consists of various tables and documents the views and prospects of the respondents.

Table 18. Status of Marital relationship

Sr. No.	Marital Relationship	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Affectionate	5	23
2	Caring relationship	9	43
3	Known each other's capacities	7	33
Total		21	100.0

The table depicts the relationship of woman with her husband. Status of marital relationship was divided into different categories e.g. affectionate, caring relationship and third was known each other's capacities. According to the data, 23% respondents shared their relationship with their husbands are affectionate, though 43% of the respondents were in the caring relationship, while 33% respondents were not particularly attached with each other but they somewhat aware about the personalities of each other, in this regard study showed that interaction and affection among the couple is necessary for their psychological health.

Table 19. Resolution of Marital conflicts

Sr. No.	Resolution of Disputes through	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Personal Efforts	7	33
2	Asking Paternal Parents	3	14
3	Asking Maternal Parents	5	23
4	Asking common Friends	2	9
5	Giving Time to each other	4	19
Total		21	100.0

Conflicts and personal interests are the common part of the marital lives. It was evident that majorly issues emerged to compensate personal likes and dislikes. Various questions were asked to the respondents that whether they are happy or if any conflict emerged among husband and wife how they get managed that issue. The table resolution of disputes discuss various coping mechanism which were utilized by the respondents for making their lives more comfortable and appropriate. It was evident that 33% of the respondents shared that they try of resolve the issue by selves and those who try to engage their paternal parents (husband’s parents) were 14% of the total sample size. It was evident and very much important to share that 23% of the maternal families (parents of the bride) involved in marital problem solving. According to the data 9% of respondents requested their friends to take part in the conflict resolution. And 19% shared they give some time to each other to understand and idealize the situation, what is more appropriate for the development of the marital ties.

5.13 Overall Environment of the Family

Another theme which was directly linked to the relationship of the husband and wife was the overall environment of the grooms’ family with the bride and her family. The theme was developed to identify the participation of the new member in the family (wife), her participation in economic affairs, in other social and cultural activities of the family.

Table 20. Sharing economic responsibilities

Sr. No.	Sharing Economic Responsibilities	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	13	62
2	No	8	38
Total		21	100.0

First table of the theme was developed to find out the sharing of economic responsibilities of the husband and wife in the family affairs. When asked to the respondents they were all female and married, 62% from the total sample size shared that they participate in the family affairs economically. And remaining 38% shared that they did not participate in the family economic

affairs but they do spend on themselves. They also shared that their husband do gave them personal expenses for their use but what they earn they utilized it personally.

Table 21. Experience any Health Complications

Sr. No.	Health Complications	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	8	38
2	No	13	61
Total		21	100.0

The table discussed the health problems and issues in recent two years. It was evident that people forget the issues and problems when they get old. There were only 38% of the respondents who shared that they had experienced health issues and their families e.g. in-laws helped them a lot. When question was asked regarding the financial need and help during that particular time all of the respondents shared that *'the family supported all aspects'*. Remaining 61% of the respondents shared that they did not faced any particular health issue in stipulated time frame.

Table 22. Experience living with your spouse family

Sr. No.	Experience with Spouse's family	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Affectionate	5	23
2	Caring relationship	9	43
3	So-So	4	19
4	Good	3	14
Total		21	100.0

The table was extracted from the exiting information regarding the interaction and living experiences of women with their in-laws. In the above table the experience of living with spouse's family (joint or extended family residential patterns) were categories into affectionate relationship, caring relationship of the in-laws, no practical or direct interaction no affectionate relationship were found and if asked for help in-laws helped them out from any particular situation were considered the so-so or fifty-fifty or neutral category and the last one was the

category which was in the favor of bride the good and constructive relationship with in-laws. There were 14% of respondents who experiences were good with groom’s families. Whereas 19 % from the whole sample size was neutral and they were not in the condition to share any of the experience with the groom’s family. There were 43% of respondents they shared their experience was caring with their in-laws, they cared about them. Though 23% of respondents shared they had affectionate relationship with spouse family.

Table 23. When you conceived

Sr. No.	Year of Conceive	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	First Year	5	24
2	Second Year	6	28
3	Third Year	6	28
4	Fourth Year	3	14
5	Fifth Year	1	4
Total		21	100.0

Table shared the information about marital life of the respondents and their interaction with the husband in the context of their marital relationships. The relationships were measured on the basis of their probability to conceive for first baby. The data was collected from respondents and 28% from the whole sample size shared they got pregnant in second and other from same percentage shared they got pregnant in third year of their marriage. There were only 4% of the respondents who shared they concave in their fifth year of marriage. 24 % of the females conceive in their first year of marriage, while 14 % conceived in fourth year of their marriage.

Table 24. Marriage ceremony

Sr. No.	Function of Marriage	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Family Function	10	47
2	Guests were allowed	11	52
Total		21	100.0

The question was asked to formulize the actual social and economic conditions of the families. There were 47% of the respondents who shared that the marriage functions flowed by only family members no one were allowed beyond the family to attend the ceremonies. In the second category, 52% of the respondents shared in their marriage ceremony guests were allowed and they enjoyed all functions with the relatives other family members.

Table 25. Importance of dowry

Sr. No.	Importance of dowry	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Very much	13	62
2	To some extent	5	23
3	No importance	3	14
Total		21	100.0

In last of the interview the concluding question was to identify and idealize the actual situation and concept of dowry for the early or late marriages among respondents. It was found that 62% of the respondents had very much concerns that dowry plays an important role in marriage process e.g. spouse selection, age limits etc. While 23 % respondent shared that dowry was important to some extent and 14 % of respondents supported that there was no importance of dowry in marriage selection process that is a secondary thing.

5.14 Educational Opportunities

Variation in the marriage age has been associated to the rise in educational opportunities in the study when asked to the respondents either educational development is the cause for late marriages? All of the respondents were of view that, yes it is not the only reason for late marriage but with other all social and cultural factors it has its own weightage.

‘Education is the only way which provide help to get into the economic spheres of life, if marriage did not work properly so, participating in the economic activities make us more confident to spend a life on our own’ were the view of all the respondents.

Getting higher education is not the passionate work for the development of women, it was forced activity on girls. A respondent stated,

'selection of spouses are very tricky and very difficult process now a days, parents of boys' wanted so many things in one girl i.e. she must be presentable, highly educated owned job and if government that have plus points, height and facial structure must be presentable. These are some of the things that is why education compensate sometimes in the form of having good jobs.'

But one of the respondent shared another view, according to her,

'Those with higher levels of education were much more likely to remain single as they try to enjoy their productive lives and feel the autonomous power of being single.'

It was observed and evident that young people in urban areas are more likely to be unmarried than rural areas and therefore in search of other opportunities such as schooling, leisure and gainful employment forced them to invest their more time and energies for better prosperous future.

5.15 Scene of Well-being

According to various studies it was evident that under-age marriages or the early marriages under-rang the well-being of the girls. The overall well-being of the girls most of the time associated to their daily activities and their life style in their homes.

When asked to the respondents that who they conceptualize the concept of well-being a respondent shared,

'There is no particular reference of well-beingness, I am working since my graduation and for me, and the well-being is the mental and physical health as well as my economic stability.'

It was also documented that marriage at one hand accelerates the opportunities for the women for development e.g. psychological and emotional and on the other hand it reduce the development at personal level. The same was shared by a respondent as,

'I got married when I was in my 21 year, though he (my husband) took lot of care but sometimes he just destroy the situation.'

Social roles are defined in cultures so, if girls want to invest for themselves or in any particular aspects of their lives in patriarchal society it is very difficult for them to make their dreams come true. The same shared with another respondent as,

'I wanted to become a doctor and did my FSc with very good marks but my parents were too poor to send me for medical college, I did my BSc but unfortunately got married, I wanted to spend my life in medical area but my husband, he has very limited resources for my higher education, now I am working and running my own expenses that cost me in many ways.'

5.16 Economic Empowerment

Usually the particular reference to the woman or the wife's empowered role in husband's home always remained the question of inquiry. Husbands and mothers-in-law in majority of cases exercise greater control over wives, or in various situations they may less educated, less able to assert themselves that is why the being influenced by the husband or mother-in-law. Being female and of a young age limits their ability to exercise autonomy during their childbearing years e.g. young mothers' lack of control over their own fertility increases the risk of numerous negative maternal reproductive health and child-survival outcomes.

Same case was reported by a respondent as,

'I have experienced domestic violence when I get pregnant, after ultrasound I was found that the baby is girl, my husband and mother-in-law wanted male boy, when I refused to abort the child I experienced physical and psychological violence which ended at abortion. If I had some economic opportunity I preferably left the home and brought-up my kid.'

Domestic violence is another aspect of low empowerment related in part to young wives, lower ability to resist. There is likely to be a two-way association between early marriage and poor mental health, and together, these factors have knock-on effects on a range of adverse maternal

and child outcomes. Some other studies found out girls who marry during adolescence are also more likely to be experiencing the physical and emotional effects for mental health.

5.17 Low status

Age at marriage is likely to shape women's empowerment and action within households and their status in the broader community. Present research study find that the younger a women marries, the more likely she is to have lower status in the family and she can be easily influenced by the elderly members of the family without her consent.

There are some other factors which pushed the married women lowering their status inside household. Some of the negative outcomes for early age marriages have been documented from interviews and listed below as,

5.17.1 Socio-Cultural Factors

Various studies identified culture as the combination of different practices which people practice. Marriage is one of them, but associated activities and related issues perceived differently according to cultural understanding and available social resource. In cultural or social understanding, identity directly linked with the social or economic difference which deals with the marriage practices and its development.

As discussed earlier, 'various culture factors hinder marriage in particular time frame, it was evident that

'Social resources plays an important role in the development of concept that which age is good for marriage and what the major underlying factors are.'

Another respondent stated,

'Culture play critical role in the forming of personality because culture is largely internalized and modified by individuals depending. Person cannot be detached from their broader social structures, hierarchies (socio-economic and gender), and caste/class systems easily but in other way round, it is impossible to detached them from their particular ascribed status.'

5.17.2 Economic Factors

The study also found that in patrilineal communities e.g. rural or urban; where family lineage and livelihood depends on sons, more resources are amassed for their development and educational/social advancement. For restoration of such factors less resources are spent on daughters' education, healthcare, and eventual marriage and dowry. Girls from middle-income families moved on to their marital homes as early as possible, without completing their studies or sometimes reaching the age of marriage. A respondent shared,

'In villages people have limited resources, so they get married their girls before they truing into 18th.'

This is because dowry, which is paid by the woman's family, increases with the prospective bride's age, and education level. Average increase in age more burden of debit on parents for purchasing of dowry.

6 Summary/Conclusion

The study was conducted in government hostel, working females from diverse background and in variation have been selected to find out the importance of marriage, concept of late marriage in their respective cultures. It was evident that early marriages are recognized in different academic and policy fields.

The study is divided into various chapters and each of them equally important for the study. Qualitative research tools and methods were administered for data collection. Marriage is a partnership between a woman and a man through sexual, social and culturally approved way, begin to reside together and share livelihoods to live a life. It is the basic universal social institution that recognizes family life for males and females. It is a ubiquitous aspect of human social organization and possibly developed very early in the course of human social history. Marriage is a complex social phenomenon which occurs willingly and publically. The decision to marry can be affected by multiple factors, including physiological factors such as physical maturity, social factors (such as academic puberty and psychological puberty), spiritual and religious factors, social context, economic condition, and level of schooling, community and ethnicity.

Analysis indicates an ideal age for marriage to have the greatest beneficial influence on mental, physical, and social well-being. In addition, delayed marriage can lead to the suppression of sexual and emotional desires, which may influence multiple facets of health in turn. In addition to these individual impacts, late marriage or fewer marriage has adverse social damage on a broader scale Married age, by contrast, has the potential to control both mother and child's health.

Three objectives have been formulated for the present research study such as, investigate the prevalence of women's marriage above the age of 35 years to explore the social perception regarding late marriages and the last was the investigation of the socio-psychological problems which become cause of late marriage.

Two basic aims of marriage; one is the legalization of sexual relations and the other is reproduction. Pakistan is historically identified with very early marriage, which can be described

as an 'eastern marriage pattern' with early and universal marriage; in contrast to 'western marriage pattern,' we may call it late marriage. Pakistani people also follow this newly developed pattern of marriages. In our society, the common marriage time for a woman is 18-25 years. After this age, it is considered a late marriage.

The findings of the thesis relevant since both the psycho-social issues of late marriage would be explored. The health-related challenges confronted by couples after a late marriage would be described in this study. In this study, social activity plays a very significant role and the factors behind late marriage will also be addressed. Current research will add anthropological knowledge and it will provide information about the culture and economic life of the area.

Reviewing literature is an integral aspect of any study. Effective and clear writing audit made the study's finish conceivable. This writing explores the past analysis of late-relational unions. Writing uncovers that as time passes, nations are going on, and people are being free of the implications for the general population's marriage period. Education is one of the most widely-recognized causes seen over the past couple of years. In particular, marriage age has gained much interest as a career contingency in educational attainment level study.

Chapter three discussed research methodology. The reason for doing so is because most of the Anthropological studies employ the qualitative methods as this research design implores the questions of *how* and *why* instead of only answering *what*, *when*, *where*, or *'who'*. The qualitative study helps to explore narratives and understandings instead of giving mere percentages and figures which assisted in a better understanding of how social principles work, act, and are made and further interpreted. The following qualitative methods will be used in my research to collect the data. With the help of purposive sampling 25 participants have been selected and from them interviews conducted. I have used this technique as an autonomous analysis strategy or as a part of a multi-strategic setup, depending on the study criteria. Case study method was used and the major advantage of the case study lays in the richness of its described those results from the intensive study of one or few units. At the end of the data collection data analyzed using thematic analysis. Themes will be generated from the literature and findings will be described under themes and subthemes comprising.

The last chapter consists of thematic description of the interviews which shared a clear picture of the consequences of late marriages, particular factors and socio-demographic factors.

Some of the limitations have been observed in the study that diverse variability in the marriage age made the choices stricter to the families. It was also found that the data of the study may not be generalized for the whole segments of society but just for the working women and particularly for those who lived in hostels. Evidences of the study shared that women even they have higher educational degree they are not supposed to select their spouse. Study also summarized that social resources plays a vital role in late marriage.

6.1 Conclusion

Study concluded various patterns of the respondents e.g. demographic characterizes are more prominent and influence the personality traits. It was found that people always influence by cultural norms and values. Study also concluded that economic participation of the women at one hand provide them a more stable status in the family and on the other it has various consequences and one of them is late marriage. Those who got married with the choice and selection of their families they also lived that same life as they get married through their personal choices or selections.

The objective of the study was to discuss the reasons of late marriage. The concept of late marriage have been adopted from legal definition of marriage age for boys and girls. Regarding the health and social issues, including the low status of women through economy or the social class, are some of the major reasons which influence their actual development of self that motivate them to work autonomously. Marriage is both a cultural practice, reflecting women's status in society, and linked to multiple biological, ecological, and geographical factors, each of which is crucial for their health the mental and physical.

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Interview Guide

1. In what age you got married?
2. What is the ideal age to get married, in your view?
3. What is the overall marriage pattern followed in your family?
4. How many siblings you have? Have they all married?
5. What is the age difference between you and your spouse?
6. What should be the ideal age difference between two married partners?
7. How you met your spouse?
8. Why you married late?
9. How was your marriage ceremony?
10. How is your marital relationship going?
11. Do you share economic responsibility with your spouse?
12. How much the age difference between you and your spouse?
13. Is there any difference in educational level between you and your spouse?
14. How you resolve marital conflicts?
15. What are the spouse selection preferences in your family?
16. What is the average age of marriage prevailing in your family?
17. Have you experience any health complications after marriage/in child birth?
18. After how much duration of marrying you conceived (pregnancy)?
19. How is your experience living with your spouse family?
20. How much dowry has importance in marriage?
21. What is the appropriate age of marriage in your opinion?
22. What are the social or cultural factors responsible for delay in marriage?
23. What is the social consequence of marrying late?
24. Do marriage patterns are changing with time?
25. To what extent modern changes involved in delaying marriages?
26. Do you think that perusing education cause the delay in marriages?
27. Do you think career oriented females often got married late?
28. Does this society/family structure support the married working women?
29. What are the key factors involved in delaying marriage?