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SUMMARY, LIMITATION AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

6.0 : The present study was undertaken to investigate into marital adjustment of women in relation to nature of marriage, employment status and span of marriage in Assamese Hindu society; seven hundred (700) married women were selected from different areas of Guwahati city representing a cross section of Assamese society.

Marital adjustment questionnaire developed by P. Kumar and K. Rohatgi was given to the subjects and scores were obtained. 570 subjects could be available for statistical analysis. The data was classified according to 2x2x3 factorial design. A questionnaire containing questions on love, attraction, jealousy, acceptance of working wife, quarrels and submission and overall happiness etc., was also given to 570 subjects. The responses of the questions were subjected to statistical analysis using parametric & non-parametric test.

The following are the main findings were obtained.

1. Marital adjustment is higher in women with love marriage than in arranged marriage.

2. Employment as such appears to have no effect on marital adjustment.

3. Length of marriage contributes significantly to marital adjustment: after the first year, marital adjustment decreases significantly and remains more or less the same in the later years of marriage.

4. Employed women having love marriage has greater marital adjustment than employed women having arranged marriage.

5. Marital adjustment gradually drops through the span of married life in love marriage, while in arranged marriage the difference is not significant.
6. Marital adjustment is greater in case of newly married women, as compared to the women with a longer marital duration irrespective of their employment status.

7. Women having love marriage are better adjusted irrespective of their employment status in the initial stage of their marriage, but not in arranged marriages.

8. Women appear to perceive their husbands as equally loving respective of their nature of marriage, employment status and length of marriage.

9. Women who have love marriage perceive more attraction of their husbands towards them as compared to the women of arranged marriage irrespective of their employment status. This perception gradually decreases with the span of marriage.

   While more employed women in love marriage feel attracted to their husbands which appear to drop with the span of marriage.

10. More men accept the employment of their wives in case of love marriage when the women are already employed. During the middle years of marriage length, husbands appear more favourable to accept their wives as working women as compared to the initial stage and later stages of marriage.

11. In both love marriage and arranged marriage the husbands may feel little jealousy towards their wives irrespective of their employment status. However, the feeling of jealousy if at all, begins to decline as the marriage proceeds.

   Significantly more wives whether employed or unemployed may sometimes feel jealous of their husbands in love marriage than in arranged marriage. This jealousy is gradually reduced as the marriage proceeds.
12. Quarrelling behaviour of the husbands towards the wives show no relationship with the nature of marriage and employment status of the wives. However, as marriage gets along, sometimes quarrels become more frequent.

13. The frequency of submission in case of arguments does not appear to be related to nature of marriage and employment status, both in the case of wives and husbands. However, as the marriage proceeds lesser number of women show submission. This shows that the submissive behaviour of wives decreases with the increasing span of marriage.

14. The overall happiness as expressed by the women is more frequent in case of employed women having love marriage and it becomes lesser and lesser frequent as the marriage proceeds.

6.1 LIMITATIONS -

The following limitations in the present investigation are cited below -

1. The sample was limited to Guwahati city only, assuming that it represents the cross section of Assamese society. It could have been made more broad based by including subjects from different areas of Assam (both rural and urban).

2. The study is limited to educated women who could understand English and Hindi both.

3. The subjects in the present investigation were belonging to only the middle class and so it does not say anything about the lower and the upper class of the society.

4. Among the Hindus the sample should get representation from the various major castes of the Hindu society. This was not taken into consideration.

5. More questions could have been included in the questionnaire prepared by the investigator to probe deeply into many other relevant areas of married life.
6.2 : SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDIES :

The present investigation was to study the marital adjustment of women in relation to nature of marriage, employment status and span of marriage. The study was limited to Assamese Hindu Society. Investigation may be done in some related areas as suggested below -

1. Similar studies may be done by comparing tribal and non tribal women of Assam.

2. Studies may be undertaken to find out the regional difference in marital adjustment in Assam.

3. Studies may be done comparing different communities like Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christian etc.

4. Marital adjustment may be studied in relation to intercaste and inter-religion marriages.

5. The present study is limited to middle class society only. Such type of studies may be extended to include the lower and upper classes of different sections of Assamese society.

6. The intra-couple difference in age as well as the individual ages of the husband and wife at the time of marriage may be taken into consideration.

7. The job level of the husband and wife may be taken into consideration.

8. Marital adjustment may also be studied by including the type of family and the size of the family.

9. Some of the relevant personality variables as well as the earlier life experiences may also be studied in relation to marital adjustment.

10. Those factors which disturb the marital harmony leading to divorce may also be studied along with the nature of marriage, employment status and span of marriage.