CHAPTER – II

REVIEW OF RELEVANT STUDIES
Studies on mate selection may be grouped into three major heads: physical factors, social factors and personality factors. The aim of this chapter is to review studies that are relevant to the present investigation and tend to support the theoretical point of view which has been discussed in chapter I. This chapter also comprises Indian studies on mate selection. This is done in order to show the influence of social, physical and personality factors of mate selection in our culture and to bring into highlight the importance of the variables under study.

Physical Factors

Psychologists and Sociologists have taken into account some of the physical characteristics—facial attractiveness, physique attractiveness, height, grooming, age and various parts of the body which played an important role in mate selection process.

Ford and Beach (1951) have documented cultural variability in standards for female attractiveness along the dimensions of plump versus slim body-build, light versus dark skin, and emphasis on particular features such as the eyes, ear or genitals.

Price and Vandenberg (1979) found correlations of 0.3 and 0.25 for physical appearance in two samples of couples.
Symons (1979) discovered correlations between physical attractiveness, erotic desirability and biological superiority. He suggests that the physical attractiveness is more important to male in selecting sex partner than it is to female.

Chamber and others (1983) hypothesized that physiognomic would influence in the process of mate selection. 8 female and 6 male judges were asked to match photographs of males and females who look alike in terms of actually paired, engaged and newly wed couples. The data revealed that the similarity in physical appearance played a more important role in mate selection.

Thelen (1988) Projected photographs of male and female college students for the preference as a mate in the long term husband - wife relationship. Subjects were later shown some of the same photographs several times to familiarise them with these individuals. Subjects were subsequently shown the same groups of the photographs and again asked to indicate their preferences. When familiarization immediately preceded the final selection, both men and women switched preferences and choose individuals with whom they had familiarised approximately twice as often as they switch preferred and choose individuals with whom they had not been familiarized.
Buss (1989) examined sex differences on "good looks" in 37 samples. Sex differences were found significant with 34 samples beyond the .05 level. Sex difference was not significant for "good looks" among three countries (India, Poland and Sweden). The hypothesis that male physical attractiveness in potential mates more than females do is strongly supported by these cross-cultural data.

Secord (1983) found correlations between spouses for age typically range from 0.7 to 0.9, with a mean of about 0.8. He noted that younger couples tend to be more similar in age than older couples. This finding reflects a large gap between spouses in second marriages.

Gunter and Wheeler (1986) examined marital licenses applications received 1984-85. Results indicated that 24.7% of female applicant were willing to marry males younger than themselves further analysis reveals that most significant departure from traditional age mating practice occurs among males under age 28 and females aged between 28-48. The most traditional selection of mates by age was among the youngest female by age was (under age 26) and older males (over age 34).

Mulder's (1989) demograpahic analysis from 3 cohorts of Kenyan women married between 1940 and 1973 demonstrate that early maturing women had higher reproductive life spans and
higher fertility. Data on bridge wealth payments at 1940 marriages occurring after 1959 show that men made higher marriage payments in accordance with the reproductive value of this bride. The question of why men use age at menarche rather than bride's parent wealth as a cue to this bride's subsequent reproductive performance is discussed in the light of changing social and economic conditions experienced by Kenyan women since the late 20's.

Basavarajappa and others (1989) examined homogamous and endogamous trend by age. There is considerable variation in the level of homogamy marriages with respect to age up to 1971 and thereafter, younger males increasingly tended to select brides of their own age group until the 1960's, while older males have been increasingly heterogamous since World War II. Females under age 20 tend to select older grooms, other brides show no clear trend in their spouse selection by age.

Husain and Firdous (1990) conducted a study on 75 males and 75 female postgraduate of A.M.U., Aligarh. Male and female subjects with respect to level of facial attractiveness showed significantly higher liking for the high and medium attractive mates respectively. Significant differences were not found between male and female subjects' preferences for the pyknic mates and between athletic male and athletic female subjects' preferences for the athletic
and pyknic mates. Tall height and medium height mates were significantly more preferred by the female and male subjects with respect to their height.

Sinha (1991) examined the role of beauty as correlate for the choice of life mates. The main aim of this study was to measure whether males and females value beauty in the same perspective. Male and female students from some professional courses have been selected from the Patna city. The subjects were administered Life Mate Rating Scale (LMRS) consisting of 5 broad dimensions: beauty, character, temperament, economic prospect and sociability. The results indicated the males as compared to females regarded for beauty. The females required more economic security from their husbands than would seek for the attraction aspect in their husbands. The finding of this study also revealed that the urban people of the both sexes gave greater weightage to the beauty aspect than their rural counterparts.

Assortative mating has been examined with respect to the variable of age. In general, the tendency to choose younger females mates by the males and older male mates by the females. Age is the variable for which assortment or similarity with one's mate is the strongest.

Homogamy in age at marriage is indicated by the relative ages of brides and grooms. Hollingshead (1951) compared the ages of black and white couples in first
marriages and remarriages. Glick and Landau (1950) verified age homogamy at different occupational levels ranging from professionals to laborers.

Rao, Prakash and Rao (1979) examined the attitude of college students in India toward the ideal age at marriage for boys, girls, sister, brother and the relatives themselves. Significant differences were found between ideal age and inferred parental age at marriage. Most of the college students wish to get married at an older age than preferred by general populations.

Patterson and Pettijoh (1982) examined 275 marriage licenses issued between 1928 and 1978. Results revealed that husband was older than the wife in most of cases. Results support the sociological theory of mate selection by which male select younger female to enhance reproductive possibilities and female select older mates to match the level of maturity.

Social Factors:

Assortative mating has been examined with respect to various social factors, including ethnic origin, religion, caste, socio-economic status, type of family, type of marriage and level of education, etc.
Singh (1977) examined the process of mate selection among Sikhs in India, United States and Canada with regard to the traditional caste restrictions. Results were based on content analysis of 172 matrimonial advertisements advertised by Sikh men and women in United States and Canada in two leading newspapers of India and abroad. Results indicated that for the majority of the advertisements, traditional caste considerations have not remained important for the Sikhs in U.S. and Canada as compared with the Sikh in U.S. and India.

Rao and Sudarsen (1978) examine's a sample of matrimonial advertisement, that appeared in the "Hindu" newspaper in 1976, in order to study the significance of the changing emphasis on social cultural and religious factors in the process of selecting marriage partners in South India. Results shows that a traditional considerations such as caste, religion and family background continue to be important in the selection of a spouse, though some changes are observed in attitudes to age, education and employment.

Sharma (1979) discussed the practice of homogamous marriage in Mahuria and Mathuria subcaste located in Bulandshahr district of U.P., using field data collected between 1971 and 1975. Thirty respected Lodhis' evaluated the socioeconomic status of certain families and categorises into high, middle, and low socioeconomic status levels.
Eleven out of 37 couples examined belonged to different levels. As wife taker are given a higher status than wife giver, the higher socio-economic status of the wife givers is called into question by the wife takers. The claim of superiority of wife takers often supported by those not involved in hypogamy alliance.

Lee and Stone (1980) examined the relationship between family structure, type of mate-selection system and cultural endorsement of romantic love a basis for mate selection. Cross cultural data from a sample of 117 societies are employed to test hypothesis to effect the autonomous mate selection and romantic love are more common societies with nuclear than extended family system. Bhargava (1983) conducted a study to determine factors involved in mate selection by medical students in India where most marriages are still arranged through parents. Results showed that women were very much eager to marry within their profession. Results were discussed in terms of status congruence, the perceived complementary relationship between intra-professional marriage and professional role and socialization patterns encouraging intra-profession marriage.

The ideal mate built by the male and female students were examined by Kumar (1984) in the undergraduate classes of Punjab University. A checklist consisting of 25 factors was
administered on the subject. Results showed that females built a more ideal concept of a mate than the male.

Reddy (1986), referring about working women says, they have favourable opinion towards love marriage but they discard them as unfeasible. Data showed that higher the position of the respondents the lower their preference towards arranged marriage and higher preference towards mutually consented marriage and the lower the position of the respondent, the higher preference towards arranged marriage and lower the preference towards mutually consented marriages. The data also were cross tabulated statistically and it was found significant and all the respondents were not in favour of love marriage even though 54.8% of them were found favourable towards love marriage.

Biswal (1986) examined the bride selection criteria in eastern Orrisa, India using a hypothesized characteristics (employment, general behaviour, socio-economic status, caste and creed, beauty, educational qualifications, dowry, single daughter etc.). Paired comparison was used to determine most and least preferred criteria. Results shows that brides were selected mostly on the basis of general behaviour, including their general character and general social adaptability.

Deb (1987) examined the newspaper advertisements for marriage partner in West Bengal to assess demands, caste
adherence in partners. Results revealed that 69.85% of bridegrooms guardian requested that the bride be of the same caste. Whereas 23.08% of bride’s guardian desired that the groom should be from the same caste. Brahmins and Kayasthas showed the lowest tolerance for intercaste marriage it is concluded that the higher the potential bride or bridegroom’s caste the more likely it is that his or her family will require a same caste partner.

Kumar (1987) have attempted to examine and compare the ideal mate as built by the Indian and Mauritian Indian girls. A checklist comprising 25 factors were administered on 100 Indian and 100 Mauritian Indian girls. Results indicated that the Indian girls built a more idealized image of a mate than the Mauritian Indian girls. Differences were obtained on physical, socioeconomic and psychological factors in ideal mate concept of the two groups.

Bhargava (1988) analyzed 213 matrimonial advertisement in an American, Asian, Indian newspapers placed by seeker and announcer. There were some consideration in the advertisements, for example; the ways in which advertisers describe themselves and their potential partners as well as desired in permanent residents mate by seeker. Seekers as compared to announcers stated their educational achievement and occupational identification much more. Significant
differences in age, education and involvement of kin in mate selection were also observed between two groups.

Paul and Mathur (1989) analysed the effect of socio-economic factors on mate selection in two Indian towns. The Marital Preferential Scale containing some items related to economic factors was administered on subjects. The data was analysed by 2x2 factorial design. Both the main effects of towns and sex were found to be significant on economic factors, but the interaction effect was found to be insignificant.

Firdous and Husain (1990a) examined sex differences in preferences for mates on certain social factors-caste, type of family and type of marriage. Results indicated that the male and female subjects differed significantly in preferences for the similar-dissimilar caste mates. No sex differences existed between male and female subjects preferences for mates belonging to joint and nuclear family. Male and female subjects differed significantly in preferences for choosing a mate through arranged, preferential and love marriage system.

Firdous and Husain (1990b) administered a mate selection checklist on 75 male and 75 female postgraduate students of A.M.U., Aligarh to determine the role of certain social determinants (age, education and socio-economic
status) in mate selection process. Male and female subjects with respect to, and irrespective of, age showed significantly higher preferences for the younger and older mates respectively. Female preferred their mates of high education and the males preferred their mate of low education with respect to, and irrespective of their level of education. Male and female subjects with respect to and irrespective of socio-economic status showed significantly higher preferences for the middle socio-economic status and high socio-economic status mate respectively.

Husain and Aleem (1990) have proposed the mate selection hypothesis "opposites of the dissimilar attract each other". This hypothesis is based on the empirical studies where the role of physical and social characteristics have been determined. The authors provides an explanation why dissimilarity not similarity leads to choosing a marriage partner.

**Personality Factors**

Studies examining assortative mating for personality variables have typically involved subjects' evaluating themselves on scales and inventories with small but consistently positive correlations between spouses.

Loner and Jay (1973) have investigated (1) how male and female subjects ranked on six traits as characteristics of someone they would like to marry (2) how accurately these
rankings were perceived by others of the same sex, and (3) how accurately they were perceived by opposite sex others. Data showed that most highly valued traits were honesty, affection and intelligence and least valued were good looks, sense of humour and financial status. However, both same and opposite sex others were highly inaccurate in their perception of these rankings. Both male and females imagined that same sex others set their priority in an order significantly different than their own. A similar distortion occurred in their perception of the priorities of opposite sex others.

Wakil (1973) conducted a survey of mate selection values in the United States and Canadian University students through the use of 60 structured and open ended questions. Results indicated that there was not much difference in mate selection preferences between U.S. and Canadian students.

Farley and Davis (1977) reported assortative mating for sensation seeking for married students couple in a cross-cultural study. Farley and Muller (1978) found assortative mating for sensation seeking in samples of 160 Americans and 160 German couples of varied age levels from two comparable cities in United States and West Germany.

Argyle and Trower (1979) point out that however much we dislike the ideas, it appears that most of us think that
what looks good on outside must be good inside too. Physically attractive people are believed to possess all sorts of positive qualities, such as being sensitive, kind, interesting, strong and sociable. Although we intend to judge a person on the basis of his or her personal qualities that are not visible at first sight. In our ignorance we tend to deduce them from most obvious physical attribute.

Klapprott and Engelkamp (1979) administered Q-sort inventory on 120 couples and their spouses scores of Partner Similarity (PS) Assumed Similarity (AS) Projection Tendency (PT) and Accuracy (ACC) were derived indicated that the females wanted more intelligent and better educated mates. It was expected that PS of the couples should influence the AS, PT and ACC scores. While ACC scores provides to be independent of PS, AS scores covaried with PS and PT was exhibited only by like couples. In addition younger couples showed higher PT scores than older couples. An unexpected finding was the higher ACC scores for men as compared with women. This was attributed to the fact that the women's self-concept were more homogeneous and thus easier to predict.

Edwards and Kleokar (1981) administered the Edwards Personality Inventory on 89 married couples. Results indicated that the congruence existed between self-evaluation and perceived others' evaluation; self evaluation and actual
evaluation obtained from their spouses and perceived other's evaluation and the actual evaluation.

Hoyt and Hundson (1981) compared the value in mate selection among college students. Results indicate that the females wanted more intelligent and better educated mates. Male were more interested in females looks than in knowing if she is good in cooking and housekeeper. Chastity does not seem to be of great concern to either sex, in this sense it does not appear that subjects have departed from traditional value.

Buss and Craik (1983, 1984) found that spouses showed an average correlation of 0.2 for self-evaluations of how often they performed the acts and 0.31 for the report of the spouse. The categories of extraversion, quarrelsomeness, ingenuousness showed particularly strong correlations between spouses. As was the case with personality variables, the couples who had been married longer were less similar to each other than were couples who had been married for a shorter period.

Buss (1984b) conducted a study on 93 married couples to examine spouse correlations within 8 interpersonal categories (e.g. dominance submissiveness, extraversion by using self and observer report of the performance frequencies of 800 acts. Substantial spouse correlation was found, particularly
for the dominance, quarrelsomeness, ingeneousness. In addition, changes in degree spouse correspondence were associated with length of marital relationship. The author discussed findings in terms of different types of person-environment correlation.

Oberstein and Cohen (1984) analysed data from a study on marital interaction with a sample of 177 couples as part of pilot project on child abuse to determine whether there is assortative mating for field dependence, independence, reflection, impulsivity and its dimension reasoning speed and accuracy, stimulus intensity modulation and sensation seeking and its low subfactors, thrill and adventure seeking, experience seeking, disinhibition and boredom susceptibility.

Evans (1985) investigated the role of personality priorities in forming a marriage. In this study the personality priorities represented five types of life style: pleasing, achieving, outdoing, suppressing, and avoiding. The author proposed three research questions (1) Do personality priorities contributed to married pairing? (2) which of the personality most often pair up in marriage? (3) what is association of personality priority pairing with marital adjustment.

Lewak (1985) examined how intellectual and personality similarity or complementarity between a couple relates to their marital choice and marital satisfaction. 81 couples
were administered the WAIS - R, MMPI and marital adjustment scale. As predicted couples showed significant similarity for some IQ variables however, the prediction that IQ would have a relationship to marital satisfaction was not found. Couples showed significant similarity on some personality variable. A stronger relationship was found between couples on the psychopathic deviation scale. Neither similarity nor complementarity in personality variables appear with regard to marital satisfaction.

Buss and Barnes (1986) examined preferences in mate choice within the broad context of human mating system. The authors discussed the consequences of mate preferences for the processes of assortative mating and sexual selection. In study I the authors set the following objective (a) the mate characteristics that are consensually more and less derived (b) the mate characteristics that show a strong sex differences in their preferred value, (c) the degree to which are correlated in selection preferences, and (d) the relation between expressed preferences and the personality and background characteristics of obtained spouses. In study II the investigator replicated sex differences and consensual ordering of mate preferences found in study I, using a different methodology and, a differently composed sample.

Chia et al., (1987) compared marriage role attitude across two decades in the United states and China within the
same time period. Data on U.S. students' attitude in (1962) were obtained from work by Arkoff, et al., (1963, 1964). Data were also collected from 128 male and 137 female college students in 1984 and from 203 male and 140 female Taiwanese College students in 1984. Subjects fill the marriage role attitude scale and demographic questionnaire. Result showed that compared to in 1962, U.S. subjects in 1984 held a more equalitarian attitude towards marriage role. Compared U.S. subjects, Taiwanese subjects held more male dominant attitude towards marriage role in 1984. Compared to U.S. subjects, Taiwanese subjects women in both countries and at both times held a more equalitarian viewpoint. Sex difference was stronger in 1984 than in 1962. Taiwanese women held a more equilitarian attitude than Taiwanese men.

Loseke (1987) conducted a study on college students with respect to perfect marital partner. Analysis of the list of characteristics obtained reveals the lack of social change in expectation; e.g. male value attractiveness and female more than males indicated value such as personal character. Critically, equal relationship seem more important to females than to males. The data also indicated some of the social change that have occurred in the relationship between the institution of gender and family.

Firdous and Husain (1989) determined the role of instrumental values in spouse selection. A value scale
consisting of 18 instrumental values was administered on 45 female and 25 male postgraduate students. Sex differences existed in self evaluation on four values, 'Broad minded', 'Honest', 'Imaginative', and 'Independent'. 'Cheerful', 'Independent', and 'Intellectual' were the values rated highest by female subjects in comparison with male subjects for other evaluation.

Kumar (1989) compared Indian and Mauritian Indian males on the 25 factors concerning to mate selection. Results showed that the Mauritian Indian males as compared to Indian males scored higher on psychological factors of mate selection. The Mauritians gave least importance to physical factors whereas Indians expressed least preference to socioeconomic factors in mate selection. The overall results indicate that the Mauritian Indians tended to build a more ideal concept of mate than the Indians.

Husain and Firdous (1991) determined sex and cultural differences on 18 instrumental values. The major findings of the study were: significant differences existed between Srinagar boys and Aligarh boys on two values - 'Honest', and 'Obedient'. Aligarh girls scored significantly higher than the Srinagar girls on 'ambitious', 'Broadminded', 'Cheerful', 'Forgiving', and 'Honest'. Srinagar girls as compared to Srinagar boys, showed significantly higher preferences for 'Ambitious', 'Forgiving', 'Honest', 'Imaginative', and 'Self-
controlled' values. Aligarh girls scored significantly higher than Aligarh boys on the values: 'Ambitious', 'Broadminded', 'Capable', 'Clean', 'Honest', 'Imaginative', 'Independent', 'loving' and 'Self controlled'.

On the basis of reviewing of literature, we may conclude that few studies have been conducted to explore the role of physical, social and personality factors in mate selection. These studies aimed at discovering factors which make an individual acceptable or unacceptable as an ideal marriage partner. The results of these studies indicate that persons select mates either similar or dissimilar to their own in terms of physical, social and personality factors. The investigator has not come across any comprehensive study which compared the working and non-working men and women on physical, social and personality factors of mate selection.