

# SOCIAL CHANGE, MODERNITY AND ENDOGAMOUS MARRIAGES: ANTHROPOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

Samia Imtiaz, Zubaida Ilyas\* Abid Ghafoor Chaudhry and Syeda Aimen Hadi

Department of Anthropology, PMAS- Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi,

\*Corresponding Author: [abidgc@uaar.edu.pk](mailto:abidgc@uaar.edu.pk)

**ABSTRACT:** *Modernization followed by globalization has changed the marriage patterns all over Asia. Diffusion of cultural patterns, education, changing family patterns and global awareness can be accounted for this change. The objective of the study was “to study the effects of modernity on endogamous marriages”. The locale of the study was PMAS Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi and Satellite Town District Rawalpindi. Modernity, education and increased dependence over ICT can be accounted for diminishing endogamous marriages pattern sand increased inclination towards exogamous marriages.*

**Key words:** Social change, Modernity, Endogamous marriages

## INTRODUCTION

Marriage is a social contract between two individuals who can produce off springs lawfully and in socially respectful manners. “Marriage is a socially legitimate sexual union and culturally approved custom and “marriage is cultural”[1]. Which allows two opposite sex members of the society to have sexual relationship and become legal parents of the offspring that result from their sexual intercourse [2].

“Marriage is unification of a man and a woman such that the children born to the woman are accepted as rightful offspring of both partners.” “Marriage is cultural, so it setup certain rights and responsibilities between the people including, husband wife their children and their in-laws [3]. In Islamic societies adultery is strongly prohibited. Individuals found to have sexual relationship with a person other than spouse were sentenced to death” [4].

Endogamous marriage is marrying within close relatives. It is characterized by marriage between cross cousins and parallel cousins. “Anthropologically marriage is a group of two or more people related by blood, marriage, or adoption” [5]. Endogamy is mostly practiced in South Asia. There are many factors that support endogamy. People prefer endogamy to strengthen their family ties because they have sense of pride, belongingness, and identity attached to their specific family and caste. Endogamous marriages are also preferred for the maintenance of social status, keeping the property and wealth within the same family.

Modernity can be taken in terms of advancement in technology; life style of people, social institutions, education, beliefs and norms. Modernity as transition from old to new. Modernization brought changes in class systems which resulted in new marriage patterns [6,7].

“Industrialization, the traditional family structures are breaking down”, which is a sign of modernization. Under the light of modernization theory, it can be hypothesized that with “modernization” of societies “dimensions of stratification” and status also change, from “ascribed” to achieved i.e. from “inherited social position” to “formal education and skill” [8, 9]. Thus now, marriages within the family to safeguard achieved statuses are declining, while the focus is now to achieve statuses and then marry.

Moreover, modernization brings about social change in terms of family patterns also. In the view of this theory it is argued that industrialization and development in terms of economy will alter attitudes of people towards family patterns. People prefer to live in an independent environment with their

children. This obviously affects the family ties negatively, weakening the bonds and changing preferences [10]. As the effect of modernity amplifies it not only bringing changes in technology but also influences the life of people. They are changing their life styles and values according to modern world. In the same way marriage patterns have been changing people prefer to marry outside their kin as they contact with the modern world, It can be proved by ‘[8] hypothesized a decline in consanguinity(marrying within close relatives) with modernization”.

Modernization increases the opportunities of education. Children meet new people in schools and colleges and make friends. They belong to different ethnic groups and different socio economic status. This meeting enables them to select their mate. “It is maintained that higher education raised the chances for cultural minorities to meet members of the outer group” [11].

Industrialization revolutionized the whole world. As the time passes people’s attitudes toward things are changing. With this people’s preferences about marriage partner is also changing. People are more conscious about their mate. Shorter claimed that after the end of the eighteenth century romantic love gained position in the Western world: “the most important change in nineteenth- and twentieth century was courtship which promoted emotions. People started to give importance to affection and personal compatibility in choosing their mates. These new values expressed as romantic love.’

Another reason of declining endogamous marriage is genetic pool. According to inbreeding theory before the advancement in knowledge about genetic marriage within kinship, they are more likely to have same harmful recessive genes which produced higher genetic defects which resulted in higher mortality rate. To overcome this problem people started out breeding [1].

## METHODOLOGY

This study has been designed to find out the effects of modernity on endogamous marriages. For this purpose sample of 100 respondents was selected through convenient sampling technique out of which 50 youngsters were interviewed from PMAS Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi and 50 respondents of middle age were interviewed from satellite town district Rawalpindi.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Pearson Correlation Sig. (2 tailed)**

Dependent Variables	Independent Variable	Significant value
Do you prefer marriage within your family?	Do you think family values have changed due to modernity?	.122
Do you prefer your parents to choose your marriage partner?		.017
Do you feel younger generation have negative, views about endogamous marriages?		.058
Do you feel young generation does not like interference of parents in decision of marriage.		.032
Education has increased awareness about disadvantages, of endogamous marriages.		-.021
Do you think modernity has brought the parent-child closer in term of openness?		.030

Result of two tailed correlation value of, “Do you prefer marriage with in your family”, with “do you think family values have changed due to modernity” was .122 which reflects that there is a close association between the two variables. Due to modernity and change in family values the majority of the respondents i.e. 58 % did not prefer endogamous marriages whereas 42 % were agreed to have family marriages.

According to natural Aversion theory “People do not like to have sexual inter course” with the group of people who grow up together [1]. The correlation value of “Do you prefer your parents to choose your marriage partner”, and “Do you think family values have changed due to modernity” was .017 which shows that modernity and decision-making regarding marriage partners has a strong association. %ile analysis reflected that, 55 % respondent agreed that they would prefer their parents to choose their marriage partners, while 18 % did not want their parents to take any part in the decision making process, 27 % stated that they would prefer mutual decision-making. It can be analyzed that there is a changing trend among the younger population regarding their perceptions, value and preferences.

The correlation value of “Does younger generation have negative views about endogamous marriages” and “do you think family values have changed due to modernity” was .058 which strengthened the argument furthermore those who have negative views about endogamous marriages were 75 % of the total sample whereas only 25 % were still in the favor of endogamy. The correlation value of, “do you feel younger generation does not like interference of parents in decision of marriage, “with, “Do you think family values have changed due to modernity” was, .032 which further interpret that 68 % agree with the question (do you feel younger generation does not like interference of parents in decision of marriage while 32 % disagree with it. Modernity has changed the thoughts and life style of people and people preferences about the selection of marriage partner is also changing time to time. Shorter claimed that after the end of the eighteenth century romantic love got important position in the Western world: “the most important change in nineteenth- and twentieth century was courtship which supported feelings and emotions. People started to prefer love and personal likeness in choosing marriage partners.”

The correlation value of, “Education has increased awareness about disadvantages, of endogamous marriages” with, “Do you think family values have changed due to modernity” was, -.021 which shows there is no relationship between them but according to the results 94 % agreed with “Education has increased awareness about disadvantages, of endogamous marriages” whereas 6 % disagreed. “Educated people are better able to adopt to different customs or values” [12]. With the advancement in technology for adopting different culture, people like to marry outside their kin group. As cultural flexibility is irrespective of ethnicity, more education lessened the chances or marrying with in kin group”. The correlation value of, “Do you think modernity has brought the parent-child closer in term of openness” with “Do you think family values have changed due to modernity” was, .030 in which 87 % of the sample agrees that due to modernity parent child relation has become open and easier to communicate but 13 % disagree saying modernity have no such effect. Modernity has changed the family functions the function of the family is no longer just “bringing up” of the children but to became the “emotional support” for them and form a “family unit”[13].

**CONCLUSION**

Study shows different mechanism through which modernity had affected the endogamy practices. People of back ages used to prefer endogamous marriages because they want to retain their blood pure, they used to think if they will do marriages with in family it will help to unite their family ties, for them their culture, norms, values and traditions were more prior. Modernization and education raised awareness about the negative effects of the endogamy practices. With the advancement in education people became aware of the genetic disorders prevailing due to family marriages which became the main reason of marrying outside the family. Modernity had changed the family patterns because people prefer nuclear family system instead of joint or expanded

structure, preferential in the past. People do marriages out of their families as people became aware of the problems faced by endogamous marriages. We conclude there were many other causes of declining of endogamous marriages which include people's personal choices of mate selection and mass media. Technology played a vital role in it as through social media young girls and boys meet each other and share their views which leads to exogamy.

## REFERENCES

1. Ferraro, S., and S, Andreatta. "Cultural Anthropology: An Applied Perspective," 8<sup>th</sup> ed. *Wadsworth. U.S*, P.207, 208, 2013, 2016 (2010)
2. Haviland, W. "A Cultural Anthropology," 9th ed. *Harcourt Brace College Publishers. New York*, P. 226, 233, 238. (1999)
3. Kottak, C. P. "Cultural Anthropology: Appreciating Cultural Diversity," 14th ed. *McGraw Hill*, U.S, p. 262, 267. (2011)
4. Ali, Q., Chaudhary, A. G., Ahmad. A., Farooq, H., "Psychological Ailments and Schizophrenia: An Anthropological Description of Endogamous Marriage Patterns and Family Institution," *European Academic Research*, 2(7): 8775-8786 (2014)
5. Haviland, W. A., D. Walrath., H, L. Prins., & B. McBride. "Cultural Anthropology: The Human Challenge," 12th Ed. *Wadsworth. U.S* P 204.(2008)
6. Simic, M. "The State and Modernity as Anthropological Topics: A Very Short Introduction," *Issues in Ethnology and Anthropology* 3(3): (2008)
7. Habermas, J., "Modernity – An incomplete Project in Foster Postmodern Culture," (ed.) *London and Sydney: Pluto Press*, (1989)
8. Goode, W. J., "World revolution and family patterns," *New York: Free Press*. (1963)
9. Matthijs, K., "Shifting Boundaries: Trends in Religious and Educational Homogon," *American Sociological Review*, 9(6):786-800. (1991)
10. Lian, B., "Modernization and the Change of Developmental Idealism Beliefs in China," *University of Illinois, Department of Sociology, Urbana, IL* 61801, 1995 (2007)
11. Matthijs, K., "Intermarriage and Homogamy: Causes, Patterns, Trends," *Annual Review of Sociology*, 2(4):395-421. (1998)
12. Furtado, D. I. "Marriage: A Choice between Ethnic and Educational Similarities. IZA," *Discussion Paper* No. 3448(2006)
13. Ting, C., "The Impact of Modernity on Family Structure and Function :A study among Beijing, Hong Kong and Yunnan Families," *Ling Nan University*. p.30-45.(2012)