

Attitude Towards Marriage Among Young Adults

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Abstract

The aim of this research was to investigate young adults attitudes and intentions towards marriage. To examine if their views have altered as divorce continues to rise as Ireland's fastest growing marital status. Quantitative analysis was the chosen method for this research. Using a sample of 100 males and 100 females the analysis revealed that the female sample had stronger intentions to marry someday compared to the male sample. Additionally, the analysis revealed young adults who have divorced or separated parents negative attitude towards marriage. This is an area that needs to be developed more in-depth, as it suggests conflicting findings with previous research. Both males and females had almost similar attitudes towards marriage



Introduction

This chapter will comprise of an in-depth study on marriage in Ireland, attitudes towards marriage, intent to marry, parental influences, pre-marital cohabitation and the social learning theory, by reviewing a number of published pieces of literature. Davis – Fine (2011) addressed the marital attitudes of young adults today, finding that young adults tend to postpone their own marriage in exchange for freedom, independence and more attention given to education and careers. In the past young adults have held marriage as more of a priority therefore marrying young. Marital attitudes and intentions to marry form a perception of reality about relationships derived by experience, Riggio and Weiser (2008). Therefore, by observing one's parental relationship, an individual will mirror that behaviour.



Method

This research project benefited from Quantitative research methods, through the use of questionnaires for data collection. A convenient sample, including 100 males and 100 females comprised the sample.

A questionnaire booklet comprised of three scales, the Intent to Marry Scale (IMS) (Park and Rosén, 2013), the General Attitudes to Marriage Scale (GAMS) (Park and Rosén, 2013) and the Aspects to Marriage scale (AMS) (Park and Rosén 2013) was distributed among DBS students. 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.

The research explored the results by using SPSS(21), by inputting data, recoding and computing to reveal the total score to test the hypothesis of the research

Results

Findings obtained using hypothesis to examine data from each participant.

Intending to marry at a particular time: Females were found to have a stronger intentions to marry at a particular time compared to males.

Intent to marry: Females (42%) had a stronger intent to marry compared to (25%) of males.

Gender difference in attitudes towards marriage: Both males and females had positive attitudes towards marriage. Findings suggest females to be slightly stronger.

Young adults of divorce/separated parents to have a negative view of marriage: Findings found that young adults with divorced/ parents did not have a negative view of marriage.

Discussion

This research sought to discover if there was differences in gender regarding attitudes towards marriage. Irish peoples views towards marriage have altered in modern society, with the introduction of divorce, compared to traditional trends. However, findings of this research revealed that young Irish adults still value the idea of marriage and consider it to be important. Both genders have intentions to marry someday. It has become clear that the union of marriage still remains a goal in the future for many young adults in Irish society today.

References

- Davis- Fine, M. (2011). Attitudes to family formation in Ireland: Findings from the nationwide study. *Social Attitude and policy research group*.4-9.
- Riggio, R, W., & Weiser, A, D. (2008). Attitudes Towards Marriage: Embeddeness and Outcomes in Personal Relationships. *Personal Relationships*. 15 (1). 123-140