



Comparison of Attitudes of College Girls towards Pre-marital Sex and Lesbianism in Context of Marital Status and Inhabitation

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ABSTRACT

“Sexual Attitude Scale” constructed and standardised by Abraham (1997)¹ and Self-developed Personal Information Inventory were administered on a sample of 100 married and 100 unmarried female students studying in Degree Colleges of Saran District under Jai Prakash University, Chapra. The sample was drawn from constituent colleges of rural and urban areas. The objective of the investigation was to see the influence of marital status and inhabitation on attitudes towards premarital sex and lesbianism. The results indicated that unmarried college girl hold significantly more favourable attitudes towards premarital sex and lesbianism. Urban girl students irrespective of their marital status were found holding significantly more favourable attitudes towards pre-marital sex and lesbianism than their rural counterparts. It was concluded that attitudes of college girls towards pre-marital sex and lesbianism are functions of their marital status and inhabitation.

KEY WORDS

Marital Status, Inhabitation, Lesbianism, Sex.

INTRODUCTION

Psychologically, sex is the behaviour directly associated with the meeting of the two sexes. In humans, sex may refer specifically to the act of copulation or heterosexual intercourse, but may extend to the related behaviours of two individuals of the same morphological sex. The sexual impulse is an instinct like hunger and thirst. It is dependent on the proper functioning of the sexual glands, the testicles and the ovaries. The function of every instinct is to satisfy a

particular need of the organism. It is well proved biological law that every organ of our body wants to function, to do its job, and if it is prevented from doing it, trouble arises.

From the time of puberty onwards, when the sexual urge becomes increasing imperative, the genital function gets even more closely linked up with and monopolised by sexuality proper, and reaches its own stage of perfection. This physical urge provokes mental images of sexual nature which in turn lead to behaviours directed towards the gratification of the sexual impulse.

Pre-marital relationships are only partial fulfilments and stages of the development towards mature sexuality. There are different people and cultures among whom premarital intercourse is very rare and unchastity in women is considered a disgrace. But at the same time among many others the unmarried girl may have sexual intercourse with young men. Sex revolution has brought about significant changes in the attitude of women towards premarital sex (Ganguli, 1988⁴; Hite, 1987⁵; Laumann et al, 1994⁶; Sax et al, 2002⁷).

Sex revolution has brought about significant changes in the attitudes of women not only towards premarital sex but also towards homosexuality (lesbianism). Homosexuality / Lesbianism refer to interaction with persons of the same sex for the purpose of sexual gratification. Homosexual behaviours is no longer illegal in Britain and America, nor it is regarded as a form of mental illness. In some countries homosexual marriages have been legally sanctioned. In India also, people are growing more pro towards homosexual marriages, (Bell et al, 1981)³. Bailey and Zucker (1995)² have confirmed through their studies that sexual revolution accompanied by childhood gender nonconformity results in adult homosexuality.

Modern college girls whether they are married or not have become more conscious of their rights equal to boys. They are inventing and utilising all the means of their developments and sexual gratification. Double standard of sexuality is not acceptable to them. In this age of higher technological advancement attitudes of women towards different sexual activities are undergoing drastic changes. Married women succeed in gratifying their sexual urges through married life. But due to sexual dissatisfaction they are adhering to other devices also for gratification of their sexual urge. In this context of modern wave, the investigator is interested in investigating the effects of marriage and residential area on attitudes of female students towards premarital sex and lesbianism. For this end, the following hypotheses were formulated:

- a. There would be significant differences in attitudes towards premarital sex and lesbianism between married and unmarried college girls
- b. There would be significant differences in attitudes towards premarital sex and lesbianism between rural and urban college girls.

Method

Sample

The sample was drawn from constituent Colleges of Saran District under J.P. University, Chapra (Bihar) using incidental-cum-purpose sampling. The sample comprised of 100 married and 100 unmarried girls studying in degree classes of both rural and urban colleges. Out of 100 married students there were 70 from rural areas and 30 from urban areas, and out of 100 unmarried college girls 40 were from rural areas and 60 were from urban areas.

Tests Used

- i. Personal Information Inventory (self-made) was used to gather personal information of subjects.
- ii. 'Sexual Attitude Scale' constructed and standardised by Abraham was used to measure attitudes of girls towards pre-marital sex and lesbianism.

Results & Discussion

Table 1: Showing comparison on attitude towards pre-marital sex.

Criterion Group	N	Mean	SD	df	't' ratio	Level of Significance
Married	100	29.65	7.60	198	5.37	0.01
Unmarried	100	35.20	7.02			
Married Rural	070	27.64	7.22	98	4.66	0.01
Married Urban	030	34.30	6.29			
Unmarried Rural	040	32.88	6.97	98	2.78	0.01
Unmarried Urban	060	36.75	6.61			

(Source: Primary Data)

The analysis of data denotes that on attitude towards premarital sex (Table 1), there is significant difference between married and unmarried college girl students. The mean premarital sex attitude score of married students is 29.65 while that of unmarried students is 35.20. The obtained 't' ratio is 5.37 which is higher than the required value for significance at 0.01 level. This denotes that unmarried college level girl students hold more favourable attitude towards premarital sex than married girl students. It appears that sexual urge provokes unmarried students to seek pleasure of sexual activity which their married companions are enjoying through their husbands. It has been proved by the studies of Hite (1987)⁵, Sax et al (2002)⁷, Wadhwa (2004)⁸ that modern women are growing more conscious of their sexual needs and enjoying sexual activities freely before marriage. It is possibly due to the impact of sex revolution that unmarried girl students are displaying more favourable attitude towards premarital sex. Sex revolution appears to be influencing urban girls - married or unmarried more significantly. This fact is proved that urban girl students have more favourable attitudes than rural girl students towards premarital sex. Rural girl students whether they are married or unmarried have obtained significantly lower mean attitude score on premarital sex than urban girl students. Availability of different contraceptive measures in urban areas might have also contributed to this more favourable attitude towards premarital sex of married and unmarried.

Table 2: Showing comparison on attitude towards Lesbianism.

Criterion Group	N	Mean	SD	df	't' ratio	Level of Significance
Married	100	25.60	7.19	198	4.83	0.01
Unmarried	100	30.55	7.30			
Married Rural	070	23.79	6.13	98	3.82	0.01
Married Urban	030	29.83	7.69			
Unmarried Rural	040	26.88	7.11	98	4.41	0.01
Unmarried Urban	060	33.00	6.32			

(Source: Primary Data)

CONCLUSION

On comparing married and unmarried girl students on attitude towards lesbianism, it has been found that unmarried girl students hold more favourable attitude towards homosexuality than married girl students. Urban girl students whether they are married or unmarried have been found holding more favourable attitude towards lesbianism than their rural counterparts. It appears that women and particularly college educated modern urban girls are intending to be free from dependency on-men not only for their personal and social growth but also for their sexual satisfaction. They would be judging lesbianism also as a device to show and prove their masculinity while enjoying sex with another woman. However, the study has led to the following conclusions:

- a. Marital status and inhabitation significantly influence attitude towards premarital sex and lesbianism among college girls.

- b. Marital status minimizes attitudes towards premarital sex and lesbianism.
- c. Urbanisation strengthens favourable attitudes towards premarital sex and lesbianism and vice-versa.

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