



Attitude Toward Marriage Among Medical Students in Mashhad

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Marriage and family formation are two of the most important stages of human life, and they form the first social unit of society. Today, due to the rapid economic and social changes and the growth of technology, there have been changes in people's lifestyles, which have caused a change in people's attitudes towards marriage, which threatens the survival of marriage, so considering the importance of attitudes towards marriage and its role in stability Marriage, this study was conducted to investigate the attitude towards marriage among the students of Mashhad University of Medical Sciences.

Methods and Materials: The present research is a descriptive and analytical study conducted cross-sectionally between 2023 and 2024 at Mashhad University of Medical Sciences. The study included the university's female and male students (single and married) as the statistical population. Sampling was done in a two-stage stratified and clustered manner by sending an electronic questionnaire. The data collection tool included a checklist for background information and the marriage attitude questionnaire Fallah Chai et al. developed in 2016. After collecting the data, statistical analysis was performed using SPSS version 16, including mean, standard deviation, Mann-Whitney U test to compare the mean attitude towards marriage between boys and girls, and Kruskal Wallis test to compare the attitude towards marriage among single, married, and divorced students.

Results: In a study involving 474 students (310 girls, 164 boys) aged 18 to 40, it was found that the average attitude towards marriage was 27.56 ± 10.23 for female students and 23.03 ± 10.91 for male students. The results of a Man-Whitney U test showed a statistically significant difference in the average attitude towards marriage between girls ($MR_g=257.35$) and boys ($MR_b=199.98$) of students ($z = 4.340$, $p = 0.001$), indicating that female students have a more positive attitude towards marriage than male students. Additionally, the attitude towards marriage varied significantly among single students ($MR_s=243.33$), married students ($MR_m=138.64$), and divorced students ($MR_d=299.33$) ($p = 0.001$, $\chi^2_{square} = 16.018$), suggesting that married students have a more negative attitude towards marriage compared to single and divorced students.

Conclusion and Discussion: The study's findings revealed that female students tend to have a more favorable attitude towards marriage based on gender. Additionally, married students exhibit a more negative outlook toward marriage compared to their single and divorced counterparts. It is concerning that, overall, students' attitudes towards marriage are harmful, and it is recommended that further research be conducted to identify the underlying causes.

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