CHAPTER – I

INTRODUCTION
For most of us mate selection is an important component of our marital relationship. Society establishes various norms for the mate selection process. Social groups in India attempt to remain closed, resulting in high incidence of homogamy especially in the socially extreme groups (e.g., religion, caste, etc.). Most of marriages in India, take place with the help of parents, friends or relatives. Majority of us thinks that arranged marriages have been good for them and supports the system as the best one for the marital adjustment. The custom of arranged marriage among Muslims is still prevalent because in the rural and subrural areas of India where parents select the grooms without consulting the girls. The working women and men are now selecting their mates themselves due to their employment and economic independence. Although the muslim community follows both homogamy and heterogamy principles in relation to certain physical and social characteristics (Firdous 1989a), the males enjoy more mate selection freedom than females in order to reinforce their superiority in the society.

The main objective of the present study is to identify the physical, social, and personality factors among working and non-working men and women which they consider to be important in potential mates.
Historical Perspective of Mate Selection:

A perspective on the development of myths and proverbs relating to the topic will bring out the state of affairs in the mate selection process in the historical context.

The roots of mate selection lie in folk psychology. Proverbs like "birds of a feather flock together", or "like", "attracts like" represent the mate selection process. These two proverbs, apparently contradict to each other. According to Willi (1976) the two proverbs can be put together into "opposites of the same attracts each other", two persons forming a couple often have the same basic ideas about what a relationship should be. The similar point of view is expressed by Buss (1985) "opposite are sometimes said to attract, but in fact we are likely to marry someone who is similar to us in almost every variable".

Plato (1946) illustrate the problem of partner choice with an interesting myth in his "symposium ". He visualizes, that originally, "human beings were of different constitutions. They had two head, four arms, four legs and they moved turning cartwheels through countryside. In this way it was always a double person that existed. This race did not act according to the will of God. As a punishment the God cut the human being into two parts and scattered them to the four winds. Since that time every human being has
been only half. He wanders from place to place looking for his lost half. If he meets lost half by chance, he is taken by an immense longing and cannot rest until he is merged with other part, so that original unity is once again established. Only the reunion of these two halves makes man into a true human being" (pp. 134-147).

Plato's conception of mate selection as mentioned in symposium goes as follows: "After the division the two parts of man, each deriving his other half came and throwing about another, entwined, in mutual embraces longing to grow into one, they were on the point of dying from hunger and self neglected. Because they did not like to do anything apart and other survived the survivor sought another mate, men or women as we call them being the sections of entire men or women and clunch to that" (pp.190). This illustration contains truth. Man alone is only half. He becomes a whole human being only through his partner.

Buber (1954) says "De mensh wird am Du Zum Ich" (p.32). The more a partner fits him, the more complete is the unity and harmony attained. This myth contains much truth. Man alone is only half; he becomes a whole human being only through his partner. The Indian myth also supports to this proposition. The Ardhanareshware i.e. half male and half female forms of lords Shiva and Parvati speaks of the unity and oneness of the man and women.
These hypothesis, myths or proverbs relating to the problem of choosing a marriage partner have been answered by scientists ranging from biologists and geneticists to cultural historians, sociologists and psychologists. Biologists focus evolutionary change produced by mating patterns. Behavioral geneticists are interested in assortative mating because it can effect heritibility estimates, create correlations among traits that were initially unrelated (e.g. attractiveness), and increase both genotypic variants in subsequent generations and the correlations between biological relatives on those traits for which assortative mating occurs. Cultural historians are interested in it because institutions such as colleges and universities promote assortative mating by placing similar individual of mating age into close proximity. Sociologists study mate selection because more than 90% of all people are married at some point in their lives (Price and Vandenberg, 1980) and these marriages affect social trends such as the distribution of wealth. Social psychologists have long been concerned with attraction, which is usually a prerequisite for mating; personality psychologist work with enduring dispositions of individuals, which often affect mate selection.

The major aim of studying mate selection is to identify the factors and processes which operate in choosing a
marriage partner. The purpose of mate selection research as a whole is not, therefore, simply to establish what factors play an important role in mate selection or who meets with whom. The ultimate aim is to acquire a knowledge of the dynamics of developing relationships and to determine the role of physical, social, and personality factors affecting marital adjustment. To be precise, mate selection process is a point of origin for marital relationships and we need to understand thoroughly what it is.

**Mate Selection Process:**

According to Adams (1979) mate selection is a process with an early attraction stage. Mate selection is generally guided by certain principles which underlie the process of selection.

**Darwin's Concept of Sexual Selection:**

Evolutionary consideration of mate selection dates back to Darwin (1871). After completing *The Origin of Species*, Darwin (1871) became dissatisfied with natural selection as the sole mechanism for evolutionary change. He observed that many sex differences in characteristics such as the plumage of peacocks seemed to have no survival value and therefore, appeared not to be part of natural selection in the sense of "survival of the fittest". To account for these findings, he proposed the concept of "sexual selection" as a second process causing evolutionary sexual selection, Darwin
thought, would account for findings that he believed could not be explained by natural selection alone.

Darwin's concept of sexual selection subsumed two closely related processes. The first was called \textit{intrasexual selection}, and defined the tendency of members of one sex to compete with one another for access to members of the opposite sex. The second, called \textit{intersexual selection} (also "epigamic selection") was defined as the tendency of members of one sex to preferentially choose as mates certain members of the opposite sex. Darwin called intersexual selection "female choice" because he observed that, throughout the animal world female tends to be more selective and discriminating than males in their mating choices. Patterns of sexual selection do not immediately involve environments or ecological adaptations. In principle, neutral or even otherwise dysfunctional characteristics could evolve through female choice of intrasexual competition. Thus, sexual selection is descriptive of the behavioural interactions of the species members with each other without necessary reference to the prevailing ecological demands.

It is now recognised that sexual selection operates through differential reproductive success (Campbell, 1972). Natural selection, therefore, subsumes sexual selection. There is one process of evolution, not two, and the proximate mechanisms of evolutionary chance reduce to differential gene
replication. In addition, intrasexual selection in humans probably operates indirectly through social hierarchies, rather than through direct competition. Men may compete for elevation in hierarchies and women tend to favour high status men (Symons, 1979; Triver, 1972). Differential access to women is attained more through the medium of hierarchies, and less through direct competition. Lastly, intersexual selection need not be restricted to female choice within certain mating systems, particularly those that tend towards monogamy, men exert choice.

The importance of sexual selection (intrasexual and intersexual) clearly depends on the nature of the mating systems. There is one set of conditions in which sexual selection will not be likely to cause large changes in gene frequencies (Caspari, 1972): (a) if the sex ratio is 1:1 for individuals of mating age; (b) if the mating system is monogamous; and (c) if all individual of mating age become coupled. In western societies, the sex ratio does deviate from 1:1 under certain conditions and for certain age groups (Secord, 1983). Not all individuals of mating age become coupled, and, although presumptively monogamous, it is probably more accurate to describe our mating system as one of “serial polygamy”: successive marriages and mating outside of marriage are common (Caspari, 1972). These conditions in American current mating system allow for considerable sexual selection.
Mate selection in our culture is mainly guided by three mating systems-preferential marriage, arranged marriage, and love marriage.

**Theoretical Approaches to Mate Selection:**

**Homogamy Theory:** The tendency for like to marry like is called homogamy. This theory is concerned with whether or not a person selects a mate with similar personality, social, and physical characteristics. A substantial body of evidence highlights the importance of homogamy by age and marital status, social status, religion, ethnic affiliation, race, and a host of other social and personal characteristics. Homogamy tends to promote mate selection.

**Complementary Need Theory:** This theory assumes that the individual seeks out a mate to complement his own personality. Basic hypothesis of Winch's "Theory of complementary need in mate selection is that each individual chooses to mate with person who is most likely to provide him or her with maximum need gratification" (1952). Winch and his associates theorize that the gratification is obtained when two individuals interact in complementary ways. Type I complementarity: if the needs gratified in one person were of a different kind from those gratified in the other person. Type II complementarity: the needs of one person may be the same as those of the other person, but person's need may differ in intensity in such a
way that both the persons are likely to experience need gratification in interaction with one another (Winch, Ktsanes and Ktsanes, 1954). Winch (1958) holds that "in mate selection the need for each spouse will be complementary rather than similar to the need pattern of the other spouse". For complementary need gratification the relevant dimensions which Winch (1967) identifies are assertiveness, receptivity, nurturance, succorance, achievement, and vicariousness.

There are studies which support the complementary need hypothesis in relation to mate selection (Rychlak, 1965; Wagner, 1975; Winch, 1955 a, b; Winch et al., 1954, 1955). Quite a few number of researches is there which do not support the complementary need hypothesis (Murstein, 1961; Schllenberg & Bee, 1960; Tharp, 1963).

Rosow (1957) pointed out that the theory of complementary need is oversimplified. He maintains that there are at least four kinds of complementarity that affect marital cohesion: (1) the relations strictly between the couple as studied by Winch; (2) the relations which involve either partner acting for the couple with outsiders; (3) relations between the couple, as couple, with outsiders; (4) relations in which each partner separately seeks, within marriage, to balance satisfactions or frustrations encountered outside the family. He points out, too that
needs exist, as organized patterns and that the importance of these patterns in an individual life may change overtime.

Udry (1963) suggested, further, that we react to others on the basis of our perceptions to them, and that perception may or may not coincide with measured personality traits. He found that mates' perceptions of one another exaggerate personality differences and involve projection of their own trait. One implication is that an adequate theory of complementary needs will need to be more complex than the existing theory.

**Ideal Mate Theory:**

The mate selection studies dealing with the concept of an ideal mate are concerned with discovering the degree to which the individual’s concept of an ideal mate influences his choice of mate. By ideal mate we mean that preconceived combination of emotional, physical and social characteristics that is embodied in one's personal image of the kind of person he would like to marry. The preconceived characteristics may be race, religion, nationality, education and socio-economic status that often serve to eliminate large number of people from one's marital choice. But these characteristics frequently operate without the person's awareness in his concept of an ideal mate.
Studies have shown that women normally build a more ideal concept of mate than men (Banta and Hetherington, 1963; Snyder, 1964; Kumar, 1984). Indian females and Mauritian Indian males build a more idealized image of mate than their counterparts (Kumar, 1987, 1989)

**Norm-Interaction Theory:**

Katz and Hill (1958) proposed a norm-interaction theory. Briefly, that theory holds that: (1) mate selection is normatively regulated; (2) within groups of potential spouses, the probability of marriage varies directly with the probability of interaction; and (3) the probability of interaction is governed by distance and the segregation of racial, religious, economic, and other groups in the community. This theory states: "groups that are most segregated residentially will be the most propinquitous and where the homogamy norms are strong there will be more propinquity".

This norm-interaction theory is useful in explaining the variations in propinquity that have been found. Catton and Smircich (1964), find that the most useful model is one which interprets distance gradients as reflecting economy of time and energy rather than competition between near and remote courtship opportunities or the operation of norms. They suggest that the number of 'meaningful' mate selection opportunities that most people have are rather few; most
people simply do not become intimately acquainted with many eligible persons of the opposite sex. The probability that any one person of opposite sex will be included among that small number probably depends upon the time and energy costs in travelling.

A Developmental Approach to Mate Selection:

The development of a courtship is not completely predetermined by either social or personality variables. It involves a series of advances and retreats, changing definitions of the situation and commitments. Bolton (1961) describes five different types of developmental processes: Type I: Personality meshing developmental processes; Type II: Identity clarification developmental processes; Type III: Relation centered developmental processes; Type IV: Pressure and interpersonal-centered developmental processes and Type V: Expediency-centered developmental processes.

Whether or not these five types cover all of the processes whereby future spouses are selected their construction displays a broad perceptive knowledge of personality and courtship. They indicate the importance of personal, interpersonal and situational variables within the general context imposed by social homogamy.

Stimulus-Value-Role Theory:

Murstein (1971) said that most couples pass through stages before they marry: the stimulus stage, the value
stage, and the role stage. The theory holds that people are first attracted to one another by their perceptions of their attractive qualities. This is the stimulus stage. The attractive qualities are both physical and social: good looks, strong, tall, petite, jovial, considerate, aggressive and so on. Without being wholly aware of it, each partner prepares a mental balance sheet, comparing the other’s attractive and unattractive features, and than comparing them with his or her own. If the one partner is substantially more or less attractive than the other, the relationship is likely to be broken off by the more attractive partner.

If the couples are fairly evenly matched, the relationship may develop on into the value stage. The partners discuss their attitudes toward men’s and women’s roles, and toward marriage. They discuss such abstract subjects as politics and religion, and such intimate ones as practicing birth control and having children. The more similar the discovered values, the stronger their attraction to one another becomes and the more time they spend together. They are falling in love.

Some couples marry at this point, but most move on into the role stage. Now the pair’s association is so continuous that they not only hear one another’s expressed values, but they see how those values are expressed in real life situations. They see whether the other partner is cheerful
or moody, dependable or erratic, generous or selfish, punitive or forgiving, and so on. The more they interact, the more they perceive what it would be like to be married to one another. Again the concept of the hypothetical balance sheet applies. If the bargain continues to be favourable and fairly equal, marriage is likely to be the outcome.

**Economic Model of Mate Selection:**

Wilson and Nias (1977) proposed the economic model of mate selection. This model states: "although it may seem cold-blooded and unromantic to appraise a potential partner in terms of commodity values, this is what actually takes place at an emotional or sub-conscious level. Each of us has a list of implicit criteria or attributes that we regard as important in a mate, e.g. looks, intelligence, social status, wealth, sense of humour, temperament, availability. A prospective partner is assessed on each of these attributes and the resulting ratings are weighted according to the importance that we attach to the different attributes. The weighted attribute ratings are then added to arrive at a single 'eligibility score' for that candidate. This process occurs unconsciously and often almost instantaneously.

With physical attractiveness, the 'economic model' would imply that the less attractive individual offers compensation on some other attribute such as social status,
wealth and so on. Also it appears that the commodity value of physical attractiveness is higher for women then men.

In terms of 'age' we tend to choose partners of approximately the same age as ourselves, although the man is on average about three years older than his female partner. One explanation here is that of earlier female maturation, although this would only seem pertinent for teenage couples. For older people an explanation in terms of differing market values for attractiveness and achievement in men and women respectively appears more readily compensated by social status than it is for a women.

Parental Image Theory:

Studies of mate selection are concerned with the degree to which one's image of his parents influences his selection of his marriage partner. Originally it was assumed that one tended to marry a person who was similar to his, or her parents of opposite sex. Thus, men presumably tended to select mates who resemble their mother, and women mates who resemble their fathers. Research did uphold this hypothesis, since little relationship was found to exist between one's mate and parent of the opposite sex, per se. Strauss (1946) reports a number of such parental influences on mate selection. There has been remarkably little empirical support for it. Parental image studies should be regarded as suggestive rather than conclusive.
Mate selection researchers have been investigating the process of mate selection by employing Sequential Filter Theory in which one set of variable is initially predictive of another set that is predictive at a later stage. Researchers' examining relationship variables describe the function of the relationship that are predictive of relationship stability and satisfaction. Kerckhoff and Davis (1962) reported that the stability of the dating pair was predictable from social homogamy, then subsequently by value similarity and then still later stability by need complementarity. The sequential filter theory of Kerckhoff and Davis has had considerable appeal, but their findings were not replicated by subsequent researchers (Levinger, 1972; Levinger et al., 1970; Hill et al., 1976; Huston and Levinger, 1978).

**Behaviour Exchange Theory Formulation:**

Nye and Berardo (1973) pointed out that behaviour exchange theory formulation can account for consistently observed, important deviations from what one would predict from homogamy theories of mate selection. One of these deviations in the preference of women for older men and more educated than themselves.

Nye and Berardo wrote: "the homogamy model would suggest (that women would show) preference (for men) of the same age. However, women have stated that men, a little
older, are better established in their jobs or professions and are more dependable and adequate providers. The same explanation is provided for their preference that the husband has more education. One study showed that only one percent of women preferred a husband with less education, 18% preferred that the same amount and 81% preferred that have more. However, men (82%) preferred wives with the same education as themselves. There is one Indian study which support the behaviour exchange theory formulation (Firdous and Husain, 1990b).

**Value Theory:**

Coombs (1961) value 'theory of mate choice' holds that each person possesses a value system which consciously or unconsciously guides him in mate selection. Some Indian studies corroborates the basic postulation of Coombs value theory (Firdous and Husain, 1989; Husain and Firdous 1991) with regard to mate selection.

**Relationship Variables:**

In general, there seems to be increasing support the variables that describe the function of the relationship are predictive of relationship stability and satisfaction. Huston and Levinger's (1978) review of mate selection research supported the importance of relationship variable. They wrote that "research examining relationship characteristics to predict courtship, progress has been more
successful than those which focus on the combination of the psychological attributes of the partners. Relationship research suggests that partners who "understand" each other and who agree in their definition of their relationship are more apt to escalate their commitment. Thus, persons whose parents see them the way they see themselves are more likely to report that they have moved closer to marriage when queried about their relationship several months later (p. 46)."

**Assortative Mating:**

This theory of mate selection deals with one question the extent to which people select their marriage partners who are similar to them and the extent to which they select partners who are dissimilar to them (Lantz & Snyder, 1969). This approach involves two major hypotheses; the first is called homogamy and postulates that like marries like; the second is called heterogamy and postulates that opposite marry each other. Several studies have been conducted in order to support these hypotheses, a number of physical, psychological and social factors has been investigated. Assortative mating, the tendency of like to marry like has been found for several social and physical characteristics (Blood, 1969; Catton and Smircich, 1964; Eysenck, 1974; Nye and Berardo, 1973; Williamson, 1966).
Assortative mating is the most pronounced deviation from panmixia or random mating. Inbreeding and outbreeding are two deviations from panmixia that reflect selection and avoidance of genetic relatives, respectively. Buss (1984 a) defines assortative mating as the nonrandom coupling of individuals on the basis of resemblance on one or more genotypic or phenotypic characteristics.

There are two major subclasses of assortative mating. a) Character-specific assortment, is defined as coupling that is based on resemblance on a particular attribute such as height, intelligence or extraversion. b) Cross-character assortment, is defined as coupling that is based on congruent elevation (a depression) on different, but similarly valued characteristics preferences in mates choice can affect both character-specific and cross-character assortment.

The findings of some earlier studies revealed that the character specific assortment can, in principle, be positive (homogamous) or negative (heterogamous), in human societies assortative mating tends to be positive (Eckland, 1968; Thiessen and Gregg, 1980; Vandenberg, 1972). There have been no replicable demonstration of negative assortment except for the variable of biological sex. The range of characteristics that couple show positive assortment are: age, race, religion, social status, cognitive abilities, values, interest, attitude, personality dispositions, drinking,
smoking, classes of acts, physical attractiveness, and part of other physical variables such as height, weight, lung volume, and earlobe length (Buss, 1984 a, 1984 b; 1985; Husain and Firdous, 1990; Jensen, 1978; Spuhler, 1968; Vandenburg, 1972). This does not suggest that each of these characteristics individually forms a causal basis for assortment some are clearly auxiliary characteristics that happen to covary with those for which assortment occurs.

Buss and Barnes (1986) suggests three levels of analysis of mate preferences for sexual selection and assortment. The first level of analysis is defined by those characteristics in a potential mate that are consensually desired and sought. The second level of analysis is defined by major sex differences, namely, the characteristics in potential mates that women view as more important than do men and vice-versa. The third level of analysis is defined as individual differences. Findings at each level has important consequences for assortative mating and sexual selection.

The three levels of analysis of mate preferences have major connections to the human mating system. At the consensual level, mate preferences define the commonly desired and sought characteristics in a mate. In a monogamous system, deviations from complete pairing result in selective exclusion of individuals who have low levels of these attributes and selective favouring of individuals who
possess them in abundance. Consensual preferences also tend
to produce cross-character assortment. Sex differences in
mate preferences not only produce cross-cultural assortment
but also yield sex differences in the nature of individuals
excluded from mating. Individual differences tend to
increase assortment while decreasing selection.

**Physical Factors**

**Physical Attractiveness**

Physical appearance of an individual is not only an
important aspect on the basis of which we like more, but
people make more positive impression of the behaviour of the
physically attractive. Physically attractive people believed
to possess positive qualities such as being sensitive, kind,
intelligent, interesting, sociable, strong, outgoing, etc.
(Dion, Berscheid, and Walster, 1972). Argyle and Trower
(1979) point out that, however, much we dislike the idea, it
appears that most of us think what looks good on the out must
be good inside too.

In a democratic society, like India we are often told
that people ought to be judged for what they are and what
they do, rather what they look like. We are also frequently
told the old sayings "Beauty is only skin deep", "Don't judge
a book by its cover", even though our reactions to other
persons are often influenced by their appearance. There are
two kinds of processes that contribute to physical
attractiveness effect: stereotyped conception and thought feeling associations.

Most of the studies on physical attractiveness have identified some aspects like facial attractiveness, physique attractiveness (body-build), height, grooming and various parts of the body or face that may be attractive or repulsive to people (Husain and Kureshi, 1982, 1983, 1986, Husain and Firdous, 1990, Firdous, 1989 b).

There is some evidence that despite a cultural belief that the female's attractiveness is more important than the male's attractiveness. The same is true with regard to mate selection (Buss, 1989; Chamber, Christansen and Keinz, 1983; Ford and Beach, 1951; Husain and Firdous, 1990; Rosenblatt and Cozby, 1972; Spuhler, 1968; Symon, 1979).

In the present study, the investigator has taken into account the three levels of facial attractiveness i.e. high medium and low.

Age:

Age is another physical factor that has a definite influence on mate choice. Women tend to marry older men and the man to marry younger women (Firdous and Husain, 1990 b; Gunter and Wheeler, 1986; Hurd, 1985;James, 1986; Patterson and Pettijoh, 1982). The present study examines how many working-non-working men and women select their mates who are younger or older to them.
Social Factors

Type of family

One of the factors which seem to play an important role in mate selection process is the type of family. The prospective mate belongs to either Joint family or nuclear family. Family is one social factor that all societies look for the placement of their members. However, from the structural point of view, the word family is used to refer not only to the marital couple and their children but also to the larger kin group.

According to Karvey (1953) "joint family is a group of people who generally live under one roof, who eat food cooked at one hearth, who hold property in common and who participate in common worship and are related to each other as some particular type of kindered". A joint family is a miniature world, in some ways standing apart and unextricably bound up in a never-ending ceremonial exchanges and gift-giving with all other joint families with whom it has connections (Ross, 1961).

In nuclear family husband and wife become close, help each other, make decisions with the help of another, and interfere in any activity (Ross, 1961). Leslie (1977) defines: the term 'nuclear family' as the two adults of opposite sex, living in a socially approved sex relationships, and their own or adopted children. It is the
family unit of mother, father and children. Smart and Szwed (1976) observe: "father, mother and children make up a unit found in all societies known as the nuclear family. When this is called the conjugal family, it means that the husband – wife relationship is of primary importance. The nuclear family is established and regulated by marriage". The present study determines working and non-working men and working and non-working women preferences for the mates belonging to joint and nuclear family.

Type of Marriage

In India, by and large, the choosing of a mate does not depend upon the youth. Elders take decision with regard to the choice of mate. In other words, arranged marriage system widely prevails and not the tradition of preferential and love marriage. Nowhere is the mate selection a random activity. It is always guided by certain principles which underlie the process of selection.

Preferential Mating Which serves to define and delimit a field of eligible mates – sometimes narrow, sometimes wide – into which a person is encouraged to marry. Preferential mating thus comprises sets of endogamous (marriage within a certain group) and exogamous rules (marriage outside a certain group).
Arranged Marriage refers to the degree to which a person other than those marrying participates in the process of selection (Freeman, 1968). In other words, the individual has little choice in selecting his mate, the family selects the mate, and arranges the marriage.

Love Marriage the eligible person selects mate according to his own choice. That is to say, the decision making for selecting a mate is in the hand of adults. The family has little responsibility for arranging the person’s marriage. By and large, in Indian society all these three methods are prevalent, particularly the arranged marriage system.

Personality Factors

Studies examining the role of personality variables in mate selection have involved subject’s evaluation for themselves on scales and inventories, with small (approximately 0.2) but consistently positive correlation between spouses. Studies on the importance of personality in mate selection tends to suggest that the similarity theory is less pertinent, but some argue it remain a more important principle of attraction than complementarity. Buss (1984 a) examined correlations for a set of 16 personality traits such as dominance, extraversion, and quarrelsomeness using three separate sources of data: self evaluation and ratings of subjects by their spouses and by independent interviewers.
The results of this study supported the previously obtained low positive correlations.

Other recent research has examined correlations between spouses on the frequency with which they perform specific acts and classes of acts (Buss, 1984 b). In particular, correlation were computed for each of 800 acts from 8 categories of personality traits drawn from the Wiggin's (1979) model of interpersonal behaviour. After the 25 most prototypical acts within each category were composited, spouses showed an average correlation of 0.2 for self-evaluation of how often they performed the acts and 0.31 for the reports of the spouses (Buss and Craik, 1983, 1984). The categories of the extraversion, quarrelsomeness and ingenuousness showed particularly strong correlations between spouses.

The importance of 'personality' in mate selection is an extremely problematic one. Argyle and Trower (1979) argue that people need not to have similar 'personalities' to be mutually attractive, as on the whole the evidence suggests that it does not really matter: two introverts will not necessarily get on better than an introvert and an extrovert. These authors highlighted the importance of factors of compatibility. This factor is the most pertinent to the issue of personality and mate selection.
Of course the list and strength of attributes used in mate selection varies from person to person. It may also vary with respect to gender (i.e. male and female) and working and non-working. One important objective of the present study is to identify the personality factors that are most desired by the working and non-working men and women subjects for the self and others as a prospective mate.

**Significance of the Problem**

Buss (1989) have highlighted the importance of human mate selection in at least three different contexts. First, mate preferences can affect the current direction of sexual selection by influencing who is differentially excluded from and included in mating (Darwin, 1871). Favoured mate characteristics that show some heritability will typically be represented more frequently in subsequent generations. Individual lacking favoured characteristics tend to become no one's ancestor (Thornhill & Thornhill, 1983). Second, current mate preferences may reflect prior selection pressure, thus providing important clues to a species' reproductive history. Third, mate preferences can exert selective pressure and other components of the mating system. In the context of intrasexual competition, tactics used to attract and retain mates should be strongly influenced by the mate preferences expressed by members of the opposite sex (Buss, 1988).
Inspite of the importance of mate preferences for sexual selection and assortment, little is known about precisely which characteristics in potential mates are valued by males and females (Buss, 1985; Buss and Barnes, 1986; Thiessen and Gregg, 1980). Cross-cultural studies are lacking with regard to evolutionary hypotheses that posit species typical or sex typical mate preferences.

The present study differs from the earlier studies at least on three counts.

(1) One of the significant departures from the earlier studies is that the present study is conducted on the working-non-working men and women samples.

(2) In the present study, the investigator obtained self-ratings and other ratings (perceived by the subjects) on personality factors. This was done to determine the role of similarity-dissimilarity as a factor in perception of mate to the self.

(3) The data has been analysed in terms of sex and working-non-working differences. The preferences of mate by the men and women as well as students and working people has distinctive consequences for assortative mating. Sex and working-non-working differences in the physical, social and personality factors that are desired in a potential mate can produce cross-character assortment.
Research Objectives

The main objectives of the present study are as follows:

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

(2) To study the differences between working men and non-working men and working women and non-working women on physical factors of mate selection.

(3) To study the differences between working men and working women, and non-working men and non-working women on social factors (i.e. Type of family and type of marriage) of mate selection.

(4) To study the differences between working men and non-working men and working women and non-working women, on social factors of mate selection.

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

(6) To identify the desirable personality trait-words among working men, non-working men, working women and non-working women for the other as a potential mate.
(7) To identify the similar personality trait-words between the self and other desirability ratings as a potential mate among working men, working women, non-working men, and non-working women.

(8) To identify the similar personality trait-words between working men and working women, non-working men and non-working women subjects' perception for the self and other desirability ratings as a potential mate.

(9) To identify the similar personality trait-words between working men, and non-working men, and working women and non working women subjects' perception for the self and other desirability ratings as a potential mate.