

# Exploring the Dynamics of Late Marriage: The Role of Education in Shaping Marital Timings

**Bhawna Vijay**

Research Scholar, Department of Sociology, Shri Jagdish Prasad Jhabarmal Tibrewala, University, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, India

## Abstract

The study investigates how education influences the timings of marriage. Examining diverse socio-economic and cultural contexts it explores how factors like economic independence, shifting gender roles, personal aspirations affect individuals decision to delay marriage. The findings shed light on factors affecting the delaying marriage and educational role of late marriage and shaping marital timings.

**Keywords:** Delayed Marriage, Late Marriage, Educational impact, marital timing

## 1. Introduction

Marriage a cornerstone of societal structure, has experienced notable shifts in recent years, with a prominent trend being the delay of marriage until later stages of life, particularly among individuals with higher educational attainment. This trend has sparked interest among scholars, policy makers. The decision to marry reflects a complex interplay of individual aspirations, cultural norms, and structural factors, while traditional expectations once favoured early marriage, contemporary education before committing to marriage resulting in a noticeable postponement of marriage age across various culture. Education as a significant determinant of socio-economic status and life opportunities exerts considerable influence on individuals like including their timing of marriage. Marriage defined by God as a union between a man and a woman and the institutions of family are central to the creator design for the eternal destiny of his children. In society there is a diminishing emphasis on marriage with many regarding it simply as a personal choice or a relationship recognizing its divine origin and significance of our eternal progression and happiness.

Over the past few decades, the average age at which people marry has been steadily increasing worldwide for both men and women. In numerous developed nations, we were nearing a point where more than half of marriages take place after the age of thirty. While this trend somewhere following in India.

## 2. Review of Literature

The onset of marriage often brings about increases responsibilities, which may mould some individuals from prioritizing their personal development (Karamat, 2016). For decades, there has been a notable decrease in the number of marriages worldwide, particularly in economically developed regions like Europe and the U.S. (Maharaj & Shangase, 2020). Several comprehensive studies suggest that married individual report levels of life satisfaction compared to those who are single or divorced, Early marriage may be influenced by family pressure or unplanned pregnancies, which can serve as major reasons for

marrying at an immature age. (Vitelli, 2017). Those who postpone marriage have the opportunity to select their life partners thoughtfully resulting in more traditional marriage. Individual who remains single before marriage may demonstrate increased maturity in their marital relationship, marked by traits pressure. (Karamat, 2016). Advanced maternal age carries certain risks during pregnancy such as miscarriage, birth defects, gestational diabetes, high blood pressure. However, studies indicate that although older women over thirty face an elevated risk of pregnancy complications, their babies may not experience more problems compared to babies born to younger mother. (University of Rochester Medical Centre, 2021). According to Statistics from the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS). In Contemporary Indian society, factors beyond wealth, such as higher education levels can exert a significant influence on delaying a women marriage.

### 3. Objective of Study

- To understand about the role of delayed marriage.
- To identify the advantages and disadvantages for delayed marriage.
- To examine the role of education in shaping marital timings

### 4. Research Methodology

The research on Exploring the dynamics of late marriage and the role of education in shaping marital timings. The study adopts the qualitative study through the investigating on the research problem from literature review, research paper, various journals, various google sites where we can google search on Shodhganga, Google scholar search on this topic, empirical studies, scholarly sources, like from library books through offline or online mode on this topic.

### 5. Advantages of Delaying Marriage

- **Enhanced maturity and commitment readiness:** Postponing marriage allows individuals to mature emotionally and be better prepared to commit to a lifelong partnership.
- **Personal development and pursuit of individual aspirations:** Delaying marriage offers individuals the chance to focus on personal growth, pursue education, career aspirations, and explore personal interests before committing to marriage.
- **Financial stability and career establishment:** Waiting to marry enables individuals to achieve financial stability and establish their careers, providing a stronger foundation for their future families.
- **Improved understanding of partner compatibility and life goals:** With more life experience, individuals who delay marriage are better equipped to assess compatibility with potential partners and understand their life goals, fostering more harmonious marriages.
- **Enhanced emotional and psychological readiness:** Taking the time to mature emotionally before marriage can result in greater emotional resilience to navigate the complexities of married life.

### 6. Disadvantages of Delaying Marriage

- **Decrease in birth rate:** Postponing marriage often leads to a reduction in the numbers of births as couples have fewer years to conceive and raise children. This can result in lower fertility rates and smaller family sizes.

- **Child abnormalities and pregnancy difficulties:** Advanced age at conception increases the risk of genetic abnormalities in children and complications during pregnancy. Older parents may encounter challenges such as infertility, miscarriage, birth defects and gestational issues.
- **Delayed marriage and HIV risk:** Putting off marriage exposes individuals to a longer period of sexual activity before marriage, potentially heightening the risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections like HIV, especially without consistent adherence to safe sex.
- **Generational gap between parents and children:** When parents marry at a later age, there can be a significant age difference between them and their children. This may result in varying levels of understanding, communication styles, and interests between parents and children, potentially posing challenges in parenting and family relationships.

## 7. Role of education in Shaping marital timing

Postponing marriage to pursue education is a prevalent choice among many individuals prioritizing educational goals. This delay enables them to establish a solid foundation for their future, including financial stability and emotional readiness, this decision may lead to greater maturity and career advancement, it also poses challenges such as a narrower window for starting a family and societal expectations to marry earlier overall delaying marriage for education purposes reflects individuals dedication to self-improvement for their personal and professional lives.

Education plays a crucial role in determining when individuals choose to marry by moulding their mindset, goals, and socio-economic conditions.

Some of the points are as follows:

- **Career Objectives:** Pursuing higher education often prompts individual to prioritize career advancement and self-growth before entering marriage. Seeking advanced degrees or professional qualifications may delay marriage as individual focus on establishing their career first.
- **Financial Security:** Education is typically linked to higher earning potential. Therefore, individual may postpone marriage until they feel financial stable enough to support themselves and a potential family. This delay allows them to lay a solid financial groundwork before committing to marriage.
- **Evolution of Gender Roles:** Education can shape perceptions of gender roles and expectations within marriage. As more women pursue higher education and careers, societal norms surrounding marriage and family dynamics change. This shift might result in delay marriage as individuals seek partners with similar educational and career aspirations.
- **Social Connections:** Educational institutions provide avenues for forming social bonds with peers who share similar values and aspirations. These connections can influence attitudes towards marriage and provide support for delaying marriage to pursue personal and professional dreams.
- **Expose to Diverse Perspectives:** Higher Education exposes individual to various viewpoints and relationship models. This can lead to more deliberate decision-making concerning marriage, including compatibility.

## 8. CONCLUSION

In exploring the dynamics of late marriage, it becomes evident that education plays a pivotal role in shaping marital timings. By influencing career aspirations, financial preparedness, evolving gender dynamics, social circles, and exposure to different viewpoints, Understanding the intricate relationship

between education and marital timings provides valuable insight into the factors shaping contemporary marriage patterns and underscore the significance of considering educational experiences in discussion about marriage trends and societal shifts.

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