



A study on the dating and marriage views of older unmarried highly educated youth in Shanghai

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Abstract

With the progress of society and the improvement of education level, the group of older and highly educated unmarried youths has gradually become the focus of social attention. Taking Shanghai as an example, this paper aims to examine the current status, analyze the reasons behind, and propose countermeasures for the marriage concepts of older, highly educated singles. Through questionnaire survey, interviews, and other methods, the characteristics of this group in the concept of marriage and love are analyzed, such as having high expectations for the quality of marriage, strong independence, and focusing on personal development. Meanwhile, this article delves into the main factors that influence their views on marriage and love, including social environment, family background, personal values, and more. In conclusion, this paper proposes corresponding countermeasures and suggestions to address these factors, aiming to facilitate a shift in marriage concepts and resolve marriage-related issues among older, highly educated singles.

Keywords: older-highly educated-unmarried youth, marital views, fertility dilemmas

1. Introduction

With rapid socio-economic development, rising living standards and reforms in the education system, more and more young people are acquiring higher qualifications and better career opportunities. However, among these older and highly educated young people, some of them are facing marriage problems. They pay more attention to their personal development and quality of life, and the concept of marriage has changed a lot. For them, marriage is no longer a necessity of life, but part of the quality of life. Therefore, it is of great practical significance to study their concept of marriage, analyse the reasons for its formation, as well as find corresponding countermeasures to solve the problem. Through in-depth research, we can better understand the marital needs and troubles of this group, provide references for relevant policy making, and help them solve their marital problems so as to improve their quality of life. In this paper, we will take the older unmarried young people in Shanghai as the research object, analyse their concept of marriage and love, explore the reasons for its formation, as well as put forward corresponding countermeasures, with a view to providing them with some help.

2. The current situation of highly knowledgeable older marriage viewpoints

2.1. Definition of older, highly educated unmarried youth

Kochi, in this study, refers to a group consisting of individuals with a master's degree or higher, aged 40 and above, who have a stable career and higher income^[1]. This group has achieved considerable success in their careers, but due to factors such as busy work schedules and limited social circles, their love lives often lack richness, leading to a constant postponement of their marriage age. Moreover, they have higher expectations for marriage quality, which also makes them more cautious when seeking a partner.

2.2. The current situation of marriage concepts

The marriage concepts of older, highly educated unmarried young people are characteristic of the times.

They pay more attention to personal development and the quality of life, considering marriage as a component of life quality, rather than a traditional duty or obligation. They value the quality of marriage and the spiritual compatibility between partners, as well as the material foundation. Meanwhile, many of them are willing to experiment with premarital cohabitation to better understand each other and ensure a harmonious living together in their married life.

2.3. The current situation of marriage market

In first-tier cities such as Shanghai, the marriage market competition is intense for older, highly educated unmarried young people. As women's educational levels rise, their expectations of partners have correspondingly increased, putting greater pressure on men in the marriage market. Furthermore, the continuous rise in urban living costs, housing prices, and issues related to children's education have made unmarried young people more cautious when selecting partners. These factors have contributed to a delay in their marriage age.

2.4. Dilemma of emotional needs and life pressure

Although older, highly educated unmarried young people have achieved considerable success in their careers, they also face emotional needs and life pressures. With high expectations and pursuits for themselves, they often feel lonely and confused in their personal lives. The stresses of work and life make them eager to find a partner who can listen and understand their thoughts, yet they struggle to find suitable matches in the marriage market. This forces them to not only confront external pressures but also overcome internal confusion and struggles in their quest for marriage.

3. Analysis of the marriage dilemma and its causes among highly educated older singles

As a leading economic and technological hub in China, Shanghai is home to numerous higher education institutions and research centers, hosting a substantial number of unmarried, highly educated individuals^[3]. The emergence and growth of this group can be attributed to a confluence of social, economic, cultural, and educational factors that work together. This paper aims to analyze these problems and their underlying causes in-depth, providing useful insights for understanding and solving related issues.

3.1. Higher social expectations for educated middle-aged youth's mate selection

Social environmental factors have had a significant influence on the marital prospects of older, highly educated unmarried youth. With the advancement of society and the economy, the pace of life has accelerated, and work pressure has increased. Simultaneously, social expectations of unmarried young people have been climbing, making them more circumspect when facing marriage issues. In addition, the widespread adoption of social media has brought people into contact with a multitude of marriage concepts and lifestyles, leading to alterations in the views on marriage among unmarried young individuals.

3.2. Higher family expectations for educated middle-aged youth's mate selection

Family background also has a profound impact on the marriage outlook of older, highly educated unmarried youth. Factors such as the education level of the family, family

values, and interpersonal relationships among family members shape their understanding of marriage. For instance, a family with heightened expectations regarding their children's marriages may lead their children to be overly selective in finding partners, thereby delaying their marriageable age.

3.3. Clear and rational values lead to high requirements for choosing a spouse

Personal values and psychological factors play a key role in shaping the marriage perspectives of older, highly educated unmarried youth. They hold unique values and have well-defined life plans. Moreover, their psychological resilience and self-awareness level are stronger, allowing them to confront marriage issues with greater calmness and rationality. These factors make them more demanding when seeking a partner, leading to a delay in their marriageable age.

3.4. Narrow social circle limiting mate selection range

The constraints of the marriage market and social circles contribute to the formation of marriage views among older, highly educated singles. As women's education levels increase, so does their demand for a mate, putting upward pressure on competition among unmarried men in the marriage market. Moreover, limited social circles make it tough for unmarried young people to find partners, influencing their views on marriage.

3.5. Economic pressures missing mate selection opportunities

The work-life balance plays a crucial role in shaping the marriage views of older, highly educated singles living in first-tier cities. They face challenges like high property prices and child education, making them more cautious and demanding when it comes to marriage. Confronted with life's pressures, they become more eager to find a spouse they can confide in, which affects their views on marriage.

4. Countermeasures and suggestions

Confronting the marriage issues faced by the older unmarried groups in Shanghai, we must implement comprehensive and effective strategies to assist them in finding a fulfilling married life. These efforts should begin from various perspectives, including society, family, individuals, and the marriage market.

4.1. Optimisation of social environment

The social environment faced by the older unmarried group of highly educated individuals serves as an important influencing factor. We should strive to create a more accommodating and tolerant societal environment for marriage, thereby reducing excessive commentary and alleviating the pressure on this group. The mass media can play a significant role in guiding them by promoting correct marriage concepts, which can help eliminate discrimination and prejudice against them. This will enable them to find their partners in an equal and open environment.

4.2. Family support and understanding

The family serves as an important support system for the older unmarried group of highly educated individuals. Their understanding and support can help alleviate psychological pressure and enable them to approach marriage more positively. Parents should respect their children's choices and

encourage them to actively participate in the marriage market, rather than applying pressure. With the encouragement and support of their families, they can approach finding a partner with greater confidence.

4.3. Adjustment of personal concepts

The highly educated older unmarried group needs to adjust their concept of marriage and establish a correct outlook on it. They should lower their standards, not be too critical, and approach marriage with a more open mind. They need to understand that marriage is not the be-all and end-all of life, but merely a part of one's life. By adjusting their concepts, they can better face marriage and find a suitable partner more easily.

4.4. Expansion of social circle

The limited social circle of the older unmarried group of high-net-worth individuals is one of the major reasons why they find it difficult to find a suitable partner. Therefore, we need to help them expand their social circle and create more opportunities to meet suitable partners. They can expand their social circle by participating in various social activities, such as gatherings and marriage dating events. In addition, they can also make new friends and find suitable partners through online social networking platforms.

4.5. Diversified Mate Selection Channels and Mental Health Education

To address the problem of older unmarried Kochi caused by excessive economic pressure, career planning and guidance can be provided to help them achieve their career development goals and reduce economic stress. The government can introduce policies, such as offering support for housing and children's education, to alleviate the economic burden on older unmarried Kochi. Encourage older unmarried Kochi to make use of the Internet, social activities, blind dates, and other methods to find suitable partners and increase the success rate of choosing a spouse. Provide psychological counseling to unmarried senior intellectuals to help them establish a correct concept of marriage and reduce the psychological pressure caused by their age and unmarried status. Offer social skills training for unmarried senior citizens to help them communicate more effectively with others and enhance their chances of finding a mate.

5. Conclusion

The outlook on marriage among older unmarried and highly educated young people exhibits distinct characteristics of its time. They pay more attention to personal development and quality of life, possessing independent and rational concepts of marriage and love. Currently, these older unmarried individuals face numerous challenges in the marriage market, including work pressure and limitations in their social circle, which contribute to difficulties in finding a partner. To address the marriage issues faced by older unmarried young people with higher education, efforts should be made from both the individual and societal levels.

Individuals must establish a correct understanding of marriage, enhance their personal charm, and broaden their social circle. On the societal front, more marriage platforms should be provided, attention should be given to the needs of this group, and efforts should be made to reduce the pressure of marriage. Older unmarried young people with higher education should approach their marriage challenges

positively. By combining their own efforts with external support, they can find a suitable partner and achieve a happy marriage.

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