

Assess the Level of Conflict between Daughter-in-Law and Mother-in -Law

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ABSTRACT

The relationship between a daughter -in-law and her daughter in law is one that is considered potentially turbulent. The marriage of a son creates one of the most ambivalent of relationships that of the daughter in law and the mother in law. This study is intended to assess the conflict between mother-in-law and daughter-in-laws. Descriptive design was adopted for this study. For the study sample 25 mother in laws and 25 daughter in laws were selected. The sample size for the study was 50 and sampling technique is purposive sampling technique among mother in laws and daughter in laws were adopted. Inclusion criteria comprises of 18-75 years of daughter in laws and mother in laws. The tool developed was used for the data collection were socio demographic variable and selected questionnaire. Conclusion: Selected questionrie was effective in identifying to assess the conflict between mother-in-law and daughter-in-laws and can also be used as an intervention to prevent family problems among the community people .

Key Words : Conflict, Daughter-in-law, Mother-in-law

INTRODUCTION

The relationship between a daughter -in-law and her daughter in law is one that is considered potentially turbulent. The marriage of a son creates one of the most ambivalent of relationships that of the daughter in law and the mother in law. As this relationship is considered complex and assumed ‘inherently conflictual’, only a few researchers have examined this relationship and fewer still have studied the triads of daughter in law, mother in law, and husband / son. This relationship is often mentioned in the context of gender inequality and / or family studies but the focus is usually shifted away from this dyad. Relationships in general are a crucial part of the human social experience and overall mental health and the most important aspect of relationships, *i.e.* communication (with in law relationships) is relatively understudied.

In another qualitative study conducted in India, explored the complex nature of the daughter-in-law/ mother in-law relationship (living in the same household) through a feminist lens. Women in the study were initially

hesitant to talk about relationships with mother in law and did not Anticipate any difficulties in the relationship prior to marriage. The daughter in law felt that their particular mother in law was explicit in her expectations her daughter in law (eg house chores and family rules) and did not show much flexibility, including the power imbalance in the relationship. Thukral speaks to the conflict that is portrayed in South Asian mainstream media and society but is rarely communicated or resolved in the relationship. Despite limited generalizability and research bias, her study provides rich information into the interpersonal and sociocultural characteristics of this important yet misunderstood relationship (that crosses borders and cultures), which also affects the husband-wife and / or mother- son relationship. Due to limited research and a biased image of the ‘evil’ mother in law that predominates cross culturally, it is difficult to depict a typical south Asian daughter in law/ mother in law relationship. This relationship is considered not just a complex/ conflicted relationship, but also a violent one

especially in domestic violence cases where the husband is the major perpetrator of violence against his wife (88%) followed by his mother (15%). The stereotypes of a south Asian mother in law and daughter in law held by most people and depicted in media are 'dominant' and 'submissive'. In an online blog post, journalist Narayanan (2011) depicts this relationship in one sentence, "two women who love the same man is hardly the recipe for a friendship" there is a predominant belief, especially among south Asian, that a south Asian mother in law and daughter in law can never get along.

The purpose of the study was to examine various factors associated with different levels of adaptation to conflict with mother-in-law and daughter-in-law. Perceived severity of conflict adaptation factors positive appraisal is related for well being and marital adjustment. It is identified the conflict between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law affects women psychological well being influenced by depression, anxiety, suicidal thought and poor adjustment in the family. The purpose of the study is to determine the relative magnitude in which these factors influence every women experience in her at inherent tension, stress and maladjustment. Future research and policy work also needs to recognise that the fast pace of urban change following globalisation and liberalisation in India may actually be driving forward improvements in the lives of married women. For example, in urban middle-class families, more money and jobs are in the hands of women, reducing the level of economic inequality between the sexes. Moreover, the divorce rate is 40%, compared to a national average of 1%. Therefore, urban India appears to be changing faster in the area of gender relations than rural India, and it can be postulated that the increase in the divorce rate testifies to the reluctance of women to stay in unhappy marriages. Dowry related abuse perpetrated by mothers-in-law is a popular stated cause for many of these divorces, however more research is needed to look at the exact nature of this abuse. Information obtain from this study could aid marriage and family therapist, medical personnel, and other health care professional to intervene more effectively with women who experience conflict in any interpersonal relationship. This study may suggest some strength and resources such as self efficacy and social support, to Indian women who are the most important in meeting mother-in-law and daughter-in-law hardship.

All religious scripts direct the son to follow, respect, care and worship mothers. Therefore, aged are still safe

and living with their children. However, in the urban and advanced countries it is the opposite. In such cases, the mothers are psychologically weaker and get defeated to daughter-in-laws. In most cases, wife's inclination is towards her own parents above the husband's parents. She would prefer her mother-father to stay with her provided she wins her husband's mind to agree. The reason of this is that she lived for long-long time, made her involve and attached emotionally with the parents and mixed up intensely to understand the needs of parents and parents understand her needs subsides only when she bears her own children. One thing I would wish to stress that even wife loves and has respect for the mother-in-law; only psychological issues disconnect them. It is not any personal conflict rather is the personality conflict. They involve in the conflict to gain/retain the status and claim rights on the son/husband's attention. So, can retain their say and pull major attention of son/husband towards them. The objectives of the study are to assess the level of conflict between mother-in-law and daughter-in-laws and to assess association between the level of the conflict between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law with selected demographic variables.

METHODOLOGY

Descriptive design was adopted by the investigator to assess the level of conflict between mother-in-law and daughter-in-laws. The study was conducted at Kuthambakam village, TamilNadu. The samples who met the inclusion criteria were selected by using convenience sampling technique. Inclusion criteria for sample selection are daughter in laws age group between 18 to 40 and mother in laws age group between 45 to 70 years women who were not willing to participate in the research study were excluded from the study. Fifty samples were selected for the study. 25 mother in laws and 25 daughter in laws. Data was collected using structured interview schedule to assess the level of conflict between mother-in-law and daughter-in-laws. The project has been approved by the ethics committee of the institution. Informed consent was obtained from the participants before initiating the study. The data were analyzed by using descriptive statistics.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Section A: Demographic variables of daughter-in-laws (N=50):

The data collected were analysed inferential statistics therefore the results indicates: shows that Among 25 daughter in laws, 18 daughter in laws (36%) in age group between 45 to 60 years has more conflict, 17 daughter in laws (34%) of secondary education has more conflict, 27 daughter in laws (54%) of nuclear family has more conflict, 18 daughter in laws (36%) of 5-10 years of marriage has more conflict, 22 daughter in laws (44%) of non employed daughter in law has more conflict,

18 daughter in laws (36%) of monthly income 10000-15000 have more conflict (Table 1).

Section-II:

Out of 50 samples , in the age group among 31-45 years 18 sample 5 samples have (10%) have mild conflict 9 samples (1%) have moderate conflict and 4 samples have (8%) severe conflict, $\chi^2=2.045$, $p=12.59$ is significant in this study group .in the educational level 17 samples are of secondary education 8 samples (16%) have mild conflict 6 samples (12%) have moderate conflict and 1 samples (2%) have severe conflict. $\chi^2=0.365$, $p=12.59$ is significant in this study group. In type of family in nuclear family among 27 samples 4 samples (8%) have mild conflict, 9 samples (18%) have moderate conflict 2 samples (4%) have severe conflict $\chi^2=1.55$, $p=12.59$ is significant among this study group .In periods of marriage among 5-10 years 18 samples in that 1 samples (2 %) have mild conflict, 3 samples (6%) have moderate conflict 2 samples (4%) have severe conflict sample $\chi^2=0.59$, $p=12.59$ is significant in this study group. Occupational status unemployee were 22 samples among that 7 samples (14%) mild conflict 3 samples (6%) have moderate conflict and 4 samples (8%) have severe conflict $\chi^2=2.40$, $p=12.59$ is significant in this study group. No. of daughter in laws in that 3 daughter in laws homes among them 18 samples in that 5 samples (10%) have mild conflict 1 samples (2%) have moderate conflict and 2 samples (4%) have severe conflict $\chi^2=0.782$, $p=12.59$ is significant in this study group . In income among 5000-10000 income in that 18 samples, 4 samples (8%) has mild conflict 7 samples (14%) has moderate conflict and 4 samples (8%) have severe conflict $\chi^2=0.56$, $p=12.59$ is significant in this study group (Table 2).

Family adaptation demands post crises and pre crises stressors which contribute to the pile of demands in the intra family concepts which leads to stressful experiences such as abortion and marital conflict and various other factors indicate conflict between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law.

The present study is supported by Zou *et al.* (2015) Conducted a study on Causes of the conflict between mother and daughter-in-law: using a mixed-methods analysis integrating qualitative and quantitative approach. The study results shows that 150 mothers-in-law and 156 daughters-in-law participated in investigate. A sequential mixed-methods analysis was conducted including qualitative analysis, constant comparison analysis,

Table 1 : Frequency and distribution of demographical variables of Daughter-in-Laws

Sr. No.	Demographical variables	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age		
	18-30years	12	24%
	31-45years	18	36%
	45- 60 years	16	32%
	60 above years	4	8%
2.	Education		
	Illiterate	11	22%
	Primary	14	28%
	Secondary	17	34%
	Graduate	8	16%
3.	Type of family		
	Nuclear	27	54%
	Joint	19	38%
	Dispute	0	0%
	Distant Partner	4	8%
4.	Period of marriage		
	1-5years	12	24%
	5-10 years	18	36%
	10-20 years	13	26%
	20 above	7	14%
5.	Occupational status:		
	Employee	14	28%
	Non Employee	22	44%
	Self Employee	6	12%
	Heavy Worker	8	16%
6.	No. of Daughter-in-Laws		
	1	4	8%
	2	15	30%
	3	18	36%
	4	13	26%
7.	Income		
	Less than 5000	12	24%
	5000-10000	18	36%
	10000-15000	17	34%
	15000 above	13	26%

descriptive statistics, exploratory factor analysis and ANOVA. The results revealed that the main factors affecting the causes of the conflict: 1) scrambling for power and resource (89.1%), 2) differences in attitude and behavior (83.2%), 3) distinctions between zijren and wairen (64.4%). In addition, role of mother-in-law or daughter-in-law, residence, income level, education background, and status in family affected participants' responses.

The present is also supported by Ramona Marotz-Baden and Deane Cowan (1987) Conducted a study on Mothers-in-Law and Daughters-in-Law: The Effects of Proximity on Conflict and Stress. The study results shows that A 1985 exploratory study of 44 mothers-in-law and 55 daughters-in-law in two-generation farm or ranch families found that differences in goals and values and lack of communication skills were frequent problems. Contrary to expectations, however, living in close

Table 2 : The association between the demographic variables and selected questionnaire among mother in laws and daughter in laws

Sr. No.	Demographic variable	No. of sample	Mild conflict		Moderate conflict		Severe conflict		Chi- square
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
1.	Age								
	18-30years	12	2	4%	6	12%	2	4%	$X^2=2.045$
	31-45years	18	5	10%	9	18%	4	8%	F=6
	45- 60 years	16	8	16%	2	4%	1	2%	p=12.59
	60 above years	04	7	14%	0	0%	0	0%	S*
2.	Education								
	Illiterate	11	5	10%	7	14%	3	6%	$X^2 =0.365$
	Primary	14	6	12%	1	2%	2	4%	F= 6
	Secondary	17	8	16%	6	12%	1	2%	p= 12.59
	Graduate	8	2	4%	3	6%	3	6%	S*
3.	Type of family								
	Nuclear	27	4	8%	9	18%	2	4%	$X^2=1.55$
	Joint	19	3	6%	4	8%	4	8%	F=6
	Dispute	0	6	12%	2	0	0	0	p= 12.59
	Distant Partner	4	9	18%	2	4%	3	6%	S*
4.	Period of marriage								
	1-5years	12	6	12%	6	0	1	2%	$X^2=0.59$
	5-10 years	18	1	2%	3	6%	3	6%	F=6
	10-20 years	13	9	18%	4	8%	5	10%	p= 12.59
	20 above	7	6	12%	4	8%	0	0	S*
5.	Occupational status								
	Employee	14	3	6%	4	8%	3	6%	$X^2= 2.40$
	Non Employee	22	7	14%	3	6%	4	8%	F=6
	Self Employee	6	5	10%	9	18%	1	2%	p= 12.59
	Heavy Worker	8	6	12%	3	6%	1	2%	S*
6.	No. of Daughter-in-Laws								
	1	4	8	16%	6	12%	5	10%	$X^2=0.782$
	2	15	7	14%	9	18%	2	4%	F=6
	3	18	5	10%	1	2%	2	4%	p= 12.59
	4	13	2	4%	1	2%	0	0	S*
7.	Income								
	Less than 5000	12	3	6%	5	10%	2	4%	$X^2=0.56$
	5000-10000	18	4	8%	7	14%	4	8%	F=6
	10000-15000	17	6	12%	2	4%	3	6%	p= 12.59
	15000 above	3	9	18%	1	2%	0	0	S*

proximity did not increase the stress levels of either group of women.

Conclusion:

The present was attempt to identifying to assess the conflict between mother-in-law and daughter-in-laws and can also be used as an intervention to prevent family problems among the community people .

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