

EXPECTATIONS FROM THE LIFE PARTNER – AN EMPIRICAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The Stages of Expectations from the Life Partner have been classified into three categories namely Monetary Orientation and Attraction; Intellectual and Psychological Support; Care and Respect. The first stage; in general; prevails between the Age Group of Twenty five to Forty five. (25 to 45). The second stage; in general; prevails between the Age Group of Forty six to Sixty six (46 to 66). The third stage; in general; prevails between the Age Group of Sixty seven and above (67 and above).

The age of different stages is flexible. It seems to be difficult to settle the exact age because several complicated and dynamic factors are involved. While the Second Stage progresses; youngsters belonging to High Class may get involved in many Illicit Relationships. Some old ladies have opined that in the first stage of Life Cycle; 'Love' is needed to be 'Stolen;' in the second stage; it is needed to be 'Shared' whereas in the third stage; it is needed to be 'Demanded' from the partner. In the Research Paper; there is a focus on the Expectations of the Life Partners which keep on changing with the advancement in the stage of human life.

Keywords : Couple Compatibility, Emotional Dilemma, Initial Enthusiasm, Enormous Sacrifice, Gigantic Compromise

INTRODUCTION

As a matter of fact; the expectations of the life partners from each other keep on changing from time to time. At the time of settlement of Marriage; they may revolve around two main factors namely; *Monetary Orientation* of the partner and *Attraction* towards the partner. However; as the time elapses; these two factors no more fulfill the expectations of the partners from each other. They are replaced by the two other main factors namely *Psychological* and *Intellectual Support*. Further; as more time elapses; even these two factors are replaced by the two other factors namely *Care and Respect* for each other.

This narration should not be misinterpreted that the two main factors; namely Monetary Orientation and Attraction; responsible for the settlement of Marriage are not; at all; required in the later stage of Marriage; but relative significance of these factors comes down. Likewise; the two main factors; namely Intellectual and Psychological Support; required in the second stage of Marriage for fulfillment of expectations from each other; are needed even in the third stage of marriage; but their relative impression comes down.

RESEARCH PAPER OBJECTIVES–

The following are the Objectives of the Research Paper.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE –

1. To Discuss the Expectations of the Life Partners in different Stages of Marriage

SECONDARY OBJECTIVE -

1. To Identify the Causes of Illicit Relationships

RESEARCH PAPER SCOPE –

The Scope of the Research Paper extends to the Discussion of the Expectations of the Life Partners from each other in different Stages of Marriage and Identification of the Causes of Illicit Relationships observed in the Society.

RESEARCH PAPER METHODOLOGY –

- (a) The Methodology adopted for writing the research Paper is '*Observation.*'
- (b) Primary Data is collected through *informal Social interactions*; with the Select Couples; initiated with *Unstructured Disguised Questionnaire.*

STAGES OF EXPECTATIONS -

The Stages of Expectations from the life partner have been classified into three different categories; quite conveniently; by the Researcher for the sake of Clarity and Simplicity for the purpose of the Research Paper; as follows.

- A. **Monetary Orientation and Attraction**
- B. **Intellectual and Psychological Support**
- C. **Care and Respect.**

Let us discuss each of these stages in detail in the following lines.

A. Monetary Orientation and Attraction – This is; in general; observed or experienced to be the stage which primarily helps to settle the marriages; especially in respect of Middle Class and Lower Class Families. When one of the spouses to the Marriage belongs to the High Class; Monetary Orientation of the partner; in reality; may play second fiddle if the preference is accorded to the Marriage; after taking into consideration several Social; Practical and Psychological Factors associated with the Marriage as an important happening in the life of a *balanced* human being. Sometimes; it is also noticed that at the time of Marriage; neither the income of the spouse was relatively impressive nor the Position on which he or she was working in the Official Hierarchy was too high; however; the *Nature of the Organization* (Large Scale or Medium Scale or Small Scale) where he or she was working; overall *standing of the spouse* in the Organization and the *Opportunities for Promotion* or Advancement within the Organization were some of the dominant or the decisive factors for the settlement of Marriage. Wherever the factual financial states of Affairs existing on the date of Marriage were not disclosed accurately or misrepresented or presented in an erroneous or misleading or fraudulent manner; Divorce Petitions were filed just in the first of year of marriage; immediately on realization of the reality. This social consequence can certainly be understood on the background of the fact of the present Inflation Rate in India and moreover; its further alarming rise. *In the words of Sadguru; not Human Life but human Lifestyle has changed.* In order to maintain lavish lifestyle; no doubt; more money is naturally and normally needed. The second and another important factor is Attraction between the spouses. It may necessarily; not; at all; be out of place to point out over here that *as per Astrology; in order that Matrimonial Sustainability should prevail; preferably all through the life; there should be reasonable level of compatibility of three kinds between the partners namely; Intellectual; Psychological and Matrimonial (Conjugal).* In several surveys conducted on the topic of the *‘Compatibility between the Partners;’* it is concluded; after personally interviewing substantial number of couples; that out of the three compatibilities mentioned above; any two kinds of Compatibilities only get reasonably satisfied or fulfilled in case of majority of the couples. Thus; Research Findings imply that in case any one out of the three kinds of Compatibilities is fulfilled; may be; at a very high level; in practice; it is not sufficient to expect that the sustainability between the partners will prevail for very long time. In other words; if Conjugal (Nuptial) Compatibility alone prevails between the partners; the moment the Level of Attraction gets reduced or comes to an Automatic and Natural end with the elapse of reasonable time; experimented and proved as two years; the Marriage is not expected to last. At the same time; it is also a fact having Empirical Evidence that *‘Attraction (towards the Spouse- whether Unilateral or Bilateral)’ acts as a very strong factor at the time of settlement of the Marriage.* Further; in case of other marriages; although with the passage of time; the level of Attraction between the spouses diminishes; the Marriage does sustain on the basis of the other two kinds of Compatibilities. There are a number of cases which confirm that the *Marriages settled solely on the basis of ‘Attraction;’ de-void of any other Compatibility; sustain for very short time; say two years or so and no more.* In simple words it may not be incorrect to arrive at an inference at this juncture also on the basis of several social observations that *‘Attraction’ between the two persons of opposite gender may lead to a Relation (if the surrounding circumstances permit);* which can be interpreted as an *Illicit Relation or an Extra-Marital Affair.*

PARTNER’S EXPECTATION IN THE FIRST STAGE OF MARRIAGE -

The forgoing narration suggests that in the first stage of Marriage; the expectations of the partners from each other really revolve around two main factors namely; *Monetary Orientation* and *Attraction*. This stage; in general; prevails between the Age Group of *Twenty five to Forty five.* (25 to 45).

B. Intellectual and Psychological Support – After living together for some years; the expectations of the partners from each other change quite drastically and dramatically. Thereafter; the Level of Attraction between each other drops down substantially; however; the spouses do expect *Psychological* as well as *Intellectual Support* from the other. The overall Financial Position of the Family keeps on improving; irrespective of the fact of addition of a few new members in the family in the form of children; especially if both the partners are having sizeable level of income. Therefore; the overall level of dependency on the partner not only for smooth running of the family but also for self expenditure falls drastically down. At this later stage of the Marriage; if one of the partners attempts; that too; honestly; to fulfill the expectations he or she used to; in the earlier stage of Marriage or still keeps on emphasizing them; ignoring emerging expectations from the partner; it does no more work and satisfy the partner. The Monetary Expectation from the partner; no doubt; continues; but because of the fall in its relative degree; unknowingly it leads to develop slight

EXPECTATIONS FROM THE LIFE PARTNER – AN EMPIRICAL STUDY

detachment with the partner. Moreover; as the Level of Attraction towards the partner goes on diminishing; the possibility of getting attracted towards the other person of opposite gender increases; quite considerably. This kind of possibility is the same both for the Gents as well as Ladies. However; in practice; in general; the gents are blamed for spoiling a specific lady; however; in the opinion of the Researcher; it is not correct; as unless and until there exists ***Bilateral Consent or Response***; an ***Extra Marital Affair*** just cannot result. When such type of Attraction develops; both the persons; the gents and the lady involved tend to come in frequent contact with each other. ***This sort of 'Human Interaction'; in its preliminary stage; need not be interpreted as a 'Relation' in the strict social sense of the term; still; it can certainly and surely be regarded or treated as 'Infatuation'***. The ***Infatuation*** may get converted into a real ***'Relation'***; at a later stage of continuous interaction. In this sense; ***Infatuation is the first step towards the development of a future Relation***. At the same time; it may be appropriate to stress over here that ***each and every Human Infatuation may necessarily not develop into a 'Relation' or an 'Illicit Relation'***. Furthermore; it may be more accurate to highlight at this point that Human Infatuation possesses an ample potential to develop a ***'Relation' or an 'Illicit Relation'***. This means that if Human Infatuation; in itself; just would not exist; there would really be no absolute possibility of development of a ***'Relation'***; ***forget an 'Illicit Relation'***. All said and done; it is observed that neither the ***Infatuation*** nor the ***Relation*** nor an ***Illicit Relation*** results deliberately; it simply happens unknowingly or automatically. The persons who are the actual victims themselves fail to identify the start of an Infatuation itself. They experience the seriousness of the subsequent situation; no doubt; at a later stage; but by the time; they find it quite difficult to control or overcome their ***Emotional Dilemma***. It is noticed that even the most intelligent and practically prudent persons are ***pulled*** in this trap. Once he or she finds himself or herself as helpless; there are two possible consequences. Firstly; they both should ***mutually*** accept the situation as it stands and decide to ***restrict their 'Relation'*** to a particular point. Furthermore; it is also seen that such an intelligent decision had lasted for very short time because several surveys have showed time and again that the ***Intelligence can not overrule the Emotions***. Thereafter; the concerned persons are required to surrender themselves to the situation as a Second Consequence; irrespective of the fact whether their intelligence permits or not. On the basis of a number of examples; the history has taught us that ***'Relation' is temporary while Marriage is permanent'***. There existed several Illicit Relations since ancient times those had never come to the knowledge of the world; at large. The wise persons involved in such relations had definitely taken proper precautions to conceal such matters from the society; as a whole; which had no business whatsoever with these matters. They were having an exact idea as to the kind and the nature of the severe Social; Personal and Domestic Consequences those could probably had resulted had 'such' facts been disclosed to the world. In spite of taking adequate care and caution; there were some unfortunate occasions on which 'such' matters had come before the world; where the families had miserably suffered along with the individuals who were involved. Under such tough circumstances; if the other partner intends to save the Marriage; he or she has to observe patience with the trust on ***Historical Principles*** and ***Past Happenings***; as described in the above paragraph; till such a 'Relation' comes to an end. Thus; in a way; this second stage of Marriage is indeed quite risky in practical character and consequence from the other perspective and may endanger the belief of the partner. At times; ***it may act as a grave attempt on their Marriage and furthermore; vicariously on the Marriage as a Social Institution in itself***.

PARTNER'S EXPECTATION IN THE SECOND STAGE OF MARRIAGE –

The forgoing narration suggests that in the Second Stage of Marriage; the expectations of the partners from each other really revolve around two main factors namely; ***Intellectual Support and Psychological Support***. This stage; in general; prevails between the Age Group of ***Forty six to Sixty six*** (46 to 66). ;

C. **Care and Respect** – Those Marriages which survive the Second Stage reach the Third stage. The number of Divorce Petitions has increased especially over last two decades; as a result; the number of Marriages reaching this stage has also come down; otherwise reach of Marriage till this stage was never 'celebrated' as a heroic-deed as it is treated as on today. In this stage of Marriage; the partners expect Care and Respect from each other. The word 'Respect' is a word which is conveniently and comfortably interpreted from one's own standpoint; in practice. On the contrary; it should really be interpreted from the other's outlook. One person may contend that he is respecting the other; however; the person who is so respected should confirm the same. If such a contention is not confirmed; it is not; at all; ***'Respect'***. It may be ***Selfishness*** or ***Self-interest*** or something else. Its meaning as per the Oxford Dictionary is 'Consideration for.' In respect of the Research Paper; its meaning in the narrower sense is ***'Consideration for the Life Partner'***. At the same time; its meaning in the broader sense is ***'Recognition and Appreciation of the unique position of the Life Partner'***. Ideally; a partner should feel happy and satisfied with the ***Courteous or Reciprocal Behaviour*** of the other. The overall Financial Position in the family achieves the level of stagnation by the time this stage is reached. Moreover; almost half or even more liabilities stand well discharged. The Monetary Requirements for the future become quite clear. The Level of Attraction towards the partner is almost negligible or non-existent. One's own personality is experienced well developed or matured; therefore; intellectual or psychological support from the partner is least needed. What is needed the most at this stage of Marriage is ***Care for oneself*** and ***Respect from the partner***. When both the spouses are mature and considerate; they realize the expectations from each other and behave

accordingly. There is no possibility of Break-up of Marriage; at this stage as the partners are well habituated to live with each other over a very long time.

PARTNER'S EXPECTATION IN THE THIRD STAGE OF MARRIAGE –

The forgoing narration suggests that in the Third Stage of Marriage; the expectations of the partners from each other really revolve around two main factors namely; *Care and Respect*. This stage; in general; prevails between the Age Group of *Sixty seven and Above* (67 and above).

RESEARCHER'S OPINIONS AND OBSERVATIONS REGARDING STAGES OF LIFE CYCLE AND 'ILLCIT RELATIONS' -

- (a) The age of different stages stated above is flexible in practical nature. This suggests that it may vary from four to five years; here and there. Besides; it may fluctuate from couple to couple especially because of the change in the Human Life Style; of late. However; from the Astrological Angle; it is Twenty two to Forty two (22 to 42) for the First Stage; Forty three to Sixty two (43 to 62) for the Second Stage and Sixty Three and above (63 and above) for the Third Stage. Moreover; practically it seems to be very difficult and critical to settle the exact age of different stages of Marriage because *several complicated as well as dynamic factors are involved; in the process; which are not so easy to evaluate; quite correctly*. In short; *this matter seems to be a matter of Serious Doubt; Severe Dispute; therefore of an Intellectual Debate*.
- (b) It is observed; while Marriage progresses in the Second Stage; in case of youngsters belonging to High Class wherever an *'Opportunity'* allows; a person may get simultaneously involved in many Illicit Relationships. However; it is heard that only one of them is *'Real'* at a time in the sense that it leads to desirable level of *'Satisfaction'* and when *'Some Time'* elapses and *'Initial Enthusiasm'* is experienced over; expected level of *'Satisfaction'* is searched in some other relation and also the *'Reality'* is searched over there.
- (c) Some *old ladies* have opined that *in the first stage of Marriage; 'Love' is needed to be 'Stolen; in the second stage; it is needed to be 'Shared' whereas in the third stage; it is needed to be 'Demanded' from the partner*. This opinion is apparently quite controversial in practical consequence. *'Love'* as it is ideally expected in its *'Pure'* form used to exist between the couples; as per Researcher's Observations and Experiences; till last two decades. However; thereafter it is slowly still steadily replaced by *'Practical and Materialistic Values.'* The reflection of the same social situation is quite evident and visible through Hindi films. These films used to exhibit *Himalayan Heights of Love* through their stories. There used to be *Enormous Sacrifice and Gigantic Compromise* for the life partner. On the other hand; in the recent films of last two decades; *'Live-in Relationship;'* is shown quite boldly. As a matter of fact; such relationships were in existence even in old times; no doubt; but they were restricted solely to the Elite Class of the society. Their proportionate percentage was relatively very less. Moreover; people involved in the relationships used to attempt to maintain utmost secrecy or privacy. However; the situation changed quite abruptly in the year 2008; thirteen years back; when the Hon. Supreme Court and other Hon. High Courts in India started favoring *'Live-in Relationship'*. It is true that there are; no doubt; certain disadvantages inherent in Marriage as a Custom itself; however; relatively there are more disadvantages intrinsic in so called Live-in Relationship. Whatever may be the scenario; the pure Institution of Marriage is undoubtedly in receipt of constant and severe setbacks; since then.

RESEARCH PAPER LIMITATIONS –

1. As the Research study for this Paper is based on Human Views, that is, Views of the Researcher, all the limitations of Human Views have direct and deep impact on various Views formed and inferences arrived at by the Researcher.
2. Various views expressed in this Research Paper are the partial outcome of informal Interactions of the Researcher with the select couples and also his Observations and Experiences noted during several social interactions. As a result, Full Intellectual Concurrence with the Researcher's personal views and opinions is not expected.

SCOPE FOR FUTURE RESEARCH –

1. Ethicality Practiced by Youth for Earning Money – A Critical Study
2. Nature of 'Love' in different Stages of Human Life Cycle - An Exploratory Study
3. Marriage and Live-in Relationship – A Comparative Study

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