



---

# **A STUDY ON THE RELUCTANCE ON MARRIAGE IN GIRLS IN THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY**

*Ann Maria George*

Kristu Jayanti College, Bengaluru

---

## **1. INTRODUCTION :**

For a number of reasons, including freedom and independence, girls in the twenty-first century are reluctant to get married. But there are other factors at play than the yearning for independence. The following are some important factors: Personal and financial independence is valued by many women. Marriage is sometimes viewed as a possible constraint on their freedom to choose their lives, jobs, or personal development. The conventional belief that women should put their families before their careers is changing. Today, a lot of women delay or doubt the need for marriage in order to pursue jobs and opportunities that were previously unattainable. Marriage carries societal expectations that some women may find burdensome, and it can be costly. If women experience pressure to fit in with society's expectations, they could also hesitate.

Women may also be hesitant if they experience pressure to fit into positions that they do not identify with in society. In the past, marriage was frequently regarded as the main way that women may find personal fulfilment. Nowadays, a lot of women find fulfilment in their careers, hobbies, education, or other relationships, which lessens the belief that marriage is necessary. Particularly in societies where gender inequality is still prevalent, some women shy away from marriage out of concern for entering into partnerships with unequal dynamics, household duties, or even possible abuse. Many women prioritise being single, prefer partnerships without marriage, or select other nontraditional arrangements that better suit their own values and objectives. Women who place a high priority on their education and professional development may put off or reevaluate getting married, particularly if they believe it would jeopardise their relationship.

Women who prioritise education and job progress may put off or reevaluate marriage, particularly if they believe it will jeopardise these aspirations. Nowadays, marriage is not seen as the sole acceptable way to commit. Many women favour relationships that do not entail legal or conventional marriage, cohabitation, or long-term partnerships. Freedom is an important motivator, but these shifts are a reflection of larger social shifts that prioritise equality, choice, and personal fulfilment over conventional positions.

---

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE :**

### **Changing Aspirations and the Role of Education**

Author(s): Sharmila Desai, 2020

Journal: International Journal of Gender Studies

This study explores how increased educational opportunities and career aspirations influence young women's reluctance to marry. The research highlights that many girls now prioritize higher education and financial independence over early marriage. The study also delves into the social stigma associated with delaying marriage and the pressures to conform to traditional expectations. It concludes that the reluctance to marry is often tied to a desire for autonomy and equality in relationships.

### **Economic Uncertainty and Marriage Reluctance**

Author(s): Sarah Connell, 2022

Journal: Journal of Family Studies

Connell investigates the economic factors contributing to declining marriage rates among young women. The study reveals that financial instability, student debt, and precarious employment discourage many from committing to marriage. Additionally, the study finds that women increasingly view marriage as a partnership requiring economic security from both partners, which traditional gender norms often fail to address.

### **Cultural Shifts and Individualism**

Author(s): Mei Ling Zhang, 2021

Journal: Sociology of Modern Life

This paper examines the impact of cultural shifts toward individualism and self-fulfillment on marriage reluctance. Zhang argues that younger generations prioritize personal growth, mental health, and fulfilling relationships over societal obligations. The study also discusses how the portrayal of marriage in media has shifted, influencing perceptions of its role and value in modern life. Women express reluctance due to concerns about losing their identity and independence within traditional marital frameworks.

---

**STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM :**

In the 21st century, an increasing number of girls are expressing reluctance toward marriage, challenging traditional societal norms and expectations. This trend has been attributed to various factors, including changing aspirations, economic conditions, cultural shifts, and individual autonomy. Despite the prevalence of this phenomenon, limited research has systematically explored the reasons behind this reluctance, its social and psychological impacts, and how it varies across different regions and demographics. This study aims to bridge this gap by analyzing the factors influencing girls' reluctance toward marriage and its broader implications.

---

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY :*****AIM OF THE STUDY***

To explore the reasons behind the reluctance of girls toward marriage in the 21st century and analyze the societal, economic, and cultural factors contributing to this phenomenon.

***OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY***

- To identify the primary factors influencing girls' reluctance to marry.
- To assess the role of education, career aspirations, and economic independence in marriage decisions.
- To examine the cultural and societal expectations surrounding marriage and their impact on girls.
- To explore the variations in marriage reluctance across different regions, socioeconomic groups, and cultures.

***RESEARCH DESIGN***

This study will adopt a \*descriptive research design\*, utilizing both qualitative and quantitative methods. Surveys and in-depth interviews will be conducted to gather comprehensive data.

***AREA OF THE STUDY***

The research will focus on urban and semi-urban areas in diverse cultural settings, including regions in South Asia, Western countries, and Africa, to ensure a global perspective.

***SAMPLING DESIGN***

A stratified random sampling technique will be employed to select participants. The sample will include:

- Girls aged 18-30 from varied socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Urban and semi-urban populations.
- Both educated and less-educated individuals.

**SAMPLE SIZE:** Approximately 300 participants, equally distributed across different strata.

**TOOLS FOR DATA COLLECTION-** Quantitative Data: Structured questionnaires focusing on factors such as education, economic conditions, societal expectations, and personal aspirations. -

. Qualitative Data: Semi-structured interviews to gain deeper insights into personal experiences and cultural influences.

***DATA ANALYSIS***

- Quantitative data will be analyzed using statistical techniques such as frequency distribution, regression analysis, and cross-tabulation.
- Qualitative data will be examined through thematic analysis, identifying recurring themes and patterns related to marriage reluctance.

This methodology aims to provide a holistic understanding of the issue, incorporating diverse perspectives and evidence-based findings.