Marital Adjustment among Urban and Rural Women

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Abstract

In today's life, adjustment is necessary aspect when we talk about a relationship. This study was conducted to assess and compare the marital adjustment of women in urban and rural areas of Lucknow. It's a comparative study, conducted in urban and rural areas of Lucknow district over a period of 3 months. Thirty women were interviewed by purposive sampling, 15 each were taken from urban and rural areas of Lucknow. Out of each 15 women, five women had married life between 5 to 10 years, five had 10-15 years and remaining five had married life of above 15 years. The tool used for the data collection was a questionnaire constructed and standardized by PRAMOD KUMAR & Km. KANCHANA ROHATGI. Data was analyzed by using the software SPSS, version 17.0. and Students't Test. The result indicates that urban women have good marital adjustment and rural women have poor marital adjustment and this finding is statistically significant as well as meaningful. It is also found that marital adjustment was better in women having short married life of 5-10 years and those belonging to higher socio-economic status.

 Keywords: Marital Adjustment, Urban Women, Rural Women, Marriage, Lucknow

Introduction

Marriage

One of the most important relationships between a man and women is marriage. It involves emotional and legal commitment that is quite important in any adult life. Moreover, selecting a partner and entering into a marital contract is considered both maturational milestone and personal achievement. There is no doubt that the choice of marital partner is one of the most important decisions one makes in his / her lifetime. People marry for many reasons, like; love, happiness, companionship, and the desire to have children, physical attraction, or desire to escape from an unhappy situation.

The success of marriage is said to depend partly on finding the right person and partly on being the right person (Ruch, 1970)

All the marriages are aimed at happiness in one or another way. Most couples marry filled up with expectation. Some of the expectations are realistic while others are unrealistic. This is due to the complex nature of marriage and each individual is as complex as universe. Therefore, in marriages, two universes close together. Today marriage is considered not as a state, but as an 'Adjustment'

Marital adjustment

Marital adjustment is the state in which there is an overall feeling in husband and wife of happiness and satisfaction with their marriage and with each other. It appears to be an important determinant of psychological well being. Marital adjustment has long been a popular topic in studies of the family, probably because the concept is believed to be closely related to the stability of a given marriage. Well-adjusted marriages are expected to last for a long time, while poorly adjusted ones end in divorce.

Method

Informed consent was taken

PURPOSE: The aim of this study is to compare the marital adjustment of women among urban and rural areas of Lucknow.

HYPOTHESIS:

✦   There will be a significant difference between marital adjustment of urban and rural women.
✦   Socio-economic status plays a vital role in marital adjustment.
✦   Duration of marital life also plays essential role in marital adjustment.

OBJECTIVES:

✦   To assess the marital adjustment of urban women.
✦   To assess the marital adjustment of rural women.
✦   To compare the marital adjustment of urban and rural women.

STUDY AREA: Urban and rural area of Lucknow district.

STUDY PERIOD: Three months (August to October, 2012)

SAMPLE: Sample size taken is 30 which are purposely drawn. Total 30 married women were interviewed, 15 each were taken from urban and rural areas of Lucknow. Out of each 15 women, five women had married life between 5 to 10 yrs, five had 10-15 yrs and remaining five had married life of above 15 yrs.

TOOL: In the present study the tool used for the data collection was a questionnaire constructed and standardized by PRAMOD KUMAR & Km. KANCHANA ROHATGI. For calculating socio-economic status of urban area we used Modified Kuppuswamy socio-economic classification and for rural area we used Modified Udai Pareek (MUP) SCALE. Little additional information has been added by me viz. family members, marital life duration and dependents in the family. This questionnaire consisted of 25 items concerning various aspects of marital adjustment.

Analysis

Data was analyzed by using the software SPSS, version 17.0. Students' t- Test was used to see the significant difference between the means of scores of marital adjustment among urban and rural women.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Table: 1 showing the standard error of means difference on the scores obtained by urban and rural women.

mean	S.D.	S.E.D.	T value	df
Urban 18.13				
Rural 16.27	4.13	0.73	2.55	28

Inference: the t-value was found to be significant at 0.05 level.

Table 2: Association of socio-economic status with marital adjustment. (N=30)

Marital adjustment*	Socio-economic status**			P value
	Upper	**Middle**	**Lower**	
Good	4(100.0)	4(100.0)	9(41.0)	
Poor	0	0	13(59.0)	0.015
Total	4(100.0)	4(100.0)	22(100.0)	

*Marital adjustment classi1fication has been categorized for easy comparison. [Good= very good, good and average; Poor= poor & very poor]

**Socio-economic status classification has been categorized for easy comparison. [Upper=I, middle=II & III, lower=IV & V]

Inference: value was found to be significant at 0.05 level.

Table 3: Association of marital life duration with marital adjustment. (N=30)

Marital adjustment*	Marital life duration (in yrs)			Total	P value
	5-10	**11-15**	**Above 15**		
Good	11(64.7)	1(5.9)	5(29.4)	17(100.0)	0.33
Poor	3(23.1)	5(38.5)	5(38.5)	13(100.0)	

*Marital adjustment classification has been categorized for easy comparison. [Good= very good, good and average; Poor= poor & very poor]

Inference: value was found to be significant at 0.05 level.

In this study it was found that urban women having goon marital adjustment in comparison to rural women.It was also found that women of upper class and having married life of 5-10 years having better marital adjustment

Discussion

The purpose of the study was to compare the marital adjustment among urban and rural women with the help of marital adjustment questionnaire constructed and standardized by Dr Pramod Kumar and Kanchana Rohatgi.

Marital adjustment is the state in which there is an overall feeling in husband and wife of happiness and satisfaction with their marriage and with each other. Marital adjustment appears to be an important determinant of psychological well being.

All the marriages are aimed at happiness in one or another way. Most couples marry filled up with expectation. Some of the expectations are realistic while others are unrealistic. This is due to the complex nature of marriage and each individual is as complex as universe. Therefore, in marriages, two universes close together.

For study the results was interpreted table wise and the above analysis are as follows-

The table 1 shows the significant difference among marital adjustment of urban women and rural women. Marital adjustment of urban women was better than the rural women. This difference was found to be statistically significant at 0.05 level of significance. The first hypothesis was accepted at 0.05 level.

 In a study similar to this, done by Neeta, P.et.al (2009) have shown that place of residence was plays no significant role in marital adjustment. This difference is probably because in my study sample size was small.

Table 2 shows the relation of socio-economic status with marital adjustment, in this, we found that most of the women (59.0%) having lower socio-economic status had poor marital adjustment while all the women belonging to upper and middle socio-economic status had good marital adjustment. And this difference was found to be statistically significant (p=0.015)

So it can be said that marital adjustment and socio-economic status having a negative relationship.

Table 3 shows the relation of marital life duration with marital adjustment. In our study it was found that about 78.6% women having married life of 5-10 years had good marital adjustment. And among women with married life of 10-15 years maximum women (58.3%) had poor marital adjustment while equal number of women having married life of above 15 years had good and poor marital adjustment. However the difference found in our study was statistically significant (p=0.33) if we assume the cut off p value at 0.05 level.

Reason behind this finding is may be that starting years of a marriage are for couples only and they spend more time with each-other as compare to 11-15 and above 15 years of married life. Kids are small and financial requirements are limited, so the couples are spend more time with each other and understand each-other.

Urban women having a good marital adjustment according to this study and rural women having a poor marital adjustment and this finding is statistically significant. This difference occurred because the rural women are strive for run their marital life successfully but in this then harmony, understanding, and interest matching are gone from their lives.

Thus, it can be concluded that above factors are may be responsible for a significant difference found in present study.

There is need to study various other dimensions, factors and bio-social characteristics that influences the married life.

References

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