



Short Review Paper

Shukla Comprehensive Marital Expectation Scale (SCMES)

Anshu Shukla^{1*}, Sangita Deodiya¹ and T.B. Singh²

¹VKM, BHU, Varanasi, India

²IMS, BHU, Varanasi, India

yes.anshul@gmail.com

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Abstract

In our society marriage is the structure in which people use to create a stable family unit. A man and woman marry with the intention of staying together for life and within that bond they usually have children and raise them. Marriage itself is easy but the associations with it are too complex to carry. The challenge of marriage is making it work for a lifetime. And when it is a lifetime commitment, it can have a tremendous number of advantages like stability, financial strength and unity. Along with social obligations and duties attached with marriage various beautiful emotions, feelings and expectations are also imbibed into it. So in this scale, a variety of possible emotions attached with marriage partner is listed and statistically analyzed for their reliability.

Keywords: Marital Attitude, Unmarried adolescents, Marital expectation scale.

Introduction

In present time, due to heavy flow of media influences, marriageable youths are exposed to a series of emotions and feelings which were hidden earlier in the society and were expected to lie only between the couples. Now open communication and media influences had pushed the youth in the world of dreams. The experience a melange of emotions and for them marriage with a compatible partner is like living in a dream. Marriage for them is just a tie laced with varied emotions. It is very important for a partner to become aware of each other's emotions and expectations for success of any marriage.

Need of the study: There is a wide range of scales available worldwide to assess overall attitude towards married life. Even there is one scale available for measuring unmarried Indian adolescent's attitude towards marriage developed in 80s, but no updated and latest scale is available for assessing the attitude towards marriage. Technological and social changes have their great impact on behavioral and attitudinal change of an individual and it is true for marital attitude also. Now a day's adolescents are more exposed to different aspects of marital relationship without marrying to somebody. Media, peer group or even liberal societal rules have given them a glimpse of marital life before marriage and it has affected their views about their own married life also. Now the older version of scales is incompetent to measure these changing attitudes towards marriage.

Keeping this view in mind, development of a scale measuring overall attitude towards marriage was conceptualized. The scale

will be applicable to all unmarried adolescents without any geographical boundaries.

Steps of Scale Development

Conceptual outline: Keeping in mind, the changing attitude of adolescents towards their marriage, this study was conceptualized. For this study marriage expectation means an unmarried adolescent's perception regarding his/her own marriage. Primary objective of the SCMES was to develop an accurate measure to assess views of adolescents for their union formation. This research considers that an individual's attitude and expectation for future married life is based on his / her personal experiences. Both negative and positive experiences affect the perception in their own way.

Since the scale was conceptualized as an attitude scale, Edwards¹ guideline and process given by Worthington and Whitaker² was selected as a model. Scale length was carefully taken into consideration while constructing the scale. Items of the scale were designed in such a manner so that they can evoke opinion rather than cognition. It was necessarily taken care of that the scale items were fresh and not based on any pool of items from old scales. Along with it the scoring of the items were also kept simple so that the administration and evolution of scale can be more effective.

Development: Based on the suitable design features, items involving opinion of unmarried adolescents towards their expectations were written in clear and pithy manner. These questions were based on literary articles on marriage and day to day experiences and communication with adolescents.

Table-1
Reliability of the scale items

Questions	Cronbach's alpha
Emotion	0.925
Agreement	0.925
Co-residence	0.926
Education	0.925
Closeness	0.925
Happiness	0.924
Employment	0.924
Sex	0.925
Clear gender roles	0.926
Monogamy	0.925
Recognition of household chores	0.925
Equal division of labour	0.925
Love	0.925
Passing on family name	0.927
Sacrifice	0.925
Family support	0.925
Intimacy	0.925
Commitment	0.925
Fidelity	0.925
Personal freedom	0.925
Having child	0.925
Respect for each other's family	0.925
Living alone with in-laws	0.926
Religion	0.927
Caste	0.928
Living in a joint family set up	0.927
Dominance	0.928
Physical appearance	0.928
Living alone with partners	0.930
Wealth	0.926
Distance	0.933

Initially Thirty eight such items were written and formed a preliminary scale. Five point scale including “strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree and strongly disagree” statements was finalized. Five expert adjudicators of different concerned departments had given their scores and opinions for and against the scale items. The experts gave their opinion on syntax and linguistics of the questions along with their aptness to fulfill intention of the scale. Five items were altogether dropped after the evaluation of experts, and three items were reframed. Finally 32 items were finalized for the scale³.

Preliminary Work: The scale was administered on 160 volunteer respondents from the age group of 18- 23. Total score of survey was 83-148 individually. The average of the score was 153.78 and the index of variability was 16.24. Eighty percent of the scores were shown positive attitude.

After the trial administration of the scale, Item analysis of data was done and the result shows that three items were to be discarded on the basis of t value. The questions with p value between .2 and .8 were selected in the scale.

Administration of final scale: Establishing reliability and validity of the scale is mandatory for its wide applicability. So before administering the scale on a large population reliability and validity of the scale was calculated. It was applied on 1569 respondents (1051 female and 518 male) who were students of different undergraduate or postgraduate courses of BHU and affiliated colleges, Varanasi. The score of each item was calculated in terms of 1-5. Average score of the SCMES was 171.86 with index of variability 16.08. The marriage attitude was high in percentage for boys. Relation between sex and attitude towards union formation was highly significant.

Table-2
Interpretation of Quantitative Data of SCMES

Reliability	.94
Validity	.97
Average	122.78
Standard Deviation	17.25
Cronbeach's	0.928
Minimum	31.00
Maximum	155.00
Low	< 105.00
Medium	105.00 – 140.00
High	> 140.00

Conclusion

Shukla Comprehensive Marital Expectation Scale (SCMES) was evolved for judging the attitude of marriageable youths (18-23 Years) towards marriage and its related concepts. SCMES was tested on 1569 respondents and found to be reliable for assessing overall attitude regarding marital responsibilities.

References

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