The Indian Journal of Social Work

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Attitudes towards Marriage among the Students of Higher Learning in West Bengal An Empirical Approach

AMAL KRISHNA SAHA AND SADHAN KUMAR DEY

This article examines the attitudes of students towards marriage in the 21st century. It also focuses on attitudes towards a wide range of marriage related issues like dowry, caste and love marriage. The Factor Analysis suggests that the young generation prefer spouses with well-paying jobs. Any type of marriage, love or arranged, is acceptable to them. According to them the success of marriage does not depend on astrological prediction, but on the couple's mutual understanding, co-operation and trust. They give less importance to the 'caste' of a spouse.

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INTRODUCTION

In India, marriage is considered as one of the most important events in one's life. It is regarded as the socially accepted union of a man and woman for their conjugal happiness, co-operation and for their role in the procreation and rearing of children. In a broader sense, marriage paves the way for the union of two families. Nowadays, decisions regarding marriage especially among the educated are taken by the concerned boy and girl and the parents generally organise the wedding ceremony.

In India, it is customary for an individual to marry within their religion, caste and sub caste. Traditionally, parents and relatives select a prospective bride or groom from a pool of eligible adults who are mostly from a similar socioeconomic, cultural and educational background (Majumdar, 1978). The parents may depend on matrimonial advertisements of leading