

ASSESS THE QUALITY OF MARITAL LIFE AMONG COUPLES IN RURAL AND URBAN COMMUNITY AT PUDUCHERRY

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ABSTRACT

Descriptive research design was conducted to assess the quality of marital life among couples in rural and urban community at rural (Sedarapet) and urban (Muthialpet) in Puducherry. A total of 80 subjects who fulfilled the inclusion criteria were selected by using convenient sampling technique. Data were collected through demographic variable and the quality of marital life was assessed using marital quality scale. The questionnaire was administered to each individual husband and wives separately and were asked to fill in front of investigator. Collected data were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Results show that the mean score level of quality of marital life among rural couples was 73.42 and the mean score of urban was 75.68. The obtained t value 0.69 was statistically not significant at 0.05 level. There is no significant difference level of quality of marital life among rural and urban couples. It concludes that most of the couples were enjoying of marital life as they were not able to adopt newer challenges of life situation.

Key words: Quality of marital life, couples, rural couples, urban couples

INTRODUCTION

“We learn the hard way over and over that the sweetness of our marriage is directly related to how much time we spend together”.

-SHAUNA

Today we have a generation of people who after having lived in a joint family system have taken the plan to break out and start a nuclear family. The generation that broke out of the old joint family system did so when personal thinking began to gain predominance in the society. In nuclear family the couples and children are only there. There is no one to support them, there is no one to solve the problem, and there is no one to share their problems. So these factors led to create nuclear family. This forced men and women to move out of their family for better job opportunities to the major commercial cities and towns. In this case,

often the parents who remained emotionally attached to the place where they spent most of their life preferred to continue staying in their home (family) and accepted with some sadness that their children starting out new life away from them. The nuclear family gave immense freedom from the traditions and ways of life that the old system was ridden with.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

When viewing at the numbers there is a lot of similarities in the divorce rate between both countries. The age group brackets are close in nature and fall between 25 and 35. Divorce seems to happen after being married for a period of 4 to 7 years, and a higher number of women who initiate the divorce proceedings are outnumbered. The divorce rate in India has started to climb to the same levels as the divorce rate in America. There are more divorce courts currently in New Delhi than ever before. Divorce has become more acceptable without the consequences and disgrace associated with a failed marriage.

The freedom to choose a divorce over staying in an abusive or unloving relationship has become the path to getting a fresh start for many people both from India and America.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A study to assess the quality of marital life among couples in rural and Urban Community, at Puducherry.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- ❖ To identify the level of quality of marital life among couples in rural and urban community.
- ❖ To compare the quality of marital life between rural and urban couples.
- ❖ To determine the domain wise level of quality marital life among rural and urban couples.
- ❖ To associate the level of quality of marital life among rural and urban couples with selected demographic variables.

METHODOLOGY

Research Approach : Quantitative approach was adopted for this study.

Research Design : Non-experimental descriptive research design.

Setting: Rural (Sedarapet) and urban (Muthialpet) in Puducherry.

Sample: Couples of rural (Sedarapet) and urban (Muthialpet), Puducherry.

Sample Size : 40 couples from each rural and urban.

Sampling Technique : convenience sampling technique.

Sampling Criteria

Inclusion Criteria

Married couples residing in rural (Sedarapet) and urban (Muthialpet).

- who were willing to participate in the study.
- who were able to read and understand English/Tamil.

DEVELOPMENT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE TOOL

In the process of development of the tool, the investigator reviewed other related studies, obtained suggestions from experts helped in the ultimate construction of the tool.

Section A: Socio demographic data of married couples

Section B: Marital Quality Scale

DATA COLLECETION PROCEDURE:

data were collected through demographic variable and the quality of marital life was assessed using marital quality scale. The questionnaire was administered to each individual husband and wives separately and were asked to fill in front of investigator. Ccollected data were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics

RESULTS :

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- In rural, 45% of husbands and 65% wives were between the age group of 20- 29 years. Majority (62.5%) of husbands and 50% of wives were between the age group of 30-39 years in urban.
- Regarding education, 77.5% of husbands and 72.5% of wives studied between 1st – 5th standards in rural. In urban, 37.5% of husbands and 32.5% of wives studied between 6th -8th standards.
- Based on income, in both rural and urban, 90% of wives had no income and 72.5% of husbands earn more than 10,000 rupees per month.
- Based on the type of marriage, 55% of rural couples comes under the categories of arranged marriage and in urban couples, love marriage and arranged marriage are equally distributed.
- Regarding type of family, majorly 72.5% of couples belongs to nuclear family in urban and 62.5% couples belongs to joint family in rural. In urban, 50% of couples have 2 children and 35% of couples have one child,
- In urban, 12.5% of couple have no child. In rural, 42.5% and in urban 50% of couples married life was between 1-5 years.
- Regarding religion, 82.5% rural couples and 92.5% urban couples were Hindu, and 17.5% rural couples belong to Christian community.

FIG. COMPARISON ON LEVEL OF QUALITY OF MARITAL LIFE AMONG RURAL AND URBAN COUPLES

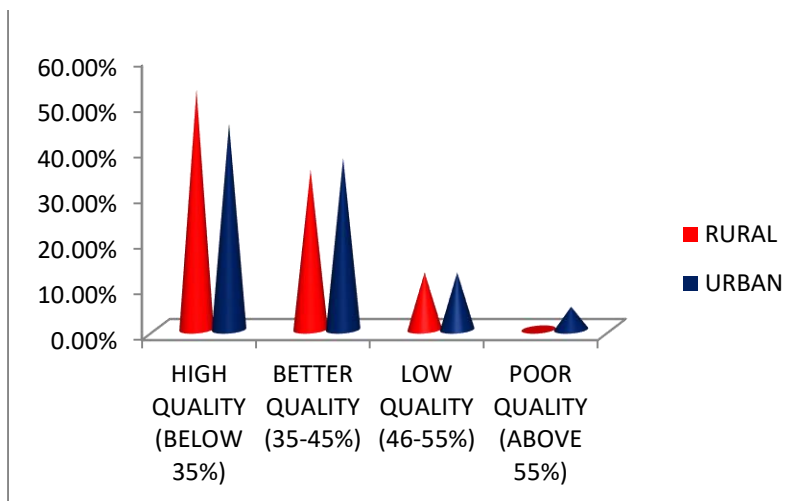


Fig shows that the distribution of rural and urban couples according to the level of the quality of marital life. Majority (52%) of rural couples and 45% of urban couples experience high quality of married life. 35% of rural couples and 37.5% of urban couples experience better quality of married life.

Table: Comparison of the level of quality of marital life between rural and urban couples

n = 80

VARIABLES	MEAN	SD	t-VALUE	p - VALUE
Rural Couple	73.42	13.34	0.69	0.492
Urban Couple	75.68	15.89		

P<0.05 = statistically significant

Table. portrays the mean score level of quality of marital life among rural and urban couples. The mean score level of quality of marital life among rural couples was 73.42 and the mean score of urban was 75.68. The obtain t value 0.69 was statistically not significant at 0.05 level. There is no significant difference level of quality of marital life among rural and urban couples.

Distribution of Rural Couples (husband and wife) based on Quality of Marital Life regarding Rejection:

Overall, in the level of rejection domain, ranged between 7.5% to 23% of husbands and 2.5% to 20% of wives had the tendency to dominate, argue, complaint and criticize each other. This depicts the negative impact on quality of marital life.

Distribution of Urban Couples (husband and wife) based on Quality of Marital Life Regarding Rejection:

Overall, in the level of rejection domain, ranged between 2.5% to 35 % of husbands and 5% to 35% of wives had the tendency to dominate, argue, complaint and criticize each other. This depicts the negative impact on quality of marital life.

Distribution of rural couples (husband and wife) according to the domains of quality of marital life (dominance, despair, discontent and dissolution potential):

The percentage distribution of quality of marital life among rural couples according to dominance, despair, discontent and dissolution potential domains. The findings of the above table debits that 10 % to 20% of husbands and 10% to 18% of wives had poor marital quality with insecure attachment in their marital life styles.

Distribution of quality of marital life among urban couples (husband and wife) according to the domains (dominance, despair, discontent and dissolution potential):

The percentage distribution of quality of marital life among urban couples according to dominance, despair, discontent and dissolution potential domains. The above table shows that 3 % to 35% of urban couples (husband and wives) had poor marital quality with low levels of instability.

Association between the level of quality of marital life with selected demographic variables among rural and urban couples:

Fisher's exact test to bring out the relationship between the level of quality of marital life among rural couples and selected demographic variables depicts that The variables such as age group, education status, type of marriage, duration of year after marriage, income and religion showed no significant relationship. The number of children showed significant relationship with level of quality of marital life among rural couples at $p < 0.05$ level of significance.

Association between the Quality of marital life with selected demographic variables of urban couples:

Fisher's exact test to bring out the relationship between the level of quality of marital life among rural couples and selected demographic variables revealed that The variable such as age group, educational status,

type of marriage, number of children, duration after marriage, income and religion showed no significant relationship with the level of quality of marital life.

CONCLUSION:

In this study there were 12 domains to assess the quality of marital life of the couples. The researcher found that most of the couples were enjoying of marital life as they were able to cope with their life style, but 12.5% of couples were having poor coping because they were not able to adopt newer challenges of life situation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The study can be conducted with large population in different settings, which may give more definite conclusion and generalization.
- A study can be done to assess the quality of marital life among couples with infertility.
- The study can be conducted to assess quality of marital life among the wives of alcoholic dependents.

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