



EXPLORING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS AND MARITAL CHOICES

Asmaa Shahid¹, Maryam Bushra²

Affiliations:

¹ M. Phil Scholar, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad
¹ shahidasmaa062@gmail.com

² BS, Federal Govt. College of Home Economics & Management Sciences, Islamabad
² maryambushra456@gmail.com

Corresponding Author/s Email:

¹ shahidasmaa062@gmail.com

Copyright:

Author/s

License:



Abstract

The current study find out the relationship between socio economic status and mate selection. Mate selection is very important decision of everyone life and in selecting a partner many indicators play important role like physical attractiveness, Age, economic status, ethnicity, education etc. the main objective of this study is to find out the perception of female regarding importance of socio-economic status in mate selection and to analyse the opinion of women choosing to be second wife based on economic consideration. The literature had explained the importance of socio-economic status in mate selection. Researcher applies social exchange theory on topic of the study. To understand the importance of socio-economic status in mate selection the study was conducted in Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad. The researcher used quantitative method for data collection. The sample size of 120 female respondents was chosen for the data collection. The results shows that according to women opinion life is happy after marriage if men economic status is high. But the mostly respondents are disagree with this statement that women select to become second wife on the base of economic consideration.

Keywords: Mate Selection, Socioeconomic Status, Women's Perception, Second Wife, Social Exchange Theory

Introduction

Marriage is "a union of two individuals (opposite sex) which is morally, socially, and religiously approved by society and has the ultimate goal of sex satisfaction and reproduction." Marriage is "a socially sanctioned process by which two or more individuals establish a family" (Hitsch, 2010). This institution has a strong foundation in all global communities, whether they are modern or primitive. Although the idea of breaking up (divorce) is present, it has received little support because it is a public event and the contract is meant to be long-lasting. (Skolnick, 2005). Marriage is regarded as a significant decision that should be made in accordance with one's social, legal, religious, and cultural upbringing. While there are regional and cultural differences in mate choosing, some fundamental criteria, such as physical attractiveness and resourcefulness, seem to hold true. Studies from several civilizations reveal a few key facts. Love, social position, wealth, education, physical attractiveness, and aspirations for a family and children were among the psycho-social criteria that were thought to be significant in choosing a spouse (Buss, 2003).

Marriage is seen as a tie between two families as well as between two people. According to some traditional Yoruba societies in Nigeria, where parents of both partners decide on a marriage's outcome, the extended family approach is limited to joint families due to modernization's influence and the rising trend of shifting family structures. (Adeyemi & Adeyinka, 2003). Ingoldsby (1998) have made reference to marriage's startling parallels as a preview of intimidating relationships. Age, education, morals, and both physical and mental traits are some of these. Meeting two people with the ultimate goal of getting married requires passing through a filtration procedure that includes the exterior traits of the person's attitude, beliefs, sex, religion, and politics. The ideal level of similarity between the two causes them to consider marriage. Additionally, the process of choosing a mate is influenced by personality qualities, attractiveness, social influence, and economic clout, which occasionally surprises both partners when comparing their similarities.



A person's most important life decisions is choosing a mate. It is a complicated issue that affects both men and women equally. Both parties give different considerations before moving on with the act of marriage and work to achieve their goals by choosing a spouse. The process of choosing a spouse depends on different steps like mate looks matter, social economic status or manners, attitude, beliefs, and shared values. Mate selection is the method by which people select life mates or spouses. It is a diverse and dynamic process that is influenced by a wide range of elements, including as societal and cultural norms, individual preferences, and life events. Various cultures and groups have very varied ways of choosing mates. Arranged weddings are typical in some cultures, although people have more flexibility to select their mates in others. People frequently take a number of aspects into account when choosing a spouse, such as physical appearance, personality qualities, shared interests and values, and socioeconomic standing (Adeyemi & Adeyinka, 2003).

Paternal and maternal preferences, which are typically high in traditional communities, are additional determinants of mate choice. However, romance has increasingly become a key factor for many people nowadays when choosing a life partner. The usage of online dating sites and apps, in particular, has been the subject of current research on how technology affects people's choice of partners. The emergence of new types of social contact and love relationships has been aided by these platforms, which have made it simpler for individuals to connect with potential partners. (Frank & Gill, 2002; Chaudhry, 2004). Women prefer to be in relationships with males who have high social status and who are in positions of control in society, which is common in many patriarchal civilizations around the world. Many societies around the world are experiencing fast changes in marriage patterns (Mushtaq et al., 2021).

The institution of marriage is well-liked over the world and the method used to select their partners varies from culture to culture. Free-choice mate selection is widespread in Western countries, but historically, this has not been the case for couples. In some other societies, people are paired with their future wives. The three basic methods of choosing a spouse are free-choice, marriage by arrangement, and capture. Romantic love and free mate choice marriages are more popular in industrialized nations where the nuclear family is the norm. In this situation, extended families or kin groups don't exist or aren't significant enough, and parents have limited influence over what happens. Although free choice marriages are preferred in the modern United States, one should not draw the conclusion that this is the global norm. (Dutton et al., 2008)

Free mate choice is increasing in China, it differs significantly from the United States. Here, teenagers maintain their relationship a secret until they have gathered enough information about one another before announcing it. Before telling anyone, they decide if they are a good match for one another, and if they are, they notify everyone about their relationship. Choosing to get married is followed by dating. Before agreeing to get married, the couple spends two years getting to know one another well. When compared to arrange marriages, which are on the decline, this procedure is producing outstanding outcomes, and the majority of these marriages are growing (Gonzaga, 2007).

People were more likely to marry partners who had occupations, incomes, and educational backgrounds similar to their own according to the US study (Schwartz & Mare, 2005). In contrast to men, who were more likely to prioritise physical beauty, women were more likely to choose partners with higher incomes and educational levels, according to a different study done in China (Chang & Buss, 2011). It is permissible for two people with a wider physical range to get married. This is most likely the main result of the business rules and leniency that provide the couple more flexibility of choice. Low socioeconomic status in some countries, status is viewed negatively whereas a job has prestige, which is one of the financial factors influencing marriage. Thus, marriage is regarded as a marketable good that transcends prestige or issues of race and ethnicity. In many communities, the ability to influence and mould children's behaviour is another factor to be taken into account before choosing to get married (Gage & Hancock, 2007).

People were more likely to marry partners who had occupations, incomes, and educational backgrounds similar to their own according to the US study (Schwartz and Mare, 2005). In contrast to men, who were more likely to priorities physical beauty, women were more likely to choose partners with higher incomes and educational levels, according to a different study done in China (Chang & Buss, 2011). Personality qualities have also been cited as a significant and highly employable component in deciding the



direction of mate choice (marriage). Physical, economic and educational characteristics are kept under observation. In certain communities, whether traditional or liberal, choice is occasionally or permanently used as a factor for choosing a spouse. Women preferred partners with the same or higher qualifications. Similarly it is found that college graduates and undergraduates favoured marrying partners of the same educational level as well as professional edge and skilful background (Kalmijin & Flap, 2001; Gage & Hancock, 2007).

The choice of a mate may also be influenced by other elements like physical appeal, personality traits, and common interests. The likelihood of having a romantic relationship has, however, been found to be significantly influenced by SES, and people from higher SES backgrounds are more likely to marry someone from similar backgrounds. Economic status is not the sole or even the most essential element for all men to take into account when choosing a mate, yet it may be one that some men take into account (Greitemeyer, 2007). The relationship between socio-economic status (SES) and mate selection is a complex and multifaceted topic that has been studied by sociologists, economists, and psychologists. There is evidence to imply that people tend to seek partners who have similar levels of SES, even though the nature of the relationship may vary depending on cultural and historical factors. According to the Assortative mating theory, people are more likely to find romantic mates who have comparable characteristics, such as SES. In other words, people tend to choose partners who share their interests, income levels, and employment status (Fisman et al., 2006).

In Pakistan, choosing a spouse or marrying has always been seen as an extremely important decision for individuals. In a nation like Pakistan, choosing a mate includes consideration of both culture and religion in addition to being an agreement between the two parties. Parents' and other family members' choices are seen as being quite significant in this regard. These yardsticks differ from family to family based on their unique way of thinking. Some people priorities the aspects of caring and compassion while others priorities the socioeconomic position of their potential partners (Gulzar, 2015).

Statement of the problem

Mate selection is one of the most important affair in person life. Marriage patterns are changed within the period of time. Since all of the societies around us are evolving quickly to meet the demands of the moment, it is crucial to understand the significance of changing trends for marriages and to observe their effects and how different aspects like physical attractiveness, economic status, age, love and affection, religion are consider important in selecting mate. This study aims to find out the opinion of women choosing to be a second wife based on economic consideration and would they prefer to be a second wife if their spouse is able to manage two homes simultaneously. The research has been conducted on educated women to tell about their opinion regarding selecting mates. The women who are in graduation post- graduation are select for this research. Questionnaire are distributed to know about their preference about their selection of mate.

Research objectives

1. To find out the perception of female regarding importance of socio-economic status in mate Selection.
2. To analyze the opinion of women choosing to be second wife based on economic Consideration.

Research question

1. To what extent socio economic background play role in finding partners for marriage?

Significance of a study

The most crucial decision in a person's life is selecting a life mate, which is also necessary for survival in the future. The process of choosing a mate operates like a market, and the guidelines that must be followed determine the traditions of communication between partners and their house.

It is widely acknowledged that people have specific requirements when choosing a life mate. On the other hand, it indicates that the choice of a spouse is based on a wide range of considerations. The study has been conducted on women preferences about their mate selection in Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad. All of the societies around us are evolving quickly to meet the demands of the moment, it is crucial to understand the significance of changing trends for marriages and to observe their effects. Pakistan's marriage customs have roots in earlier cultural conflagrations. Pakistan is primarily an Islamic country, but it maintains constant contact with other cultures, particularly Hindu culture, which has an impact on the local marriage system.



With the consequences of transformation, through advancement, and the resulting changes in various social systems, the process of choosing a match and getting married has undergone significant modifications. The purpose of this study or research to find the role of physical attractiveness, socio-economic status, love and affection, education, religion, ethnicity, mass media in mate selection.

Literature Review

Economic status in mate selection

Women preferred to marry well-educated, wealthy men, while men also preferred working women because they could both live on an equal level in terms of resources and income (Vogler et al, 2008). Greitemeyer (2007) find out that what men and women wanted in their partners, placing particular focus on intelligent partners. The study notes that in the past, men were more interested with the physical attributes of women, whilst women placed more weight on the socioeconomic standing of the guy. The study demonstrates that males research females' socioeconomic status before choosing them as romantic partners, raising the question of whether men are actually concerned about the socioeconomic condition of their possible spouses. In contrast to women from higher socioeconomic position, however, men tend to favour women from lower socioeconomic status. This was discovered more in regard to long-term relationships than one-night stands. However, men from lower socioeconomic backgrounds prefer to date high-status women because of their education rather than their income. Women place a higher value on a man's wealth than do men, and they first consider a partner's race when making a decision (Fisman et al., 2006).

Sprecher and Regan (2002) demonstrated in their study that social, financial status, and physical characteristics were more significant for both men and women in a romantic partner. According to Kalmijn and Flap (2001), how people choose partners depends on what is accessible to them and can be narrowed if the market permits it. The discovered preferences were extremely dissimilar. 30% to 40% Males prioritised age and weight whereas females prioritized job security, height, and if a potential spouse smoked. The findings highlight the fact that people enter into long-term relationships after getting to know one another over time. The preferences that prospective partners have for their mates influence the kinds of people they wish to date. Similar personalities tend to attract one another, and the dating process begins, leading to a more satisfying relationship.

Women place more significance on a man's socioeconomic standing in long-term relationships, but in casual relationships, neither men or women place much emphasis on a potential partner's financial situation and instead place more value on physical attractiveness. Women frequently exhibit a preference for partners with high prestige occupations in research on mate choice. Men with a promising career position, productivity, and the will to reach lofty goals are highly valued by women (Buss & Schmitt, 1993). Fu (2006) investigated how different groups in the state of Hawaii choose partners based on their economic level. The study concentrated on how race affected social and economic standing inside and between social groups. However, it was discovered that the likelihood of choosing a mate based on socioeconomic position was lower than anticipated. The likelihood of getting married outside of their racial groups was lower since mate selection is primarily based on marriage of equal social standing mates.

The preference of women to become a second wife based on economic considerations can vary significantly depending on cultural, societal, and individual factors. Practical considerations including a need for comfort and security, social and economic advancement, and economic stability may lead to women entering polygamous relationships (Sam'ani et al., 2023). Partner choice is influenced by factors like age, job security, height, economic status, and physical attractiveness. Women prioritize socioeconomic status, while men value ambitious, productive partners. Women tend to end relationships with men lacking career motivation. SES influences first marriages and remarriage entrance, High-SES divorced males may gain advantages in the remarriage market due to financial security. Women's preference for second wives varies based on cultural, societal, and individual factors, including comfort, security, social and economic advancement, and economic stability. It is approved from all previous studies that women gives importance to higher economic status man which is matched from research objectives.



Education and mate selection

The chance of a second marriage and cohabitation is also strongly correlated with economic resources like money and education, according to a study that has been done. Divorced singles have less reason to anticipate their future financial well-being and far more knowledge about potential partners than singles. Thus, remarriage may be less affected by education than marriage for the first time (Aarskaug, 2010). Status and education are crucial factors to consider when interacting with other people. Even though some educated people in our society treat their spouses horribly, educated people are nonetheless seen as having more culture than others who lack education. Despite this, individuals still choose spouses who have a strong degree because it means they will have good careers and living situations. In order to maintain positive relationships between life partners and foster a wholesome home environment, status is crucial. Contrarily, a lack of finances typically causes the family to become more tense and unhappy. The ability to compromise, which is important for a happy marriage, is what determines a couple's level of happiness rather than their social standing or financial means (Yilmez et al, 2013).

Human capital is a unique resource made up of health, knowledge, skills, and drive that is the result of human investment. This is used in a specific area of social production, reserve helps boost labour productivity and production efficiency, which has an impact on that person's pay. Human capital and economic status based on individual learning skills and education. A person's wealth is their human capital, which is changed, consumed, and encouraged in the material and spiritual production of different facets of society. The method itself enhances life quality, which raises overall quality of life. It is the outcome of acquiring new knowledge and receiving professional education (Smith, 2020). A larger variety of work prospects is typically available to people with higher levels of education. Specific educational requirements, such as degrees or certificates, are necessary for many sectors and professions. Higher education increases a person's chances of finding better-paying professions that require more advanced skills. Education also make possibilities and provide many ways about how you raise your status high.

Modernization has significantly altered the process of choosing a mate, it has done so slowly in traditional civilizations. People with higher levels of education favour educated life partners, and they are also less likely to enter into arranged unions. It is obvious that many people favour partners who share their socioeconomic background, level of education, and line of work. In addition, people in both rural and urban areas favour spouses with similar backgrounds in terms of education, employment, and family wealth. Many people desire marriage to someone who shares their educational background, profession, and family history (Bronstad & Russell, 2007). Education can support upward economic mobility, enabling people to shift from lower to higher income tiers. Individuals have the chance to improve their financial situation by obtaining additional education, such as college or graduate degrees, which can open doors to higher-paying employment and greater career possibilities. People can acquire the skills and information they need through education to adapt to shifting economic situations. Higher levels of education can improve employability and make people more resistant to economic downturns in a labour market that is becoming more dynamic and competitive. Furthermore, educated people are frequently better able to manage their personal resources, overcome economic obstacles, and make wise financial judgements. (Astakhova, 2016)

The main criteria for choosing a partner include intelligence, social skills, physical health, beauty, neatness, and refinement. Other selection factors for partners were the value of communication and social interaction. In general, people chose partners who had the correct attitude, interests, and views in addition to believing in culture and values. The suggested mate's other qualities, such as education and chastity, were also valued at the same time. The person with decent and pleasant character with whom understanding might be formed despite disparities in backgrounds was observed to be more attractive in mate selection. Additionally, it was thought to be in keeping with Islamic teachings. In a similar vein, educated men prefer to wed educated women even when this is not their primary criterion for choosing partners (Abdullah et al, 2011). Economic resources like education and money strongly correlate with second marriage and cohabitation chances, with divorced singles having less financial well-being and more knowledge about potential partners. Education and status influence mate selection, but they're not the sole determinants of a successful relationship. Strong



educational backgrounds offer better career prospects, living situations, job opportunities, and economic potential. Education also supports financial management and decision-making skills. After analysing this secondary data on the importance of education in mate selection it is analysed that education is very important factor for females in choosing their spouse because financial stability, job opportunity based on education.

Social class and mate selection

Family background is the most important factor of raising economic status. Inheritance and wealth transfer across generations can have an effect on economic standing. People from wealthy families may have access to money, real estate, or enterprises that boost their financial situation. Some people may priorities partners with comparable origins when choosing a mate in order to maintain their riches and financial security (Prince, 2021). Family relationships may give people social capital and networking possibilities that can help them advance their economic standing. Being raised in a wealthy household may provide access to powerful social networks, professional contacts, and employment chances that can improve career prospects and financial success. To take advantage of these networks and benefits, people could look for partners with comparable backgrounds. An individual's financial habits and upbringing might be influenced by their family background. People from financially secure households may get advice on investing, managing money, and building wealth. They may develop positive financial habits and a strong understanding of economic principles. These factors may affect how successful they personally are financially and how they choose their partners (Apostolou, 2008).

From all this secondary data it is discovered Family background significantly impacts economic status, with inheritance and wealth transfer impacting individuals' financial situation. Wealthy families have access to wealth, real estate, and enterprises, which can improve their financial situation. People may prioritize partners with similar origins to maintain wealth and security. Financial success is influenced by these factors, affecting personal success and partner choices. All data is match with the 2nd objective of this research that social class family background has make importance in mate selection.

Physical attractiveness and mate selection

Numerous research have shown that men prefer women who are physically attractive, and women prefer men who have promising careers. Worldwide, both men and women want a mate who is emotionally stable. Studies that attempted to analyse cultural differences in mate choice have found the same trends. In China, men like youthful, attractive, and attractive women, while women favour men who are financially secure. The two main concerns around the world are being physically appealing and having a solid socioeconomic situation (Perilloux et al., 2011). Franklin and Adams (2009) investigated the significance of facial beauty in mate choice. The study is predicated on the idea that face attractiveness is a crucial component of the aesthetic preference required to choose a spouse for life. When choosing a partner for marriage, women typically place a lot of weight on non-sexual aspects of a person's appearance, whereas men place more emphasis on sexual factors. The decision is augmented by the role of culture and cultural values. Women also rely on other characteristics, primarily in a holistic setting. Even a man's facial appearance is determined by his society as a whole; mate choice originates from both sexual and non-sexual origins, which include choices based on culture and physical appeal.

When conversing with a potential partner, the face functions as a specific social indication. It offers a glimpse into the gender, race, and feelings of the potential partner. The main quality that draws and the prevalence of face attractiveness among groups, civilizations, and society at large influences the opposite sex. In particular, female productivity and partner choice are strongly influenced by physical appearance. In this context, fecundity or health are crucial factors to take into account (Bronstad & Russell, 2007). Physical characteristics are often taken into consideration when choosing a life mate since they can reveal a person's socioeconomic standing. This is because relying just on socioeconomic characteristics can be risky. Additionally, age, height, and weight are related to education and career, whereas other characteristics like eye colour and hair colour are personal preferences and are unimportant from a dating perspective. Individual physical characteristics are therefore considered as they demonstrate good status when picking a companion (Hoppe & Sela, 2006).



Belot and Francesconi (2006) examined mate choice in the UK. By comparing men and women, results are achieved through the use of an experimental research design. According to a study, women choose tall, physically appealing men in their youth. While eye and hair colour were not taken into consideration when choosing dates, age, height, and weight were related to occupation and education. Both men and women preferred men who were in strong socioeconomic standing. The other factors included having a similar age, height, level of education, and occupation. The process of selecting a partner through speed dating has been the subject of several studies. These studies examined data from a substantial dating service that functioned across multiple significant US cities. The methods used by 2600 people to select possible partners for themselves were assessed. Physical characteristics including age, height, and weight were regarded as essential for them by both men and women. Men favoured young, slim girls, whereas women preferred young, tall guys, which was a small difference. They all concurred that compared to a potential partner's degree and career, physical characteristics might be seen more quickly. They found in another study that while men admired women's intelligence and ambition as long as it didn't surpass their own, women preferred bright men and also their race (Kurzban & Weeden, 2005).

It is discovered from all secondary data that men prefer physically attractive women, while women prefer men with promising careers. Face attractiveness is a crucial aspect of mate choice, with women focusing on non-sexual aspects of a person's appearance, while men prioritize sexual factors. Physical characteristics, such as age, height, and weight, are often considered when choosing a life mate, as they reveal a person's socioeconomic standing. It's proven that the physical attractiveness factor of social status is important in the selection of mates.

Age and mate selection

Age differences between men and women create challenges. Relationships grow brittle when the wife is older than the husband, but issues are less common when younger women marry older men. In traditional societies, an age difference in this situation is viewed favourably because men are often in charge of taking care of all kinds of needs. Less age gap should be used to prevent mental disparities. Age disparities between the couple could lead to arguments and misunderstandings (Fatima & Ajmal, 2011). Young adults of both sexes search for partners who believe similarly to them and can relate to one another on an equal basis in contemporary western countries. Due to their high fecundity and earlier reproductive ages, younger females were preferred in traditional communities. The educated elite favors choosing partners who are their own age because they think that this leads to greater understanding between the partners (Burdette et al., 2009).

Buss (2003) reports that both boys and girls discuss age disparity as an important factor while selecting a mate. According to boys the main purpose of marriage is the reproduction of the family. Young adults in a Pakistani culture are pressurized by family members to select girls who are young and fertile. Girls, however, believe that age has nothing to do with becoming an ideal wife. As far as age disparity is concerned it was seen that boys believe that women prefer young husbands because they can easily be controlled. An interesting element which was found in age disparity was that men prefer younger women because of reproductive fertility issue. Boys think that since women's reproductive years are limited, the younger they are, the more fertile they will be. In contrast, girls think that one's professional career is influenced by one's age. Additionally, it was discovered that women choose younger men because they think they are simpler to govern than older ones. The results of focus groups further supported Buss's theory that the reasons why males are younger women due to their fertility problems. Therefore, there is no cultural difference in the way that young males think about young women as potential wives. Because it takes time for males to establish themselves, another intriguing finding from the focus group discussions was that women prefer older guys.

Secondary data together show that age differences between men and women can cause relationship issues. Traditional societies view age differences favourably, as men are responsible for all needs. In modern Western countries, young adults seek partners who share similar beliefs and can relate equally. Boys believe that women prefer young husbands because they can be easily controlled, while girls believe age has nothing to do with becoming an ideal wife. Men prefer younger women due to reproductive fertility issues, while girls believe their professional career is influenced by age.



Religion and mate selection

A "contract between husband and wife that is recognised legally, socially, and religiously" is a marriage. It provides the young male with a female and chance to enter into sexual relations. Consequently, the basis of the family is established. Males and females coexist having collectively their individual tasks in accordance with their societally given positions. The Holy Quran Says "And of His signs is thus: he created for your help mates from yourselves that you might find rest in them and he ordained between you love and mercy. Indeed, there are signs here for people who think. Alavi et al. (2014) conducted research on the postgraduate students' mate selection factors used in Malaysia. The findings reveal a number of significant preferences of Malaysian postgraduate students in relation to mate choice, but other than preferences, the findings are consistent with other research. Overall findings indicate that religion is a significant factor that influences not only graduate students' perceptions but also the culture as a whole. Due to the dedication of religious people to their way of life, many respondents place more importance on religion. The respondents also took their mental health, occupation, physical characteristics, and greater economic standing into account. Although it is favoured above physical characteristics, physical beauty is not the most crucial factor in choosing a spouse. Many female students priorities their career and financial situation in order to have a better life and future.

A religious community is crucial to the development of a successful union. Selecting a life partner from a similar religious sect is preferred. Children suffer negative repercussions from conflicts of beliefs. Serious consequences like the couple's separation or divorce may result from these conflicts (Fatima et al., 2012). Asamarai et al. (2008) outlined the significance of religious practise in Muslim married men and women's choice of spouse and marital contentment. The Arabic and English versions of the Assessment of Muslim Marital Satisfaction (AMMS) were created utilising terminology and culturally acceptable conceptions. Both men and women discussed how having a religious spouse influenced their decision to select a life mate. The degree to which your partner is religious was found to have a weak correlation with marital satisfaction for women and little to no correlation for males. The majority of the participants said they were happy with their marriages, with men reporting slightly higher levels of happiness in some areas.

Pakistanis are intensely religious people who place a high value on religion in all spheres of life. There are 159 million people living in Pakistan, of whom 140 million are Muslims, 6 million are Hindus, and about 6 million are Christians. Because marriage in Pakistan is regarded as a religious obligation, religion is crucial when choose who to date. Even ethnicity there are many different ethnic groupings in the nation does not matter as much as sharing the same religion because it is so crucial. Once a partner is not from the same faith group as one's family or friends, they will not be regarded as an acceptable match (Malik, 2006). In various Hadiths, the Holy Prophet S.A.W. stressed the significance of religion in the choice of a life mate. Beshir and Beshir (2005) cited these Hadiths. This is due to the fact that religion and good manners are crucial for healthy relationships and a solid marriage.

Marriage is a legally, socially, and religiously recognized contract between a husband and wife, establishing the basis of the family. In eastern and south-eastern countries, traditional values and religious views influence marriage. Shito religions, such as Confucianism and Buddhism, influence marriage roles and mate choice in Japan, Korea, China, India, and Malaysia. Hinduism, which considers marriage a sacred duty, controls behaviour and caste and class structures. Malaysians practice ancient code of behaviour and Islam, while Pakistanis place a high value on religion in all aspects of life. Sharing the same religion is more important than ethnicity in choosing a partner, as it is essential for healthy relationships and a solid marriage. All secondary evidence show that religion is important and has a significant effect in choosing a partner.

Mass Media and mate selection

The advent of computers to Pakistani society has helped to foster online interactions between strangers, particularly those involving opposite sex. This further opens up opportunities for students, particularly those in college and university, to choose a life. Partner for one's own needs Otherwise, open mixing between boys and girls is not regarded favourably in Pakistani society (Ali, 2013). Media, fairy-tales, and folklore make up the three main pillars of cultural influence. According to boys, the media has no part in



choosing partners. However, dramas and films have a significant impact on girls. However, several people believed that media only played a superficial impact in their decisions and that decisions changed as people aged, gained experience, and matured (Iqra et al., 2013).

The rise in Internet use over the past few years has partially supplanted family, school, as well as neighbourhood and friend interactions. The workplace is becoming a place where people can meet possible partners. Americans are gradually meeting and forming relationships with complete strangers that is, individuals with whom they have no prior social connection thanks to the Internet. Individuals no longer need to leave their houses to meet new individuals because of the internet. People can now readily look for companions at home or at their place of employment without feeling uncomfortable, such as same-sex couples doing so in public. Through the internet, connections are made between people who live far apart (Wang & Wellman, 2010).

Parents choose a mate from among the available partners in the United States. Prior to the advent of the internet and dating, there weren't many options for partners in the United States, but things have changed now. The only ones still doing it now are the private firms (Rosenfeld, 2007). The Muslim community is in danger as a result of the rise of social media and online communication, which has allowed young people to often engage through matrimonial websites that aid in spouse selection. According to Larsson (2011), the internet aids members of the Muslim community who live in Europe and America in finding partners. "When you marry, you have completed half of your deen," states a hadith. "Let him fear Allah regarding the other half" (Hancock and Ellison, 2007).

Dramas and films have a significant impact on girls. The rise of computers in Pakistani society has facilitated online interactions between strangers, especially those of opposite sex. This has opened up opportunities for people to choose a life partner for their own needs. Cultural influences include media, fairytales, and folklore. Americans are now meeting strangers at home or at their workplace without feeling uncomfortable, and connections are made between people who live far apart because of media. Before the internet and dating, there were few options for partners in the United States, but private firms continue to do so. Since women are more interested in plays, films, and other forms of entertainment than men are, their opinions about their partners tend to grow in accordance with the media, which is supported by all secondary data, mass media is a highly essential component for dating and for selecting a marriage.

Ethnicity and mate selection

Culture has a minimal impact on mate choice in Malaysia. It was common for Malaysians to marry persons who came from cultures that were not drastically different from their own. Malaysians generally accept partners who have been married before. Males were more likely than females to accept a partner who has kids from past relationships. Age played a moderate impact in this process, although it was viewed as being more significant for men. On the other hand, Nigerian students studying in Malaysia placed higher weight on age. The overall findings were deemed favourable for everyone planning to get married and choose a spouse from a different cultural background and set of traits (Maliki, 2009). 74% of Indians polled recently opposed inter-caste marriages. The sampled population was wealthy and well-educated. In Indian society, choosing a spouse from outside one's caste is strongly preferred (Banerjee et al., 2010).

Pacific Islanders who married Caucasians or Asians in Hawaii had better work prestige than Pacific Islanders who married outside their group due to their relative lower socioeconomic standing, whereas Caucasians and Asians did the opposite. There was a somewhat segregated marriage market where status was determined by factors other than race and ethnicity. In other words, those who were of higher status among them were those who had high-ranking positions and had advanced degrees, as opposed to those of lower status who they avoided and chose to marry inside rather than outside their group (Fu, 2006). High intermarriage rates were cited by Fu (2002) as the most distinctive feature of Hawaii's inhabitants. In general, it was more common than in the USA. In the final decade of the 20th century, inter-weddings accounted for around 50% of all marriages. It was said that this was because the state's racial group was very tiny and there wasn't the same stigma against intergroup union as there was in the USA's heartland. Demographic structure, including a group's relative size, ethnic heterogeneity, and the sex ratio of marry able population, were



significant determinants in this regard. These elements collectively encouraged a culture of intermarrying among different local communities.

Love/affection and mate selection

Yilmez et al. (2013) looked at the myth that university students had about romance and partner choice based on gender, age, and relationship. According to the findings, idealization and cohabitation require only love, and these are the elements influencing partner choice based on gender. In terms of only love, which is sufficient for cohabitation, there was little difference from simple effort, idealization, perfect assurance, and the opposing praise. In contrast, a difference in the frequency of romantic partnerships was discovered in relation to cohabitation, but not in terms of the notions of "love is enough," "easy efforts," "romanticism," "complete assurance," or "opposite compliment". Love and caring are essential to a relationship's growth. The importance of communication in this context cannot be overstated. Couples that communicate well together have happier families. Ineffective communication is to blame for unhappy marriages. The foundation of a marriage is love. Loved ones take care of one another and make allowances for one another's flaws and errors. When two people are in love, they won't hurt each other and will work to meet each other's needs. This is also true for married couples who sincerely love one another and work hard to maintain a happy, healthy marriage. They will cooperate to find solutions to their current issues (Kline et al., 2012).

Kline et al. (2012) investigated how communication and cultural concepts related to young adults from the US, China, South Korea, Japan, India, and Malaysia's expectations about marriage. The questions asked about good wives, bad wives, good husbands, bad husbands, good marriages, and bad marriages led to the results. According to the survey, South and South-East Asian adults were more worried about marriage conception and marital roles than Americans. According to the study, a couple's relationship at home is a key factor in determining whether a marriage is good or terrible. However, Asian respondents placed a greater premium on family life than American respondents did. In addition, participants from the USA thought it was more significant than those from China, Korea, and Japan. Regarding the husband's role in providing affection and care after marriage, there was no difference in the participants' responses. In comparison to participants from the USA, eastern Asian groups rated respect and kindness as being more crucial qualities in a desirable wife. Adults from the USA and Asia behaved differently in this regard and in terms of abusive wives, abusive husbands, and abusive marriages. Abuse of language, disdain, and intolerance on the part of the expected/potential mate were indicators of controlling behaviour. Potential partners' communication skills were valued more highly than their physical appearance and capacity for marriage. While poor or no communication was a symptom of a bad husband and wife, effective communication was regarded as a positive sign. In relation to choosing a spouse placed significance on cross-cultural communication principles. According to studies, the potential partners' intentions, meaning, and communication are expressed and coordinated to determine whether they will make a good marriage. In order to achieve a common aim, a long-term relationship about mate selection required a persistent cooperative alliance with the potential mate. Mutuality in relationships is established through communication-based interactions that foster honesty, kindness, and understanding. While trust, sociability, and communication are additional qualities that people around the world value, kindness and understanding are the traits that both men and women prefer. While other inclinations of people on a global scale include trust, sociability, and communication (Lippa, 2007).

To summarize all literature, it is agreed that love and caring are crucial for a relationship's growth, and effective communication is essential for happy families. Couples who communicate well together have happier families, and ineffective communication can lead to unhappy marriages. Potential partners' communication skills were valued more than their physical appearance and capacity for marriage. Effective communication was considered a positive sign of a good husband and wife. So all this literature is somehow attached to the objective of this research study, which is that love and affection are very strong and considered important indicators in the opinions of both males and females.

Analysis of literature reviewed

Research on mate selection highlights the importance of socioeconomic status (SES), with women often prioritizing it. Men, conversely, tend to value ambition and productivity in partners. SES influences



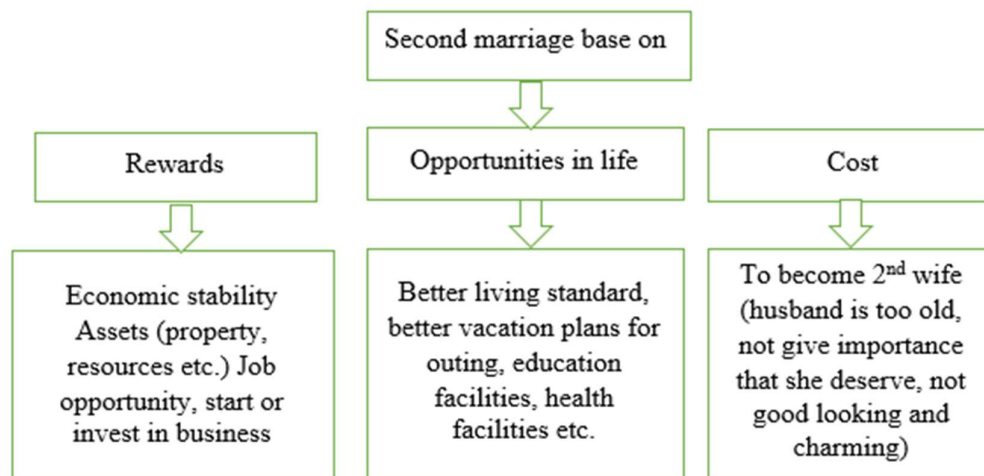
marriage decisions, including remarriage, where financially secure divorced men may have advantages. Cultural factors significantly influence mate selection. Traditional societies, like Pakistan, often emphasize factors like religion, caste, and age. Modernization has introduced new factors, such as online dating, which allows for greater individual choice. While modernization has altered perspectives on marriage, social status remains crucial. This study aims to investigate the importance of SES and women's perspectives on becoming a second wife, particularly considering economic factors.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework is considered to be the most obligatory tool in research. In this chapter a model is created based on the gap in the study. Then, the focus shifts to identifying the theory best suited for this gap. Subsequently, the theory is applied, and hypotheses are formulated. These hypotheses are then tested with the help of statistical tools later. The theory is considered to provide proper guidelines and direction for the research and to prove the hypothesis.

Figure 1

Model of social exchange theory



Explanation of the model

This model discussed how the basis for second marriages depends on benefits, life opportunities, and cost. It was based on the research gap. The benefits might include financial stability, greater prospects for children, access to jobs, tools for starting one's own business, and travel arrangements, among other things. And the cost may also include a woman companion who is too elderly, uncaring, and unattractive for her. Every interaction in the world is based on costs and rewards. Everyone prefers relationships and businesses where the benefits outweigh the expenses. This model is match with social exchange theory which is also talked about rewards and costs.

Social exchange theory

Social exchange theory was developed by George Homans a sociologist, first appear in his essay social behaviour as exchange in 1958. Social Exchange Theory has been influential in various fields, including sociology, psychology, and communication studies. It offers a framework for understanding the dynamics of business dealings, social interactions, and interpersonal relationships. The theory helps to explain why people develop and maintain connections as well as how they make decisions regarding their social interactions by looking at the transfers of resources and the motives behind them. A psychological and sociological framework called "Social Exchange Theory" aims to explain how social exchange works in human relationships and interactions. It focus on how people engage with one another socially and exchange resources including love, support, knowledge, and material things. According to the theory, people connect with one another and form social bonds in order to maximize benefits and minimize costs. In accordance with the Social Exchange Theory, people assess the benefits and drawbacks of a given relationship or encounter and decide depending on what they believe will happen. Social Exchange Theory, developed by George



Homans, posits that social interactions are driven by the exchange of resources, aiming to maximize rewards and minimize costs. This framework, applicable across disciplines like sociology and psychology, emphasizes reciprocity and the evaluation of benefits and drawbacks in relationships. Individuals weigh their options, considering their expectations (comparison levels) and the alternatives available.

According to this theory, people are more likely to stay in a relationship when the rewards outweigh the comparison level and when there are fewer desirable alternatives. Conversely, people may decide to quit a relationship or look for another one if the comparability level is not satisfied or if the alternatives provide more benefits at lower costs.

There are several concepts that are central to social exchange theory:

Outcomes: are those rewards or costs that are received or incurred in an exchange relationship.

Resources: are possessions or behavioural capabilities (human capital) that have value to other and to one self (e.g., an individual's job and income may have value to their partner).

Alternatives: individual alternatives, these are those opportunities that produce outcomes that are of value to the individual, including exchange relationships with other individuals.

Application of the theory

Social Exchange Theory can indeed be applied to understand the relationship between socio-economic status (SES) and mate selection. The theory holds that people enter into relationships with the hope of maximizing benefits and reducing expenses. People may weigh socioeconomic issues as part of their evaluation process when choosing a mate. The economic level of the husband is a factor in women's decision-making to become second wife. Therefore the choice to become a second wife hinges on how to maximize profit or reward while minimizing expense. Profit might be money resources, economic stability, or other things. Women may be having opportunity to raise their career or business, position or status high through become 2nd wife. Other thing better life style, better facilities for living, vacations plans etc. The price of the relationship is that they become second wife of their husband, may be their partner is too much old for them, no emotional support, social status of their partner is not too much attractive.

Social Exchange Theory suggests that individuals seek to maximize rewards and minimize costs in relationships. In mate selection, this applies to socioeconomic factors. Women may consider the husband's economic status when deciding to become a second wife, weighing potential benefits (e.g., financial security, higher social status) against costs (e.g., lack of emotional support, potential social stigma). Homogamy, the tendency to choose partners with similar socioeconomic backgrounds, aligns with this theory. Partners from the same socioeconomic class may offer shared resources, values, and lifestyles. However, while the theory provides a framework for understanding how socioeconomic factors influence mate choice, it's crucial to acknowledge the influence of individual differences, cultural norms, and societal pressures, which can significantly impact relationship decisions

While the Social Exchange Theory sheds light on how people could weigh benefits and costs in the context of choosing a partner, it is important to keep in mind that preferences and decisions might change depending on individual differences, cultural norms, and societal influences. Because of this, the Social Exchange Theory's application to mate choice should be seen as a framework that can provide some knowledge of the interplay between socioeconomic position and partner choice but does not offer a comprehensive explanation for all mate choosing behaviours.

Hypothesis

Null hypothesis: There is no relationship between economic statuses and to become second wife.

Alternative hypothesis: There is relationship between economic statuses and to become second wife.

Conceptualization and Operationalization

The concepts that are used in this study are defined by the work of different researchers and authors. From the viewpoint in which the researcher applies the concepts in the current study, the researcher goes on to further clarify the Operationalization notions.



Socio-economic status

A person or group's socioeconomic status (SES) is determined by a variety of criteria, such as their income, education, occupation, and social standing. In terms of their access to resources, opportunities, and social advantages, it is a composite measure that represents the relative advantage or disadvantage that individuals or groups experience (Adler et al., 1994). Socioeconomic status might be defined as follows: A person economic and social characteristics, such as their financial resources, educational achievement, professional level, and social standing. These elements may be considered by individuals consciously or unconsciously while evaluating the compatibility, security, and social dynamics of a relationship (Frank & Gill, 2002). Socio-economic status in choosing a partner include intelligence, social skills, physical attractiveness, neatness, refinement, culture and values, education, and family background (Abdullah et al., 2011).

Mate selection

In Pakistani society, choosing a spouse involves more than simply the decision of the partners; cultural and religious values are also taken into account. The members of the family are in a good situation in this regard (Mushtaq et al., 2021). Mate selection, also known as partner selection or mate choosing, describes the method by which people select their spouses or companions for romantic relationships. It entails judging and picking possible partners based on a range of characteristics, such as physical appeal, character traits, morals, socioeconomic standing, and compatibility (Buss, 2003). Watson, Beer, and Montez (2014) investigate how assortative features influence partner choice. The people who have one or more similar characteristics with each other are chosen to be each other's life partners.

It is a complicated issue that affects both men and women equally. Both parties give distinct considerations before moving on with the act of marriage and work to achieve their goals by choosing a spouse. A series of processes make up the process of choosing a spouse, and decisions are made based on exterior traits including looks, social status or etiquette, attitude, beliefs, and shared values (Skolnick, 2005).

Operationalization

The concepts used in the current study are defined from the standpoint of the researcher. According to how they are used in the study and how they relate to the research's instruments, the ideas are discussed.

Socio-economic status. In a society, people or households are categorized according to their overall social and economic circumstances using the notion of socioeconomic status. The socio economic factors such as financial stability, education, caste, ethnicity, physical features, intelligence and good economic background. The questions of questionnaire 2, 7, 10, 11, and 12 are based on these indicators.

Mate selection. The mate selection refers to the decision of the people to whom they prefer for marriage. The spouse selection is dependent on the criteria of educated youth. In this research, hypothesis are constructed to examine the spouse selection preferences. The criteria include higher economic status, higher education status, intelligence, love and affection. Due to economic instability of Pakistan mate selection may be depend on specifically economic consideration. Women opinion may be to become second wife of their partner if his economic status is high. The question 3, 4, 7, 19, are related to this statement.

Methodology

A research methodology is a framework used to conduct research when carrying out a research project. The tools and methods the researcher used to acquire data are included in the research methodology. The universe, unit of analysis, sample size, sampling strategies, tools and procedures for data gathering, and data analysis are all covered in this section.

Research design

In the present study the data were collected on the basis of quantitative research. It contains numerical analysis, making it simple for researchers to examine the data they have gathered. This approach can also be used because it takes less time for students to respond fast.

Universe of the study

The study was carried out in QAU Islamabad. The Quaid-e-Azam University was chosen as a universe due to the variety of its cultures. We quickly obtained insights into the viewpoints of people from diverse



cultures about mate choosing because the students here come from a variety of regions and culture. The researcher is also from Islamabad, thus it was simple for her to obtain data from her home city.

Target population

The educated females are the target population of the study. The researcher aimed to explore the opinions of females regarding mate selection. Also know about the preferences of educated females in selection for their partner. Are the economic burden changed the traditional preferences about mate selection.

Unit of analysis

The specific respondents from whose data were obtained during interviews for research purposes; the unit of analysis. Girls between the ages of 18 and 30 will participate in the research study because this age females start thinking about their partner and make the image what should be existing in their life partner

Sampling design

The researcher used Random sampling technique because it ensured that everyone had an equal chance. Respondents had an equal chance to participate in the random sample.

Sample size

The sample size for the study was consisted of 170 respondents in which 150 educated females were included. QAU total population is 17000 so 1% of this is 170. But after scrutiny, only 120 responds were usable.

Tools for data collection

The study was based on both the primary and secondary data. The primary data was collected through survey. The researcher develop close ended questions for data collection and distribute to the students for data collection. This tool were used because they provide the information that can be expressed in numerical form. However, it also helped to embrace the large number of population in short time.

Techniques for data collection

The technique used for the data collection was survey method. In this research, it was used to collect the information from the educated females regarding their preferences for mate selection.

Pre-testing

Pre-testing is a tool in which researcher has tested his/her questionnaire before the data collection process to understand and confirm the workability of the questionnaire. The researcher got filled 10 questionnaires from various people before collection of data. The researcher found an error in his questionnaire that was erased and corrected.

Tools for data analysis

The tool used for the quantitative data analysis was SPSS. The information from the data was transformed into numerical numbers using the statistical software for social sciences (SPSS). After gathering the data, the researcher put it into the SPSS data entry programme and calculated the frequencies and response percentages. It helped in understanding and interpreting the findings of the research. Furthermore, it helped to test hypothesizes of the study.

Techniques for data analysis

The quantitative data analysis in the current study was done with the use of statistical analysis. With the use of statistical testing and analysis, the data was quantified. The statistical descriptions of the findings of data were drawn to further interpret and understand the data. This techniques helped the researcher to test the hypothesis of the study.

Ethical concern

The researchers considered the following research ethics:

- The consultant must show consideration for the respondents and provide them with the maximum amount of time necessary for them to complete the survey.
- The researcher is required to explain the study's objectives to participants. People who were conveniently prepared to reply were used to gather the data.
- The questionnaire should be based on ethical form.



- The researcher reassured the responders that the information they provided would be kept private, including their identity.

Results and Findings

The results of the current study have been analysed with the help of statistical analysis. First, the researcher conducted a descriptive statistical procedures, frequency distribution and percentages of replies from female students.

Descriptive analysis

This part included the statistics that represented the respondents' replies. When doing a descriptive analysis, responses are counted and calculated statistically in terms of frequency and percentage. The following tables demonstrate the responses on demographic profiles, physical attractiveness importance and their opinion on become second wife based on economic consideration.

Table 1

Demographics Analysis

	Category	Frequency	Percent
Age	18-21	18	15%
	22-25	82	68.3%
	26-29	16	13.3%
	30-35	4	3.3%
Qualification	BS	99	82.5
	M.Phil.	15	12.5
	PhD	6	5
Department	Natural science	18	15%
	Biological science	29	23.8%
	Management science	20	16.4%
	Social science	53	43.4%
Marital Status	Single	95	77.9%
	Married	9	7.4%
	Engaged	15	12.3%
	Divorced	1	0.8%
Family System	Joint	34	29.5%
	Extended	15	12.3%
	Nuclear	71	58.2%
Family Income	Less than 50,000	7	5.8%
	50,001-70,000	24	20%
	71,001-90,000	31	25.8%
	90,001 and above	58	48.3%
Siblings	1-2	39	32.5%
	3-4 and above	81	67.5%
Area	Rural	38	31.6%
	Urban	82	68.4%

The table 1 provides a demographic overview of the sample population. The majority of respondents (68.3%) were aged between 22 and 25 years old, while 15% were between 18 and 21. Most respondents (82.5%) held a Bachelor's degree (BS), with a smaller proportion possessing higher qualifications like an M.Phil. (12.5%) or a Ph.D. (5%). The sample was diverse across departments, with Social Science being the most common (43.4%), followed by Biological Science (23.8%) and Natural Science (15%). A significant majority (77.9%) of the respondents were single, while 7.4% were married and 12.3% were engaged. Nuclear families were the most prevalent (58.2%), followed by joint families (29.5%) and extended families (12.3%). A considerable portion of respondents (48.3%) came from families with an income exceeding 90,000, while



25.8% belonged to the 71,001-90,000 income bracket. The majority of respondents (67.5%) had three or more siblings. The sample predominantly comprised individuals residing in urban areas (68.4%). This demographic profile provides valuable insights into the characteristics of the study participants.

Table 2

Survey Questionnaire Results

Sr. No.	Statement	SA	A	N	D	SDA	Mean	SD	Mode
1	Do you believe that selecting a mate is an important decision in your life?	47	50	10	9	4	4.06	0.66	4
2	Do mates in your family are selected by your parents only	27	30	28	23	12	3.31	0.66	4
3	Are you free to choose a mate for yourself?	19	40	31	20	10	3.32	0.64	4
4	Do you think that Physical features of males nowadays are less important	18	29	42	23	8	3.22	0.76	3
5	You prefer male’s intelligence beyond his physical attractiveness?	37	45	21	12	5	3.81	0.74	4
6	Did you think that family cannot exist without having love and affection between husband and wife?	38	34	29	14	5	3.72	0.76	5
7	You prefer to marry with the male whom you are in love with.	35	45	27	6	7	3.79	0.74	4
8	You prefer a male who shows affection towards you.	34	42	27	10	7	3.72	0.77	4
9	Do You prefer education as an indicator for marriage?	48	32	21	14	5	3.87	0.72	5
10	Do you believe that Educated males have bright future?	31	35	34	16	4	3.61	0.73	4
11	Do you think educated husband and wife have more understanding?	32	41	25	15	7	3.63	0.63	4
12	Do You prefer your own caste or ethnicity in finding a partner?	20	23	43	21	13	3.13	0.74	3
13	Do you think It is difficult for females to adjust in another culture after marriage?	42	30	26	16	6	3.72	0.73	5
14	Do you think ethnicity has been replaced by wealth and status of male in mate selection?	30	42	25	19	4	3.63	0.72	4
15	Did you believe that life after marriage is usually happy with men having good economic status?	30	42	26	16	6	3.62	0.71	4
16	Do you prefer to marriage in nuclear family?	28	42	26	18	6	3.57	0.45	4
17	Do you prefer to marriage in joint family?	5	14	25	35	41	2.23	0.74	1
18	Do you think that females from higher socio-economic do not prefer males of lower socio-economic status?	33	45	22	10	10	3.68	0.50	4
19	Do you agree with the idea of becoming a second spouse for economic benefits, even if it means sharing your partner with another spouse?	6	29	20	30	35	2.51	0.65	1

The table 2 reveals a fascinating glimpse into the evolving landscape of mate selection preferences. A strong emphasis on education and intelligence is evident, with respondents highly valuing partners who are



educated (statement 9) and believing that educated individuals have brighter futures (statement 10). Furthermore, the importance of shared understanding between partners, particularly within educated couples (statement 11), is strongly emphasized. The table reveals a fascinating glimpse into the evolving landscape of mate selection preferences. A strong emphasis on education and intelligence is evident, with respondents highly valuing partners who are educated (statement 9) and believing that educated individuals have brighter futures (statement 10). Furthermore, the importance of shared understanding between partners, particularly within educated couples (statement 11), is strongly emphasized.

While physical attractiveness remains a factor, it appears to take a backseat to intellectual qualities. A significant majority of respondents prioritize a partner's intelligence over their physical appearance (statement 5). This suggests a shift towards valuing intellectual compatibility and personal growth in a potential partner. Love and affection emerge as paramount considerations. The overwhelming majority of respondents believe that love and affection are essential for a successful marriage (statement 6) and strongly prefer marrying someone they are in love with (statement 7). This finding underscores the increasing importance of individual choice and emotional connection in mate selection.

While parental influence is still present (statement 2), respondents largely favour personal autonomy in choosing their partners (statement 3). This suggests a gradual shift away from traditional arranged marriages towards more individualistic approaches to mate selection. Interestingly, while education and intelligence are highly valued, the data also reveals a nuanced perspective on caste and ethnicity. While a significant portion of respondents still consider caste or ethnicity in partner selection (statement 12), there's also a recognition that wealth and status are increasingly influential factors (statement 14). This suggests a complex interplay between traditional values and the evolving social and economic realities. The data highlights a preference for nuclear family structures (statement 16) over joint families (statement 17), reflecting a potential shift towards more independent and smaller family units. While physical attractiveness remains a factor, it appears to take a backseat to intellectual qualities. A significant majority of respondents prioritize a partner's intelligence over their physical appearance (statement 5). A shift towards valuing intellectual compatibility and personal growth in a potential partner. Love and affection emerge as paramount considerations. The overwhelming majority of respondents believe that love and affection are essential for a successful marriage (statement 6) and strongly prefer marrying someone they are in love with (statement 7). This finding underscores the increasing importance of individual choice and emotional connection in mate selection.

While parental influence is still present (statement 2), respondents largely favour personal autonomy in choosing their partners (statement 3). This suggests a gradual shift away from traditional arranged marriages towards more individualistic approaches to mate selection. Interestingly, while education and intelligence are highly valued, the data also reveals a nuanced perspective on caste and ethnicity. While a significant portion of respondents still consider caste or ethnicity in partner selection (statement 12), there's also a recognition that wealth and status are increasingly influential factors (statement 14). This suggests a complex interplay between traditional values and the evolving social and economic realities. The data highlights a preference for nuclear family structures (statement 16) over joint families (statement 17), reflecting a potential shift towards more independent and smaller family units.

The table provided valuable insights into the evolving dynamics of mate selection, revealing a complex interplay of traditional values, modern aspirations, and socio-economic realities.

Inferential Statistical Procedures

In this section, the data is presented in the form of inferential statistics for drawing conclusion about the target population of the study. The hypothesis is tested with the help of cross tabulation and chi square. It's help to know the significant relationship between two variables. The hypothesis testing on is there is any relationship between men good economic status and prefer to become second wife base on economic consideration has been analysed while using Chi-Square Analysis.

H₀: There is no relationship between economic status and to become second wife.

H₁: There is relationship between economic status and to become second wife.



Table 3

Cross tabulation

There is any relationship between men good economic status and prefer to become second wife.

Count		Do you agree with the idea of becoming a second spouse for economic benefits, even if it means sharing your partner with another spouse?					Total
		Agree	Strongly agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
Did you believe that life after marriage is usually happy with men having good economic status?	Agree	29	6	7	0	0	42
	Strongly agree	0	0	13	17	0	30
	Neutral	0	0	0	13	13	26
	Disagree	0	0	0	0	16	16
	Strongly disagree	0	0	0	0	6	6
Total		29	6	20	30	35	120

The above table illustrates the cross tabulation between their believe that life after marriage is usually happy with men having good economic status and do they agree with the idea of becoming a second spouse for economic benefits, even if it means sharing your partner with another spouse. In the above table the rows contain do they agree with the idea of becoming a second spouse for economic benefits, even if it means sharing your partner with another spouse? While the columns show their believe that life after marriage is usually happy with men having good economic status. Out of 120 respondents 72 respondents believe that life after marriage is usually happy with men having good economic status and they agree to become second wife of men who have good economic status.

Table 4

Chi Square Test

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	183.048 ^a	16	.000
Likelihood Ratio	212.403	16	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	89.193	1	.000
No of Valid Cases	120		

a. 14 cells (56.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .30.

Chi-Square test

The above given table illustrates that Pearson Chi-Square which is 183.048, df is 16, and Asymptotic Significance is .000 which is less than 0.05 percent p value, This means alternative hypothesis which is there is relationship between economic statuses and to become second wife is accepted.

Discussion

Marriage is a significant decision influenced by social, legal, religious, and cultural factors. Key psycho-social criteria include love, social position, wealth, education, physical attractiveness, and family aspirations, with regional and cultural differences in mate choice.

The current study leads to find out the relationship between socio economic status and mate selection. The relationship between socio-economic status (SES) and mate selection is a complex and multifaceted topic that has been studied by sociologists, economists, and psychologists. There is evidence to imply that people tend to seek partners who have similar levels of SES, even though the nature of the relationship may vary depending on cultural and historical factors. According to the Assortative mating theory, people are more



likely to find romantic mates who have comparable characteristics, such as SES. In other words, people tend to choose partners who share their interests, income levels, and employment status. (Buss, 2003).

The research conducted on educated females in Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad. The reason of this study to find out what are the factors which play important role in finding partner. And main objective of this research is to find out the women opinion regarding to become second wife on the basis of economic consideration. According to the literature the preference of women to become a second wife based on economic considerations can vary significantly depending on cultural, societal, and individual factors. Practical considerations including a need for comfort and security, social and economic advancement, and economic stability may lead to women entering polygamous relationships. (Shafer and James, 2013). It is also discovered through study high-SES divorced males may gain from advantages in the remarriage market. For instance, thanks to their financial security, high-SES males may be more appealing to young or unmarried women than low-SES men.

The sample size of this study is 120 females. The data was collected through survey close ended questionnaire distributed among respondents. First of all, the research to address the demographic profile in general question. in the first section the question mention in the demographic profile regarding respondent's age , qualification, Faculty, marital status ,siblings, monthly family income, and family background. Mostly respondents in this study between the age group of 22-25 years. 81.1 percent respondents from BS level. 43.4 percent respondents belongs to social sciences faculty. 77.9 percent females are single only 1 female is divorced. 58.2 percent respondents select that they are belongs from nuclear family. 47.5 percent respondent's family income is above than 90,000, 30 percent respondents are from rural background and 66.6 percent are from urban background. The result shows that large amount of respondents belong from nuclear family. This means that in urban arrangement mostly families are nuclear and they allow to select a mate by themselves. The result shows that 41.0 percent of the respondents agree that selecting a mate is an important decision in their life, 38.5 percent of the respondents strongly agree that selecting a mate is an important decision in their life. While, 25.4 percent of the respondents agree that mates are selecting by their parents only, 21.3 percent of the respondents strongly agree that mates are selecting by their parents.

Out of 120 respondents 23.8 percent of the respondents agree that physical features of males are less important today, 20.5 percent of the respondents disagree with that physical features of males are less important today. In this study 36.9 percent of the respondents agree that they prefer male's intelligence beyond his physical attractiveness, 30.3 percent of the respondents strongly agree that they prefer male's intelligence beyond his physical attractiveness. In reply of question did they prefer to marry with the male whom they are love with, 36.9 percent of the respondents agree with this statement. 39.3 percent of the respondents strongly agree that they prefer education as an indicator for marriage, 11.5 percent of the respondents disagree with they prefer education as an indicator for marriage. Is ethnicity has been replaced by wealth and status of male in mate selection, 34.4 percent of the respondents agree that they think ethnicity has been replaced by wealth and status of male in mate selection, 24.6 percent of the respondents strongly agree that they think ethnicity has been replaced by wealth and status of male in mate selection, 15.6 percent of the respondents disagree with that they think ethnicity has been replaced by wealth and status of male in mate selection

34.4 percent respondents agree with they prefer nuclear family for marriage, 23 percent respondents strongly agree with they prefer nuclear family for marriage 11.5 percent respondents agree with they prefer joint family for marriage, 4.1 percent respondents strongly agree with they prefer joint family for marriage, 28.7 percent respondents disagree with they prefer joint family for marriage and 33.6 percent respondents strongly disagree with they prefer joint family for marriage.

The main objective of this study to find out women opinion regarding 2nd marriage on the basis of economic status of men, 23.8 percent of female respondents agree with the idea of becoming a second spouse for economic benefits, even if it means sharing your partner with another spouse, 4.9 percent of the respondents strongly agree, 24.6 percent of the respondents disagree and 28.7 percent of the respondents strongly disagree with the idea of becoming a second spouse for economic benefits, even if it means sharing your partner with another spouse.



Cross tabulation done between 2 questions did they agree with the notion of getting a second spouse for financial reasons, even if it meant sharing your partner with another spouse, or did they think that life after marriage is often joyful with males having strong economic status? The alternative hypothesis of this study—that there is correlation between economic status and the likelihood of becoming a second wife is accepted since the chi square result is .000, which is smaller than 0.05.

Conclusion

Selecting a mate is a crucial first step in starting a family. The foundation of the marriage and family depends on choosing compatible partners for both men and women. Numerous elements influence partner choice in Pakistani society. The goal of the current study was to determine how educated females felt about choosing a spouse.

According to the study, the educated girls who were chosen were primarily from nuclear families and ranged in age from 22 to 25. There were a lot of single women. In half of the cases, parents chose partners for their daughters; nevertheless, self-selection from a different ethnic group outside the family was not particularly prevalent. The chosen women were found to be interested in marriage to highly educated, intelligent, and financially successful men because they considered that such men would make their lives more fulfilling or pleasant. They also believed that educated men would have a bright future.

Females also preferred to select a mate for marriage with whom they are in love with. Also they believe a family cannot exist without love and affection between husband and wife.

tabulation between 2 statements did they agree with the notion of getting a second spouse for financial reasons, even if it meant sharing your partner with another spouse, or did they think that life after marriage is often joyful with males having strong economic status? The null hypothesis of this study that there is no correlation between economic status and the likelihood of becoming a second wife is accepted since the chi square result is .30, which is larger than 0.05.

Recommendations

1. The size of unmarried women has increased along with the delay in marriage as a result of the change in mate choosing mechanisms, particularly among educated females. By balancing traditional and modern methods of choosing a spouse, both difficulties should be brought to light, especially by lowering expectations on both the male and female sides.
2. The media has encouraged glamorous marriages between attractive people wearing elaborate clothing and living in large homes, which has had a detrimental effect on mate choice. It should be discouraged, by using simple, cultural, and religious criteria while choosing a spouse.
3. The responsibility for choosing a spouse has been transferred from the family to the concerned persons in urban and educated circles. By considering the opinions of the concerned male and female as well as the members of the family, it is important to strike a balance while selecting a partner.

References

- Abdullah, H. S., Li, L. P., & David, A. P. V. (2011). Gender differences in mate selection criteria among Malaysian undergraduate students. *SARJANA*.
- Adeyemi, M. B., & Adeyinka, A. A. (2003). The principles and content of African traditional education. *Educational Philosophy and Theory*, 35(4), 425-440.
- Alavi, M., Alahdad, R., & Shafeq, S. M. (2014). Mate selection criteria among postgraduate students in Malaysia. *Procedia-Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 116, 5075-5080.
- Ali, Z. S. (2013). Mobile phone and Pakistani youth: A gender perspective. *Journal of Telematics and Informatics*, 1(2), 59-68.
- Asamarai, L. A., Solberg, K. B., & Solon, P. C. (2008). The role of religiosity in Muslim spouse selection and its influence on marital satisfaction. *Journal of Muslim Mental Health*, 3(1), 37-52.
- Buss, D. M. (2003). *The evolution of desire: Strategies of human mating*. Basic Books.
- Belot, M., & Francesconi, M. (2006). Can anyone be 'the' one? Evidence on mate selection from speed dating.



- Chaudhry, S. (2004). The investigation into attitude of rural women towards exchange marriages: A case study in District Jhang (Doctoral dissertation). University of Agriculture, Faisalabad.
- Chang, L., Wang, Y., Shackelford, T. K., & Buss, D. M. (2011). Chinese mate preferences: Cultural evolution and continuity across a quarter of a century. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 50(5), 678-683.
- Dutton, W. H., Helsper, E. J., Whitty, M. T., Buckwalter, G., & Lee, E. (2008). Mate selection in the network society: The role of the Internet in reconfiguring marriages in Australia, the United Kingdom and United States. *SSRN*, 1275810.
- Deosthale, D. C., & Hennon, C. B. (2008). Family and tradition in India. In C. B. Hennon, & S. M. Wilson (Eds.), *Families in a global context* (pp. 295-323).
- Frank, N., & Gill, M. (2002). *International encyclopedia of sociology volume one, 1-780 (7 61)*. British Library cataloguing-in-publishing data consulting editor: Hector L. Delgada.
- Fu, X. (2006). Impact of socioeconomic status on inter-racial mate selection and divorce. *Journal of Social Science*, 43, 239-258.
- Franklin, R. G., & Adams, R. B. (2009). A dual-process account of female facial attractiveness preferences: Sexual and nonsexual routes. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 45(5), 1156-1159.
- Gonzaga, G. C., Campos, B., & Bradbury, T. (2007). Similarity, convergence, and relationship satisfaction in dating and married couples. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 93(1), 34.
- Gulzar, A., & Husain, W. (2015). The psychosocial preferences in mate selection among Pakistanis. *FWU Journal of Social Sciences*, 9(1), 29.
- Greitemeyer, T. (2007). What do men and women want in a partner? Are educated partners always more desirable? *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 43(2), 180-194.
- Gage, J., & Hancock, D. (2007). Where is the money honey: The socioeconomic effects of mate choice.
- Hitsch, G. J., Hortaçsu, A., & Ariely, D. (2010). Matching and sorting in online dating. *The American Economic Review*, 100(1), 130-163.
- Hoppe, H. C., Moldovanu, B., & Sela, A. (2009). The theory of assortative matching based on costly signals. *The Review of Economic Studies*, 76(1), 253-281.
- Hancock, J. T., Toma, C., & Ellison, N. (2007). The truth about lying in online dating profiles. In *Proceedings of the SIGCHI conference on Human factors in computing systems* (pp. 449-452).
- Ingoldsby, B. B. (1998). Mate selection and marriage around the world. *Seeing Ourselves: Classic, Contemporary, and Cross-cultural Readings in Sociology*, 320.
- Kalmijn, M., & Flap, H. (2001). Assortative meeting and mating: Unintended consequences of organized settings for partner choices. *Social Forces*, 79(4), 1289-1312.
- Kurzban, R., & Weeden, J. (2005). HurryDate: Mate preferences in action. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 26(3), 227-244.
- Kline, S. L., Zhang, S., Manohar, U., Ryu, S., Suzuki, T., & Mustafa, H. (2012). The role of communication and cultural concepts in expectations about marriage: Comparisons between young adults from six countries. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, 36(3), 319-333.
- Mushtaq, F., Saeed, S., & Alam, R. N. (2021). TRANSITION IN SPOUSE SELECTION: A STUDY OF PAKISTANI GRADUATES AND THEIR PARENTS. *Ilkogretim Online*, 20(5).
- Perilloux, C., Fleischman, D. S., & Buss, D. M. (2011). Meet the parents: Parent-offspring convergence and divergence in mate preferences. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 50(2), 253-258.
- Rosenfeld, M. J. (2005). A critique of exchange theory in mate selection. *American Journal of Sociology*, 110(5), 1284-1325.
- Shafer, K., & James, S. L. (2013). Gender and socioeconomic status differences in first and second marriage formation. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 75(3), 544-564.



- Schwartz, C. R., & Mare, R. D. (2005). Trends in educational assortative marriage from 1940 to 2003. *Demography*, 42(4), 621-646.
- Skolnick, A. (2005). Marriages (Selecting a Partner), *Online Encyclopedia, University of California at Berkeley and Visiting Professor of Sociology, New York University*.
- Sprecher, S., & Regan, P. C. (2002). Liking some things (in some people) more than others: Partner preferences in romantic relationships and friendships. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 19(4), 463-481.
- Stone, E. A., Shackelford, T. K., & Buss, D. M. (2008). Socioeconomic development and shifts in mate preferences. *Evolutionary Psychology*, 6(3), 147470490800600309.
- Tariq, I. I., Hasan, S. S., & Ajmal, M. A. (2013). Cognitive schemas of an ideal spouse among young adults. *Pakistan Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology*, 11(2), 14-21.
- Vogler, C., Brockmann, M., & Wiggins, R. D. (2008). Managing money in new heterosexual forms of intimate relationships. *The Journal of Socio-Economics*, 37(2), 552-572.
- Wang, H., & Wellman, B. (2010). Social connectivity in America: Changes in adult friendship network size from 2002 to 2007. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 53(8), 1148-1169.
- Yi, C. C., Chang, L., & Luo, X. (2016). Factors influencing mate selection in contemporary China: A multidimensional analysis. *International Journal of Sociology*, 46(2), 107-123.
- Yılmaz, M., Güngör, H. C., & Çelik, S. B. (2013). Investigation romance and mate selection myths of university students.
- Zhang, J., & Yu, K. (2014). Women's mate preferences and marriage patterns in contemporary China: A literature review. *Journal of Family Issues*, 35(12), 1779-1803.

