ABSTRACT

Since the mate selection has acquired importance in marital adjustment, the study was conducted to determine working and non-working men and women preferences for the physical, social and personality factors in mate selection. Studies regarding mate selection are rather scanty. It may be mentioned here Indian data are scanty as regards the cross-character assortment and character-specific assortment which operate in human mating system. A recent study conducted by Buss (1984a) on assortative mating theory provides a ground for the present study.

The main objectives of the present study were:

1. To determine differences between working men and working women, non-working men and non-working women, working men and non-working men, and working women and non-working women on physical factors (facial attractiveness and age) of mate selection.

2. To determine differences between working men and working women, non-working men and non-working women and working men, and non-working men, and working women and non-working women on social factors (type of family and type of marriage) of mate selection.

3. To identify the desirable personality trait-words among working men, non-working men, working women, and non-
working women for the self and other as a potential mate.

4. To identify the similar personality trait-words between the self and other ratings among working men, working women, non-working men, and non-working women.

5. To identify the similar personality trait-words between perceptions of working men and working women, and non-working men and non-working women for the self and other ratings as a potential mate.

6. To identify the similar personality trait-words between perceptions of working men and non-working men, and working women and non-working women for the self and other ratings as a potential mate.

The main findings of the study were:

- Significant differences were found between non-working men and non-working women, and working women and non-working women in preferences for the high and medium attractive mates.

- Significant differences existed between working men and working women, and non-working men and non-working women in preferences for the younger and older mates.

- Working men and non-working men preferred significantly the younger mates than older mates.
- Significant differences were found between working men and non-working men, and between working women and non-working women in preferences for the mates belonging to joint and nuclear family.

- Significant differences were found between working men and non-working men, and working women and non-working women in preferences for the arranged, preferential and love marriages.

- The working men perceived 29 personality trait-words as desirable for themselves and 38 personality trait-word desirable in others as a potential mate.

- The working women perceived 54 personality trait-words as desirable for themselves and 37 personality trait-words as desirable in others as a potential mate.

- The non-working men perceived 47 and 50 personality trait-words as desirable for themselves and others respectively as a potential mate.

- The non-working women perceived 52 and 53 personality trait-words as desirable for themselves and others respectively as a potential mate.

- The working men perceived 19 personality trait-words and the working women perceived 12 personality trait-words as
common between the self and other as reflected in their ratings for a potential mate.

- The non-working men perceived 29 common personality trait-words and the non-working women perceived 39 common personality trait-words between the self and other as reflected in their ratings for a potential mate.

- Seventeen personality trait-words were found to be common between the working men and working women, and 19 personality trait-words were found to be common between the perception of non-working men and non-working women for the self and other ratings as a potential mate.

- Working men and non-working men, and working women and non-working women showed similar perceptions between the self and other ratings as a potential mate on 10 and 8 personality trait-words respectively.