



Challenges and Issues Faced by Inter-Ethnic Married Couples; A Sociological Study with Special Reference to Uda-Palatha Divisional Secretariat Area

D.P.G.R.S. Gunawardhana
dpgrsamanmali@gmail.com

Abstract

Inter-ethnic marriage is historically a controversial phenomenon. Although inter-ethnic marriage is not considered taboo in some societies, it is forbidden in many societies in the world due to some socio-cultural reasons. In some societies, inter-ethnic married couples face many challenges. Therefore, the main objective of this research is to identify and analyze the challenges faced by interethnic married couples and analyze how far the inter-ethnic married couples are satisfied with their marital happiness and marital satisfaction. A qualitative data collection method was used for collecting data for this research and primary data collection in-depth interviews and focus group discussions were used. There were 25 inter-ethnic married couples selected as the sample under the snowball sampling method. The study was conducted in Uda-Palatha Divisional Secretariat Area. The findings of this study reveal that most inter-ethnic married couples feel hurt, sad, and helpless. Most couples have a lower level of marital happiness and marital satisfaction. This situation influences an inter-ethnic married couple inter-partner conflict and subjective assessments of marriage instability. As well as in many inter-ethnic marriages, fewer shared values and less support from the inter- ethnically married couples' parents are observed. According to these findings, it shows that inter-ethnic married couples struggle socially with derogatory comments in public, and are isolated from family and friends, culturally by language barriers and religious differentiations. As a solution for this issue, it is suggested to create positive aspects about the inter-ethnic marriages among people. The family therapists and counselors should motivate inter- ethnic married couples and their family members as well.

Keywords: Inter-ethnic marriage, Inter-ethnic married couples, Socio-cultural challenges

