Abstract

The Singleton has emerged as a distinct social category in the rapidly changing Kerala society. The present study attempts to show the change from Spinster to Singleton and the generation differentials of single women in Kerala. The study also made an attempt to find out the socio-cultural background of the single women, the factors that led women of Kerala to singlehood, their adjustment to this status, the stress associated with it, the problems they encounter, the support system they enjoy and the level of life satisfaction they have in their unique life style.

The focus of the study is single women of two generations, 225 spinsters and 225 singletons. Single women from three districts- Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Kozhikode constituted the sample for the study. The different aspects of the singlehood were collected with the help of Interview schedule and the scales developed were used for measuring adjustment, stress and support system of the single women. The economic theory of Marx, Women’s economic empowerment theory of Blumberg, Dramaturgical model of role theorists, Becker’s labelling theory of deviance, Michalo’s Multiple-discrepancy theory are the theoretical framework of the study.

The analysis of the study reveals that there is difference between spinsters and singletons in all background variables and dependent variables. The findings of the study shows the motivational factors-chance and choice, determine the Adjustment level, Stress level and the Life satisfaction level of single women in two generations. Single women, who selected singlehood by their own choice and singletons with high expectations, have low level of life satisfaction, even though they have high adjustability and low level of stress in their life.

Keywords

Single Women, Spinsters, Singletons, Generation Differentials.