



Attitude towards Marriage and its Relation to Dowry System among Students

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Abstract : Attitude has always played an important role in Marriage and Dowry system in the Indian society which varies from people to people. The objective of the present study entitled "Attitude towards Marriage and its relation to Dowry System among students" was to find the relationship between Attitudes, Marriage, and Dowry system among students. Three hypotheses were formulated – (1.) Attitude towards marriage and dowry will be negatively co-related. (2) The marriage attitude of girls will differ significantly from the boys. (3) Girls will have negative attitude towards dowry than boys. The study was conducted on a sample of 200 students, 100 male and 100 female students, and age ranging from 21 to 25

years through incidental cum purposive sampling method. The data were collected from Patna Women's College, St. Sophia Hostel and CIMAGE College. The research tools used were - Pramod kumar: Marriage Attitude Scale (MAS) and Dr. R.R Sharma: Dowry Attitude Scale (DAS). The result was analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively. The mean, co-efficient of correlation, Standard Deviation (SD), critical ratio (t-ratio) were computed to assess the attitude towards Marriage and Dowry system. The bar diagrams was also prepared for clear perception of the data. The obtained result for the first hypothesis revealed that, the marriage and dowry have a positive co-efficient of correlation but it was not significant even at 0.05 level. The obtained result of the second hypothesis revealed that, there is a significant difference ($t = 7.58, P > 0.01$) in the attitude of marriage among the male and female students. On the basis of percentile, the obtained result for the third hypothesis revealed, a positive attitude of female and neutral attitude of male towards dowry. Hence, the hypotheses 1 and 3 were rejected and hypothesis 2 got support.

Key words : Attitude, Marriage, Dowry.

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Introduction :

Attitude has been defined as, “an enduring organization of motivational, emotional, perceptual and cognitive process with respect to some aspect of the individual’s world” (Kretch, Crutchfield and Ballachy, 1982). An attitude, either positive or negative towards marriage and dowry are related to each other, in the same way as Marriage and Dowry is. Majumdar and Madan (1957) define marriage which ensures “a biological satisfaction and a psychological satisfaction on the individual plane, and on the wider collective plane, it ensures a two – fold survival, that of the group and its culture (45-50).” Dowry is usually negotiated between two families during the marriage preparations. A dowry refers to “the property given to the daughters by her parents and family to take with her into marriage (Puri, 1999)”.

Purpose :

The purpose of the present study was:-

1. To measure the attitude towards marriage and its relation to dowry system.
2. To find out whether there exist any genders differences in the attitude towards marriage.
3. To find out whether there exist any genders differences in the attitude towards dowry system.

Hypotheses :

The hypotheses formulated were:-

1. Attitude towards marriage and dowry will be negatively co-related.
2. The marriage attitude of girls will differ significantly from the boys.
3. Girls will have negative attitude towards dowry than boys.

Methodology :

Sample: A sample of 200 students among which 100 were female and 100 were male students, their age ranging from 21 to 25 years was selected from Patna Women’s College (75), St. Sophia Hostel (25) and CIMAGE College (100) by Incidental Cum Purposive Sampling Method.

Research Tools: The following research tools were used for data collection:

1. Marriage Attitude Scale (MAS) by Pramod Kumar (1988).
2. Dowry Attitude Scale (DAS) by Dr. R.R Sharma (1990).

Procedure of Data Collection:

The data were collected from two educational institutions and one from St. Sophia Girls hostel of Patna town in one session during the college hour in 15 days.

Result and Interpretation:

The result was analyzed quantitatively by computing - mean, co-efficient of correlation, Standard Deviation (SD), and critical ratio (t-ratio). The graphical representation was also done for analysis of data.

The obtained data were analyzed hypothesis wise.

Hypothesis No. I: - “Attitude towards marriage and dowry will be negatively co-related.”

Table – I. Table showing the N, mean, co-efficient of correlation, df and level of significance between marriage and dowry.

Variables	N	Mean	r	df	Level of Significance
Marriage	200	76.93	0.05	196	P > 0.01*
Dowry	200	217.82			

*Table value at 0.05 level = 0.159; 0.01 level = 0.208.

Table No. I is also presented in the graphical form in figure no. I for the clear perception of the data.

Mean and standard deviation (SD) of marriage and dowry scores of female and male students.

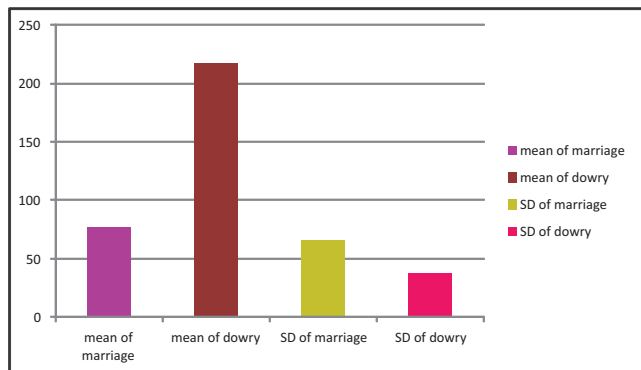


Fig. I

Table No. I shows the mean, co-efficient of correlation, df and level of significance between two sets of scores. The co-efficient of correlation (0.05) suggests that there is positive co-efficient of correlation between the obtained scores on Marriage and Dowry. The table value on df 196 at 0.05 level is 0.159 and at 0.01 level is 0.208. So, the correlation is not significant as the co-efficient of correlation is almost negligible hence, no definite positive co-efficient of correlation can be assured. Therefore, it can be concluded that the hypothesis “attitude towards marriage and dowry will be negatively co-related” is not proved.

Hypothesis No. II: - “The marriage attitude of girls will differ significantly from the boys.”

Table II

Table showing N, mean, standard deviation (SD) t-ratio, df and level of significance between female and male. (N= 200)

Gender	N	Total Obtained Score	Mean	SD	t-value	df	Level of Significance
Females	100	5921	59.21	25.91	7.58	198	P>0.01*
Males	100	9463	94.63	39.81			

* Table value at 0.05 level = 1.98; 0.01 level = 2.61

Table No. II is also presented in the graphical form in figure no. II for clear perception of the data.

Mean, and SD of Marriage Attitude scores of female and male students.

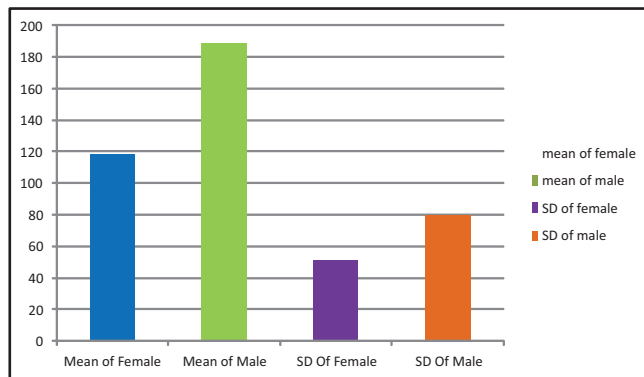


Fig. II

The mean on Marriage Attitude Scale of female student is 59.21 and of male student is 94.63 respectively. SD of female is 25.91 and of boys are 39.81. The SD is quite low to their mean hence it can be said that there is less variability in the respondent’s response. Critical ratio (t- ratio) is 7.58 which is greater than the table value at both the level of significance as on df 198, table value at 0.05 level is 1.98 and at 0.01 level is 2.61. So, the findings reveal that the hypothesis “the marriage attitude of girls will differ significantly from the boys” is proved as there is a significant difference among female and male student on Marriage Attitude Scale and the difference between the two is the actual difference.

Hypothesis No. III:- “Girls will have negative attitude towards dowry than boys.”

Table III

Table showing the mean, percentile and type of attitude towards Dowry of female and male adolescents. (N= 200)

Gender	Mean	Percentile	Type of attitude
Female	225.46	20	Positive attitude
Male	210.19	40	Neutral attitude

Table No. III is also presented in the graphical form in figure no. III for clear perception of the data.

Mean, and percentile of attitude towards dowry scores of female and male adolescents.

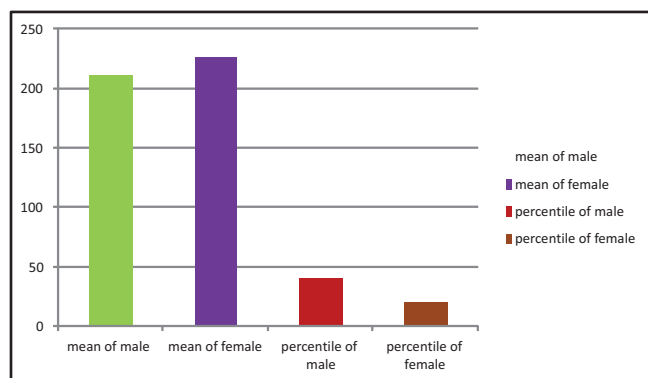


Fig. III

Table no. III reveals that the mean of female students is 225.46 and the percentile is P20 which shows that 80% of female were having negative attitude towards Dowry while rest 20% of the female students were having positive attitude towards Dowry. The mean of male students is 210.19 and the percentile is P20 which shows that 60 % of the male were having either negative or positive attitude towards Dowry while rest 40% of the male were having the neutral attitude of male towards Dowry. It was hypothesized that “girls will have negative attitude towards dowry than boys”. On the basis of the percentile and the attitude obtained of the female and male students it can be said that the hypothesis is not proved as the formulated hypothesis shows the certainty for the negative attitude of girls and positive attitude of male towards dowry. Here, 20% of the girls showed positive attitude and 40% of the boys showed neutral attitude towards dowry system.

Conclusions :

On the basis of the sample studied following conclusions were drawn:

1. On the basis of co-efficient of co-relation (r value 0.05) it can be said that there is no

significant positive co-relation even at 0.05 level of significance. So, the marriage and dowry attitude are not negatively co-related.

2. The mean value of scores on “Marriage Attitude Scale” of the male and female students at a glance reveals that male students have higher positive attitude towards marriage than female student.
3. According to the percentile norms female students have positive attitude towards dowry and male student have indifferent attitude towards dowry.
4. On the basis of t-ratio ($7.58 > 0.01$) it can be said that there is significant difference between the marriage attitude of male and female students.

Suggestions :

Regarding the study following suggestions were given:-

1. To continue to evaluate those remedies and laws that already exist and to continue to support those that are working. It is important to concentrate on improving and supporting these measures before implementing new one.
2. To combat the problem of dowry related violence. To work towards changing men’s beliefs and attitudes. Young children need to be taught that men and women are equal. This must be taught and reflected at home and in the greater community.
3. To create a social environment for women in which they can enjoy the expansion of educational and economic opportunities and the inheritance right.
4. The people with the power-i.e., Judges, Lawyers, teachers, and the police- must also change their ideas and be willing to enforce the existing laws.

5. Public shaming of the family practising dowry should be encouraged because the strength of public shaming lies in the fact that Indian people place extreme importance on the community and community approval or disapproval.
6. In addition to having laws in place, it is necessary to address the ingrained notions of women as social and financial burdens who need to control and dominated before real change occurs.
7. The males and females and their families should reject such marriage proposals which favours dowry.

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