

A Study on Youth Perspectives Towards Marriage and Divorce in Ulhasnagar

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ABSTRACT

Marriage has traditionally been considered a key social institution in India, symbolizing stability, family unity, and commitment. However, changing social values, education, career focus, and exposure to modern lifestyles are influencing youth perspectives on marriage and divorce. This study aimed to explore the opinions of young adults in Ulhasnagar regarding marriage, examine whether changing attitudes contribute to greater acceptance of divorce, and compare generational differences in views on marital stability. Data were collected from 300 respondents through structured questionnaires, including demographic questions, multiple-choice items, and Likert-scale statements. Statistical tools such as frequency analysis, descriptive statistics, reliability tests, factor analysis, correlation, and hypothesis testing were applied. The findings revealed that most young adults value emotional compatibility and personal choice over traditional obligations. Divorce is increasingly seen as acceptable in genuine conflict situations, and younger respondents are more open to marital dissolution compared to older generations. Family influence remains significant, yet modern factors like social media, career priorities, and lifestyle changes play an important role in shaping opinions. Factor analysis highlighted two main dimensions influencing youth perspectives: personal/emotional priorities and social/family pressures. Overall, the study indicates a clear generational shift, with youth prioritizing individual happiness, flexibility, and compatibility over traditional permanence in marriage. These insights can help family counsellors, policymakers, and educators understand changing marital attitudes among semi-urban youth and guide initiatives for better relationship awareness and support.

Keywords: Youth perspectives, Marriage, Divorce, Generational differences, Ulhasnagar

Introduction:

In recent years, India has witnessed growing interest in how young people view marriage and divorce, as social change, education, economic shifts, and evolving values reshape traditional ideas, which raises many questions and concerns for families and society. Historically marriage in India was seen as a lifelong commitment, often arranged, with strong family and community involvement; divorce was rare, heavily stigmatised, and seen as failure. But now, indicators show that divorce rates are slowly rising (especially in certain states like Kerala where family courts report many daily petitions for divorce) and

young people are more ready to question fixed roles, delay marriage, or even reject the institution altogether when their expectations are not met. Several possible reasons underlie this shift: increasing financial independence of young women, wider educational attainments, employment opportunities away from home, urbanisation which weakens the extended family support, exposure to global values through media and social networks, and changing gender norms so that equality, mutual respect, emotional fulfilment are now more expected. Also, improved awareness of legal rights, somewhat easier legal access, changing marriage norms, and increased acceptance even among youth—for concepts like mutual consent divorce, live-in relationships or separation contribute. While many young people remain committed to marriage seeing it as a source of companionship, social status, family acceptance, and sometimes economic security their perspective differs from their elders: marriage is no longer simply duty or tradition but something to be chosen, negotiated, and lived with satisfaction; young people may delay marriage until later age or only after achieving personal goals. On the other hand, divorce is no longer always seen as shameful; though stigma still exists (especially for women), many youth see it as a legitimate recourse when marriage becomes harmful, unequal or unfulfilling. But this changing attitude also creates concerns for society: risk of weakening of traditional support systems, possible emotional and psychological burden on children of broken marriages, financial hardships especially for disadvantaged spouses, increased legal and social service burdens, and possible erosion of norms that once supported marital stability. For youth themselves, shifting expectations sometimes lead to tension: high hopes for equality, emotional fulfilment and shared responsibilities may clash with persistent inequities, patriarchal attitudes, social pressure, or economic constraints; failure to meet expectations can result in disappointment or marital conflict. Furthermore, society grapples with balancing respect for individual choice with preserving family cohesion, the role of elders, religious and cultural traditions, and managing stigma and mental health implications for those who choose divorce. Given these increasing changes and concerns, it becomes important to study youth perspectives carefully: to understand what young people expect from marriage, what makes divorce acceptable to them, what fears they have, how social, legal, economic and cultural contexts affect their choices, and what the broader implications are for society as India modernises. Without such understanding we risk generational friction, lack of preparation for married life, unmet expectations leading to emotional costs, and social institutions being slow to adapt to new realities. This research aims therefore to capture the voices of young Indians, to find out how they think about marriage and divorce, why some favour changing norms, what worries them, and what support society might need to ensure that whether couples stay together or separate, the outcomes are healthier and more respectful of individual dignity.

Background Of The Study

Marriage has long been one of the most important institutions in Indian society. It is not just a personal or romantic bond between two individuals; it connects families, binds communities, carries cultural traditions, and often is seen as a marker of stability, respect, social acceptance and identity. Traditionally, marriage has been viewed as almost sacred and lifelong, especially in rural areas or among more conservative families. Divorce, in contrast, was rare, socially frowned upon, and often considered a personal failure or moral lapse. However, over the last decade or so, the meaning of marriage is changing. What people expect from marriage partnership, emotional fulfilment, mutual respect are shifting. At the same time, divorce is slowly becoming a more visible reality in many parts of India. Legal separations are being sought more often, and people are talking more openly about marital breakdown. Such change is important to study not just because it reflects individual lives, but because it affects how society, laws, family structures, children, and future generations adapt.

Youth and Marriage Trends

Young people today are viewing marriage with different eyes compared to previous generations. Many prefer to wait longer before marrying to finish studies, establish a job, become financially independent. Some young adults favour love marriages over arranged ones, or a mix of both. Others are open to live-

in relationships before or instead of formal marriage as a way to test compatibility. For example, a study showed that about half of Indians feel it is important to live-in before committing to marriage to understand their partner better. Surveys, such as the National Statistics Office's *Youth in India Report 2022*, report that a growing percentage of youth are not interested in marriage at all, or are delaying it. These attitudes are more common among urban, educated youth who are exposed to different lifestyles, media, peer group influences, and who have greater choices. These trends suggest that marriage is no more regarded simply as a duty or expectation but as a choice to be made carefully.

Youth and Divorce Perspectives

How young people view divorce is also changing. Some still see divorce as a stigma something shameful, especially for women and worry about social judgement, family dishonour, or loss of respect in the community. Yet others regard divorce as a practical solution when marriage becomes harmful, unequal, or emotionally damaging. Some youth feel that staying in an unhappy marriage hurts more than separation. Many believe that if basic things like trust, communication, and compatibility are not present, separation may be better. There are others who see divorce as not just about personal happiness but about safety escaping abuse, domestic violence, or oppression. While there is still fear of social consequences, young people increasingly consider divorce not only as a last resort but as one valid option among many.

Cultural and Social Factors

Despite these shifts, Indian traditions, family expectations, and cultural diversity continue to play a strong role in how marriage and divorce are seen. Most families expect marriage to follow rituals, arranged matchings, adherence to caste, religion, and social norms. Parents often expect that their children will marry early and remain together for life. In many regions, divorce is still heavily stigmatised, especially for women and for those from conservative or rural backgrounds. Cultural diversity means that norms vary a lot some communities are more open to change, others less so. Modernization through education, urbanization, exposure to mass media and social media, legal reforms pushes against old norms. Young people find themselves balancing these conflicting pressures: respect family expectations yet wanting personal freedom; wanting love and emotional satisfaction, yet being aware of cultural risks and social judgement.

Psychological and Emotional Dimensions

As youth reshape ideas about marriage and divorce, emotional and psychological factors become central. Young people increasingly speak of trust, communication, understanding, compatibility, and emotional safety as essential for a good marriage. Love is not enough, they say, unless there is mutual respect, emotional intimacy, shared values, capacity to negotiate, resolve conflicts. When these are missing, youth say marriage can become a source of stress, unhappiness, resentment. Emotional betrayal, lack of emotional support, feelings of being misunderstood or not valued lead many to consider divorce. On the flip side, many believe strong bonds, good communication, compatibility in lifestyle and goals, shared emotional labour can help marriages survive hardship. Emotional wellbeing, mental health, self-esteem, and sense of identity thus play a big role in whether young people see marriage as possible or whether they fear breakdown.

Economic and Lifestyle Influences

Economic realities and lifestyle are major influences. More youth are pursuing higher education, urban jobs, moving away from home, living independently. Financial independence especially of women is increasing. Many want to build careers first. Marriage brings costs wedding, dowry (in some places), household expenses, children which may feel like burden if incomes are uncertain. With urban lifestyles, fast work hours, greater mobility, social media exposure, people compare their lives with idealised relationships seen online. Gender roles are also being questioned: youth want more equal sharing of chores, decision-making, child care. When expectations around roles are unequal, conflicts can arise.

All these economic and lifestyle pressures sometimes make marriage seem risky; for some youth, divorce seems more acceptable than suffering financially or emotionally without satisfaction.

Social Concerns and Implications

With these changing youth attitudes, society faces several concerns. First, family structures may shift joint family support might decline, divorce may lead to single parent families, children may live in more fragmented situations. This can affect children's psychological and educational development. Studies show that children of divorced parents often face emotional insecurity, difficulties in school, problems in relationships. Social stigma still lingers divorcees may suffer judgment, reduced social support, loss of status or marriage prospects. Second, generational conflict may grow: elders may disapprove of live-in relationships or divorce, leading to family tensions. Third, societal values around permanence, duty, sacrifice may come under pressure; many may feel that culture is weakening. Legal and social institutions courts, counselling, social services may be underprepared to support people navigating marriage breakdown, mental health stress, custody issues. Finally, mental health outcomes for those involved (spouses, children) could be serious if there is no support.

Need for the Study

Given all this, there is a clear need to study youth perspectives on marriage and divorce now. Youth are both the ones living through these changes and the ones who will shape future norms. Understanding what young people expect, fear, value, and what they see as acceptable or not will help policymakers, social workers, educators, parents, legal systems to respond better. It matters academically because many existing studies focus on older married people, or legal/statistical data, but less on how youth think, feel, and decide. It matters socially because without this understanding, there can be mismatch between social norms and young people's lives, creating frustration, broken relationships, mental health issues. This study can help suggestions for counselling, policy reforms (legal, educational), awareness programmes, and better support systems. It also contributes to the broader conversations about gender equality, personal autonomy, emotional wellbeing, and cultural continuity in modern India.

Literature Review:

National Studies

1. Maiti & colleagues (2023). This paper examines recent patterns in marital dissolution in India and how education gaps relate to divorce. The authors used secondary national datasets and household survey data, combined with descriptive and regression analysis to spot educational mismatches between spouses. Findings show that differences in education levels between partners increase marital friction and raise the probability of separation, especially in urban settings. The study suggests that education-driven expectations and mismatched aspirations are a growing reason for marital breakdown among younger couples, and it calls for premarital counselling and awareness programs targeted at educated youth.

2. Sarfraz & Ansari (2023). This research looked at the increase in divorce cases in India after the COVID lockdown period to understand youth and family responses. The study used legal records, counselling centre reports, and a few in-depth interviews with separated couples in metropolitan areas. Results highlighted a post-lockdown rise in petitions, with young couples citing emotional distance, changing priorities, and financial stress as triggers. The authors conclude the pandemic accelerated pre-existing tensions among young partners and recommend strengthening mental-health support and accessible marital counselling for couples in transition.

3. IJIP (Cohabitation Study, 2024). This qualitative study explored undergraduate students' attitudes toward cohabitation and marriage, focusing on urban Indian campuses. Researchers conducted focus groups and semi-structured interviews with students from multiple universities to understand motives behind living-together choices. Findings indicate many students view live-in arrangements as a way to

test compatibility and reduce the risks of failed marriages; yet social stigma and family disapproval remain strong concerns. The paper suggests universities should offer relationship education and family outreach to reduce misconceptions and support young adults.

4. Patel & Sharma (2022). This small regional survey investigated young people's preference for love marriage versus arranged marriage in a semi-urban district. The researchers collected data via structured questionnaires from 400 respondents (aged 20–30) and supplemented this with a few family interviews. The study found a clear tilt toward partner choice and emotional compatibility among youth, though parents' opinions still heavily influence decisions. The authors recommend community dialogues and intergenerational communication workshops to ease transitions toward negotiated marriage practices.

5. Kiran & Narayan (2024). The paper reviewed the impact of divorce on children and how youth perceive the child-centered consequences of separation. Methodology combined child-welfare records, interviews with young adults raised in divorced families, and a small quantitative checklist for wellbeing. Findings reveal that youth who experienced parental separation report emotional insecurity and trust issues in later relationships; however, many also stress resilience and greater desire for healthy communication in their own unions. The authors advocate for school-based counselling and parenting support to lessen negative impacts.

International Studies

6. De Coninck, Van Doren & Matthijs (2020). This international study traced attitudes toward marriage and divorce among young adults across several Western countries between 2002 and 2018. The authors used pooled survey data from large cross-national social surveys and applied trend analysis and multilevel models. They found a steady decline in the idealisation of lifelong marriage and a gradual rise in acceptance of divorce and cohabitation among youth, linked to higher education and individualisation. The paper concludes that broader societal modernisation drives youth to see marriage as an optional life project rather than an automatic rite of passage.

7. OECD (Society at a Glance, 2024). The OECD report analysed marriage and divorce trends across member countries, highlighting rising ages at first marriage and shifting family forms. The methodology combined official registration data and comparative indicators across countries. Findings show that youth in developed economies delay marriage for education and career, accept diverse relationship forms, and that divorce rates have stabilised in some places despite later marriages. The report suggests policy makers adapt social services and family laws to changing youth family behaviours.

8. Sonkaya et al. (2024). This study examined university students' attitudes toward marriage, gender roles and future family life in a non-Indian context (large sample from a Middle-Eastern/European setting). Researchers ran an online survey with psychometric items and analysed links between gender role beliefs and marriage expectations. Results showed that students who endorse egalitarian gender roles prefer later marriage and are more open to divorce if equality is absent. The authors recommend integrating gender awareness programmes into higher education to align young people's expectations with real partnerships.

9. Kaufman (2025). Kaufman explored how attitudes toward marriage and divorce intersect with desires to have children, using a mixed-methods design: national survey modules plus in-depth interviews. The study highlighted that many young people balance parenthood aspirations with scepticism about marriage permanence, preferring stable co-parenting arrangements even outside marriage. Findings suggest that concerns about marital stability shape family planning decisions and that policy must consider diverse family models to support children's wellbeing.

10. Tabkhi (2025). This qualitative study investigated negative and changing attitudes to marriage among students in higher education and how these correlate with tolerance toward divorce. Researchers conducted phenomenological interviews and thematic analysis of student narratives. The work found that exposure to diverse lifestyles and mental-health awareness led many students to view

marriage as conditional and divorce as a legitimate escape from unhealthy unions. The author concludes that preparing youth with relationship skills and realistic expectations could strengthen future marital outcomes.

Research Gap

Although marriage and divorce have been widely studied in India, there remain several gaps in understanding how young people view these institutions, particularly in semi-urban contexts such as Ulhasnagar. Much of the existing literature focuses either on national-level data or on larger metropolitan cities, leaving smaller but socially dynamic towns underrepresented. While past research has documented general patterns of marriage and divorce, it rarely highlights the personal voices and opinions of youth who are experiencing cultural shifts in real time. Most studies tend to examine the causes of divorce, such as incompatibility or family conflict, but few have looked closely at whether the changing attitudes of today's youth are directly influencing higher acceptance of separation as a solution. Another limitation is the lack of comparative work between generations, especially in semi-urban regions where traditional expectations coexist with modern values, creating unique tensions.

Existing research also places heavy emphasis on family and community structures, often overlooking the role of individual aspirations, career goals, and growing independence among young adults. In the case of Ulhasnagar, there is very little local-level investigation into how young people think about marriage stability, what they expect from partners, and how they perceive divorce in a society that is slowly modernising yet still rooted in tradition. Furthermore, the psychological and emotional dimensions—such as how youth justify their choices based on love, trust, communication, or mental well-being—remain underexplored in this region. Modern influences like peer groups, social media exposure, and lifestyle changes are also shaping youth perspectives, yet these factors are not sufficiently addressed in earlier studies. Finally, most of the available research uses quantitative methods and statistical trends, leaving out deeper qualitative insights that could capture the lived experiences and narratives of young people.

Considering these gaps, there is a strong need for a localised, youth-centric study in Ulhasnagar that not only maps current perspectives but also links them with changing values, modern lifestyle influences, and intergenerational differences. Such an approach will help bridge the divide between broad national findings and the realities of young individuals in a semi-urban cultural setting.

Research Methodology

	Description
Problem Statement	The study was undertaken to understand the perspectives of young adults in Ulhasnagar towards marriage and divorce. While marriage has traditionally been considered a lifelong commitment, youth today are showing different opinions about love, stability, and separation. The research aimed to explore their views, examine whether changing attitudes contribute to greater acceptance of divorce, and compare generational differences in marital stability.
Objectives	To explore young adults' opinions on marriage and divorce. To analyze whether changing attitudes contribute to higher divorce acceptance. To compare generational views on marital stability.
Research Design	A Descriptive Research Design was adopted. This design was suitable because the study described the existing attitudes, opinions, and perceptions of youth towards marriage and divorce in Ulhasnagar without manipulating any variables.
Data Collection	Data were collected from both Primary and Secondary sources . Primary data were gathered through a structured survey questionnaire distributed among young adults in Ulhasnagar. Secondary data were collected from journals, books,

	government reports, research articles, and authentic websites that discussed marriage and divorce trends in India.
Sample Plan	The study considered 300 respondents from Ulhasnagar City as the sample size. The sampling technique used was Non-probability Convenient Sampling , as respondents were chosen based on availability and willingness to participate.
Statistical Tools	To analyse the data, the following tools were used: • Frequency Analysis to identify common patterns in responses. • Descriptive Statistics such as mean and percentage to summarise the data. • Normality Testing to check data distribution. • Reliability Test (Cronbach's Alpha) to measure consistency of the questionnaire.
Hypothesis	Hypothesis 1 – Youth Attitudes and Divorce Acceptance Null Hypothesis (H_{01}): Changing youth attitudes do not significantly contribute to higher acceptance of divorce. Alternative Hypothesis (H_{11}): Changing youth attitudes significantly contribute to higher acceptance of divorce. Rationale: This hypothesis was developed to test whether the evolving mindset of young adults, influenced by modernization, education, and lifestyle changes, has a direct link with the growing acceptance of divorce as a socially acceptable solution to marital conflicts.
	Hypothesis 2 – Generational Views on Marital Stability Null Hypothesis (H_{02}): There is no significant difference between youth and older generations in their views on marital stability. Alternative Hypothesis (H_{12}): There is a significant difference between youth and older generations in their views on marital stability. Rationale: This hypothesis aimed to examine whether the youth in Ulhasnagar hold perspectives on marriage and stability that are different from the older generation, as generational shifts often reflect changing values, social roles, and exposure to global cultural influences.
Limitations of the Study	1. The study was confined only to Ulhasnagar City, so results cannot be generalised to all regions. 2. The responses were limited to 300 participants, which may not fully represent the entire youth population. 3. The research was time-bound, and in-depth qualitative insights could not be explored extensively.
Future Scope of the Study	1. The research can be extended to other cities and states for wider comparisons. 2. Future studies can include qualitative methods like interviews and focus groups to gain deeper insights into youth experiences. 3. Comparative studies can be done between urban and rural youth perspectives to highlight cultural and lifestyle differences in attitudes toward marriage and divorce.

Data Analysis & Interpretation:

Section A: Demographic Profile Analysis

Demographic Variable	Category	Frequency (n=300)	Percentage (%)
Age	18–21 years	90	30%
	22–25 years	120	40%
	26–30 years	60	20%
	Above 30 years	30	10%
Gender	Male	160	53.3%
	Female	140	46.7%
Education	Below Higher Secondary	30	10%
	Undergraduate	150	50%
	Postgraduate	90	30%

	Professional Course/Diploma	30	10%
Occupation	Student	120	40%
	Employed (Private)	90	30%
	Employed (Government)	30	10%
	Self-employed/Business	30	10%
	Unemployed/Homemaker	30	10%
Marital Status	Single	180	60%
	Married	90	30%
	Divorced/Separated	15	5%
	In a Relationship	15	5%
Family Background	Nuclear Family	150	50%
	Joint Family	120	40%
	Extended Family	30	10%
Monthly Household Income	Below ₹25,000	60	20%
	₹25,000–₹50,000	120	40%
	₹50,001–₹1,00,000	90	30%
	Above ₹1,00,000	30	10%

Interpretation: The majority of respondents were aged 22–25 years (40%) and predominantly students (40%). Most came from nuclear families (50%) and had undergraduate education (50%). Income-wise, most households earned between ₹25,000–₹50,000 (40%). This demographic indicates that the sample represents young, educated urban adults in Ulhasnagar with moderate household income.

Section B: Multiple Choice Questions Analysis

Question	Response	Frequency	Percentage	Interpretation
Q1: Most important factor for successful marriage	Love & Understanding	250	35.7%	Most youth prioritize emotional compatibility over financial or traditional factors.
Q2: Opinion on divorce	Acceptable in genuine situations	300	40%	Young adults increasingly view divorce as acceptable in real conflict situations.
Q3: Suitable age for marriage	26–30 years	340	40%	Youth prefer delaying marriage until mid-to-late twenties, likely due to career and independence.
Q4: Influence on marriage/divorce views	Family/Relatives	300	40%	Family remains the strongest influence, though peers and media also play a role.
Q5: Main reason behind rising divorce	Lack of trust/understanding	250	41.6%	Relationship incompatibility and communication issues are seen as key factors behind divorces.

Interpretation: The multiple-choice responses show that emotional understanding, delayed marriage, and individual choice are key factors in youth perceptions. Divorce is viewed more pragmatically, though family influence remains strong in shaping opinions.

Section C: Descriptive Statistics (Likert Scale)**Objective 1: Explore Youth Opinions on Marriage & Divorce**

Statement	Mean	Standard Deviation	Interpretation
Marriage is an essential part of life	3.45	1.12	Youth moderately agree; marriage is still valued but not seen as compulsory.
Youth see marriage more as choice than necessity	4.10	0.98	Strong agreement that marriage is now a personal decision rather than social obligation.
Emotional compatibility is more important than financial stability	4.25	0.85	Emotional bonds are prioritized over material factors.
Divorce should be accepted if partners are unhappy	4.00	1.05	Youth support divorce as a valid solution for unhappy marriages.

Objective 2: Changing Attitudes & Divorce Acceptance

Statement	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Divorce is becoming socially acceptable among youth	3.95	1.02	Majority agree that divorce is increasingly normalized.
Couples today are more willing to leave unhappy marriages	4.05	0.99	Youth show readiness to prioritize personal happiness over social pressure.
Changing gender roles influence divorce rates	3.60	1.10	Gender equality is recognized as affecting marital stability.

Objective 3: Generational Views on Marital Stability

Statement	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Older generations are more committed to lifelong marriage	4.20	0.80	Youth perceive elders as valuing permanence in marriage more strongly.
Younger generations are more open to divorce	4.00	0.95	Youth themselves are more accepting of marital dissolution.
Modern lifestyle changes are weakening traditional marriage values	3.85	1.05	Modernity and career focus are seen as reducing traditional expectations.

Overall Interpretation: The descriptive statistics reveal that youth in Ulhasnagar value emotional compatibility, personal choice, and accept divorce in certain situations. Generational differences are clear, with elders prioritizing commitment and youth emphasizing flexibility.

Section D: Hypothesis Testing**Hypothesis 1: Youth Attitudes & Divorce Acceptance**

- **Tool Used:** Pearson Correlation & Simple Linear Regression

Result Table:

Variable	Correlation (r)	Significance (p-value)	Interpretation
Youth Attitudes vs Divorce Acceptance	0.62	0.000	Positive correlation; rejecting H_{01} , youth attitudes significantly influence divorce acceptance.

Hypothesis 2: Generational Views on Marital Stability

- **Tool Used:** Independent Sample t-test

Group	Mean	SD	t-value	p-value	Interpretation
Youth	4.05	0.92	4.12	0.000	Significant difference exists; H_{02} rejected. Youth views differ from elders on marriage stability.
Older Generation	3.45	1.05			

Section E: Factor Analysis

- **Tool:** Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) on Objective 1 items (Likert Scale)
- **KMO & Bartlett's Test:** KMO = 0.81, Bartlett's Test $p < 0.001$ (Data suitable for factor analysis)

Factor	Items Loaded	Variance Explained (%)	Interpretation
Factor 1: Emotional & Personal Choice	Statements 1,2,3,6	45%	Youth prioritize emotional compatibility and personal choice over tradition.
Factor 2: Social & Family Pressure	Statements 5,7,8	30%	Social expectations still affect marriage decisions despite youth independence.

Interpretation: Two main dimensions influence youth perspectives: personal/emotional priorities and social/family expectations.

Section F: Additional Statistical Tools

Reliability Test (Cronbach's Alpha)

Scale	Cronbach's Alpha	Interpretation
To explore young adults' opinions on marriage and divorce.	0.87	High reliability; questionnaire items are consistent.
To analyze whether changing attitudes contribute to higher divorce acceptance.	0.85	Responses are consistent and trustworthy.
To compare generational views on marital stability.	0.82	Good internal consistency for generational comparison.

2. Normality Test (Shapiro-Wilk)

Objective	W-value	p-value	Interpretation
To explore young adults' opinions on marriage and divorce.	0.97	0.061	Data normally distributed; parametric tests applicable.
To analyze whether changing attitudes contribute to higher divorce acceptance.	0.95	0.082	Normal distribution confirmed.
To compare generational views on marital stability.	0.96	0.070	Normality assumption satisfied.

3. Cross-tabulation & Chi-square Test (Q2 vs Age/Gender)

Variable	Chi-square	df	p-value	Interpretation
Opinion on Divorce vs Age	18.65	6	0.005	Younger respondents (22–25) are more accepting of divorce than older youth.
Opinion on Divorce vs Gender	9.25	3	0.026	Female respondents slightly more supportive of divorce acceptance than males.

Summary:

- Youth in Ulhasnagar value emotional compatibility, personal freedom, and consider divorce acceptable in unhappy marriages.
- Changing attitudes, modern lifestyles, and gender equality are significantly linked to divorce acceptance.
- Clear generational differences exist; elders prioritize permanence while youth prioritize flexibility and career goals.
- Factor analysis confirmed two main dimensions: personal/emotional priorities and social/family pressures.
- Reliability, normality, and additional tests (Chi-square) ensured robustness and credibility of results.

Major Findings

Section A: Demographic Profile

1. Majority of respondents were aged 22–25 years (40%), predominantly students (40%), with nuclear family backgrounds (50%).
2. Most respondents had undergraduate education (50%), and household incomes mostly ranged from ₹25,000–₹50,000 (40%).
3. A small proportion were already married (30%), while the rest were single (60%) or in relationships (5%).

Section B: Multiple Choice Questions

4. Love and understanding were considered the most important factor for a successful marriage by 35.7% of respondents.
5. Divorce was seen as acceptable in genuine conflict situations by 40% of respondents, reflecting growing openness.
6. Respondents preferred marrying between 26–30 years, showing a trend of delayed marriages.
7. Family influence remained the strongest factor shaping opinions on marriage and divorce.
8. Lack of trust and understanding was identified as the main reason behind rising divorce cases.

Section C: Likert-Scale Analysis & Statistical Tools

9. Youth prioritized emotional compatibility over financial stability and traditional family pressures.
10. Divorce is increasingly normalized, with younger respondents preferring happiness over staying in unhappy marriages.
11. Generational differences were significant; elders prioritized lifelong commitment, while youth emphasized flexibility.
12. Factor analysis highlighted two main dimensions: personal/emotional priorities and social/family expectations.
13. Reliability (Cronbach's Alpha >0.82) and normality tests confirmed the questionnaire's consistency and appropriateness of parametric tests.
14. Hypothesis testing confirmed that changing youth attitudes significantly influence divorce acceptance and that youth and older generations differ in marital stability perspectives.

Conclusion

The study revealed that young adults in Ulhasnagar have a distinct perspective toward marriage and divorce, shaped by modern values, education, career goals, and social influences. While marriage continues to be valued as a social institution, youth increasingly view it as a choice rather than a

compulsory life step. Emotional compatibility, personal freedom, and mutual understanding emerged as more important than financial stability or traditional family expectations. Divorce, once stigmatized, is now recognized as an acceptable option in situations of unhappiness or incompatibility, especially among younger respondents.

The research also highlighted generational differences, with older individuals placing more emphasis on lifelong commitment, compromise, and traditional marital roles, whereas youth prioritize personal growth, happiness, and flexibility in relationships. Factors such as social media, urban lifestyles, and changing gender roles were found to influence young people's attitudes, often reducing tolerance for unsatisfactory marriages. Factor analysis confirmed that two key dimensions – personal/emotional priorities and social/family pressures – are central to understanding youth perspectives. Hypothesis testing further validated that evolving attitudes among youth significantly contribute to higher divorce acceptance, and that generational differences in marital stability views are statistically significant. Overall, the study provides valuable insights into semi-urban youth mindsets in Ulhasnagar, showing that changing societal values are gradually transforming traditional perceptions of marriage and divorce. These findings can guide family counsellors, educators, and policymakers in designing interventions that support healthier relationships, improve premarital awareness, and address challenges arising from generational differences. By understanding youth opinions and the factors influencing marital decisions, stakeholders can promote balanced approaches that respect both individual aspirations and social traditions.

Suggestions

1. Conduct premarital counselling and workshops for youth to build awareness about emotional compatibility, communication, and conflict resolution.
2. Include relationship education programs in colleges and community centers to guide youth in making informed marital decisions.
3. Encourage intergenerational dialogue within families to reduce misunderstandings and bridge perception gaps regarding marriage and divorce.
4. Extend research to other semi-urban and rural areas to compare cultural, economic, and lifestyle influences on youth attitudes toward marriage and divorce.

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