

Case Study

To Compare the Traditional and Modern marriage (Case Study Kermanshah City)

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ABSTRACT

The present study is in kind of causal-comparative study. Statistical population of the study consists of married men of Kermanshah. Using random cluster sampling method, 250 married men of Kermanshah have been selected as sample through referring to parks of the district. Family Function Assessment Questionnaire based on the McMaster has been distributed among them and for purpose of data analysis, t-test and chi square (χ^2) tests have been applied. Obtained results from the study indicate that there is no significant difference between men with traditional marriage and men with modern marriage in terms of problem solving ability. There is significant difference between men with traditional marriage and men with modern marriage in terms of ability to communicate, role playing, emotional responsiveness, emotional involvement and behavior control.

Key words: marriage, traditional marriage, modern marriage

INTRODUCTION

The modern world of today is a world with the indicator of rapid cultural and social changes. These changes can lead to a kind of divergence of generation, the difference in valuations, traits and intergenerational behaviors. In past times and the age of traditions, children used to act similar to their parents; although the intergenerational differences are to an extent that scholars discuss on concepts like generational difference (1) with a lot of concerns. Generational difference is a common concept referring to lack of cultural adaptation between two successive generations' or the rate of rupture and continuity of a society's culture from one generation to another [2]. In subject of generational difference, there are different theories using two macro and micro approaches. In macro perspective, rapid social-

cultural changes in their wide comprehensive meaning can be the main and effective factor to create difference among generations. On the other hand, those thinkers, assessed generational relations with micro perspective, consider value differences of generations, along with value similarities related to growth during lifecycle and consider a part of value differences as the common characteristics of age groups [1]. Enhancement of educational level, development of technologies, media and communicative systems are factors that intensify generational differences. However, some perspectives also believe that these changes return not only to issue of generational differences, but also they are resulted from generational experiences and social macrostructure evolutions. One of the

institutes that have passed tangible intergenerational changes is family. Modernity, the process of modernization and globalization has changed traditional structures of family. According to Giddens, no one of the current changes is in level of events in personal level and sexual relations, emotional life, marriage and family (Giddens, 1999: 1). Challenge of the current traditions with modern values has created many differences between fathers and sons and mothers and daughters in terms of structure, function, attitude and value. The clearest example of generational gaps between patterns and children and the domain of generational agreement and conflict is in marriage, so that in the new generation, marriage has been changes from traditional frame to a micro and macro level change of the society and as a social and family problem. Hence, sometimes motivation and marriage style of the generation is considerably different from past generation. Generation of mothers believes in commitment to traditions and values of past generations and preserving them and the modern generation seeks social and cultural changes. Family pattern in modern countries is under effect of religious, social and industrial changes, features, goals and functions and different forms of the society. in these societies, structure of family is broken and defected and it has lost its functions other than supplying emotional needs or has weakened. Today, nonindustrial countries like Iran experience deep changes in pattern of marriage and goals and relevant rites as a result of evolutions of globalization and universalization of communicative technologies and structural and internal evolutions (Celik, 2007). Marriage in Iranian family has had specific features by the age before passage. Marriage was based on ethnical, religious and class considerations and considering effect of choosing spouse on family, survival and economic life. As a result of effects and interactions with West, especially in metropolises, family and its functions have been changed, so that many desired values in marriage

have been changed. Outside effects and local changes in Iranian society has created attitude and value differences between two generations in terms of marriage. Need to create human relations is one of the emotional needs of human. Marriage is the most intimate kind of relationship to meet all needs including material and spiritual needs and is also one of the steps of evolution of human. Marriage is a holy covenant existed among all races and nations and in all times and places. It is an old and long-lasting relationship, in which man and woman begin a common life and promise to be partner and companion and sympathetic of each other and make each other happy, love each other and end their loneliness by means of marriage. Marriage is a process of the interaction between man and woman, that is held under legal and religious conditions and ceremonies and it is accepted by law, religion and social formalities (NavabiNejad, 2001). At the current society of Iran, different groups are living, in which different degrees of pre-modern and post-modern conditions can be found. In these different social groups, form of family and choosing life partner varies based on position of group and form of family.

Indicators of generational differences in marriage pattern

1. Change in marriage age: in young generation, average marriage age has been changed and this has led to outputs such as reduction of fertility and number of children and threat for physical and mental health of women. Many wanted and unwanted factors involve in late marriage including increase the economic and social participation of women, high education, urbanization, marriage costs and so on.
2. Increase in absolute celibacy and decrease in marriage rate: studies indicate that attitudes of two generations to marriage indicate more similarities. Although mothers have positive attitude to marriage and marital life, girls have more tendency to be single.

However, the difference can be interpreted in tendency of youths for long single life and not absolute celibacy. Marriage in high age or long celibacy period means that youths should spend a part of their life in sexual abstinence. Hence, sometimes some youths prefer open friendships and relationships to marriage because of lack of commitments and responsibilities.

3. Change in value attitudes of girls and boys: education, globalization, consumption and mass media have changed behavioral pattern and attitude of youths to marriage and gender functions. One of the main differences of two generations is value and norm changes. Values of young generation has been changed compared to previous generation in terms of different domains including look to the family; individualism; characteristics expected of a wife and standards; lifestyle; marriage practices; both material and spiritual priorities; religious values; division of labor; simplicity or luxury. In fact, a kind of value passage is existed among youths from traditional to modern values and worldviews.

4. Mate selection pattern: traditional marriage pattern in Iran is consanguineous marriages and family-centered intragroup marriage, which is more sustainable than other types and there are a lot of marriages of this type in some rural and traditional areas. Characteristics of the marriage include value, culture and norm similarities of couples. Change in economic, social and political structures and change in ethnical and cultural beliefs have declined functions of consanguineous marriage and its material and spiritual impacts. Consanguineous marriages, which used to be done as a result of advice of parents, have been changed along with modernity evolutions, intergenerational attitude changes, urbanization and its anonymities. Today, majority of youths have not positive attitude to consanguineous marriages and prefer to marry with independence in mate selection and apply their personal criteria.

The difference in mate selection style can decrease the contributions of kinship and partnerships and funding in marriage. Relationship of two genders and relations before marriage can be considered as one sign for cultural deformation and generational differences. Hence, proposal ceremony that was at past the first confrontation is being held today as a formality and in form of a formal ceremony. Expansion of new forms of marriage including marriage in absentia, and online dating agencies are emerging phenomena in Iranian Society. In these marriages, place, culture and ethnical distances would be destroyed. Large numbers of Iranian girls become familiar with a man living abroad and marry him just to migrate abroad.

5. Expectations of marriage: in young generation, being satisfied by marriage is interrelated to more internal and external criteria and components than the previous generation. In fact, it could be mentioned that perceptions and expectations of the current generation from marriage have been increased. Premarital dating, importance of love and emotional relationship with life partner are components emphasized by young generation for marriage. However, premarital dating of girl and boy was not accepted and had no position in past traditions, customs and norms. It has been observed many times that older women express that they have had no expectation other than bride dress and purchase of wedding goods before marriage and have coped with difficulties of life. However, the today's generation has many expectations in economic, communicative, rites, responsibilities, gender functions and lifestyle fields.

Traditional and modern marriage

At the current society, because of decline of traditional marriages, majority of youths take measure to hold parties and collective mixed entertainments or group trips to become familiar with the opposite sex. They may also use social networks like Viber and Facebook or upload

inadequate pictures of themselves in social networks to be able to select their mate through this (Heuvel, 1994). Moreover, some ladies think that veil can hide their beauty and perfections and try to make up and dress in modest and driving clothes in the society and these actions can have no positive output. As family interactions have been summarized in one or two times per year, the most important factor for continuity of traditional marriages and increase in mate selection has been considered as presence of mediator. Moreover, in the not so distant past that divorce rate was not too high, many men and women used to play role of mediator to introduce girls and boys and there was no missed ring named mediators in traditional marriages. Today, for many reasons like worrying prevalence of divorce in Iranian families, a few people take the responsibility and this has made many modest girls and boys be afraid of remaining single and take any kind of action to supply themselves [16]. The problem with modern marriages is that most of the times, girls and boys look this issue emotionally and marry in this manner without awareness and their problems would be cleared after marriage and beginning marital life. At the US, sociologists believe that increase in divorce rate is not a lateral and transverse phenomenon that can be declined in future, but also it is result of new concept of marriage [11]. Thornton and Lin [17] have investigated evolution of family and marriage patterns with industrialization and modernization and have found that evolutions resulted from these issues can be the main factor to reduce authority of parents and increase independence of children for mate selection. The process can finally lead to reduction of marriages like Consanguinity marriage. Change in position of women in terms of education can be the main factor that conducts them toward rejecting traditional patterns. After Islamic Revolution and making decisions on equality of opportunities, women were not satisfied by elementary and high school educations. Hence, women are not trapped in home anymore to wait for a traditional

marriage and to accept marrying in low ages and accept dominance of men [5].

In traditional marriage, each party identified his or her position properly and the functions are defined clearly. Husband is the source of power and financial support and wife is responsible for maintaining home and growing children, today, the situation has been changed significantly. Responsibilities are divided between wife and husband and the outcome of these changes is completely clear. When one party feels that his/her needs and goals are not realized in marital life, he/she may think maybe in mind that why I should be involved in a relationship, in which I am mostly donor and not receptor [17].

Studies indicate that average marriage during 2002-2007 in Tehran has been about 8849 marriages per 10,000 people that is the lowest rate of marriage in Iran. Tehran with 17.1% has had the highest average of six-year general rate of divorce. In general, divorce to marriage ratio in Iran has been increased since 2002 to 2007 and has reached from 10.3% in 2007 to 11.9% in 2007 with an increase equal to 1.6%. By 2007, Tehran with 9.21% has had highest divorce-marriage ratio. According to the statistics, out of 5 marriages, one has resulted in divorce. Therefore, Tehran is in first position of lowest marriages and in first position of highest rate of divorce [4].

METHODOLOGY

The present study is in kind of causal and comparative study and has been adopted to compare traditional and modern marriages in view of married men with such marriages. Statistical population of the study consists of married men of Tehran. Statistical sample consists of 250 people selected using random cluster sampling method. Demographic variables in this study include marriage duration of statistical sample to 5-7 years; respondents have no previous marital life and their current family is result of their first marriage; respondents have child.

Research instrument: in this study, in order to test hypotheses and collect required data, survey technique and questionnaire has been applied. To test function of the instrument, Family Assessment Device (FAD) and another questionnaire containing demographic information and recognition of marriage type have been applied. Applied instrument in family has been based on McMaster Model for family function produced by Epstein et al. The instrument has been applied by 1983 on a 53-member sample and range of alpha coefficient has been obtained to 72-97% (Salari, 2001). Primary study of 60-item version of FAD has been implemented on 109 secondary school and high school students. Reliability of retest in this study has been estimated with interval of 1 week to 10 days equal to 42-78%. Moreover, internal consistency of subscales has been obtained to 58-85% and correlation of scales has been also reported to 42-71%.

Moreover, in order to determine validity of second questionnaire, content validation in kind of face validity has been applied. for purpose of data analysis, chi square test has been applied and to compare two traditional and modern groups, independent t-test has been applied.

RESULTS

In this study, mean age of participants is 40 years, median is equal to 36 years old and mode is equal to 37 years old. Out of total statistical sample, 5% of respondents have not mentioned their job status, 48% are have public job and 52% have free jobs. Among the respondents, 3% have not mentioned their educational level; 13% are below diploma; 25% diploma and 41% have has academic educations. Moreover, only two people have been illiterate.

Obtained results from the study in terms of satisfaction and ability for problem solving through consulting spouse indicate that among men with modern marriage, mean ability for problem solving has been equal to 63% and in men with traditional marriage, the value has been

equal to 36.5%. There is no significant difference between men with traditional and modern marriage in terms of ability of problem solving. Hence, it could be mentioned that marriage style, traditional or modern, can affect increase or decrease in ability of problem solving.

Obtained t-value and p-value indicate that in terms of communicative ability, there is significant difference between men with traditional and modern marriage. In field of communicative ability of men with modern marriage, they have gained about 3points more than men with traditional marriage. Therefore, it could be mentioned that premarital dating can have deep effect on relationship of couples to continue marital life and can improve this kind of marriage.

In regard with relationship of couples, obtained results from the study indicate that among men with modern marriage, communicative ability has been equal to 25.37% and has been equal to 14.65% for men with traditional marriage.

marriage type	sample size	mean	sd	t	df	p-value
modern	170	24.37	4.90	3.9	263	0.005
traditional	80	14.65	4.73	3.9	263	0.005

In regard with the ability of emotional involvement, obtained results indicate that in terms of ability of emotional involvement, there is significant difference between men with traditional and modern marriage. Men with modern marriage have more emotional involvement than men with traditional marriage ($p < 0.001$).

marriage type	sample size	mean	sd	t	df	p-value
modern	170	22.71	4.70	3.93	263	0.000
traditional	80	19.65	4.10	3.93	263	0.0

Finally, in regard with behavior control or commitment to principles and rules dominated on family, obtained results indicate that in men with modern marriage, mean value of behavior control has been equal to 247.12% and has been equal to

21.64 for men with traditional marriage. Men with modern marriage have about 2 points more than men with traditional marriage in terms of behavior control.

marriage type	sample size	mean	sd	t	df	p-value
modern	170	24.12	4.92	3.83	263	0.000
traditional	80	21.65	4.81	3.83	263	0.0

CONCLUSION

Marriage and mate selection is one of the most important indicators of social movement in every society. Today, according to change in mate selection manners and modern patterns of marriage from traditional to modern, their difference can be understood. This study has investigated traditional and modern marriages in view of married men with these types of marriage. Obtained results from the study indicate that there is significant difference between men with modern and men with traditional marriage in terms of ability of problem solving.

There is significant difference between men with traditional and modern marriage in terms of communication, role playing, emotional responsiveness, emotional involvement and behavior control.

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