

## Marriage as a bond or a burden: A study on married female college teachers of Karachi, Pakistan

By

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### Abstract

*This study was designed to access the problems faced by married female college teachers experiencing marriage as burden. A cross sectional survey conducted in three colleges of Karachi during Oct 2007 to Mar 2008. 200 Married/separated/divorced women teachers were conveniently selected and interviewed to fill the questionnaires (open and close ended questions). Data was analyzed using SPSS version 16 and frequencies with percentages and p value were calculated for all qualitative variables. Mean with standard deviation was calculated for age (in years) while frequency with percentages were calculated for qualitative scale variables such as type of marriage, sexual satisfaction, economic satisfaction, education level, and domestic quarrels. p values based on chi square and fisher exact test is calculated. Proportion with 95% confidence interval was calculated for women who considered marriage as burden. Proportion of women experiencing marriage as burden with 95% confidence interval was calculated. Ninety- two percent women were postgraduate. Most (76%) of them reported an arranged marriage while 80% had at least one child. Majority (72%) of the women said they were working because their husbands' income was insufficient to meet their needs. 28% (95% CI: 24-31) women considered marriage as a burden. The risk factors identified for considering marriage as a burden included the husband's unfriendly attitude (OR 9.40, 95% CI 4.56- 19.39), not supporting the wife during stressful situations (OR 6.66, 95% CI 3.55-13.25), frequent domestic quarrels (OR 3.23, 95% CI 1.6-6.46) and physical abuse (OR 10.66, 95% CI 5.08-22.33). Whereas the husband's insufficient income was not found to be a risk factor for considering marriage as a burden. The study shows that most of the married college teachers of Karachi believe that marriage is a bond but about one-third of them consider it a burden. With added roles of women in our society i.e. "caregiver" plus "breadwinner", the trend is slowly changing and more women now consider marriage as a burden. Husband's attitude towards the wife plays a major role in making a marriage a bond or a burden. Comparative studies are needed to ascertain the role of these factors.*

**Keywords:** Marriage, Marriage bonding, married life, bond or burden