



ATTITUDE OF CIVIL SOCIETY TOWARDS INTER CASTE MARRIAGES

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Abstract

Marriage is a sacred institution which binds both the woman and man in a pious relation. It gives this relation meaning. Marriage with in the same caste means that both the boy and girl belong to the same community. Inter -caste marriage means girl and boy are from different castes where one member belongs to lower caste. The caste, creed and culture are the three most important elements, which are kept on the high priority list. For years, Indians had an orthodox mindset. They could not imagine inter -caste marriages.

They had a conception that marriages are only possible in the same caste and community. Talking about inter- caste and inter- religious marriages in India was a taboo for most people in the earlier days. However, with time, things changed and inter- caste marriage also became a part of the society. Inter- caste marriages are regarded as the most important social customs and hence, were viewed as the best means to remove the barrier of caste-system. When God created men and women, he has not assigned any caste on them. So, how can the human beings divide God s created world into castes and communities.

Customs and religious practised were so strict and merciless that even sometimes the boy and girl were hacked to death by their parents due to the pressures from the society. However, with time things changed and inter- caste marriage also became a part of the society. Today, in Indian society, though we can see inter- caste marriages, but mostly it is the part of the city culture. The rural parts of the country still have a long way to go

Introduction:

Marriages are made in heaven. This is a well known saying. When two people meet and their marriage is solemnized, it is believed that this is the wish of God. Marriage may be in the same caste or it may be inter-caste. Marriages within the same caste mean that both boy and girl belong to the same community. Inter caste marriages means girl and boy are from different castes where one member belongs to lower caste.

Marriage is a sacred institution which binds both the woman and man in a pious relation. It gives this relation a meaning. When a marriage takes place, two souls are united and this opens new vistas in their lives. But, human beings are so selfish that have virtually spoiled the sacredness of these relations. When god created man and women, he has not assigned any caste on them. So, how the human beings can divided god's created world into caste and communities. The Things do not end up here. From the time of king and Queens, caste system has been practiced. In earlier days, it was customary to marry in the same castes. If anyone dares to disobey the rules of the society, he was confined to severe punishments. Whole community was barred from keeping any relation with the family where an inter-caste marriage has taken place. Customs and religions practiced were so strict and merciless that even sometimes the boy and girl were hacked to death by their own family members due to the pressures from the society. Sometimes young hearts were separated by marrying them off to other boy and girl of the same caste. This way the lovers were separated by their own relatives. There are lots of such incidents where we can find the merciless punishments inflicted by the opposition parties of the inter-caste marriages. With more globalization and increase in educational facilities, there is great change in the views of people. As modernization has affected every section of society, inter-caste marriages have also received acceptance from the people in urban and modern societies. There has been wide change in the social scenario. Parents and relatives of lovers have been coming up with more open minds with wide acceptance of marriages outside their own castes.

But in some regions which lack exposure to the education and modern society culture, things have remained unchanged. There are still oppositions by the members of different castes if they encounter any incident of inter-caste marriages. These societies need some change of views so that young hearts could unite and live happily. A good relation needs understanding and devotion from boy and girl to blossom.

INTER CASTE MARRIAGES: Marriages are made in heaven. This is a well known saying. When two people meet and their marriage is solemnized, it is believed that this is the wish of god. Marriage is a sacred institution which binds both the woman and man in a pious relation. It gives this relation a meaning. When a marriage takes place, two souls are united and this opens new vistas in their lives. But, human beings are so selfish that have virtually spoiled the sacredness of these relations. Marriages in India, has always been the biggest concern for the Indian families. Lot of importance is given to the sir name carried by the bride or the groom. In fact, the respect and dignity of a person is attached to his sir name, as in who were his ancestors and to which family name he belongs. The caste, creed and culture are the three most important elements, which are kept on the high priority list. The bride and the groom surely have to match each other's religions, community, language, culture and region. Without matching each other's religious and richness status, the bride and the groom are strictly not allowed to tie marriage knots with each other. For years, Indians had an orthodox mindset. They couldn't imagine inter caste marriages. They had a conception that marriages are only possible in the same community and caste. Talking about inter caste and inter religion marriages in India was a taboo for most people in the earlier days. However, with time, things changed and inter caste marriage also became a part of the society. Marriages are regarded as the most important social custom and hence, were viewed as the best means to remove the barrier of caste system. Today, in Indian society, though we can see inter caste marriages, but mostly it is the part of the city culture. The rural parts of the country still have a long way to go. Customs and religions practiced were so strict and merciless that even sometimes the boy and girl were hacked to death by their own family members due to

the pressures from the society. Sometimes young hearts were separated by marrying them off to other boy or girl of the same caste. This way the lovers were separated by their own relatives. There are lots of such incidents where you can find the merciless punishments inflicted by the opposition parties of the inter caste marriages.

PRESENT SCENARIO: People have realized that a successful marriage is not dependent on factors such as same caste and religion. It is on the other hand, built on the aspects of mutual understanding and compatibility. It is how well the two understand each other's need and feel for your partner. It is not necessary that you have to belong to the same community or caste to understand your spouse better. Today, there are ample of examples when two people from totally different background and lifestyle come together and spend their entire life happy with each other, thanks to education. Education has broadened the periphery of thinking and helped people develop analytical powers. It has not only altered their perception about life, but also about social concerns such as marriage and relationship. Inter caste and inter religion marriages serves as a beacon light for social equality. In order to break the perils of caste-system, it has becomes incumbent that there should be inter-caste marriages. Marriage is mostly dependent on true love and feeling and once this is achieved, caste and religion all becomes secondary issues. With more globalization and increase in educational facilities, there is great change in the views of people. As modernization has affected every section of society, inter caste marriages have also received acceptance from the people in urban and modern societies. There has been wide change in the social scenario. Parents and relatives of the lovers have been coming up with more open minds with wide acceptance of marriages outside their own castes. But in some regions which lack exposure to the education and modern society culture, things have remained unchanged. There are still oppositions by the members of different castes if they encounter any incident of inter caste marriage. These societies need some change of views so that young hearts could unite and live happily. A good relation needs understanding and devotion from boy and girl to blossom. If there are malpractices like caste system, then there will be unhealthy marital relations who increase the rate of divorces and mutual misunderstandings. Though, most of the families in India, have started accepting their children's conducting inter- caste marriages, but there still a huge number of people are left in the country who need to understand that there is nothing more important than the happiness of their children and they need to mould their views in accordance to the changing times and accept their children's choices for the sake of their happy married life. Government should come forward to make such policies and rules which can encourage marriage between the members of two different castes. There should be some type of appreciation from the government so that more inter caste marriages can take place. Though government has taken many steps to improve the situation but still there is a great need to implement more measures to make the situation happier. It's time now to join hand and support young heart to choose their life partner of their choice.

HISTORY OF INTER-CASTE MARRIAGES: Inter-Caste marriage is a term used in South Asia and Middle- Eastern countries for a marriage where the couples are from two different social groups. e.g. different races, clans or castes. It is related to exogamy, where marriages is allowed only outside of a social group and opposed to endogamy, arranged and forced marriages

From the time of Kings and Queens, caste-system has been practiced. In earlier days, it was customary to marry in the same castes. If anyone dares to disobey the rules of the society he was confined to serve punishments. Whole community was barred from keeping any relation

with the family where inter-caste marriage had taken place. Customs and religions practiced were so strict and merciless that even sometimes the boy and girl were hacked to death by their own family members due to the pressures from the society. Indians had an orthodox mindset. They could not imagine inter-caste marriages beyond the same caste, community and religion. Marriage should be in the same caste and community and who so ever dare for the inter-caste marriage face the consequences in terms violence, social boycott, family boycott, and death of the boys and girls. **ENCOURAGING INTER-CASTE MARRIAGES:** In India, inter caste marriages were publicly encouraged and supported by politicians such as C. N. Annadurai, the first Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, and social activists such as Periyar E. V. Ramasamy, Raghupathi Venkataratnam Naidu and Manthena Venkata Raju.

TYPES OF INTER CASTES

- **Anulom Vivah**
- **Pratilom Vivah**
- **Famous inter caste pairs**

Famous inter caste pairs in bollywood

Name	Caste	Wife's name	Caste
Amitabh Bachan	Srivastava, Kayastha	Jaya Bachchan	Bhaduri, Bengali Brahmin
Dharmendra	Deol, Jat	Hema Malini	Lyengar, Tamil Brahmin
Kabir Bedi	Khatri	Protima Bedi	Vaishya or Bania
Rajesh Khanna	Khatri	Dimple Kapadia	Vaishya or Bania
Salim Khan, writer	Pathan	Salma	Rajput
Ajay Devgan	Tarkhan Ramgarhia OBC	Kajol	Mukherjee, Bengali Brahmin
Abhishek Bachan	Srivastava, Kayastha	Aishwarya Rai	Bunt OBC

Famous Inter caste pairs in politics

Name	Caste	Wife's name	Caste
Dr. Br. Ambedkar	Mahar SC	Dr. Savita Ambedkar	Saraswat Brahmin
Ram Vilas Paswan	Dushadh SC	Reena Sharma	Punjabi Brahmin
Prakash Yashwant Ambedkar	Mahar SC	Dr. Anjali Maydev	Chitpavan Brahmin
Udit Raj	Khatik SC	Seema	Khatri
Sachin Pilot	Gujjar	Sarah	Sheikh, ancestors from Brahmin
Gopinath Munde	Banjara OBC	Pradanya Mahajan	Chitpavan Brahmin
Dushyant Singh	Maratha, Kshatriya	Niharika Singh	Gujjar

MD NATRAJ CASE: Dr. M.D Nataraj was the son in law of Late Devaraj Urs. The ex. chief Minister of Karnataka. He was instrumental in establishing the iron of Devaraj Urs in state politics by forming the notorious: "Indira Brigade" with the former Bangalore underworld don M.P Jayaraj at its helm. Nataraj's marriage with Devraj Urs's daughter was a

love marriage and inters caste marriage, which did not long, Nagaratna Urs was found dead in awe which was the beginning of end of both Devaraj Urs and MD Nataraj.

Caste system has been a rigid part of Indian customs since ages. It is an evil that has made the rules and regulations of the Hindu tradition biased and unfair. Discrimination based on the caste system has ruined the society and created differences among the people belonging to different castes. Marriage is a sacred institution especially in context of Indian customs. Even when the world has become so advanced there are people who follow strict caste rules. Marriages in the Hindu society are caste driven; inter-caste marriages are considered to be a sin and are not approved by the elders.

There are various reasons because of which elders in the Hindu society flinch away from inter-caste marriages like:

- They fear of the societal norms and social standing
- Loss of reputation
- The cultural difference- they believe that the couple will not be able to settle down and religiously follow each other's culture
- They believe that the children born out of the inter-caste marriage will not be perfect
- Torture that the family and the couple has to face at the hands of the society

THE ILL-EFFECTS OF NOT APPROVING THE INTER-CASTE MARRIAGES:

- Hampering the growth of the society
- Create fissures among different social groups and castes
- Poses a threat to the national unity
- Various love couples either end their life or are killed\

STEPS CAN BE TAKEN TO CONVINCING THE PEOPLE TO ACCEPT THE INTER-CASTE MARRIAGES TREND

It is the responsibility of the younger generation to make their elders realize that the rigid caste system is morbid and has a dark future ahead. The youngsters can take various steps on their part to demolish this system:

- The girl or boy should be introduced as a friend to the family and be allowed to earn their love and respect
- The qualities of the person you love should be highlighted in front of the family members
- Try and learn the customs of each other's caste. This will enable you to earn the love of the family members
- Try and show your family members how this kind of systems are obstructing the progress of the nation

STEPS THAT HAVE BEEN ALREADY TAKEN:

- Government of India has made different laws to encourage inter-caste marriages
- Social activists and groups are actively contributing to the create awareness among the people of the hazards of not accepting the inter-caste-marriages
- Movies, plays, street plays, demonstrations, etc. have been used to demonstrate that inter-caste marriages should be allowed
- Even after so much is done to curb this system yet it remains a social taboo. People of all castes have to stand together and fight this evil. Our write up is an effort to make you aware of the problems that are caused when inter-caste marriages are not accepted and is also an attempt to give suggestions to tackle them.

SIGNIFICANCE OR IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY: If, we look at the old times, marrying a person belonging to another caste was not allowed in the Indian society. People were bound to get married in the same caste and religion and if a person wanted to get

married to a person of different caste, he or she was killed. Also in the earlier times parents would select the perfect match for their children within the same religion and background. But now with the modernization of the families and awareness of the people, inter caste marriages are no longer treated as big taboo in the Indian society. Today, most of the parents don't feel the need to do the match making for their children, as the younger generation is capable of finding a match for themselves, commonly ignoring the 'caste rule'.

The main reason behind this taboo of caste was education. People were not properly educated, but today with the help of education the unthinkable inter-caste marriages situation is now possible. Education also helped the people to become more open minded and killed many superstitions that were hindering the growth of our society. Earlier there were even rules stating that girls have to get married to an elder groom or a groom of her age. But this practice has now ended as parents have given freedom to their daughters to choose the right partner for themselves.

With the drastic changes in the society, people have realized that successful marriages are not contingent on same caste and religion. It basically depends upon other factors like mutual understanding, trust, similar habits, background and compatibility. Also, there are numerous examples of people coming from different background, caste, religion etc. getting married and living happily even after. After all, ending this problem will solve country towards development. Different people in civil society have different views on inter caste marriages. Some are in favor and some are in disfavor. The investigator wants to analyze the reason of different attitude towards inter-caste marriages and also wants to make the people aware that how such malpractices like caste system hinders the progress of the nation. Caste system is not a social evil in fact such practices like inter-caste marriage bring communal harmony and national unity that leads to the progress of the country.

With the changing trends in society, this change has taken place mostly in the cities. Though proper education has changed the mindset of people for the inter-caste marriage, but the situation is same in all the rural areas of the country. Even today, in villages across India, people are forced to get married in their caste only or else they were will disowned or killed. This point can be proved by the recent 'honour killings' that took place some time ago. Clearing the thoughts of urban people for inter caste marriages will not work, as rural people should be educated more about it. After all, ending this problem will solve many other related issues and lead our country towards development.

Last, but not least, it can be said that the modern education has broaden the minds of the people regarding the inter caste marriages. That is why the developed countries like U.S.A, china, Great Britain, France, Germany etc are encouraging inter caste marriages and the taboo which is prevailing in developing and developed countries is being ruled out. It has been proved by different thinkers that the practice of inter-caste marriages is becoming instrumental for positive interaction among different sections of society. Education makes a drastic society have two different views about inter-caste marriages but education wake up, aware and guides the individual to do inter caste marriages openly and feely. Gradually, people are moving towards societies in which race will cease to matter as much as it has in the past. Education has made the people of almost all the communities aware that inter-caste marriages are not harmful.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY: The present study has achieved the following objectives:-

1. To prepare an attitude scale for knowing the attitude of civil- society towards inter-caste marriages.

2. To test the attitude of different members of civil-society towards inter-caste marriage locality wise, profession wise and sex wise.
3. To find out the percentage among professionals, sex, religion, age and locality separately.
4. To study educational implications based on the findings of the study.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY:

1. There was no significant difference in the attitude of different members of civil society towards inter-caste marriage locality wise, profession wise & sex wise.
2. There was no percentage difference between professionals, sex religion, age and locality separately.
3. There were no significant educational implications based on the findings of the study.

DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY: The present study was carried out under the following restrictions.

1. The present study was confined to civil society only.
2. The study was confined to 200 members of the civil society.
3. The attitude of civil society was measured with the help of self prepared scale.
4. The study was confined to teachers, lawyers & doctors.

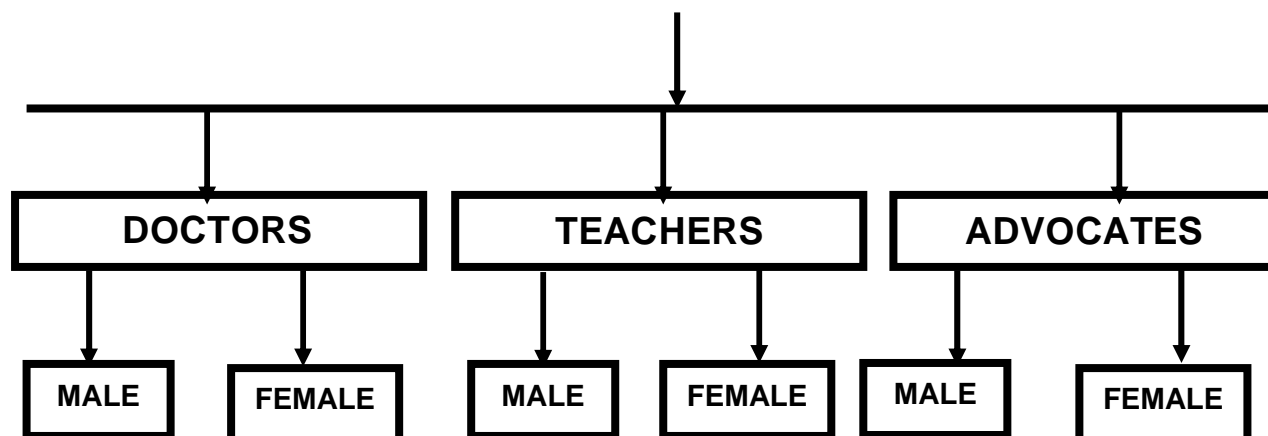
METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY: Methodology is a system of broad principles or rules from which specific methods or procedures may be derived to interpret or solve some different problems within a scope of particular discipline unlike an algorithm, a methodology is not a formula but a set of practices. Sampling is the basis of all the statistical methodology of research. It is very difficult to arrive at generalization without having a representative sample. The investigator can never collect data from the whole population in any investigation. He/she has to take selected groups of individuals which would represent the whole population and form the basis for making inferences about certain population facts. Sampling is the soul of all kinds of research. The size of sampling differs from the study to study and the nature of population. A good sample minimizes the errors of estimates and produces a result very much approaching the population and generalization would be effective. It also reduces the time, efforts and money. The methodology of the study comprises of research method, population, sample, tool and statistical technique.

RESEARCH METHOD: Descriptive survey method was adopted for the present study.

POPULATION OF THE STUDY: Doctors, Advocates and Teachers of civil –society of Poonch District of Jammu and Kashmir state had constituted the population of the study.

SAMPLE OF THE STUDY: The sample was selected from 200 members of Poonch District such as doctors, teachers and Lawyer of the civil-society in order to study their attitude towards inter-caste marriages.

SAMPLE DESIGN



TOOLS EMPLOYED: The measuring instruments are used in the present study to elicit information regarding the attitude of members of civil society towards inter-caste marriage is Attitude scale. For measuring the Attitude self prepared scaling was used. The Attitude scale consists of 22 items. In this scale some statements are given related to inter-caste marriages. Inter- caste marriage means a marriage where the couples are from two different social groups. If the individual agrees with any given statement then he/she has put a tick mark (v) in front of the relevant statement. The present scale is valid technique to measure inter-caste marriages from Lawyers, Doctors and Teachers.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUE: The following statistical technique was employed in the analysis of the data.

i).The investigator has calculated the simple percentage and to show in bar chart for indicating the attitude of rural and urban as well as the occupational views toward inter-caste marriages.

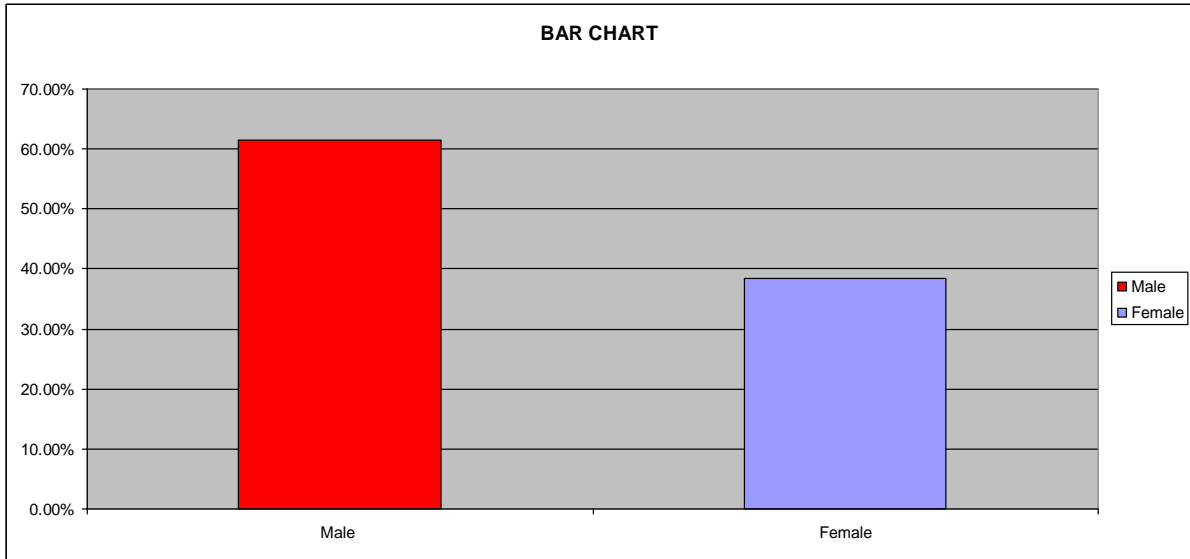
PROCEDURE FOR DATA COLLECTION: The data was collected from civil society of Poonch District which consists of doctors, lawyers and teachers by administering the tool used. Statements were used to collect the necessary data. Statements are preferred for this study because it is a means of supplying the researcher with quantifiable data that are readily available for statistical analysis. In order to collect the data on the variable, inter-caste marriage, attitude scale (English version) was used in an adopted version.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

GENDER; TABLE NO.1

S.No	Gender	N	%within Gender	Total
01.	Male	123	61.5%	100%
02.	Female	77	38.5%	

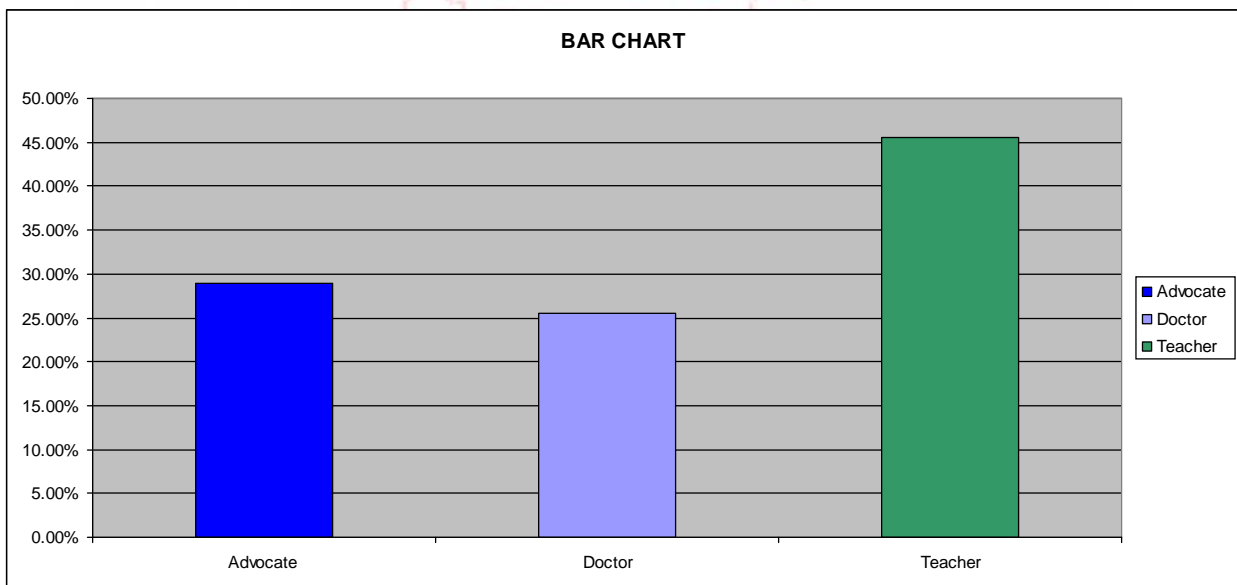
The Table No.1 of gender shows that 61.5% of Male members of the society strongly are in favour of inter- caste marriages. It exhibits that they are supporting inter-caste marriages while the female of the society are also in favour but not strongly. Hence, it shows that their percentage is meagre i.e, 38.5 % comparatively to the male overall.



PROFESSION; TABLE NO.2

S.No.	Profession	N	% within profession	Total
01.	Advocate	58	29.0%	100%
02.	Doctor	51	25.5%	
03.	Teacher	91	45.5%	

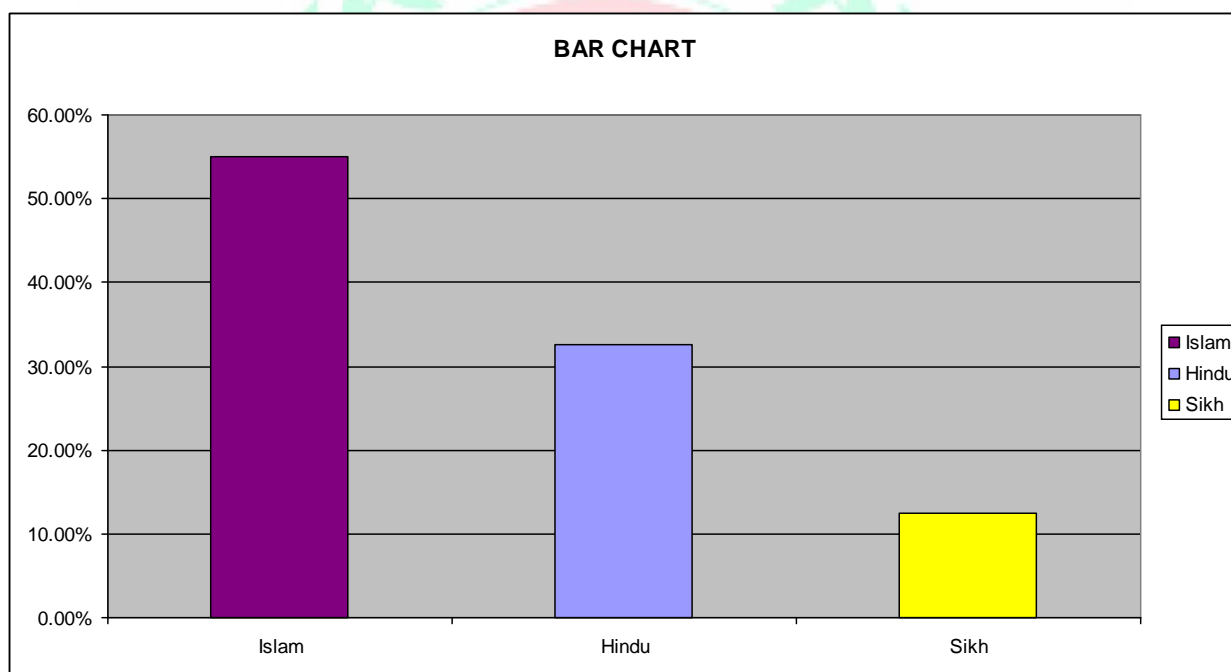
According to this Table No. 2 of profession a large percentage of teachers i.e, 45.5 % are interested in inter-caste marriages whereas advocates reveal their interest towards inter-caste marriages 29.0 %. Doctors are showing less interest and their percentage is 25.5% as compared to teachers and advocates.



RELIGION; TABLE NO.3

S.No.	Religion	% within religion	Total
01	Islam	55.0%	100%
02	Hindu	32.5%	
03	Sikh	12.5%	

Inter-caste is totally depending on religion. This Table No.3 of religion is depicting that Islam provides a very high percentage i.e, 55.0 %.Hindu community is also in favour of inter-caste marriage but less than Islam and their percentage ratio is 32.5% It has been seen that 12.5% is given by Sikh community. So, we can say that Sikh community is least interested in inter-caste marriage than the rest of the communities.



AGE; TABLE NO.4

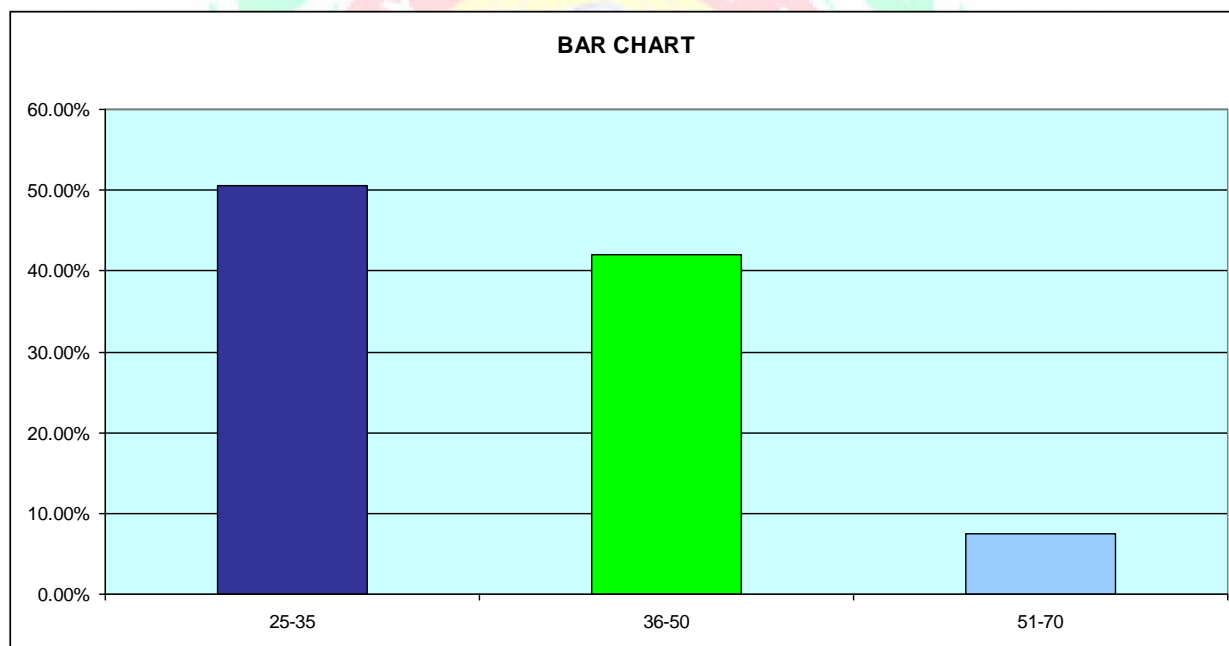
S No.	Age	Stages	% within age	Total
01	25-35	Young	50.5%	100%
02	36-50	Middle	42.0%	
03	51-70	Old	7.5%	

The Table No.4 of age is divided into three stages – Young, Middle and Old. The data of age provides us the clear print that 50.5% of young generation is strongly in favour of inter- caste marriages. Whereas, the middle aged people are also favouring inter- caste marriages and their percentage is 42.0%. This table shows the percentage of old aged people i.e, 7.5%. Hence, we can conclude by saying that young generation is strongly in favour of inter-caste marriages, the middle aged people also show very high interest, but less than young generation. Old aged people are very less interested than the o

DISCUSSION

GENDER, PROFESSION, AGE AND RELIGION; TABLE NO.5

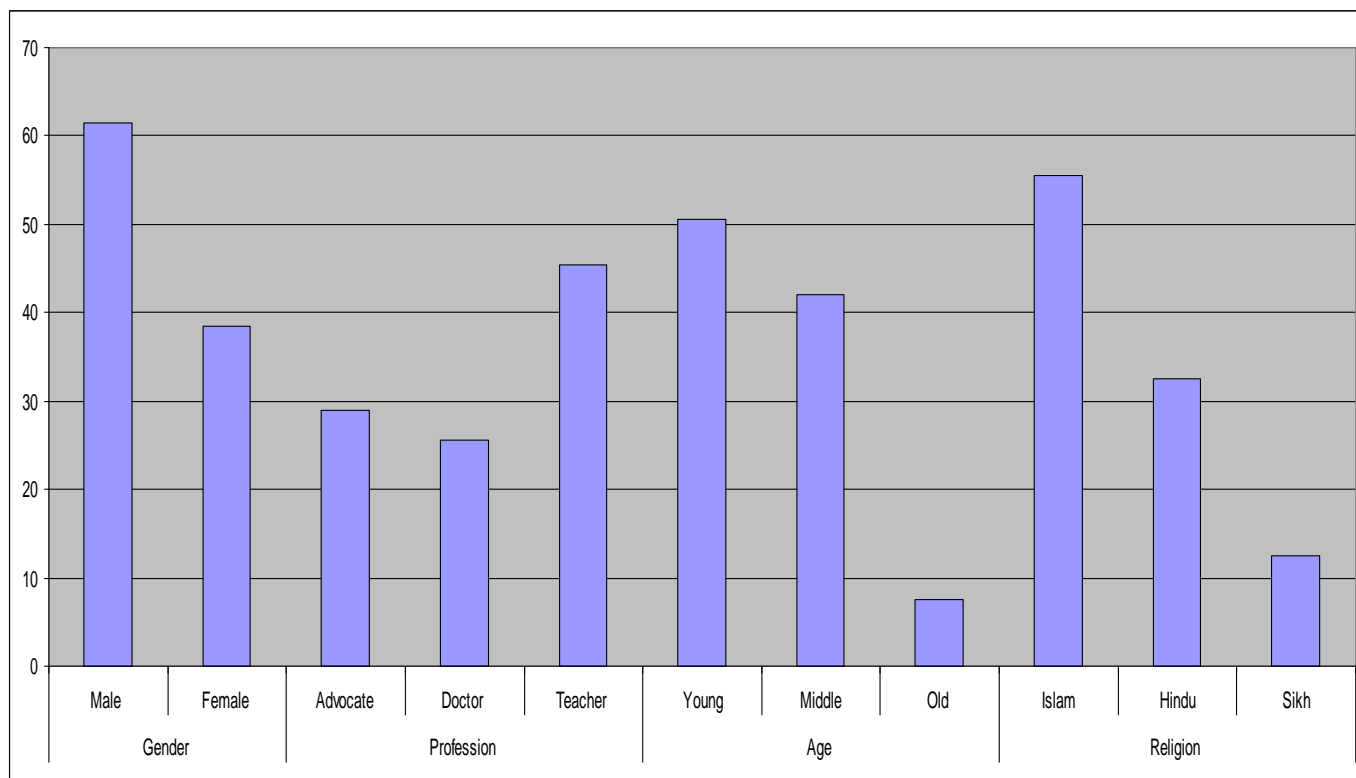
S.No			N	%	Total
01	Gender	Male	123	61.5%	100%



		Female	77	38.5%	
02	Profession	Advocate	58	29.0%	100%
		Doctor	51	25.5%	
		Teacher	91	45.5%	

03	Age	Young	50.5%	100%
		Middle	42.0%	
		Old	7.5%	
04	Religion	Islam	55.5%	100%
		Hindu	32.5%	
		Sikh	12.5%	

The Table No. 5 of gender shows the percentage of Male and Female members of the civil - society. The Male members are supporting inter – caste marriages, because their percentage is high i.e,61.5 % whereas the female members are also in favour, but not strongly because their percentage is less i.e, 38 % than the male members of the society. The table of profession also indicates that 45.5% of Teachers are favouring inter- caste marriages, the Advocates are showing 29.0 % interest, whereas the Doctors also show 25.5 % interest. The table of religion is depicting that Islam provides a very high percentage and the percentage is 55.0 %. Hindu community is also in favour of inter – caste marriages and their is32.5 %. It has been seen that Sikh community is supporting 12.5 % towards inter caste marriages. The table of religion depicts that Sikh community is less interested than the rest of two communities. The fourth table of age clearly shows that 50.5 % of young generation indicates high interest. Middle aged people are 42.0 5 interested in inter- caste marriage. Those people who came under the age group 51-70 show less interest i.e, 7.5 % than the rest of the two age groups such as young and middle aged.



EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS: Education has broadened the periphery of thinking and helped people to develop analytical power. It can be said that the modern education has broadened the minds of the people regarding the inter caste marriages .That is why the developed countries like U.S.A. ,China, Great Britain, France, Germany etc, are encouraging inter caste marriages and the taboo which is prevailing in developing and developed countries is being ruled out. It has not only altered their perception about life, but also about social concerns such as marriage and relationship. Inter- caste and inter-religion marriage serves as beacon light for social quality. With the changing social scenario, a change in the mindset of the people can be seen, but mostly among the city people. Though people in cities have learned the nuances of caste system and the positives of inter-caste marriage, the villages of India have still not welcomes the concept of inter- caste marriages. The villages of India, even today people are very rigid in matters of marriages. They prefer that their sons and daughters should marry in the same caste and community else they disown their son and daughter. Though there have been numerous incidents of the wife attempting suicide or being murdered, this has still not evaded the theory of caste system. People in villages need to be taught about the menaces of caste-system and initiatives should be taken to fight against it. After all, a marriage is all about coming together of two souls, irrespective of social background and class.

CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY: The current study found that there is significant difference between the Attitudes of different members of civil society in inter- caste marriages of Poonch District. By doing my research work it was found that all these four hypothesis of Synopsis are not related to my study. In hypothesis 1 there was no significant difference in the attitude of different members of civil- society towards inter-caste marriage locality wise, profession wise and sex- wise, but in my research work there is significant difference in the attitude of different members of civil- society towards inter-caste marriages.

In Hypothesis 2, there was no percentage difference between professionals, sex, religion and locality separately. In my study there is percentage difference between professionals, sex, religion and locality separately. In hypothesis 3 of Synopsis there were no educational implications based on the findings of the study, but in my result a large number of educational implications based on the findings of the study were seen.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH: While carrying out this small piece of investigation certain problems have occurred to researchers which may be taken up by further interested persons in the area of study.

1). Present study was limited to inter- caste marriage only but further study can be undertaken in other aspects i.e. inter-religious marriages etc.

2).The scope of the present study can be enlarged by including other professions like Defence Services, Businessman, Politicians, etc.

3).Similar study can be conducted from different Districts of Jammu and Kashmir, as it was confined to Poonch district only.

4).Similar study should be conducted on a large scale sample in entire state for future study.

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