Determinants of Marital Stability Among Women

Mariyam Fatima* & Farzana Alim**
*Assistant Professor, Department of Home Science, AMU, Aligarh.India
**Professor, Department of Home Science, AMU, Aligarh,India

Abstract
Stability in any relationship is of utmost important. In today's world of globalization, it becomes very difficult for a person to secure and maintain a healthy and happy relationship. The status of marital relationships is continuously on a detrimental phase all over the world. Many factors contributed in the downfall of stability of marital relationships. The institution of marriage forms a very significant baseline of all types of relationships in any society. Women in any relationship are played more crucial role as compared to men. This paper is an attempt to find out various determinants of marital stability among married women in Aligarh City of Uttar Pradesh, India. A sample of 200 women was taken for the study to find out the determinants of marital stability among married women ranging from 25-55 years of age.

Keywords - *marital stability, women, determinants ,marriage etc.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Marriage is a socially upheld union including at least two people in what is viewed as a steady, continuing game plan construct in any event partially with respect to a sexual obligation or the like. In spite of the fact that wedding functions, tenets, and parts may vary starting with one society then onto the next, marriage is viewed as a society all-inclusive, which implies that it is available as a social establishment in all societies. In many social orders, it serves to socially recognize children by characterizing connection binds to a mother, father, and broadened relatives. It additionally serves to control sexual conduct, to exchange, safeguard, or solidify property, distinction, and control, and above all, it is the reason for the organization of the family. Marriage is an institution that regulates the relationship between a man and women, which provides for the creation of a family. India is a vast and ancient country. The dawn of Indian civilization dates to remote past. Since then different races have come and settled here and contributed to the formation of a varied and composite culture. This cultural heritage has been manifested in different social customs and institutions. Marriage is one such

institution, and it is important to examine marriage in Indian society in its diverse forms The term stability in a general way refers to the quality, state or degree of being in a stable position. A healthy, happier and mutually satisfying relationship across a lifetime is a substantial challenge and a necessity for sustainability in the marital relationship. Almost all marriages and other committed relationships began with high relationship satisfaction (Bradbury, 1998). According to Mitchell, K. S., and Plauche, H. (2016), "the term of marital stability can be defined as remaining legally married without divorce, physical separation, or legal separation". Marital stability is related to but distinct from marital adjustment, marital satisfaction, and marital success. But the stability depends on all these factors. It can be said that it is the sum of adjustment, marital satisfaction, and marital success. Many factors are associated with decrease in the marital stability that include financial and money matters, low earn income, low educational qualifications, and unemployment or working in a unstable industry, age at the time of marriage, parental history of divorce or conflict, and disagreement to spouse particulars, religion and spirituality, and serial premarital cohabitation. Marital stability is generally associated with positive outcomes for the adults as well as their children. According to Moreover, Booth, Johnson, and Edwards (1983) the term of marital instability is defined as "affective and cognitive states along the related actions that are precedent to terminating a relationship" and "a situation in an intact dyad, not to ones that already have been disrupted". Various researchers have a common concluding point on separation and divorce rates or statistics (i.e., consequences of instability) to represent marital instability.

II. MATERIAL AND METHODS

*Objectives of the study –*This study has the following objectives

1. To explore the socio- demographic profile of the married women
2. To find out the effect of socio-demographic as determinants on the levels of marital stability

A sample of 200 married women was randomly selected from the Aligarh city of Uttar Pradesh who falls between the age range of 25-55 years of age. The primary data was collected using questionnaire cum interview schedule. The first section or the Section –A contains self designed questionnaire for collecting socio-demographic profile of respondents. The second section or Section-B contains questionnaire for assessing marital stability.

A general questionnaire was designed to collect the socio-demographic variables of the respondent women by the researcher. This Questionnaire forms the preliminary section of the whole questionnaire. It includes various questions related to

- Number of children of respondent women
- Working status of respondent women
- Distance marriage
- Duration of marriage
- Family type of respondent women
- Family income of respondent women

A standardized scale for assessing marital stability entitled as Quality of Marital Relationship Scale by Dr.Sweta Singh published by Prasad Psycho Corporation, India is used to collect the data. Quality of marital stability scale consists of 50 questions for self version of the respondent women. The questionnaire has four options for the response i.e. strongly disagree, disagree, agree, and strongly agree The scoring range from 1 to 4.The scoring is done as per following norms and the levels were divided into high ,moderate and low as per the test norms.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4

There are 8 dimensions of marital relationship as given in the test which includes

1) **Support**-Support can be defined a s the partner's responsiveness to his/her spouse's needs by showing a genuine understanding ,being with ,providing assistance or help, and validating other's worth feelings or actions.
2) **Intimacy** –The extent to which a person experiences warmth, nearness and closeness on physical, emotional and sexual level with another person.
3) **Openness**-Sharing frankly on cognitive as well as emotional level and being assertive and straight forward in communicating and disclosing the inner most self.

4) **Connectedness**-**Autonomy**-The extent to which a person allows interdependence with his/her spouse and the amount of independence or control an individual feels himself to exercise in his/her personal relationships
5) **Empathy** –the ability to recognize ,understand and respond to other person's feelings and cognitions by keeping oneself in that person's place.
6) **Love** –A bonding based on affection ,liking ,unconditional acceptance ,caring and valuing, showed through physical and emotional expression (verbal and gestures) in interaction and communication. It is the prime factor that lends to endurance to a relationship in all adverse conditions. It has three basic components i.e. commitment, passion, and intimacy.
7) **Dominance** –The power to exert control and influence partner's actions or behavior.
8) **Conflict** –It is an expressed struggle between two interdependent people who perceive incompatible goals, scarce rewards and interference from the other party in achieving their goals.

The data was analyzed using percentages, frequency, standard deviation, mean and chi-square and quality of marital relationship norms. The data is presented in the form of tables and bar graphs are also used to represent the data.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSSION

The following results were found from the drawn sample 0f 200 women of 25-55 years of age for the present study.

A. Marital stability of the respondent women

Marital stability of the respondent women has the minimum value of 18.09 and maximum value of 29.21 with mean of 24.0788.The standard deviation for the calculated value of marital stability is 2.47264.the dimension of dominance has the lowest mean and the dimension of intimacy has the highest mean.

Descriptive Statistics for Marital Stability

Calculated Value of Marital Stability	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
	200	18.09	29.21	24.0788	2.47264

Descriptive Statistics for dimensions of marital stability

Dimensions	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Support	200	2.00	4.00	3.2096	.42389

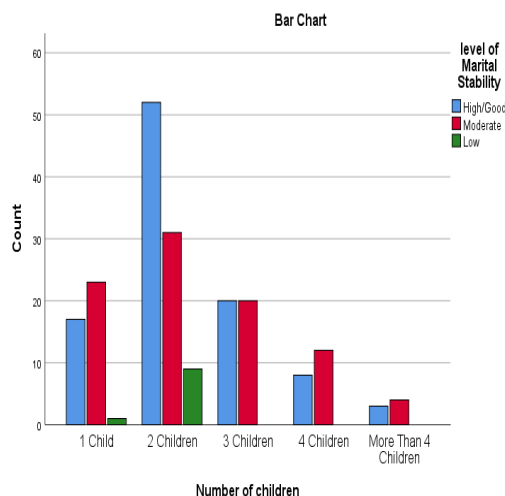| Intimacy	200	1.57	4.00	3.3290	.50102
Openness	200	2.00	4.00	3.3070	.50872
Connectedness-Autonomy	200	1.71	3.57	2.7562	.34082
Empathy	200	1.50	4.00	3.1950	.53235
Love	200	2.11	4.00	3.3855	.51780
Dominance	200	1.00	4.00	2.3150	.65030
Conflict	200	1.00	4.00	2.5813	.75394

B. Number of children and marital stability of women

Children play a very important role in stabilizing marital relationship. The frequency of the respondents was highest with two children and the lowest frequency was in the group of the respondents having more than 4 children. The chi-square statistics shows that there exists a significant relationship between number of children and marital stability of women at 0.05% level of significance. The data for general profile of the number of children and its relationship with the levels of marital stability is given in the form of tables and also represented through bar graph.

Number of children	Frequency	Percent
1 Child	41	20.5
2 Children	92	46.0
3 Children	40	20.0
4 Children	20	10.0
More Than 4 Children	7	3.5
Total	200	100.0

Number of children	level of Marital Stability			
	High/Good	Moderate	Low	Total
1 Child	17	23	1	41
2 Children	52	31	9	92
3 Children	20	20	0	40
4 Children	8	12	0	20
More Than 4 Children	3	4	0	7
Total	100	90	10	200

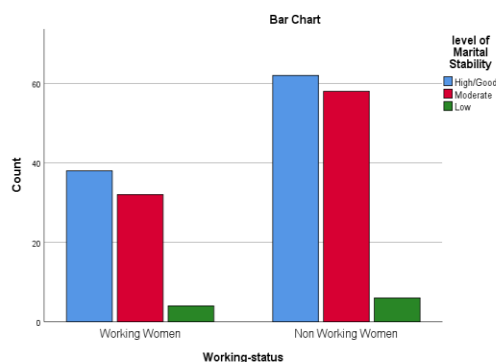χ^2=15.134, df=8, $p<0.05$

Bar Chart

C. Working status of women and marital stability

The frequency of the non working women was found to be more in the collected samples of respondent women. The chi-square statistics shows that there exists a significant relationship between working status of women and their levels of marital stability at 0.05% of significance level. The data for general profile of working status of women and its relationship with the levels of marital stability is given in the form of tables and also represented through bar graph.

Working status	Frequency	Percent
Working Women	74	37.0
Non Working Women	126	63.0
Total	200	100.0

Working-status	level of Marital Stability			
	High/Good	Moderate	Low	Total
Working Women	38	32	4	74
Non Working Women	62	58	6	126
Total	100	90	10	200

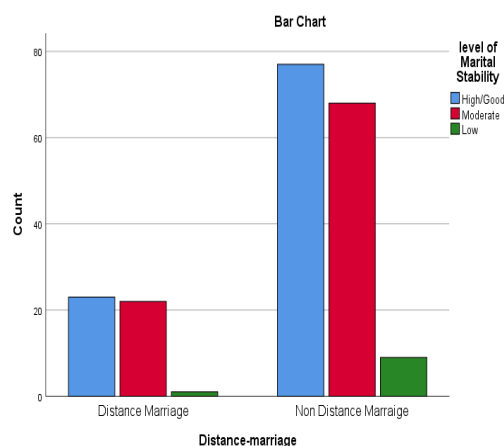χ^2=**.162**, df=2, $p<0.05$

Bar Chart

D. Distance marriage and marital stability

The frequency of the on distance marriage was higher as compared to distance marriage in the collected samples of the respondent women. From the chi-square statistics it is clear that there exists no significant relationship between statuses of marriage and marital stability of the respondent women at 0.05% level of significance. The data for general profile of the status of marriage and its relationship with the levels of marital stability is given in the form of tables and also represented through bar graph.

Status of marriage	Frequency	Percent
Distance Marriage	46	23.0
Non Distance Marriage	154	77.0
Total	200	100.0

Status of marriage	level of Marital Stability			
	High/Good	Moderate	Low	Total
Distance Marriage	23	22	1	46
Non Distance Marriage	77	68	9	154
Total	100	90	10	200

$\chi 2=1.060$, df=2,p>0.05

Bar Chart

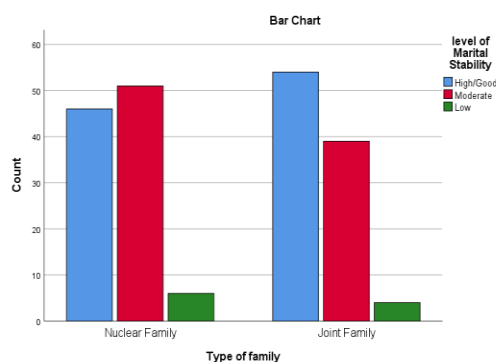### E. Type of family and marital stability of women

Type of family is divided into nuclear and joint family. The frequency of the nuclear families is higher as compared to the joint families of the respondent women. It is clear from the chi-square statistics that there exist a significant relationship between type of family and levels of marital stability of the respondent women at 0.05% level of significance. The data for general profile of type of families and its relationship

with the levels of marital stability is given in the form of tables and also represented through bar graph.

Family type	Frequency	Percent
Nuclear Family	103	51.5
Joint Family	97	48.5
Total	200	100.0

Type of family	level of Marital Stability			
	High/Good	Moderate	Low	Total
Nuclear Family	46	51	6	103
Joint Family	54	39	4	97
Total	100	90	10	200

$\chi 2=2.462$, df=2,p<0.05

Bar Chart

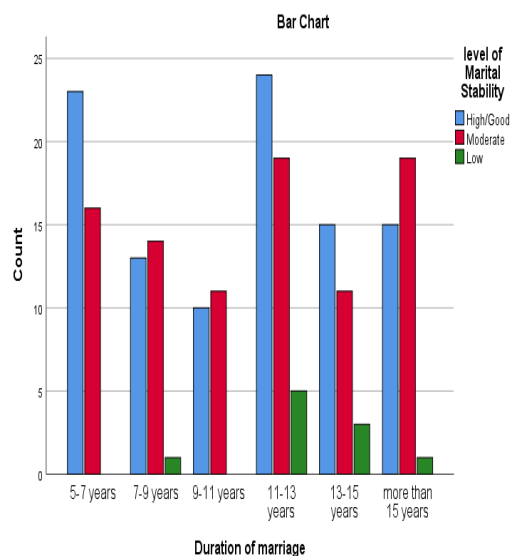### F. Duration of marriage and marital stability of women

The duration of marriage is divided into six categories. The respondent women with the duration of 11-13 years of marriage have the highest frequency in the collected data. The chi-square statistics shows that there exist no relationship between duration of marriage and marital stability of the respondent women at 0.05% level of significance. The data for general profile of duration of marriages and its relationship with the levels of marital stability is given in the form of tables and also represented through bar graph.

Duration	Frequency	Percent
5-7 years	39	19.5
7-9 years	28	14.0
9-11 years	21	10.5
11-13 years	48	24.0

13-15 years	29	14.5
more than 15 years	35	17.5
Total	200	100.0

Duration of marriage	level of Marital Stability			
	High/Good	Moderate	Low	Total
5-7 years	23	16	0	39
7-9 years	13	14	1	28
9-11 years	10	11	0	21
11-13 years	24	19	5	48
13-15 years	15	11	3	29
more than 15 years	15	19	1	35
Total	100	90	10	200

$\chi 2 = 10.859$, df=10,p>0.05

Bar Chart

Income levels	Frequency	Percent
less than 10,000	23	11.5
10,000-25,000	76	38.0
25,000-50,000	44	22.0
50,000-1 lakh	42	21.0
more than 1 lakh	15	7.5
Total	200	100.0

Level of Family-income	level of Marital Stability			
	High/Good	Moderate	Low	Total
less than 10,000	9	12	2	23
10,000-25,000	40	31	5	76
25,000-50,000	18	25	1	44
50,000-1 lakh	24	17	1	42
more than 1 lakh	9	5	1	15
Total	100	90	10	200

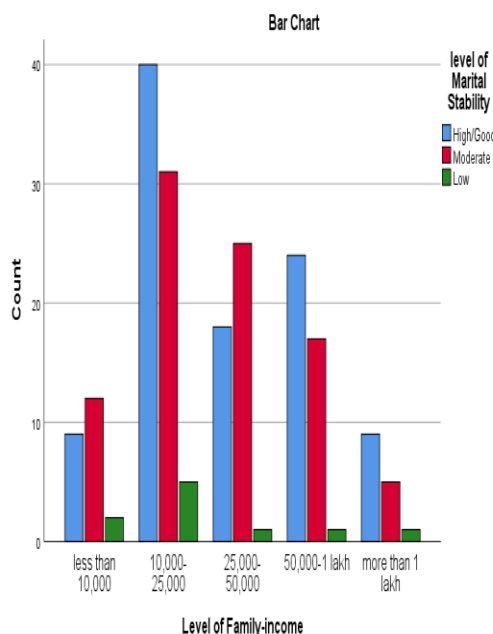$\chi 2 = 2.462$, df=2,p>0.05

Bar Chart

G. Level of family income and marital stability of women

The frequency of the income range between 10,000 – 25,000 has the highest frequency in the collected data from the respondent women. The chi-square statistics shows that there exist no significant relationship between family income and the levels of marital stability of the respondent women at 0.05% level of significance. The data for general profile of family income and its relationship with the levels of marital stability is given in the form of tables and also represented through bar graph.

IV. CONCLUSION

It can be concluded from the above findings that there exist a significant relationship between the number of children, working status of respondent women, type of family and the levels of marital stability of the respondent women. There exists no significant relationship between distance marriage, duration of marriage, family income and marital stability of the respondent women. There may be many determinants of the marital stability among women but, in this study only three were found to be significantly associated with the levels of marital stability. As this study was only confined to the city area, similar study with other determinants may be studied in depth with larger sample of the respondents.

REFERENCES

[1] Bradbury,T.N.,Cohan,C.L.,&Karney,B.R. (1998).
[2] Optimizing longitudinal research for understanding and preventing material dysfunction. In T.N. Brabury (Ed.), The developmental course of marital dysfunction (pp-279-311).New York: Cambridge University Press
[3] Bradbury, T. N., Fincham, F. D., & Beach, S. R. H. (2000). Research on the nature and determinants of marital satisfaction: A decade in review. Journal of marriage and the family, 62, 964-980
[4] Booth, A., Johnson, D., & Edwards, N. J. (1983). Measuring marital instability. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 45, 387–394
[5] Mullati, L., (1995).Families in India: Beliefs and realities. Journal of Comparative Family studies, 26(1), pp-11-25.
[6] Mazumdar, H.T., (1966).The Grammar of Sociology, published by Asia publishing house.
[7] Mitchell, K. S. and Plauche, H. 2016. Marital Stability. The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Family Studies. 1–2. Retrieved from http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/9781119085621. wbefs276/abstract
[8] Kang, T. & Jaswal, S. (2009). Marital Stability as a Correlate of Parenting. Stud. Home Comm. Science, 3(1):39 – 42