



IMPACT OF SHARING OF COUPLE IN DECISION MAKING ON FAMILY LIFE IN BANGLADESH

S. Parvin^{1*} and M. S. Hossain²

¹Department of Finance and Banking, Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University, Dinajpur 5200, Bangladesh

²Department of Marketing, Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University, Dinajpur 5200, Bangladesh

Received 30 July 2012, revised 13 March 2013, accepted 09 April 2013

ABSTRACT

This study attempts to determine the percentage of husband and wife who involves in sharing decision jointly and individually. The field survey is conducted by personal interview with the 80 couples of different districts in Bangladesh. The information received are analysed by statistical techniques like mean, ratio, percentage etc. The study reveals that 60% couples share in decision making, 30% husband solely make decision beyond sharing wife and 10% wife solely make decision beyond sharing husband and the families of couple sharing decision(CSD), lonely husband decision (LHD) and lonely wife decision (LWD) are 100%, 71.83% and 22.17% happy, respectively, in their family lives. It is also found that 70.22% couple families are happy and 29.78% couple families are unhappy. This study limits that the survey had been made on existing couples.

Key words: couple, decision, family, sharing

The people of Bangladesh have tendency to live together. Although Bangladesh is known as one of the poorest and most densely populated countries in the world, qualitative research and anecdotal evidence suggests its people report levels of happiness that are higher than those found in many other countries (Camfield, *et al*, 2009). Traditionally, conjugal life in Bangladesh begins when respective parents or elder members arrange marriage between a man and a woman according to their communities' norms (2009, Uddin). His study showed that the women of both the communities (Muslim and Santal) are more vulnerable and dependent on men in their marriage relationship, due to differences in age at marriage, unequal distribution of family roles and resources due to patriarchal norms. The findings of his study suggest that role relationship between husband and wife is significantly different on those traits that were measured. Two main components of disagreement between partners which influence the individual's decision-making differently -the signed difference component describes an influence effect, i.e. which member of the couple has more or less influence on the behaviour and the absolute difference component describes a conflict effect (Miller and Pasta, 1996). In family therapy, effective clinical decisions promote the welfare and interests of the family and its individual members (Zygmund

and Boorhem, 1989). The coupling life starts after marriage settlement between male and female. Good family life results from good decision making that comes from sharing by husband and wife together. In the CSD, the educated couples are the highest, the poor and adult couples are in second position, the young and rich couples are third position and the uneducated couples are fourth and last position in ratio. Decision making shared by couples together produce full happiness in their family lives. The objectives of the study were:

- (i) To measure the impact of sharing of couple in decision making on family life.
- (ii) Measure the percentage of sharing decision by husband and wife.

This study was descriptive in manner. This study was performed on 80 couples which was the sample size. The primary data are collected by personal interview by applying simple random sampling technique on the attributes that were designed on the attributes namely educated, uneducated, young, adult, rich and poor couples. The secondary data were taken from journals, books etc. The criteria of sharing in decision making were on three phenomenons namely CSD LHD and LWD. The attributes and phenomenons are mixed in happy family life (H) and unhappy family life (U). The data were analysed by mean, percentage to get out the findings.

*Corresponding author: Shahnaz Parvin, Department of Finance and Banking, Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University, Dinajpur, Bangladesh, Mobile: +88-017122936385, Email: shshnazhstu09@gmail.com

This focused on the couple families in where husband and wife were alive. It was shown in table 2 that the ratios of CSD, LHD and LWD between educated couples and uneducated couples were 28:20, 9:15 and 3:5, between rich couples and poor couples were 21:27, 14:10 and 5:3 and between young couple and adult couple were 21:27, 14:10 and 5:3 respectively. In table 3, it was presented that in CSD all six attributes of couples were 100% happy in their family lives, in LHD, on an average 71.83% couples were happy and 28.17% were unhappy in their family lives in which 89% educated couples, 60% uneducated couples, 71% rich couples, 70% poor couples, 71% young couples and 70% adult couples were happy in their family lives and in LWD , on an average 22.17% couples were happy and 77.83% were unhappy in their family lives in which 0% educated couples, 40% uneducated couples, 40% rich couples, 0% poor couples, 20% young couples and 33% adult couples were happy in their family lives. In table 4, it was illustrated that average percentage based on CSD, LHD and LWD, on an

average 70.22% couples were happy and 29.78% couples were unhappy in their family lives in Bangladesh in where 96.33% educated couples, 66.67% uneducated couples, 70.33% rich couples, 56.67 % poor couples, 63.67 % young couples and 67.67% adult couples were happy in their family lives.

When couples begin to move toward equality, they must direct challenge the attitude and institutions that put power differentials into place, and most critically examine what seems natural and customary in intimate partnership (Knudson and Mahoney, 1998). It can be imagined the complete couple family life beyond husband and wife. More the participation of both husband and wife involves in decision making, more the happiness of couple family rises. In the CSD, the educated couples are the highest position over other attributes of couples in ratio. On an average, educated couples are the happier in their family lives in Bangladesh as education creates the carefulness.

Table 1. Sample size of couples of sampling attributes with phenomenon

Sampling attributes	Sample size (couples)	CSD	CSD		LHD	LHD		LWD	LWD	
			H	U		H	U		H	U
Rich educated couple (young)	10	6	6	-	3	2	1	1	-	1
Rich educated couple (adult)	10	7	7	-	2	2	-	1	-	1
Rich uneducated couple (young)	10	3	3	-	5	4	1	2	1	1
Rich uneducated couple (adult)	10	5	5	-	4	2	2	1	1	-
Poor educated couple (young)	10	7	7	-	2	2	-	1	-	1
Poor educated couple(adult)	10	8	8	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
Poor uneducated couple (young)	10	5	5	-	4	2	2	1	-	1
Poor uneducated couple(adult)	10	7	7	-	2	1	1	1	-	1

Sources: Field survey data (March/2012- May/2012).

Table 2. Ratios CSD, LHD and LWD of six different attributes with H and U

Attributes	CSD	CSD		LHD	LHD		LWD	LWD	
		H	U		H	U		H	U
Educated couple	28	28	-	9	8	1	3	-	3
Uneducated couple	20	20	-	15	9	6	5	2	3
Rich couple	21	21	-	14	10	4	5	2	3
Poor couple	27	27	-	10	7	3	3	-	3
Young couple	21	21	-	14	10	4	5	1	4
Adult couple	27	27	-	10	7	3	3	1	2

Sources: Survey data (March/2012- May/2012).

Table 3. Percentages of H and U in CSD, LHD and LWD

	CSD		LHD		LWD	
	H (%)	U (%)	H (%)	U (%)	H (%)	U (%)
Educated couple	100	0	89	11	0	100
Uneducated couple	100	0	60	40	40	60
Rich couple	100	0	71	29	40	60
Poor couple	100	0	70	30	0	100
Young couple	100	0	71	29	20	80
Adult couple	100	0	70	30	33	67
Average percentage	100	0	71.83	28.17	22.17	77.83

Sources: Survey data (March/2012- May/2012).

Table 4. Average percentage based on CSD LHD and LWD

Attributes	Average value of individual attribute	
	H (%)	U (%)
Educated couple	96.33	3.67
Uneducated couple	66.67	33.33
Rich couple	70.33	29.67
Poor couple	56.67	43.33
Young couple	63.67	36.33
Adult couple	67.67	32.33
Average value of total six attributes	70.22	29.78

Sources: Survey data (March/2012- May/2012).

REFERENCES

Camfield L, Choudhury K and Devine J. 2009. Well-being, happiness and why relationships matter: Evidence from Bangladesh. *Journal of Happiness Studies*. 10: 71-91.

Knudson MC and Mahoney AR. 1998. Language and processes in the construction of equality in new marriage. *Family Relation*.47:81-91.

Miller WB and Pasta DJ. 1996. Couple disagreement: Effects on the formation and implementation of fertility decisions. *Personal Relationships*. 3: 307-336.

Uddin ME. 2009. Cross-cultural comparison of marriage relationship between Muslim and Santal communities in rural Bangladesh. *World Cultures eJournal*.17:1.

Zygmund MJ and Boorhem H. 1989. Ethical decision making in family therapy. *Fam Proc*. 28:269-280.