

Gender Differences in Attitudes Towards Marriage Among Young Adults

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Table of Contents	
Acknowledgements.....	3
Abstract.....	4
Introduction.....	5
Literature Review.....	8
Aims and Objectives.....	21
Hypothesis.....	21
Methodology.....	22
Results.....	26
Discussion.....	32
Limitations of the present research.....	38
Future Research.....	39
Conclusion.....	39
References.....	41
Appendix.....	45

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Abstract

Context: As divorce continues to rise as Ireland's fastest growing marital status, views towards marriage seem to be altered among young adults in Irish society today. The aim of the research is to investigate attitudes towards marriage and intentions to marry amongst young adults. **METHODS:** Quantitative analysis was the chosen method for this research. 200 participants were used within the analysis, 100 females and 100 males. The participant's age ranged from 19-33 years. **RESULTS:** The analysis revealed that the female sample has strong intentions to marry someday compared to the male sample. Females also wanted to get married before males. The analysis also revealed that young adults with divorced or separated parents do not have a negative attitude towards marriage. **CONCLUSION:** Both males and females revealed they intended to marry someday, however, the intention in females was significantly stronger. Attitudes towards marriage varied slightly amongst both samples.

1. Introduction

This research project endeavours to investigate young adult's views towards marriage in contemporary Irish society today. The proposed aim for this study is to firstly, highlight and examine differences between genders regarding their attitudes and aspects toward marriage of young adults, secondly, to identify and investigate if there are gender differences towards intent to marry and finally, to examine if young adults from divorced or separated parents have a negative view of marriage.

As there has been a considerable lack of research into the area of gender differences in attitudes toward marriage in Ireland, this chapter the researcher will undertake a literature review that will examine marriage in Ireland today, parental influences, pre-marital cohabitation, attitudes towards marriage, intent to marry and to discuss the Social Learning Theory as the theoretical framework for this research. This research will also adopt a quantitative analysis involving four main hypothesis, which will be analysed using SPSS and will be discussed later in this research.

The meaning of marriage in Ireland has rapidly changed in the past generation. Historically, marriage was defined as “the voluntary union for life of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others” (Penzance, 1896, p24). However, with the establishment of divorce laws and the introduction of marriage equality for same sex marriages, the definition of marriage has since then developed. (Giddens, 2012, p331) defines marriage as “a socially acknowledged and approval sexual union between two adult individuals. This definition is generally accepted in Irish culture today. Today, Irish couples are falling out of love with the idea of marriage. The number of couples getting married in Ireland has fallen in recent years. Based on data from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) a peak of 22,089 registered marriages were recorded in 2005 to 19,855 in 2011, the lowest in

Ireland for six years. The average age of men and women getting married has risen in recent years, of 34 years of age for men and 32 years of age for women in 2010 (Central Statistics Office, 2010) compared with 26 years of age for men and 24 years of age for women in 1970. (Central Statistics Office, 1970). The traditional pattern of forming a romantic relationship in contemporary Irish society evolves from dating to engagement and then finally, marriage. (Manning, Longmore and Giordano, 2007). However, in recent years it has become clear that this process has become more complicated. Increasingly relationships proceed from dating to cohabitating together, which in turn, may or may not lead to marriage. (Manning, Longmore and Giordano, 2007). Furthermore, with the rise of cohabitation amongst couples, it has become evident that it has replaced marriage as the first union experience for many of young adults today. (Linchter and Qian, 2008).

The 1970's and 1980's saw the beginning of development and change in divorce law in western countries. Before this era, it was illegal for individuals to leave their union of marriage. However, the introduction of divorce was to make it legal and easier for individuals to exit a marriage. (Fahey, 2012). Ireland was one of the last western countries to introduce divorce; this was due to the power of the Irish Catholic Church and their strong views and influence on the union of marriage. Therefore, until the divorce legislation was enacted in 1996, divorce was unavailable before then. "Scholars in this field usually interpret the advent of divorce in 1996 as Ireland's 'big bang' movement of change for the Irish society...." (Fahey, 2012). Miles, Heather and Servaty-Seib (2010) found that even though divorce was once seen as a highly stigmatized event within society, it rapidly became a modern day norm. The divorce rate in Ireland has risen substantially over the past two decades, with the current estimate is that over half of couples entering into marriage will eventually end in divorce. (Miles, Heather and Servaty-Seib, 2010). However, in society today, the divorce rate is now beginning to slow down among younger couples, although older adult couples are divorcing

more than ever before. (Miles, Heather and Servaty-Seib, 2010) It can be assumed that a large number of young adults are experiencing divorce of their parents, which will in turn have an impact on the formation of their own romantic relationships and future marital status.

Furthermore, marriage is vulnerable in modern society. (Davis-Fine, 2011). The forever changing views of the family and attitudes towards marriage are being driven by young adults who have experienced and grown up with unmarried or divorced parents. Marital attitudes and expectations form a perception of reality about relationships derived by experience. (Riggio and Weiser, 2008). Throughout an individual's lifetime, one might form attitudes and expectations regarding marital life by observing their parents relationship, through their own romantic experiences or by simply observing the process of courtship and marriage of others. (Riggio and Weiser, 2008) Highly embedded positive marital attitudes can influence behaviour and enhance relationships by viewing them as happy and successful and highly embedded negative marital attitudes can also affect beliefs regarding relationships and have less positive expectations. (Riggio and Weiser, 2008). Furthermore, in recent years young adults tend to postpone marriage and in some cases relationships altogether, in exchange for freedom, independence and more attention given to education and a focus to their careers within society and to fulfil their own needs as individuals before entering into marriage. (Davis- Fine, 2011).

Literature Review

1.1 Marriage in Ireland

To understand a more refined measure of the evolution of marriages in Ireland, it is relevant to focus on first marriages and the patterns and features of delayed marriages, while taking into account the increase and decline of male and female populations over time. (Punch, 2007.) Marriage within Ireland has developed significantly over the past 100 years especially with the lift of the moral restraint set by the Irish Catholic church on the restriction of sex before marriage and with the introduction of divorce; therefore, making marriage is less common today than it was previously. Historically, Irish couples have not always been slow to marry. (Schellenberg, 1991). In the mid-nineteenth century, the number of individuals remaining permanently unmarried was not common among the Irish. (Schellenberg, 1991). As previously stated, there has been a remarkable rise in the ages in which Irish couples are choosing to get married. The average age of males increased from 26 years to 34 years of age, while females increased from 24 years to 32 years of age. (CSO, 1970 and 2010). Moreover, this can be viewed in the light of changes in the underlying population and the introduction of divorce since 1996, which has had a serious effect on these figures. (Punch, 2007). However, since 1996 there has been a significant increase to the population of both males (37.5%) and females (30.1%) within the 25-34 year age bracket. (Punch, 2007). Therefore, leading to the rise in registered marriages compared to that of the mid-1990's to the mid-2000. Divorce in Ireland has had a substantial impact on the number of register marriages. (Punch, 2007). However, 5.6 % of females and 6.5% of males in 2005 were found to be remarrying following divorce. (Punch, 2007).

Emigration in Ireland during the nineteenth century and now again in the 21st century, has been the most obvious factor for population decline. Therefore, leading to another

important factor to delayed marriage and in some cases, permanently unmarried for individuals in Ireland. (Schellenberg, 1991). In addition to delayed marriages, Irish people have developed a strong tendency to remain single right up until child bearing years. (Schellenberg, 1991). This tendency has developed as many different valuable opportunities have been made more available for men and women within the job sector, education, career lifestyle and travel with the rise of the Celtic tiger. Couples within this era and beyond postponed getting married and beginning a family in return for a career and a personal life. This has become a social norm within Irish society, that it is now considered as ‘characteristically Irish. (Schellenberg, 1991). Research carried out by Schellenberg (1991) found that Ireland’s trends and patterns to marriage and delayed marriage were similar to those of other nations within Western Europe. (Schellenberg, 1991). However, the research found that not only does Ireland have unusually high age marriage rates compared to Western Europe; it also stands out in international comparisons of higher proportions never marrying or marrying late. (Schellenberg, 1991). Furthermore, following the fall of the Celtic tiger economic pressures in Ireland tend to be more severe than anywhere else in Europe. This explains the knock on effect high levels of emigration has had on the high rates of delayed marriage in Ireland. (Schellenberg, 1991).

1.2 Attitudes towards Marriage

Throughout the world and amongst many different cultures, attitudes towards marriage are diverse. Based on to a poll completed by Bharsakhale (2013), almost half of young unmarried Americans between 20-29 years would choose to have marriage abolished and many agreed that marriage is only for people ready to spend the rest of their lives together.(Bharsakhale, 2013). As divorce has become a modern-day norm in recent years, it

is expected that the present-day young adult tends to have a distrust of marriage as an institution. Shurts and Myers (2011) stated that individuals develop their attitudes based on a variety of experiences, including messages received from the family, the media, religious values and groups of friends.

According to Akers – woody (2004) positive parental and family dynamics are related to more positive attitudes to marriage. A study by Riggio and Weiser (2008) which was a replication of a study of that of Prislín and Ovellette (1996) showed that more embedded marriage attitudes are more predictive of evaluations of general marriage issues and relationship scenarios than less embedded attitudes. Attitudes towards marriage are influenced by many other factors in society, such as divorce, culture and religion. (Akers-Woody, 2004) Therefore, it is not surprising that attitudes toward marriage can be both positive and negative depending of the experience of the individual. People come with different opinions. Bharsakharte (2013), found that in modern society today, individuals are against marriage, as it considered an old concept and way of life that is no longer workable in today's complex world.(Bharsakharte, 2013). It is important to view marriage as both positive and negative.

For many people who get married, they marry for companionship so they do not have to go through life alone. (Bharsakharte. 2013).Statistics have shown for this reason, that people who get married live longer than individuals who do not marry. (Bharsakharte, 2013). Other studies have shown that children who have grown up with their parents married perform better in education and in other aspects of their live in general. (Akers – Woody, 2004).

Marriage can then have many outcomes, one of many being divorce. Divorce and separation of couples will bring with it some trauma and many issues, as well for the

children. The negative side of marriage may alter children's attitudes toward marriage. Research within the area of marital attitudes among young adults in respect to gender differences, has produced conflicting results. Research by Braaten and Rosén (1998) and Larson, Benson, Wilson and Medora (1998) found no gender differences in marital attitudes among young adults. Research by Klein (2006) found that female undergraduate students' attitudes to marriage were more positive than male undergraduates.

Studies involving the intergenerational transmission of marital attitudes have had more similar results. Larson, Benson, Wilson and Medora (1998) and Valerian (2002) found that negative factors, such as substantial parental conflict and low parental happiness are both related to more negative attitudes towards marriage among their children. Tejpreet and Bawa (1999) revealed that both males and females had positive attitudes towards marriage, there was no difference. The researchers went deeper into the attitudes of the participants toward marriage, stating that 60% of males and 37% of females felt that they will lose their independence after getting married. Amongst males and females 55% and 77% respectively, want to get married for emotional security, while, 95% of males and 87% of females want to get married to satisfy the feeling of fatherhood and motherhood respectively. Finally, 52% of males and 57% of females admitted that it is not a necessity to get married. (Tejpreet and Bawa, 1999). Furthermore, in theory marriage is supposed to be for life. However, as in recent years, many individuals never live up to their vows. Marriage, if nothing else, is complex. (Tejpreet and Bawa, 1999).

1.3 Parental Influences

As previously stated above, parental influence towards their children's attitudes to marriage is extremely significant. "Research has shown that experiences in families of origin, particularly parental distress and divorce, can have significant effects upon young people's future relationship attitudes and experiences." (Weigel, 2007, p.11). The family is the starting point where individuals learn about the importance of relationship aspects such as love, honesty, respect and communication. (Crittenden, 1997). Learning of these aspects all depends on the environment an individual is brought up in, stable or unstable families. Through these experiences, individuals learn important variety of lessons, directly and indirectly about relationships and what they are meant to like. Based on a study (Moon, 2011) stated that when an individual is personally involved in a parental divorce, the individuals ego will have a strong effects on personal beliefs regarding marriage. The future marital status of an individual relies heavily on their perceptions and beliefs from their parents' marriage or divorce. (Moon, 2011). According to Shurts and Myers (2011) they suggested that "it is not surprising that attitudes and behaviours, both positive and negative, are often conveyed through generations within the families in a process called intergenerational transmission".(Shurts and Myers, 2011, p. 99). An intergenerational transmission is where attitudes, behaviours, values, morals and relationship outcomes can be passed from families to children. Intergenerational transmission has constantly, over time, been used to explain the link of family experience and later attitudes about and experience in romantic relationships. According to Amato (1996) adult children who have divorced parents are more prone to problems, conflict, unstable relationships and a lack of trust within their own relationships.

According to Dennison and Koerner (2008) many studies concluded within the area of marital attitudes found significant differences in attitudes towards marriage between young

adults from intact and divorced families. These studies found that young adults from divorced families were found to feel anxious, fearful and pessimistic about their own future relationships or marital status. (Dennison and Koerner, 2008). Furthermore, young adults who have experienced parental divorce generally fear being hurt from romantic relationships and are found to be apprehensive about possible break-up of their future marriages. (Dennison and Koerner, 2008). Research by Webster, Orbuch and House, (1995) found that adult children from divorced parents have a tendency to view their own marriages, future marriages and relationships as unstable compared to adult children whose parents are still married. (Webster, Orbuch and House, 1995). Amato and DeBeers (2011) found that one clear factor that distinguishes individuals from divorced and non- divorced parents, is that adult children of divorce tend to have weakened commitment to making relationships work. These children of divorce have gained messages from their parents, such as relationships are not permanent, approach relationships with caution and that relationships will be affected by infidelity and lack of trust. (Amato and DeBeers, 2011). Therefore, those individuals will be less familiar with the happiness in relationships, love, trust and the respect individuals can have in relationships.

However, other studies (Amato, 1988) and (Carson and Pauly, 1990) found few differences between young adults attitudes from intact and divorced families regarding their own marital status, these studies expressed that there are other contributing factors to positive and negative attitudes towards marriage not just parental marital status. (Dennison and Korner, 2008) Moreover, there have been ample studies that have shown a link of the intergenerational transmission process and marital attitudes based on parental status. Shurts and Myers (2011) stated that even though the family has been found to be the most influential mechanism where individual's attitudes, values and morals towards marriage and relationships are formed; there have also been many other contributing factors that have

found to be just as influential as the family. Research has been conducted to find out the other influential factors; these included, friends (Bourgeois and Bowen, 2001), the mass media (Segrin and Nabi, 2002) and social institutions such as schools, religious and non-religious organisation (Thomsen and Rekve, 2003). All of these factors have resulted in affecting young adult's perceptions and attitudes towards marriage and have immense influence. Shurts and Myers (2011) believed that by examining different types of messages received by individuals regarding the union of marriage, it may be possible to distinguish and identify the long term impact on such influences on marital attitudes and future marital status. (Shurts and Myers, 2011).

1.4 Pre-Martial Cohabitation

During the past decade, researchers have focused their attention to family changes, non-traditional family forms and ever growing current trends. (Kasearu, 2010). One such focus is that of unmarried cohabitation or pre-marital cohabitation. As cohabitation has become widely accepted within western society, the number of children born outside of marriage has rapidly risen. (Kasearu, 2010). According to the Social Learning Theory, children from unmarried cohabitating parents will have a negative impact on their marital future. (Kasearu, 2010). However, although cohabitation has become widely accepted today, it can be seen as an equal partner to marriage. (Kasearu, 2010).

Pre- marital cohabitation is on the rise within society and is viewed favourably by many college students. (Trotter, 2010). According to figures from the CSO, the number of cohabitating couples in Ireland in 2006 was 29,322 compared to 40,022 in 2011. (Central Statistics Office, 2011). The rise of cohabitation can be viewed as a threat to traditional marriage in modern times. Davis-Fine (2011) stated that people see marriage as involving

more commitment than cohabitation, but cohabitation is widely accepted and seen as a step in a progression towards marriage. Recent estimates from the USA indicated that 54% of first union's begin with cohabitation and 56% of those aged 19-44 years who married had previously cohabitated. (Lichter and Qian, 2008).

According to Davis-Fine (2011) the widespread acceptance of cohabitation can be explained "by the fact that the vast majority (85%) believes that the religious reasons for marriage have become less important". (Davis-Fine, 2011, p7.) Cohabitation is far less stigmatized in society today than it was over three decades ago. Davis-Fine (2011) found that 84% of people believe that it is better to live with someone before marrying them, in particular younger adults found this statement to be true. In modern – day society, it is believed that pre-martial cohabitation is an ideal way to get to know your partner and in doing so will lead to a healthier and stronger marriage. However, much of the research has not supported this statement. Based on a study by Lichter and Qian (2008) fertility rates are low among cohabitating couples and more importantly marriages that evolve from cohabitation are more likely to end in divorce. Lichter, Qian and Mellott (2006) reported that within disadvantaged and minority couples, marriage rates are low; small portions (5.3%) of disadvantaged couples end in marriage, majority of cohabiting couples fail to succeed in that relationship.(Licher and Qian, 2008). However, some couples decide to cohabit instead of getting married as they are unsure of the future of that relationship. Cherlin, Burton, Hurt and Puruin (2005) stated that cohabiters could very well have mental health conditions, such as depression, anxiety or post-traumatic stress disorder that can impact immensely to their ability to stay in relationships that lead to healthy committed marriages. Kline (2006) found that couples who did cohabite before engagement of marriage reported more negative reactions, lower confidence in the relationship, and poorer relationship quality than those who did not cohabite before marriage. According to Cunningham and Antill (1995) pre–martial

cohabitation is linked to poor marital communication. In addition, couples who cohabitated before marriage are also more likely to divorce than couples who did not cohabit.

1.5 Intent to Marry

As previously stated, unmarried cohabitation is rapidly on the rise in Ireland. Therefore it is important to distinguish between individuals who are more inclined and intend to marry than individuals who choose to cohabit. Kasearu (2010) stated that current research has found that there are two main factors that are the basis in distinguishing between individuals who choose to cohabit and individuals who choose marriage. Cohabitation was found to be selective of people who were from a lower socioeconomic background. (Smock, 2000). Research within this area has found that marriage is more common among people who are economically better and who have a higher education. (Kasearu, 2010). Another factor found by Smock (2000) was value based. Individuals who were more liberal, less religious, paid less attention to traditional family values and behaviours and also encouraged equal gender roles were found to be more in favour of cohabitating instead of marriage. (Smock, 2000).

According to Kasearu (2010) the decision making process of how an individual chooses between different types of family formations and romantic relationships is unclear. However, the choice between cohabitation and marriage is an outcome of the process of decision making. (Kasearu, 2010). A theory by Fishbein and Ajzen (1975) was developed to analyse this process, the theory is known as reasoned action. According to the reasoned action theory, individuals act in compliance with their intentions, although, these intentions are in fact influenced by attitudes toward behaviours of a situation, ones perception of the norms controlling the behaviour of that situation and finally, an individual to act in

accordance to these norms. (Fishbein and Ajzen, 1975). Furthermore, Fishbein and Ajzen (1975) rejected that socioeconomic status, age, sex, education or religion had any influence on how an individual chooses between marriage and unmarried cohabitation.

Kasearu (2010) believes in the Fishbein and Ajzen (1975) theory and suggests that intentions to cohabit or to marry are influenced by the perceived opinion of that of significant others to the individual, such as the individual's family values and expectations towards the family. (Kasearu, 2010). The intent to marry or to cohabit as an unmarried couple is based on the individual's evaluation of union types. (Kasearu, 2010). A study conducted by Liefbroer and de Jong Gierveld (1994) established the differentiation of three classes of examination to this. Firstly, the family formation plans need to link the functions in other life areas, secondly, the relationship with the romantic partner and thirdly, the opinions of significant others to the individual. (Liefbroer and de Jong Gierveld, 1994).

Sassler and Schoen (1999) stated that gender cannot distinguish between individuals wanting to marry or cohabit. However, intentions to marry or cohabit could be found to be different. Furthermore, studies have shown that women tend to favour marriage more than men and also that women's expectations to marry are higher, this may be because women are more family orientated. (Sassler and Schoen, 1999). Based on a study by Blakemore, Lawton and Vartanian (2005) married individuals of both genders are classed more favourably within society than unmarried individuals. Blakemore, Lawton and Vartanian (2005) found that women appear to deal with social pressures to marry, although this is not the case for males. However, some women were found to enjoy their single life and the freedom to fully focus on their personal life and careers, while other women were found to feel anxiety and pressures from their family and society to marry and have a family. (Blakemore, Lawton and Vartanian, 2005).

Furthermore, as the normal aging processes decreases fertility in both men and women, there is no time limit on men's ability to have children, the same cannot be said for women, therefore creating extra pressures for women to marry. (Blakemore, Lawton and Vartanian, 2005). Moreover, Blakemore Lawton and Vartanian (2005) found that when both genders were asked if they would choose marriage or a career, female college students (38%) were more likely to pick marriage compared to male college students (18%). Liefbroer and de Jong Gierveld (1994) stated that the intentions to stay single or to marry did not depend on gender. They believed that this was due to the fact that women today have gained better career opportunities and have excelled with their financial independence compared to decades ago. Therefore, the intent to marry is not as important anymore. (Liefbroer and de Jong Gierveld, 1994). However, it can be assumed that young adults who are in a committed relationship already or who live with a romantic partner have some experience, therefore their intent to marry or intent to cohabitate as an unmarried couple may be different from individuals who have no romantic partner. (Kasearu, 2010).

Bumpass and Lu (1999) stated that cohabitating couples and married couples differ according to education level. It can then be assumed that education has an influence on the intention to marry among individuals. (Bumpass and Lu, 1999). The impact of economic circumstances in regards to intent to marry has had an effect. A research conducted by Smock and Manning (1997) found that men's economics circumstances are more important indicators to marriage compared to a women's. Although, it can also be assumed that women who come from a low economic background would prefer to marry with the idea that marriage brings traditional values such as the male as the breadwinner. (Smock and Manning, 1997). In addition, parent's expectation towards their child's family forming behaviour has been found to have a direct influence on the child's actual behaviour. (Kasearu, 2010). The socialisation process can have long term impact on young adult's intentions to marry.

However, during the socialisation process, children adopt their parent's views and values which in turn, can influence the formation of marriage. (Kasearu, 2010). Kasearu (2010) also believes that the child's opinions about their parent's attitudes towards marriage can have some effect on their intent to marry. Finally, groups of friends within an individual's life can impact on their intentions to marry and to form a family. It can be assumed that young adults take their friend opinions into account regarding issues such as partner selection and family forming. (Kasearu, 2010). Liefbroer and de Jong Gierveld (1994) found that groups of friends opinions can be important to an individual in two ways. First, members of one group can share certain attitudes and values; from this they can develop their intentions towards marriage. Secondly, the intention of an individual can be evaluated by the reaction from their friends in a positive or negative way. (Liefbroer and de Jong Gierveld, 1994). In addition, there are many factors that influence an individual's intentions to marry; it may be one factor or a combination of them all.

1.6 Social Learning Theory

This research used Social learning theory as the theoretical framework. The social learning theory states that learning occurs within a social context. (Bandura, 1977). According to Bandura this theory includes observational learning, imitation and modelling, individuals mirror their behaviour based on the behaviours of others within their social environment. (Manning, Cohen and Smock, 2011). However, individuals do not merely assimilate their social environments, but are more inclined to model the behaviours they find to be positive and avoid behaviours they find to be negative. According to the social learning theory, the initial and most important socialisation environment is the family. (Manning,

Cohen and Smock, 2011). For example, social learning theory suggests that children's behaviours model that of their parent's behaviour and by observing parental relationships. (Manning, Cohen and Smock, 2011). Furthermore, family experiences have been expected to shape a young adults relationship preferences. However, although this is accurate, parental views do not simply transfer to that of the young adult. As a result, young adults may not act in accordance of their parent's views and behaviours. (Manning, Cohen and Smock, 2011). Instead young adults also incorporate their own beliefs from their own romantic relationships and peers in relation to their own attitudes towards marriage. (Manning, Cohen and Smock, 2011). Moreover, the social learning theory has generally been applied to the examination of the child or teenage behaviour, but has not incorporated young adult behaviour. (Manning, Cohen and Smock, 2011). Arnett (2004) stated that young adulthood is a life course which is characterised by identity, exploration, instability, self-focus and possibilities. However, young adults are expected to depend on experiences derived from their peers and romantic relationships to make decisions. Arnett (2004) found that 18–22 year olds still rank their parents approval higher than romantic relationships and their peers in how important it is to gain their approval. Therefore, relationship decisions in young adulthood are influenced by social environment and family members rather than other life courses. (Arnett, 2004).

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the current research is to investigate if young adult's views of marriage have altered as divorce continues to rise as Ireland's fastest growing marital status. Many young adults today have grown up witnessing and observing divorce, separation and lone parent families within Irish culture. Therefore, positive and healthy marital views can suffer for young adults. The research aims to examine the differences between genders of young adults regarding their attitudes and aspects toward marriage. It also aims to examine their intent to marry. Finally, this research aims to investigate if young adults from divorce or separated parents have a negative view of marriage.

Hypothesis

Hypothesis 1: Females will intend on getting married at a particular time before males.

Hypothesis 2: Females will be more intent on getting married compared to males

Hypothesis 3: There will be gender differences in a sample of undergraduate students regarding their attitudes towards marriage.

Hypothesis 4: Young adults of divorced or separated parents will have a negative attitude towards marriage.

2. Methodology

2.1 Participants

The overall number of individuals who participated in this research study was 200 participants (n=200). A convenient sample, including 100 undergraduate males (n=100) and 100 undergraduate females (n=100) comprised the sample. The age ranged from 19-33 years. The mean age of male participants was $M = 23.15$ ($SD = 2.44$) and the mean age of female participants was $M = 22.55$ ($SD = 2.65$). Of the total combined sample, (54%) of participants parents were married, (9%) were separated, (21%) were divorced, (9%) never married and (6.5%) were stated as 'other'. The participants of this study were selected from within the premises of a third level college in Dublin. The population was normally distributed within the college. Nobody was excluded from this study.

2.2 Materials

A questionnaire booklet was distributed, in which, participants were instructed to fill in. The questionnaire booklet included (A) The General Attitudes to Marriage Scale (GAMS), (Park and Rosén, 2013), (B) The Attitude towards Marriage Scale (ATMS), (Park and Rosén, 2013) and (C) The Intent to Marry Scale (IMS), (Park and Rosén, 2013). In addition, participants were asked to complete some demographic questions, such as, gender, age, highest education level and parents marital status. A number of self-administered questions regarding an individual's views of marriage such as "Adult children of divorce are less likely to get married", "The main purpose of getting married is to have children" and "There are

more advantages to being single than there is to being married” were also added to the questionnaire booklet. (*Appendix*)

(A) The General Attitudes towards Marriage Scale (Park & Rosén, 2013) was developed to access and measure overall positive and negative attitudes towards of the institution of marriage. The scale was developed to also access the attitudes of both married and non-married individuals. It focuses on personal and global levels of idealised beliefs, fears and doubts towards marriage. The scale includes 10 items regarding feelings (positive attitudes, negative attitudes, fears and doubts) towards an individual’s current or future marriage. (E.g. marriage is a “good idea”). Every question is presented with a 5 –point Likert scale, ranging from, (1) Strongly Agree, (2) Agree, (3) Neither Agree nor Disagree, (4) Disagree, (5) Strongly Disagree. Scores can range between 17 and 38 with higher scores indicating a more negative attitude towards marriage.

(B) The Aspects of Marriage Scale (Park & Rosén, 2013) was developed to access different domains of marriage, including trust, shared values, fulfilment, sexual intimacy, emotional support, respect, finances, romance, commitment, fidelity and communication. The scale includes 18 items exploring different aspects of a marital relationship. (E.g. romance is important for a successful marriage). Every question is presented with a 5- point Likert scale, ranging from, (1) Strongly Agree, (2) Agree, (3) Neither Agree nor Disagree, (4) Disagree, (5) Strongly Disagree. Scores can range between 30 and 54 with higher scores indicating negative views for aspects to marriage.

(C) The Intent to Marry Scale (Park & Rosén, 2013) was developed to access individuals overall intent to marry. The scale includes 3 items regarding individual’s positive and negative views on intent to marry. (E.g. I intend to get married someday). Every

question is presented with a 5- Likert scale, ranging from, (1) Strongly Agree, (2) Agree, (3) Neither Agree nor Disagree, (4) Disagree, (5) Strongly Disagree. Scores can range between 6 and 14 with higher scores indicating less intention to marry.

2.3 Design

The design used in this present research was a non-experimental correlational quantitative design. The independent variable was gender and the dependant variable was attitudes towards marriage and intent to marry.

2.4 Procedure

Data collection was collected through the use of questionnaires. The content and structure of the questionnaires was checked by the research supervisor to ensure the questionnaires were efficient and suitable for distribution. An approval was given by the supervisor before questionnaires were distributed to participants. Research was conveniently conducted within the Dublin Business School campus. Questionnaires were distributed to participants in classrooms, with the permission of relevant lecturers and within the canteen areas to complete anonymous research questionnaires. Prior to the completion of the questionnaires, every participant was informed about the purpose of the study, its voluntary nature, made aware of all ethical considerations, such as anonymity and privacy and were assured of confidentiality at all times. In addition, their right to withdraw from the study at any time and the researchers contact information, should there be any problems, was also addressed. The questionnaire booklets were only distributed to participants 18 years and above. Filling in the questionnaire booklet took approximately 5-10 minutes. Once the

questionnaires were completed, they were collected by the researcher and inserted into an envelope to ensure anonymity. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences Software (SPSS 21) was used to input the data, recode and compute data to comprise the total score and to analyse the results given from the questionnaire to test the hypotheses. Descriptive statistics were used to run frequencies and were used to analyse differences and similarities between various groups. Independent t-test analysis were used to test gender differences in relation to attitudes towards marriage and to test negative attitudes towards marriage between individuals whose parents were married or divorced/separated.

2.5 Ethical Considerations

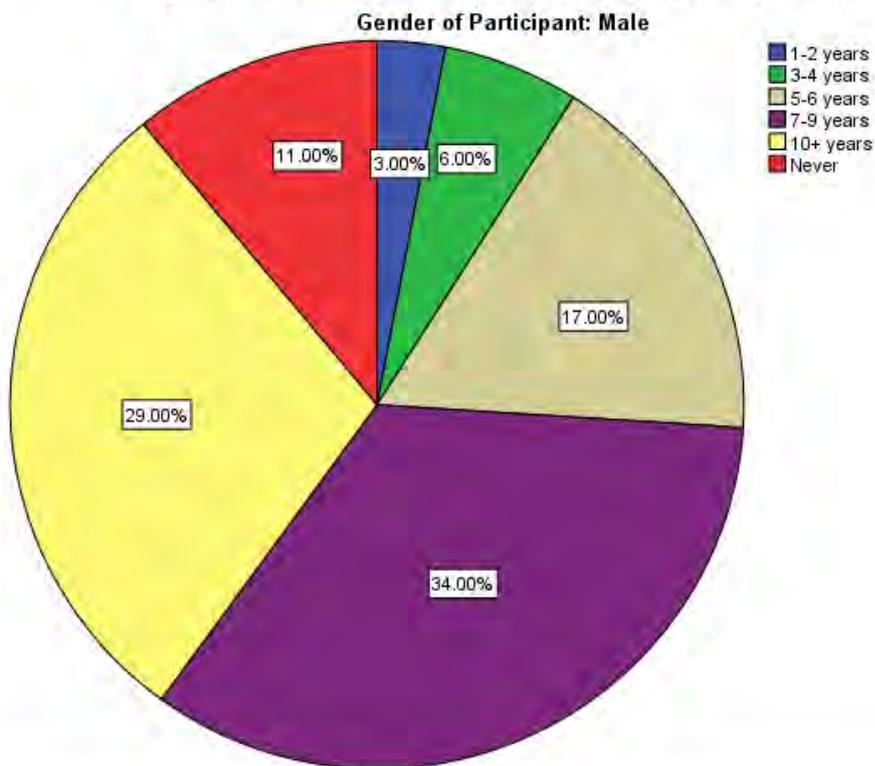
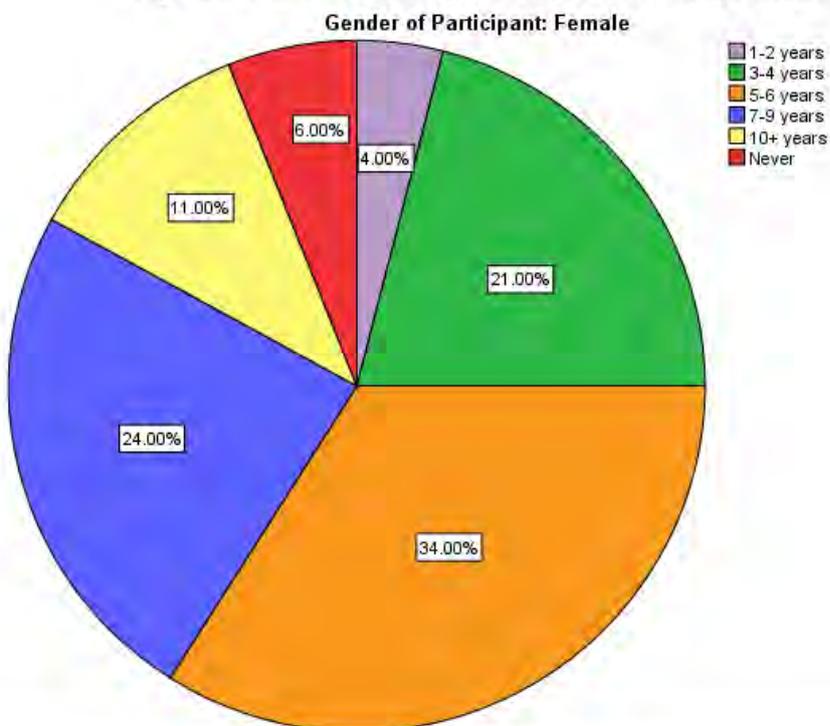
Ethical considerations were enforced throughout the entire research project. Participants were assured of confidentiality at all times. They were made aware of their right to withdraw from the study at any stage and also assured that all their answers would remain strictly anonymous. For ethical reason, the researcher only used participants 18 years of age and above.

3. Results

3.1 Descriptive Statistics

Hypothesis 1:

Hypothesis one proposed that females will intend on getting married at a particular time before males. As shown from the pie charts below (*Figure 1 & Figure 2*), there are differences between the time scale of wanting to marry and gender. (3%) of males wanting to marry in the next 1-2 year compared to (4%) of females, in the next 3-4 years (6%) males compared to (21%) females, in the next 5-6 years (17%) of males compared to (34%) females, in the next 7-9 years (34%) of males compared to (24%) of females, in the next 10+ years (29%) of males compared to (11%) of females and finally, (11%) of males indicated they would never like to marry compared to (6%) of females. In summary, (26%) of males compared to (59%) of females intend to marry within the next 6 years. The results indicate that more females compared to males intend on getting married at a particular time. Therefore, hypothesis one was only partially supported.

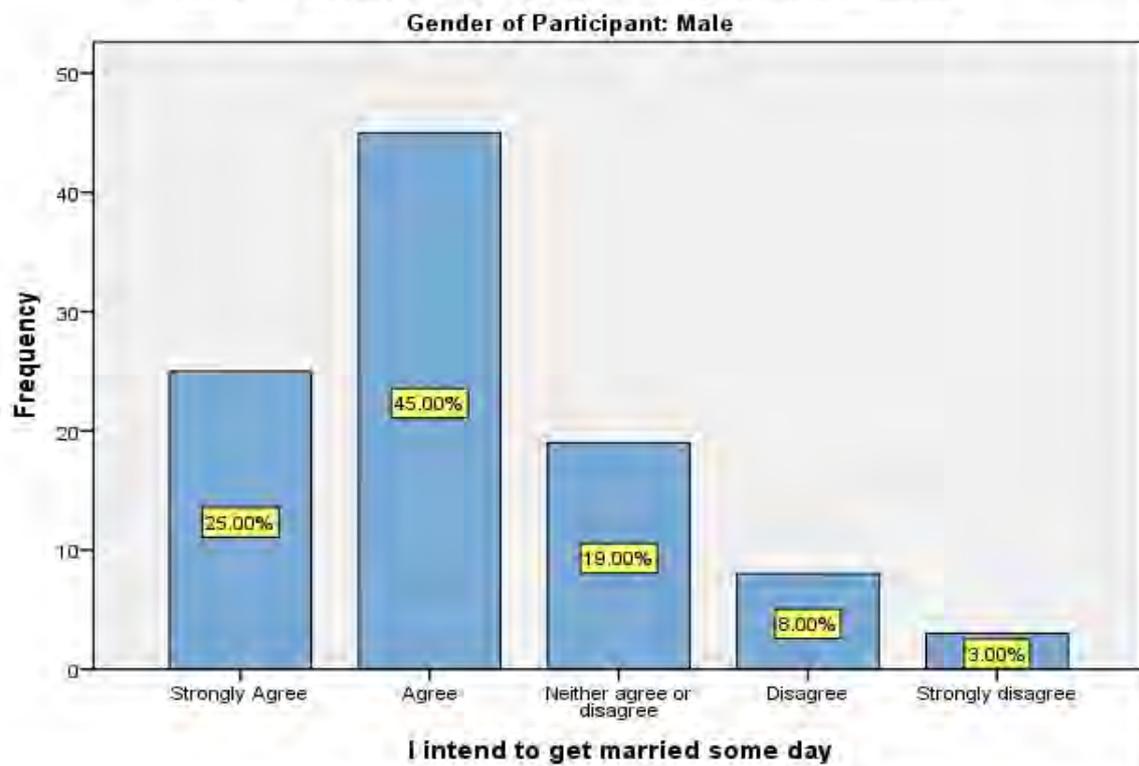
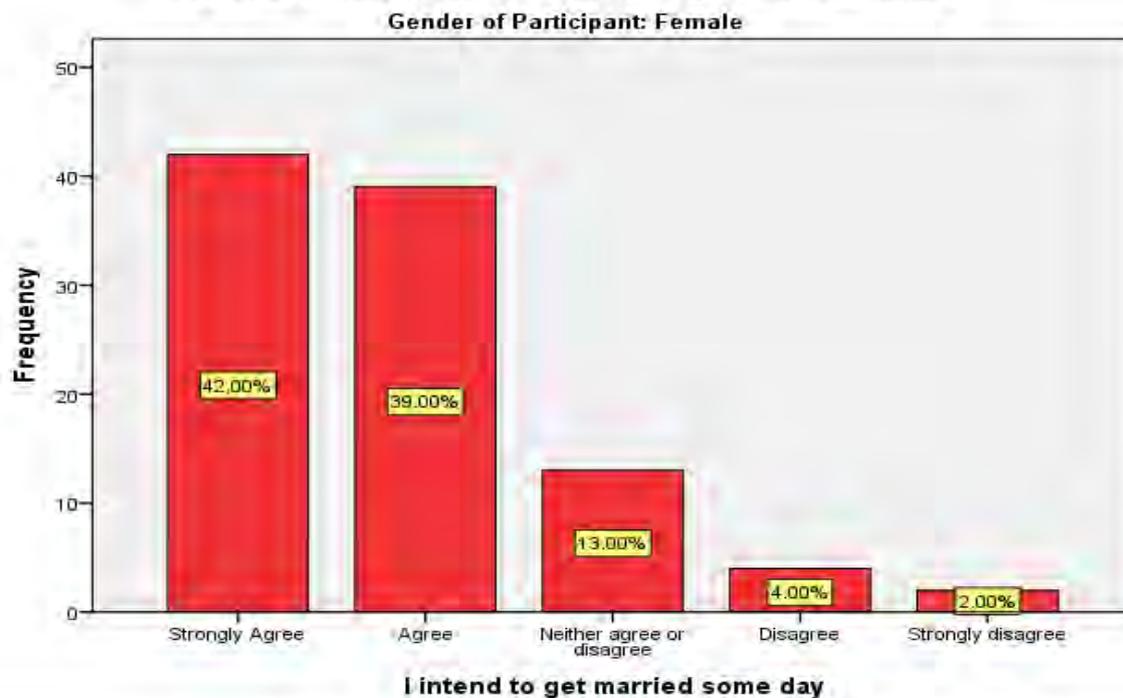
Figure 1: When the Participant Intends on Getting Married**Figure 2: When the Participant Intends on Getting Married**

Hypothesis 2:

Hypothesis two proposed that females will be more intent on getting married compared to males. As shown in the bar charts below (*Figure 3 & Figure 4*), there are differences between stronger intent on marrying of both male (25%) and females (42%). (*Table 1*). There were only slight differences between the two groups; therefore hypothesis three was only partially supported.

Table 1: Participants Intent to get married

Gender of Participant		Frequency	Per cent	Valid Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Male	Valid	Strongly Agree	25	25.0	25.0
		Agree	45	45.0	45.0
		Neither agree or disagree	19	19.0	19.0
		Disagree	8	8.0	8.0
		Strongly disagree	3	3.0	3.0
		Total	100	100.0	100.0
Female	Valid	Strongly Agree	42	42.0	42.0
		Agree	39	39.0	39.0
		Neither agree or disagree	13	13.0	13.0
		Disagree	4	4.0	4.0
		Strongly disagree	2	2.0	2.0
		Total	100	100.0	100.0

Figure 3: Participants Intent to Getting Married Someday**Figure 4: Participants Intent to Getting Married Someday**

3.2 Inferential Statistics

T-test Analysis

Hypothesis 3:

Hypothesis three proposed that there would be differences in attitudes towards marriage between males and females. This hypothesis was examined using Independent t-test analysis. The Independent t-test showed that there was a significant difference in total attitudes towards marriage mean scores for males and females $t(198) = 2.67, p < .05$.

Attitudes towards marriage differed significantly between males ($M = 49.70, SD = 8.72$.) and females ($M = 46.47, SD = 8.31$.) (*Table 2.*) Therefore, the hypothesis was supported.

Table 2: Total Means and SD for Males and Females

Positive and Negative Attitudes towards Marriage

Gender of Participant	Mean	N	Std. Deviation
Male	49.7000	100	8.7217
Female	46.4700	100	8.31872
Total	48.0850	200	8.65519

Hypothesis 4:

Hypothesis four proposed that individuals from a divorced or separated family will have a negative attitude towards marriage. This hypothesis was examined using Independent t-test analysis. The Independent t-test showed that there was no significant difference in total attitudes towards marriage for individuals whose parents were divorced $t(40) = .467, p > .05$ or parents that were separated $t(16) = 1.71, p > .05$.

Attitudes towards marriage did not differ significantly due to parental divorce or separation between males and females. Divorce: males (N=21) (M = 56.47, SD = 8.50), females (N = 21) (M = 53.95, SD = 9.74). Separated: males (N = 8) (M = 56.25, SD = 6.45) females (N = 10) (M= 51.30, SD = 5.03). See *Table 3*. Therefore, the fourth hypothesis was rejected.

Table 3: Total Mean and SD for Individuals Parents Marital Status

Parents Marital Status	Gender of Participant	Mean	N	Std. Deviation
Married	Male	46.6727	55	7.01336
	Female	43.0556	54	5.94762
	Total	44.8807	109	6.72712
Separated	Male	56.2500	8	6.45313
	Female	51.3000	10	5.03433
	Total	53.5000	18	6.08034
Divorced	Male	56.4762	21	8.50658
	Female	53.0952	21	9.74631
	Total	54.7857	42	9.19580
Never Married	Male	46.0000	10	7.28774
	Female	48.2500	8	10.56612
	Total	47.0000	18	8.68399
Other	Male	51.1667	6	11.83920
	Female	44.0000	7	5.97216
	Total	47.3077	13	9.49021

4. Discussion

Introduction

This present research was carried out in order to analyse if young adult's views towards marriage have altered as divorce continues to rise as Ireland's fastest growing marital status. The aim of this present research was to investigate if there was a gender difference in attitudes towards marriage in contemporary Irish society today. The research examined if females have more intentions to marry compared to males and also if they intended to get married at a particular time before males. Finally, this present research investigated if young adults who have divorced or separated parents will have a negative view towards marriage. This research carried out using 100 females and 100 males with age ranging from 19-33 years respectively. The questionnaire used included the Intent to Marry Scale (IMS) (Park and Rosén, 2013), the General Attitudes to Marriage Scale (GMS) (Park and Rosén, 2013) and the Aspects of Marriage Scale (AMS) (Park and Rosén, 2013).

4.1 Discussion of the Results

Hypothesis 1

One of the four main predictions of this present research was that females will intend on getting married at a particular time before males. The results obtained indicated a significant main difference in gender, suggesting that a sample of females do intend on getting married at a particular time before a sample of males. Results from this present research, show that majority (34%) of the female sample would like to get married within 5-6

years compared to (17%) of the male sample within 5-6 years. In addition, less of the female sample (6%) stated that they would never marry compared to (11%) of the male sample.

Therefore the hypothesis was supported, that a sample of females would intend on getting married before a sample of males at a particular time. These findings partially support the reason action theory (Fishbein and Ajzen, 1975), which argues that individuals act in compliance with their intentions, which are influenced by attitudes towards behaviours of a situation, perception of the norms controlling the behaviour of that situation and the individual acting in accordance to these norms. This theory rejected that socioeconomic status, age, sex or education had any influence on an individual's intentions to marry at a particular time. (Fishbein and Ajzen, 1975). These present findings also supported previous research that demonstrated a sample of females having stronger intentions to marry at a particular time than a sample of males. (Blakemore, Lawton and Vartanian, 2005). These findings are in line with the findings from this present research, this is probably because females feel pressures to start a family before their fertility is in jeopardy. (Blakemore, Lawton and Vartanian, 2005). Furthermore, these present findings suggest that there are gender differences regarding getting married at a particular time. However, these results go against previous research that states that an intention to marry at a particular time does not depend on gender. (Liefbroer and de Jong Gierveld, 1994). This is probably due to the fact that women today have better career opportunities open to them and financial independence compared to decades ago, which can be assumed that marriage would be postponed in life for women, as suggested by Liefbroer and de Jong Gierveld (1994).

Hypothesis 2

Hypothesis two proposed that females will be more intent on getting married compared to males. The results from the present research indicated a vast difference for gender, indicating that intending to marry was significantly higher amongst the female sample (42%) compared to the males sample (25%), who 'strongly agreed' to getting married someday. Therefore the hypothesis was only partially supported that there would be differences in gender regarding intent to marry. These findings support previous research concluded by Blakemore, Lawton and Vartanian (2005), findings from this study identified that a sample of females had a higher 'drive to marry' compared to a sample of males. Blakemore, Lawton and Vartanian (2005) argues that females feel more anxiety and pressures from family member and social groups to marry and begin a family, the research found that this was not the case for males.

These present findings suggest that females are more intent to marry compared to males; this is in line with findings of a study concluded by Sassler and Scohen (1999). This is probably because females favour marriage more than males as they are more family orientated, as suggested by Sassler and Scohen (1999). However, these findings also support findings from present research, that a sample of females and males both had significant differences attitudes and aspects towards marriage, which will be discussed later. Furthermore, according to research carried out by Bumpass and Lu (1999), this research discovered that intentions to marry did not depend on gender, but according to the individual's education level amongst both genders. The findings from this study suggest that the higher education level of the individual the more intentions they will have to marry. (Bumpass and Lu, 1999). The findings from this study correspond with the results from the present study. So perhaps by individuals not receiving a high education level or any education at all, they are possibly sacrificing their future marital status. The impact of

economic circumstances has had an effect on females and males intent to marry, Smock and Manning (1997) found that females from low-economic background would be more intent to marry compared to males, as Smock and Manning (1997) suggested, this is probably because females would have an idea that marriage brings traditional values such as the male as the breadwinner. However, present findings were similar to these gender difference findings, although the researcher of the present research did not test for individual's economic background.

Hypothesis 3

Hypothesis three proposed that there would be gender difference in attitudes towards marriage between males and females. The results obtained indicated a significant difference in gender, indicating total attitudes towards marriage were significantly higher compared to the male sample; therefore the hypothesis was supported, stating that there would be gender differences in attitudes towards marriage. These findings add to the already existing body of conflicting results amongst research in relation to gender difference of marital attitudes. These present findings reject the findings of Shurts and Myers (2011), which argues that present day young adults have a distrust of the union of marriage. Results from current research, suggest that females ($M=49.70$, $SD 8.72$) have a stronger positive attitude towards marriage, therefore rejecting the findings of Shurts and Myers (2011). This can also be compared to the findings of Kline (1996). This is probably because females still view the roles of both career women and married mother more favourably and of more importance and also to have significant importance to anticipating a marital identity, which is not the case compared to that of males, as suggested by Blakemore, Lawton and Vartanian (2005). However, a study carried out by Tejpreet and Bawa (1999) found there to be no gender

difference in attitudes to marriage. The researchers examined these attitudes deeper, by using in-depth interview analysis. Results from this research found that both positive and negative attitudes surrounding family life and marriage were of no difference in gender among young adults. The formation of attitudes surrounding marriage can often change throughout one's lifetime, therefore making it difficult to make a generalisation for young adults attitudes, each individual is unique of their own experience shaping their attitudes and difference in gender is generally of no concern, as suggested by Tejpreet and Bawa (1999).

Hypothesis 4

Hypothesis four predicted that young adults from divorce or separated parents would have a negative attitude towards marriage. Statistical calculations did not support hypothesis four, suggesting that young adults with divorced or separated parents would not have a negative attitude towards marriage. These findings did not support the Social Learning Theory (Bandura, 1977), which argues that individuals mirror their behaviour based on the behaviours of others within their social environment, for example their parents and their marital relationships. Therefore, shaping young adults attitudes to relationships and future marital status. However, it is not logical to assume that just the social learning theory can shape an individual's marital attitudes, there will be other contributing factors, and one's personal and unique to the individual. The findings of this research suggest that there is no difference in marital attitudes amongst males and females from intact and divorced or separated families; this is in line with findings of Amato (1988) and Carson and Pauly (1990). Reason for this can be because of other contributing influential factors to an individual's marital attitudes, not just parental marital status. These factors can include friends, media, social institutions such as schools, religious and non-religious organisations and social media.

(Bourgeois and Bowen, 2011; Segrin and Nabi, 2002; Thomsen and Rekve, 2003). By examining different types of messages and influences received by young adults from all factors within one's life, it may be possible to distinguish and identify the long term impact of such factors and influences they have on a young adult's marital attitudes and future marital status, as suggested by Shurts and Myers (2011).

However, findings from this present research did not correspond with other researches within the area of marital attitudes. Amato (1996) argues that young adults from divorced parents are more prone to problems, conflict, unstable relationships and a lack of trust within their own relationships. Young adults from divorced parents were found to feel anxious, fearful and pessimistic about their own future relationships and marital status; they also fear being hurt from romantic relationships and are apprehensive about possible breakups of their future marriages, as suggested by Dennison and Koerner (2008). This is probably because these young adults observed their parental divorce within a certain stage of adolescent hood as they were beginning to form their own romantic relationships. (Dennison and Koerner, 2008). The Social Learning theory predicts that individuals mirror the behaviour and actions of that of their parents (Manning, Cohen and Smock, 2011) and the family have been found to be the most influential to an individual, so perhaps by actively controlling what the children are subjected to and what they observe during parental divorce, as suggested by Shurts and Myers (2011) this can limit the influences and negatives attitudes and views of a young adults relationships and future marital status.

Limitations of the present research

As with all studies, there were a few limitations to this present research carried out. The distribution of the questionnaire raised a limitation, that all of the participants were only from Dublin Business School, therefore these present results can only account for that on third level college in Dublin. The sample of data collected cannot be generalised to all college students elsewhere.

Another limitation was the age range of participants used. The age range was between 19 and 33, the minority of that sample was individuals in their late 20's to 33. As research indicated, intent to marry and positive attitudes towards marriage increases with age, a broader age sample would have benefited this research.

Furthermore, the marital questions used for Intent to Marry Scale (IMS) (Park and Rosén, 2013), General Attitudes towards Marriage Scale (GAMS) (Park and Rosén, 2013) and aspects of marriage (AMS). (Park and Rosén, 2013) was found to be another limitation, the questions asked within the scales were too basic and broad, which made it difficult to gather a more accurate and deep understanding of each individual's unique attitudes and views towards marriage.

Finally, the quantitative research design chosen by the researcher was also another limitation. This was found as the participants were limited to their choice of answers. As previously stated, to gather a more enriched understanding of young adult's attitudes and views towards marriage unique to their own experiences, this research would have benefited from a qualitative in-depth interview procedure. The results may have been the same, but a better understanding as to why they are a certain way would have been explored.

Future Research

In terms of future research, the limitations stated above should be considered and applied. Changes to the sample data should be made, a random sample should be sought to gain a more generalised finding amongst participants nationwide, such as urban and rural and not just focusing on Dublin alone.

For future research, it would also be important to incorporate young adults who do not attend college or any form of education, who could be employed or unemployed and also young adults who do not live at home with their parents. According to Smock and Manning (1997), individuals who have an education or in the process of obtaining one, will have substantial differences in attitudes towards marriage and intentions to marry compared to individuals who do not have an education. A comparison of both would be of benefit.

Another recommended comparative study future researchers should consider is to include a sample of young adults and mature adults as participants, to investigate, compare and contrast the differences and similarities of both generations. This would be useful to identify how and if the attitude toward the union of marriage has changed over the years. In order to get a more in-depth information and better understanding of this research, a qualitative approach would be suggested for further research carried out in this area.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the view of the union of marriage has and is still changing within contemporary Irish society. Statistics from the CSO (2011) showed that marriage in Ireland has declined substantially, showing that only 19,855 marriages in Ireland in 2011. However, this research has supported its first and second hypothesis, indicating that males and females intend and want to marry in the future, the minority (4%) of females and (6%) males stating

that they would never intend to marry. Therefore revealing that young adults still value the idea of marriage and consider it important, in spite of divorce rapidly growing as Ireland fastest growing marital status.

Furthermore, females showed stronger intent to marry compared to that of males, as previously mentioned in the literature review, females still feel pressures from their family and social groups to marry. This would suggest that the traditional trend of females holding a higher regard for marriage still exists within Irish society today.

In relation to divorce, it is expected that a large proportion of young adults today are experiencing parental divorce. As suggesting earlier in the literature review, society would generally expect that children of divorce to have a negative attitude towards marriage or no intentions to marry in the future. Previous research have conflicting views on the subject, suggesting that it is quite difficult to narrow down an individual's attitude and views regarding marriage without considering all influential factors throughout an individual's lifetime . Present research found no significant difference in attitudes towards marriage of young adults whose parents were divorce or separated, they also had intentions to get married someday. In contrast, the Social Learning theory explained that individuals learn by observing, imitating and modelling behaviour within their social environment for example, the family. Therefore, it can also be assumed that individuals observing parental divorce and turmoil within the family, can impact negatively on their relationships and future marital status.

However, although there have been many changes to the union of marriage and certain views and attitudes towards it, marriage seems to still hold a substantial relevancy within the 21st century and it has become clear that it still remains a goal of many young adults within society today.

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Appendix



This study is concerned about undergraduate student's attitudes towards marriage and their intent to marry. Please answer each section as honestly as you can and please do not spend too long thinking about each question as there is no right or wrong answers.

The information that you provide will remain anonymous and confidential, you are not required to write your name anywhere on this survey. I would like to thank you in advance for your time and co-operation.

If you require any further information regarding this research, please do not hesitate to contact me at the email address below.

Name: Orla Goslin

Email: 1703967@mydbs.ie

Please complete the following demographic information:

What is your gender: Male

Female

What is your age? _____

What is your highest education level?

Primary

Secondary

Third level

Postgraduate

Are your parents:

Married

Separated

Divorced

Never Married

When would you like to get married?

1-2 years

3-4 years

5-6 years

7-9 years

10+years

Never

Instructions: Please read the following statements and indicate how much you agree with them by circling the appropriate number to the right of the statement as follows:

1 = Strongly Agree

2 = Agree

3=Neither agree or disagree

5= Strongly Disagree

- 1) I intend to get married someday..... 1 2 3 4 5
- 2) I want to marry..... 1 2 3 4 5
- 3) I do not hope to marry.....1 2 3 4 5
- 4) Marriage is beneficial.....1 2 3 4 5
- 5) A major advantage of marriage is that it gives financial security.....1 2 3 4 5
- 6) I am fearful of marriage.....1 2 3 4 5
- 7) People should not marry.....1 2 3 4 5
- 8) I have doubts about marriage.....1 2 3 4 5
- 9) It is better to have a bad marriage than no marriage at all.....1 2 3 4 5
- 10) Marriage is a "good idea".....1 2 3 4 5
- 11) There are more advantages to being single than to being married.....1 2 3 4 5
- 12) I do have fears of marriage.....1 2 3 4 5
- 13) Married people are happier than people in other types of relationships.....1 2 3 4 5
- 14) Marriage makes people happy.....1 2 3 4 5
- 15) It is much better for a couple to get married than to just live together.....1 2 3 4 5
- 16) Most marriages are unhappy situations.....1 2 3 4 5
- 17) The main purpose of marriage is to have children.....1 2 3 4 5
- 18) It is better for children if their parents are married.....1 2 3 4 5
- 19) Adult children of divorce are less likely to get married.....1 2 3 4 5
- 20) Marriage is important.....1 2 3 4 5
- 21) Marriage makes people happy.....1 2 3 4 5

Instructions: Please read the following statements and indicate how much you agree with them by circling the appropriate number to the right of the statement as follows:

1 = Strongly Agree

2 = Agree

3=Neither agree or disagree

4= Disagree

5= Strongly Disagree

- 1) Having a sense of personal fulfilment is important for a good marriage.....1 2 3 4 5
- 2) Romance is important for a successful marriage.....1 2 3 4 5
- 3) Staying faithful to one another is valuable for a good marriage.....1 2 3 4 5
- 4) Trust is important for a successful marriage.....1 2 3 4 5
- 5) Sexual intimacy is valuable for a successful marriage.....1 2 3 4 5
- 6) Commitment is valuable for a successful marriage.....1 2 3 4 5
- 7) Financial stability is valuable for a good marriage.....1 2 3 4 5
- 8) Having a sense of personal fulfilment is important for a healthy marriage...1 2 3 4 5
- 9) Romance is valuable for a healthy marriage.....1 2 3 4 5
- 10) Shared values between partners are valuable for a good marriage.....1 2 3 4 5
- 11) Communication is important for a good marriage.....1 2 3 4 5
- 12) Sexual intimacy is not valuable for a successful marriage.....1 2 3 4 5
- 13) Financial stability is not valuable for a successful marriage.....1 2 3 4 5
- 14) Emotional support is important for a healthy marriage.....1 2 3 4 5
- 15) Romance is not valuable for a good marriage.....1 2 3 4 5
- 16) Having a sense of personal fulfilment is valuable for a successful marriage.1 2 3 4 5
- 17) Commitment is not valuable for a healthy marriage.....1 2 3 4 5

18) Communication is valuable for a successful marriage.....1 2 3 4 5

If you are concerned with or affected by any of the content of this survey please do not hesitate to contact the following organisations:

Accord

- Harcourt Street (01) 4780866
- Dun Laoghaire (01) 2801682
- Blanchardstown (01) 8201044
- Swords (01) 8404550

Or visit: www.accord.ie

Relationships Ireland 1890 380 380 (Lo- Call)

Family Therapy Association of Ireland (FTAI) (01) 2722105

I would like to thank you again for taking part in this study and would like to remind you that all information given here is confidential and is anonymous. If you would like to know more about this study, please contact me at the email printed at the front of this booklet.

Orla Goslin.