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**DECISION MAKING IN FAMILIES AN INTERGENERATIONAL COMPARITIVE
STUDY AMONG FAMILIES IN COCHIN CITY.**



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ERNAKULAM

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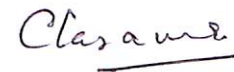
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DECLARATION

I, **SHARANYA.K.G**, hereby declare that the thesis titled, "DECISION MAKING IN FAMILIES AN INTERGENERATIONAL COMPARITIVE STUDY AMONG FAMILIES IN COCHIN CITY" submitted to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, in fulfillment of the requirements of the degree of Bachelor of Arts in sociology is a bonfire work carried out in the guidance of Assistant Professor Smt. Dora Dominic **ST. TERESA'S COLLEGE, ERNAKULAM**, and that it has not found the basis for award of any degree or diploma course.

Ernakulum

March 2013


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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the thesis prepared and submitted by Ms. SHARANYA.K.G, "DECISION MAKING IN FAMILIES AN INTERGENERATIONAL COMPARITIVE STUDY AMONG FAMILIES IN COCHIN CITY" is the original investigation which she and her team carried out under my guidance and supervision.


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INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER- I
INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS DECISION MAKING

Decision making is an integral part of modern management. Essentially rational or sound decision making is taken as a primary function of management. Every manager takes 100 and 100 of decision subconsciously or consciously making it as the key component in the role of a manager. Decisions play important roles as they determine that organizational and managerial activities. A decision can be defined as a course of action purposely chosen from a set of alternatives to achieve organizational or managerial objectives or goals. Decision making process is continues and indispensable component of managing any organization or business activities. Decisions are made to sustain the activities and organizational functioning.

According to the Oxford advanced Learners dictionary the term decision making means the process of deciding about something important, especially in group of people or in an organizational.

Trewatha and Newport defines decision making process as follows:-

Decision making involves the selection of a course of action from among two or more possible alternatives in order to arrive at a solution for a given problem.

In its simplest sense decision making is the act of choosing between two or more courses of action. However it must always be remembered that there may not always to be correct decision among the available choices. There may have been a better choice that had not been considered or the right information may not have been available at the time because of this, His important to keep a record of all decision and the reason why decision were made, So that improvement can be made in the future. This also provides justification for any decision taken when something goes wrong kind sight might not be able to correct past mistakes but it will aid improved decision making in the future.

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN FAMILY

The role of women in family business is relatively under investigated. This article illuminates complex relationships in a family business context, putting the family at the heart of the research as opposed to an individual owner manager. It draws on narrative accounts of establishing a family business as told by the founders and by the succeeding generation in the three family businesses.

In that it is and ought to become a communication and community of a person the family find in love the source and the constant impetus for welcoming respecting and promoting each one of its members in his or her dignity as a person that is as a living image of god. As the synod fathers rightly stated the moral criterion for the authenticity of conjugal and family relationship consist in fostering in the dignity and vocation of the individual persons, who achieve their fullness by sincere self-giving. In this perspective the synod devoted special attention to women to their rights and role within the family and society. In the some perspective are also to be considered men as husband and fathers and likewise children and the elderly.

The role of women in the family has shifted significantly. Women were described as house keepers and mothers by Catherine Beecher and Harriet Beecher Stowe in 1879. The role of home maker and mother now incorporates begin primary wage earner and single head of the house hold for many women. According to June Andrews Horowitz over the past 100 years, despite this changing view of the role of women in the family, and not discounting men's contribution to child care and house hold chores women still maintain the primary responsibility for care of the children and house hold.

WOMENS DECISION-MAKING POWER IN FAMILY

Women decision making in family is direct relationship with women's self-efficiency ,their socioeconomic level, life experiences, self-character, status in self-family and community's perceive role women in family. Decision- making is a difficult process. It need high self-efficacy, knowledge, experience, capability and risk task.so, process of decision -making both female and male leads stress and anxiety. Therefore, it is assumed that woman is not equal level person with spouse respect decision - making in family. This condition possible result in those women obeys decision made by spouse. Women obey decision made effect their self-perceive and decrease women self-esteem. This causes upset of women psychology,

anxiety and depression, and concludes that they feel inadequate themselves. Those women feel self-ineffective and inadequate in family decrease both their marital and life satisfaction. This condition demolishes women mental health with the changing outlook of the society towards women and her role in various activities both inside and outside the family system, the traditional, male chauvinistic role of the father as one to possess the best decision making ability in the family has also undergone drastic transformation. Women, in most part of the world today are no longer compelled to be under the garb of veil and are coming out in the open, shouldering responsibilities in various kind of decision making and standing at par with men at every tread. Studies have revealed an increasing number of cases where the role of women in the family decision making is primary or at least shared equally with the men. Their role controlling family finances and making decision as to where the various expenses should be incurred has come to the forefront with researches depicting 37% men deal with the same individually, 28% with their wives and 30% solely controlled by women. The generation gap is the constant struggle of the parents to prevent their kids from doing things that their own experiences and wisdom tell them is going to harm their kids. The kids on the other hands try constantly to prove to the parents that they are equipped to take control of their lives. Neither is wrong- they are both right in the oven premises. The parents blinded by their love for the kids would rather have their own experience replace the experiences of their kids.

The greatness of a nation depends on how its women enjoy respect and status in the society. The matters concerning Indian women their education, their status in society are much talked about but still much is left to be done in the direction of their upliftment. India has adopted some unique measures to promote equality and development of women. It has been found that the status of women in Indian society is far from satisfactory. Relation between men and women are determined by economic, cultural and social forces and as rapid change has been occurring. Many cultures have not adopted family and child rearing patterns that enable the family to within the family, few poor men in poor countries have much control outside it.

In the 18th century at the down of British rule, the position of women in India was in a sorry state. With independence, women were granted equal status with men, women played an important role in the fight for freedom under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. After independence the government made an all-out effort to raise the status of women in various fields through legislation. But the law along is not enough. The attitude of men and society as a whole should change accordingly

The position women held in a society give a closer picture of the social structure of that society. Social structure is the basic concept for the proper understanding of society. Since sociology is the study of human interactions and their relations, their conditions and consequences, this study will be a contribution to the science of sociology.

Decision making is a process by which a course of action is consciously chosen from available alternatives. It involves three stages namely, awareness, evaluation of the alternatives and taking the final decisions. Decision making is an important aspect of daily life. It directs the things to happen, instead of just letting it to happen. Achievement of family goals depends upon effective decision making and task performing which involves coordination, supervision and checking of action. Decision making is a reasoning or emotional process which can be rational or irrational, can be based on explicit assumptions or tacit assumptions.

Decision making process is generally influenced by the level of knowledge. Women are the integral part of family and vital force in the socio-economic progress. Women play a crucial role in the economic welfare of the family. Women perform different tasks depending on their socio-economic structure, number of people in the family, the nature of professions they are involved in and many other factors decisions made in home management ranges in importance from major once in a lifetime. In the upper income groups, the type of home and the duties of women may vary greatly in the conservative or traditional home and in the modern home. The authoritarian character of the traditional joint family entails decision making power concentrated, in the position of the eldest male members. Women are traditionally less involved in decision making process. Their important role is not recognised and, therefore, still not accepted in decision-making.

According to Harold Koonots and Cyril O Donnel "Decision making –the actual selection from among alternatives to a course of action is at the core of planning". Decision making must be regarded as a step in planning, even when done quickly and with little thought or when it influences action for only a few minutes. It is also a part of everyone's daily living. The importance of decision making is stressed by various social scientists for the development of the field. Bates [1954] stated that "the decision making process involves a decision maker (actor), an environment (situation) in which the decision maker must operate, a set of actions available (means) and a set of goals to be accomplished.

Participation in the decision making process is an indicator of power and control over the affairs of the family. To make a decision of choice is the selection of one action from a number of courses of action. The areas of decision making begin from the basic necessities of life, such as food, clothing and shelter, up to the conventional necessities and over to the luxury items. But it is quite often overlooked by a large percentage of people in our country. Decision making is the process by which one choice is selected from among those that are available. The decisions and choices made in modern family have widespread effect upon its members in the physical, intellectual and spiritual climate of the family or group outside the immediate family. The goal of the family and the values they hold will be attained and protected in better fashion if major decision can be made by the group instead of being to the whims or the judgement of any one individual.

A home maker is responsible for the physical needs of her family, feeding clothing and housing. The home maker develops the spiritual, intellectual and spiritual side of the family life, creating the atmosphere of a home. The productive activities of the home maker are diverse, ranging from managerial tasks of decision making budgeting and account keeping to the physical labour of all household tasks. A woman's role in her family is very significant. She begins to act at a very early stage of her life. To start with, she behaves as a daughter and sister, then she becomes wife and after that a mother. In all these capacities, she has to fulfil vital responsibilities in maintaining peace in the household and shaping the future of the family.

Sociologists of great repute have investigated the influences of modernisation upon the Indian family. There are extensive studies like the documentation by Mandelbaum (1970) on the Indian society and there are studies of special groups like Gore's on the aggarwal family of Delhi (1968) and M.N.Srinivas study of the Mysore family (1942) and the host of others. One of the important aspects of change within the family reported by most writers is the transition of the traditional joint family to the nuclear type, as a consequence of the process of industrialisation, urbanisations and secularisation. There seems to be consensus of opinion among these writers that there has been an increase in the number of residential nuclear families occasioned by the opportunities for geographical and social mobility offered by a modernising society. Yet though many families seem nuclear in residence and even in property ownership, they still retain elements of jointers in their operation.

Change is a universal element in every human situation. Today's world is rapidly changing and change in every direction. The rate of change is very rapid in the countries due to the advancement of science and technology and its application in the actual life situation. Modern women's are much more different from women of the earlier period. Modern women's are active in their family compare to the old generation because of the influence of new technologies. The term inter-generation refers to the difference between people of younger generation and their elders especially between children and their parents. Although some generational differences have existed throughout history, modern generational gap have often attributed to rapid culture change in post-modern period, particularly with respect to such matters as education, marriage, food habit or food preparation and culture. The generational differences have been prevalent throughout all periods of history. It is a fact of life that the generational differences or 'clash' is something that is existed and will continue to exist as long as man exists on their earth. It is not restricted to certain parts of the world, to certain times of human history or to certain cultures. That is why this 'clash' is a fact of a life accepted by all generation all over the world and through all time.

Decisions are not always consciously or deliberately made. Some are made by habit and some are snap decision. Some by chance and come by default-not taking any decision. For personal day to day matters these ways of taking a decision may suffice, but with decision which affect other people's lives, as one must take responsibility for the outcome one should be very careful. The need for a decision arrives out of a problem or difficulty, a situation of un-certainty, of alternatives or a new situation. Many factors may help or hinder a woman's ability to take a decision- internal factors and external factors. Internal factors include one's feeling towards the decision that has to be made- is it a duty, a commitment, an imposition, a welcome situation as well as one's knowledge of one's ability, skills and needs. External factors include the resources as well as the obstacles in the environment. So decision making capacity of women's in family are important for the development of the family.

Woman plays an important part in man's life and the most significant one is that of a wife. As a wife it her immense potentially that can make a man successful in life. A housewife is responsible for the physical needs of her family. A woman's role in her family is very significant. She should be active in her family by making decisions from the early stage of her life. From the early stage women can take decisions regarding their education like the type of schooling, medium of schooling etc. Breaking all the traditional concepts and the advancement of new technologies today's women are more active in decision making

compare to the old generation. The inter-generational differences are seen in all parts of the world. In this thesis the researcher tries to study the inter-generational differences in decision making capacity of women's in family. Due to the involvement of education the mind of the younger women's become broad and they start thinking freely and they come out from all the traditional rules made by the older people. While comparing to older the younger generation give more importance to education. The literacy rate is low while comparing to older generation. The next stage of decision making is in the case of marriage. Women should give a chance to select their partner. While comparing the two successive generations the present women are involved in the selection of the partner. In olden days, parents are involved in the selection of partner for their children but now this concept has changed and a woman's come forward and gives their decisions regarding their marriage. Today's concept of women is being like men in decision making capacity.

Decision making pattern of women

Benjamin(1962) reported that "joint" decision making appeared to be at its peak in the "beginning stage" with largest amount of consultation in decision making. Families with teen age children exhibited lowest amount of consultation in decision making. In the "launching stage" the decision making patterns was of "beginning stage". Women appeared to be most active in home management and men in money management. Women reported that they become more emotionally involved in decision making discussions than men. Puri (1971)observed that women played an important role in decision making of home aspects while they were consulted by their counter parts in activities related to farm. In some cases like marriage, education of children and occupation of children the whole family made the decisions. Mehare and Nikiade (1978) pointed out that in rural families the decision making team is usually the husband, wife and son who are old enough to express their ideas and opinion about the home affairs. In an ideal home all major decisions were taken by husband in consultation with his wife and grown up children but the final say is with the husband.

Significance of the study

The aim of the study is to examine the decision making capacity and freedom of housewives of the family belonging two successive generations.

Participation in decision making process is an indicator of power and control over the affairs of the family. The area of decision making begin from the basic necessities of the life like

food, clothing and shelter up to the conventional necessities and over to the luxury items. Breaking the traditional conventional role of women which confine her, within the walls of her house and stepping into different arenas equal to her counterpart. She should play an equal role in decision making. Some generational differences have existed throughout history. Modern generation have often been attributed to rapid culture change in the post-modern period particularly with respect to such matters as education, marriage and food habits.

The study aims at an analysis of the differences in decision making between house wives belonging to two different generations in order to find out the variations in decision making in the areas of education, marriage and food habits.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

CHAPTER- II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

According to fire bough and deacon (1975) decision making is a process of deliberation in which a person considered the various option and choices of action in the light of the various means of attaining each. A decision is taken when selection of a particular option is made. Decisions are not always consciously or deliberately made. Many factors may help or hinders a person's ability to take decision. Internal factors include one's feeling towards the decision that has to be made. Decision making is primarily a social activity rather than a technical one.

Richard N Owens writes a decision is the formation of an opinion or a conclusion. The termination of a controversy on the making of choices between possible courses of action or between persons. Since decision making between ought to be goal oriented a choice among alternatives is typically a choice among means to achieve some end and since a judgement is a definitely assertive intellectual activity

The goal of decision making process should be specific and time bound. Successful outcome in a process of decision making requires.

- Careful identification of one's goal and short term objectives.
- Analysis of available resources
- Assessment of available resources
- Devising strategy to achieve the desired outcome.

In the part decision making in India was strongly influenced by the prevailing joint family system. Ross [1961] found that in traditional joint family the eldest male acknowledged as the head of the family and held control over important family decision until death.

Prasannakumari (1974) studied, "decision making practice of young and middle income group in areas of food, clothing, housing and education of children. It was found that 8% of the young homemakers and 74% of the middle aged homemaker kept budget for them. Income and expenditure conserving the decisions in the area of food 62% of the young homemakers and 89% of the middle aged homemaker took individual decisions. Regarding housing both the young and the middle aged homemaker did not take any individual decisions. As far as the education of the children was concerned 29% of the young and 62%

of the middle aged home makers give freedom to children to take decision in her opinion there was not much difference between the nature of decision made by the young and middle aged homemakers.

Parimala studied decision making opportunities and acceptance of new ideas of homemakers in a village in India. It was found that there were difference between joint families and nuclear families as to who made decisions, the role played by the homemaker in decision making attitude of the homemaker towards new ideas the number of new ideas tried and persons making decision to try idea. In the joint families, other members in the family like's grandparents and in laws made more decisions and wives had few opportunities to make decision in the area studied. In nuclear families wives also had a role to play in making joint decisions whereas wives played no role in decision making in joint families. Wives and husbands had more opportunities in decision making to try new ideas while wives had more voice through joint decisions in nuclear families than in joint families.

Maven William Safire intergeneration is commonly perceived to refer to difference between two generations. That cause conflict and complicate communication create a gap.

Spencer (1981) in a case study of the role of women in sierra Leon found that women play a minor role in agriculture related decisions while they are found to be playing an important role in household decision making as well in decision relating to the borrowing of money it has been discovered that women's share equally the proceeds of sales of the cash crops as well as in the profits derived from retail trade.

Tibandbage (1995) conducted a study of 183 purposively sampled, married women the determinants of their household status, the finding of the study show that the wives educational level significantly increases her participation in household decision making.

Davis (1960) – the home management house experience primarily offers opportunity for the housewives to make decisions and carry them into action in an independent responsible way. It offers her an integrated type of experience to serve her purposes and those of the group and give opportunities to increase confidence in herself as she evaluates her own accomplishment.

Gross and Crandall (1954) - Decisions and plans should be given a concrete form so that the group members can constantly check to see that they are fulfilling their responsibilities and that evaluation can take place.

John Aldous (1971) says, home management is broader than either decision making or problem solving since home management includes the totality of managerial functioning. It includes need for a decision identifying and weighing appropriate alternative and choosing or reaching resolution alternatives.

Karandikar remarked that rapid changes taking place in present day India, the pressures and strains of modern life affect the family. There is a difference the decisions made by the homemakers. After marriage the freedom of taking independent decision is restricted in the case of women in our society. They seek the help of their husband and other older members of the family. Whereas in the case of middle aged homemakers the children are old enough to take part in the decision making process. Children get satisfaction out of decision making and learn to approach it with confidence rather than with reluctance.

Bates [1954] stated that "the decision making process involves a decision maker (actor), an environment (situation) in which the decision maker must operate, a set of actions available (means) and a set of goals to be accomplished.

Mandelbaum (1970) on the Indian society and there are studies of special groups like Gore's on the aggarwal family of Delhi (1968) and M.N.Srinivas study of the Mysore family (1942) and the host of others. One of the important aspects of change within the family reported by most writers is the transition of the traditional joint family to the nuclear type, as a consequence of the process of industrialisation, urbanisations and secularisation. There seems to be consensus of opinion among these writers that there has been an increase in the number of residential nuclear families occasioned by the opportunities for geographical and social mobility offered by a modernising society. Yet though many families seem nuclear in residence and even in property ownership, they still retain elements of jointers in their operation.



METHODOLOGY

CHAPTER- III

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

Title

Decision making in families- an inter-generational comparative study among families in Cochin City.

Statement of the problem

The topic of the research is “Decision making in family an intergenerational comparative study among families in Cochin City”.

The topic has got a special sociological significance as during the early period housewives did not take part in the decision making process in society. But today they play an important role in the taking of decision especially with regarding their marriage, education and food habits or food preparation.

Objectives

General objectives

To compare the inter-generational differences in decision making among housewives with reference to Cochin City.

Specific objectives

- To analyse the intergenerational change in the decision making regarding marriage.
- To study the intergenerational change in the decision making regarding education.
- To analyse the intergenerational change in the decision making regarding food habits or food preparation.

Definition of concepts

Decision making

Theoretical definition

According to Firebough and Darco “decision making is a process by which one choice is selected from among those that are available”

Operational definition

Decision making means the freedom and ability of housewives to make or influence decisions in their families regarding marriage, education and food habits.

Intergenerational

Theoretical definition

The term intergeneration refers to the difference between people of younger generation and their elders especially between children and their parents.

Operational definition

Women of the same family belonging to two successive generations.

IDENTIFICATION OF VARIABLES

Anything that has a significant influence on the study is called a variable. If one variable depends upon or is a consequence of the other it is dependent variable. The variable which is antecedent to the dependent variable is termed as independent variable. The variables in this study are age, income, type of family.

AGE

In this study, on the basis of age .the respondents are classified into 3 categories, ie those who are between 20-40, 41-60, and 60 above.

Income

In the study the respondents are classified into 3 on the basis of income. The 3 categories are the following; below 50000-1lakh, 1lakh-1.5lakh, 1.5lakh-2lakh.

Type of family

The study includes housewives both from nuclear family and joint family.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design is descriptive mode of study.

UNIVERSE OF THE STUDY

The universe for the study consists of the housewives of Ernakulam City. From Ernakulam city we select Kaloor as the main area for interviewing the housewives. .Other than this there are many other places located around different parts of Cochin City.

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

The sampling procedure to be adopted is purposive sampling. The researchers would purposively select a place from Cochin Corporation which is urban in nature after visiting the Cochin Corporation. From the ward household with some families will be selected purposively and 2 women belonging two different generations will be interviewed.

SAMPLE SIZE – 50

25 younger generation and

25 older generations

A descriptive is a fact-finding investigation with adequate interpretation. It focuses on particular aspects of the problem studied.

PILOT STUDY

To find out, if the study is feasible the researchers spoke to housewives of 10 families belonging to successive generation regarding the differences in decision making in the areas of marriage, education and food habit or preparation. Through this it was found that the study is feasible.

PRE-TEST


Pre test was done to detect the unseen imperfections in the questionnaire. For this questionnaires were given to 10 housewives of successive generation. Based on the pretesting turn outs, some modifications were made in the schedule. Some questions were refracted in order to make it more clear and precise. New choices were added to some questions. Pre-test has helped us getting better result.

TOOL OF DATA COLLECTION

In this study, to collect the primary data, the interview schedule method was adopted. Necessary changes and modifications were made after pre-testing

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The primary data collected was analyzed through SPSS software. Analysis was done using tables, cross tables and bar charts were used to give a meaningful interpretation to the study.



ANALYSIS
AND
INTERPRETATION

CHAPTER IV
ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The analysis and interpretation of data is the heart of any research report. After the data has been collected the researcher focused on analysis and interpretation. Analysis means critical examination of assembled data and the purpose of interpretation is to highest the meaning of research findings by linking them to other available knowledge.

The study is conducted to find out and assess the decision making capacity and freedom of housewives of the family belonging to two successive generations. The area of decision making begin from the basic necessities of life such as food, clothing and shelter up to the conventional necessities and over to the luxury items. The study aims at an analysis of the difference in decision making between house wives belonging to two different generations in order to find out the variation in decision making in the areas of marriage, education and food habit.

Table: 4.1

Ageof the respondent

Age	Frequency	Percentage
20-40	22	44%
41-60	22	44%
60 above	6	12%

The table shows that 44% of the respondents belong to the age group of 20-40. The other 44% belongs to the age group of 41-60. And 12% belongs to the age group of the 60 above.

Table: 4.2

Family type

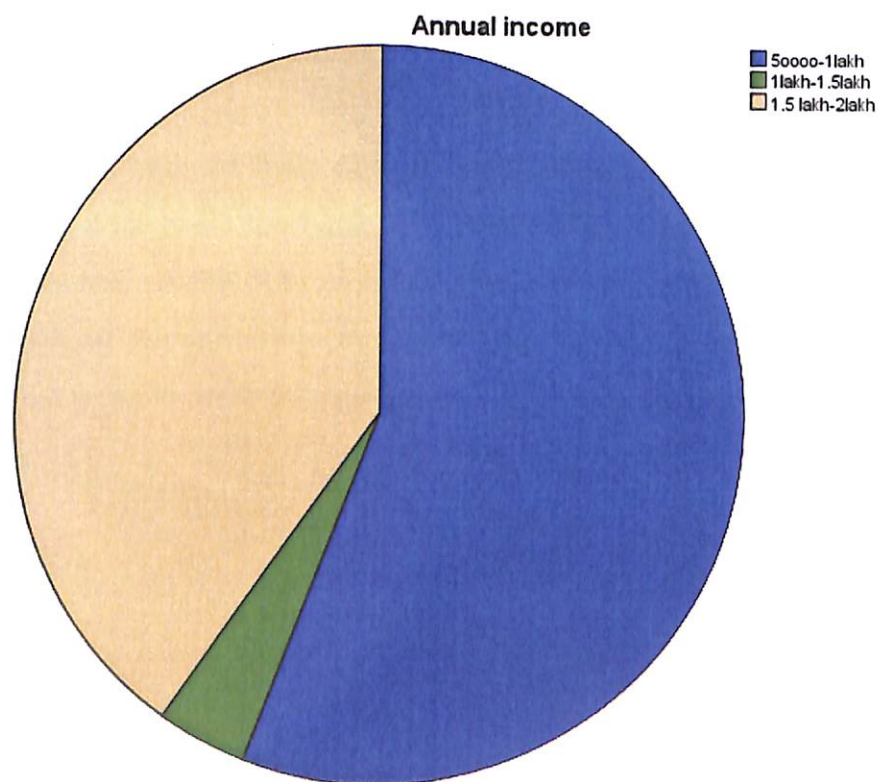
The Distribution showing family type

Family type	Frequency	Percentage
Nuclear	25	50%
Joint	25	50%

On the basis of table it is evident that 50% of the respondents reside in nuclear family. Whereas the rest 50% of the respondent reside in nuclear family.

Figure 4.1

The distribution showing the annual income of the respondents



On the basis of the figure it is evident that 56% of the younger generation and older generation were under the income interval 50000-1lakh. 1% of younger generation and older generation belong to the income interval 1lakh-1.5lakh. And the rest 10% of the younger generation and older generation belongs to the income interval 1.5lakh-2lakh.

PART B

Intergenerational decision making difference in the field of education

Table: 4.3

The Distribution showing the role of education in life

Role of education in life	New generation		Older generation	
	Frequency	percentage	Frequency	percentage
Yes	22	88%	9	36%
No	3	12%	16	64%

On the basis of table 88% of the younger generation respondents give more priority to education while the remaining 12% did not considered education an integral part of life. Whereas among 36% of older generation regarded education as an essential necessity but 64% of the remaining respondents did not give priority to education. While comparing the two generation the younger generation gives more priority to education than older generation.

Table 4.4The Distribution showing the type of schooling

Type of schooling	New generation		Older generation	
	Frequency	percentage	Frequency	percentage
Government	7	28%	20	80%
Private aided	8	32%	4	16%
CBSE	7	28%	0	0%
Private un aided	3	12%	1	4%

On the basis of the table 28% of the new generation completed their schooling in government schools, 32% in private aided school, 28% in CBSE schools and the rest 12% in private un aided schools. While the older generation 80% completed their schooling in government schools, 16% in private aided 4% in private un aided schools. Most of the respondents in younger generation completed their schooling in CBSE schools and older generations in government schools.

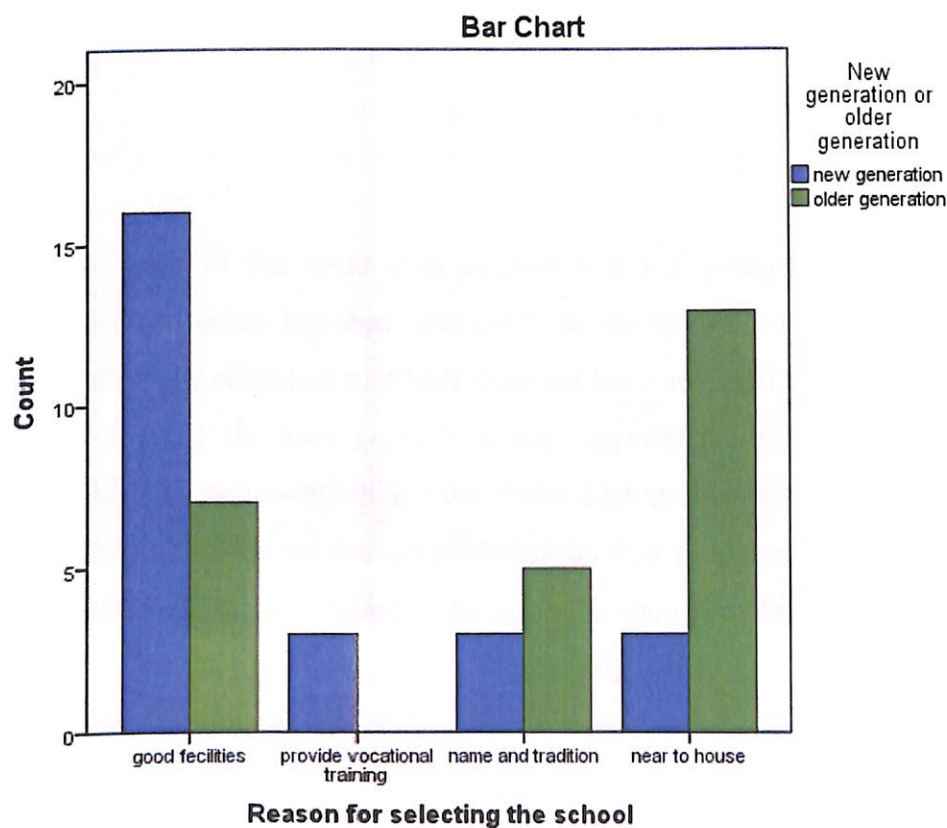
Table 4.5The Distribution showing the medium of study

Medium of study	New generation		Older generation	
	Frequency	percentage	Frequency	percentage
Malayalam	13	52%	22	88%
English	12	48%	3	12%

The table shows that 52% of younger generation studied in Malayalam medium and 48% in English medium. While in older generation 88% studied in Malayalam medium and 12% in English medium. While comparing the two generations more respondents in older generation studied in Malayalam medium than younger generation. And more respondents in younger generation studied in English medium than older generation.

Figure 4.2

The distribution showing the reason for selecting the school



On the basis of the distribution 64% of younger generation preferred school with good facilities, 12% preferred the vocational training, 2% preferred name and tradition of the school and the next 12% preferred the school near to their house. While the older generation 28% preferred good facilities of the school, 20% preferred the name and tradition and the 12%

preferred the school near to their house. Most of the younger generation preferred the good facilities of the school and older generation preferred the school near to their house

Table: 4.6

The Distribution showing the difficulty in achieving the education

Difficulty in achieving education	New generation		Older generation	
	Frequency	percentage	Frequency	percentage
Yes	0	0%	11	44%
No	25	100%	14	56%

On the basis of the table it is evident that the younger generation does not have any difficulties in achieving their education. While the older generation 44% face difficulties in achieving their education and 56% does not have any difficulties in achieving their education. By comparing the two generation the respondents of the older generation face more difficulties in achieving their education. The problems faced by the older generation in achieving the education the main concern of their parent was getting them married before the completion of their education. And many of them face financial problems and parents were illiterate parents and they do not give any value to their children's education. While comparing the two generations younger generation give more importance to education than the older generation.

Table: 4.7

The Distribution showing whether they have the rights to take decision about their education

Do you have right to take decision about your studies	New generation		Older generation	
	Frequency	percentage	Frequency	percentage
Yes	21	84%	10	40%
No	4	16%	15	60%

On the basis of the table it is evident that 84% of the new generationa have the right to take decisions about their education and 16% of the respondents does not have any right to take decisions on their education. While the 40% of the respondents in older generation have the right to take decisions on their education and 60% does not have any right to take decisions on their education. While comparing the two generations the younger generation is more active in making decisions regarding their education. And the older generation respondents does not have the right to take decisions regarding their education.

Figure 4.3

The distribution showing the right to take decision about their education

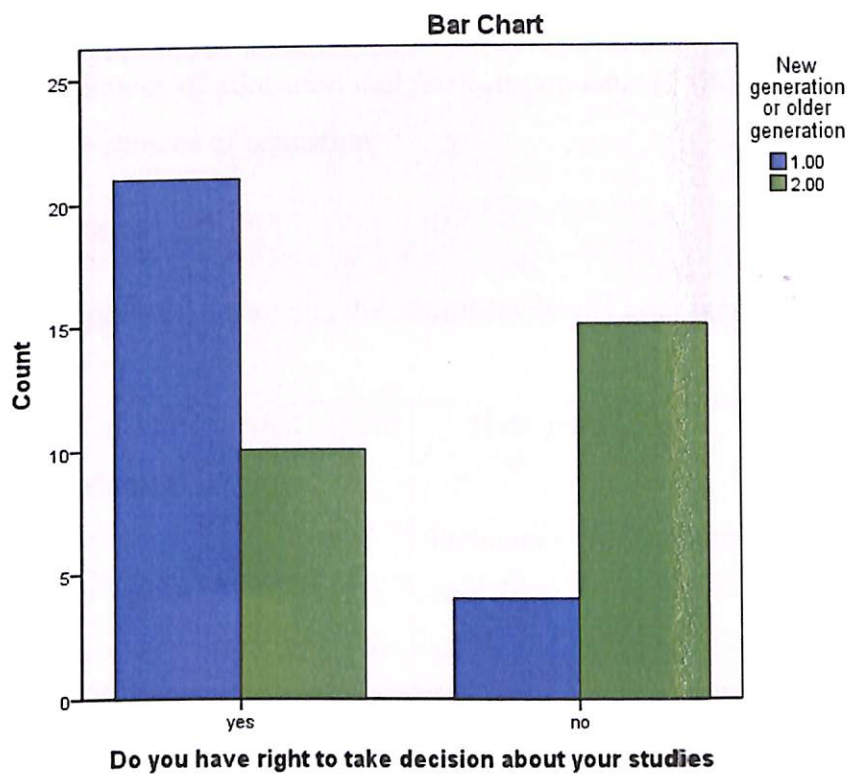


Table 4.8

The distribution showing were they allowed to take choice of education

Were you allowed to take choice of education	New generation		Older generation	
	Frequency	percentage	Frequency	percentage
Yes	20	80%	11	44%
No	5	20%	14	56%

From the above table 80% of the new generation respondents were allowed to take choices of education and 20% were not allowed to take choices. While the respondents of older generation 44% were allowed to take choices of education and 56% were not allowed to take choices of education. By comparing the two generation the new generations were allowed to take choices of education and most respondents (56%) of older generation were not allowed to take choices of education.

Table 4.9

The distribution showing the education details after marriage

After marriage what about your education	New generation		Older generation	
	Frequency	percentage	Frequency	percentage
Drop	14	56%	17	68%
Continue	11	44%	8	32%

On the basis of the table it is evident that 56% of the respondents from younger generation drop their education after their marriage and 44% continues their education after marriage. And 68% from older generation drop their education after marriage and 32% continues their education. By comparing the two generations mostly the older generation respondents drop their education after marriage than the younger generation and the younger generational respondents continue their education after marriage comparing to the older generation.

Figure 4.4

The distribution showing their decision about the education after marriage

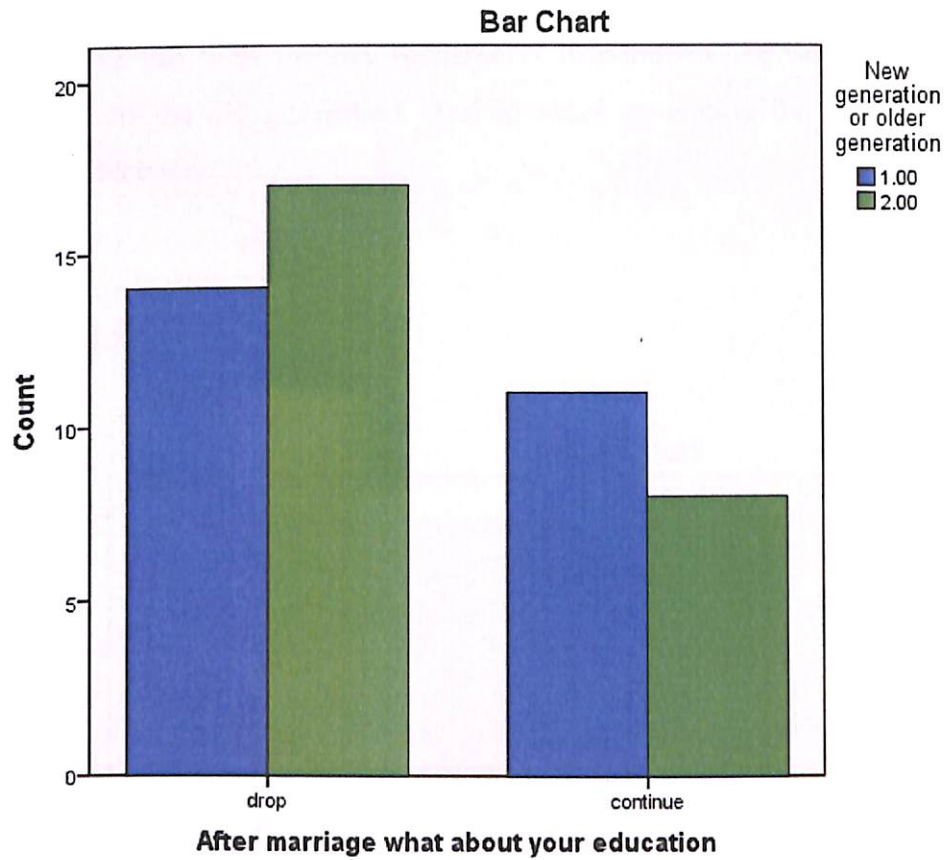


Table 4.10

The distribution showing decisions making capacity regarding their children's education

Decision regarding your children education	New generation		Older generation	
	Frequency	percentage	Frequency	percentage
Husband	7	28%	12	48%
Consulting together	12	48%	12	48%
Self	6	24%	1	4%

On the basis of the distribution of the table it is evident that in younger generation 28% of the respondent's husband takes decisions regarding their children's education, 48% consult together and takes decisions, and 6% of the respondents makes a self decision. While the older generation 48% of the respondent's husbands take decisions regarding their children's education. 48% consult together and take decisions and 4% makes a self decision. While comparing the both the new generation respondents are active in making self decision compare to the old generation. And in older generation the husbands are more active in making decisions.

Figure 4.5

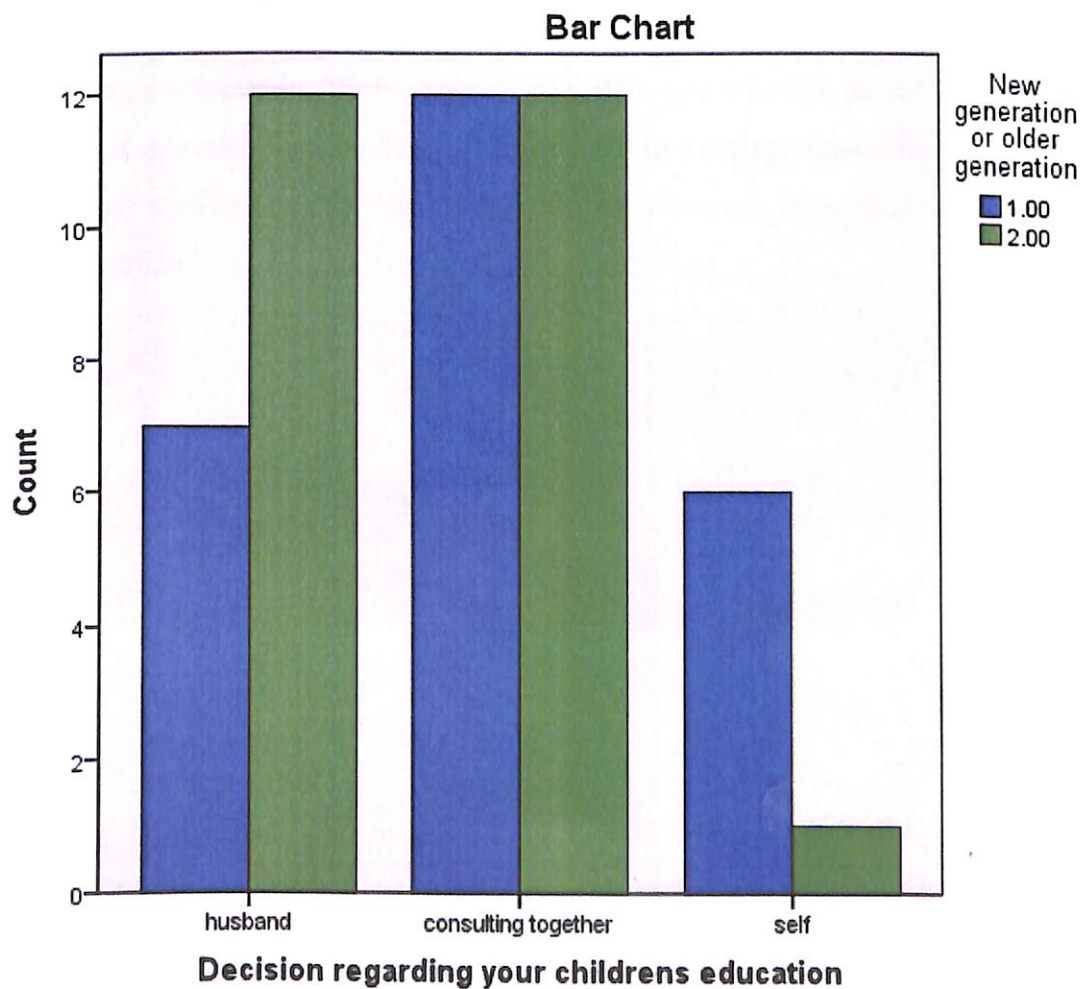


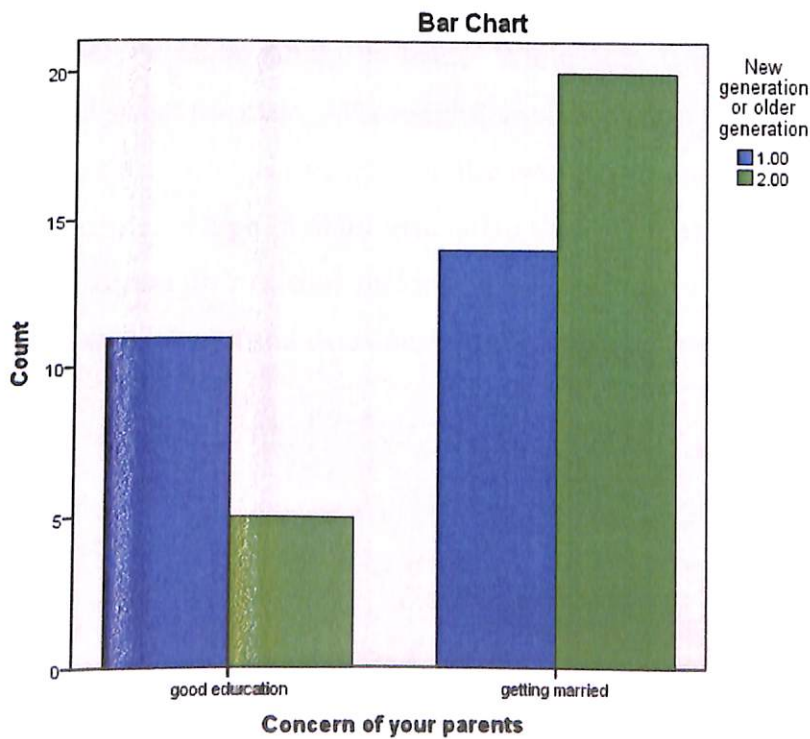
Table 4.11

The distribution showing the main concern of their parents

Concern of your parents	New generation		Older generation	
	Frequency	percentage	Frequency	percentage
Good Education	11	44%	5	20%
Getting Married	14	56%	20	80%

On the basis of the table it is evident that 44% of the younger generation's parent's main concern was to give good education and 56% of the respondent's parents give importance to marriage than education. While 20% of the older generation's parent's main concern was giving good education and 80% give importance to marriage than education. By comparing the two generation's parents, younger generations give more importance to education than the older generation.

Figure 4.6



PART B

Intergenerational decision making capacity in field of marriage

Table 4.12

The distribution showing the choosing the partner

Who should choose your mate	New generation		Older generation	
	Frequency	percentage	Frequency	percentage
Parents	13	52%	14	56%
Self	5	20%	6	24%
Consulting together	7	28%	5	20%

On the basis of the table it is evident that 52% of the respondents from younger generation suggest that their parents should select the mate for their children, 20% suggest that they themselves should choose their partner and 28% suggest that by consulting with their parents a better selection should be made. While 56% from older generation suggest their parents should select the mate, 24% suggest a self selection and 20% suggest that consult together for a better selection. By comparing the two generation, the involvement of parents in selection of a partner is high in older generation than younger. The involvement of younger generation with parents in decision making in selection of a partner is high comparing to the older generation. And a self decision is low in younger generation comparing to older generation.

Table 4.13

The distribution showing were the marriage should take place

Were your marriage take place	New generation		Older generation	
	Frequency	percentage	Frequency	percentage
Auditorium	18	72%	1	4%
Hotels	1	4%	0	0%
At home	4	16%	21	84%
Church	2	8%	3	12%

On the basis of the table 72% of the younger generation's marriage take place in auditorium, 4% in hotels, 16% at home and 8% in church. While 4% of the older generation's respondent's marriage take place in auditorium, 84% at home and 12% in church. While comparing the both generation more number of the older generation conducted their marriage at home. And more number of younger conducted their marriage in auditorium.

Figure 4.7

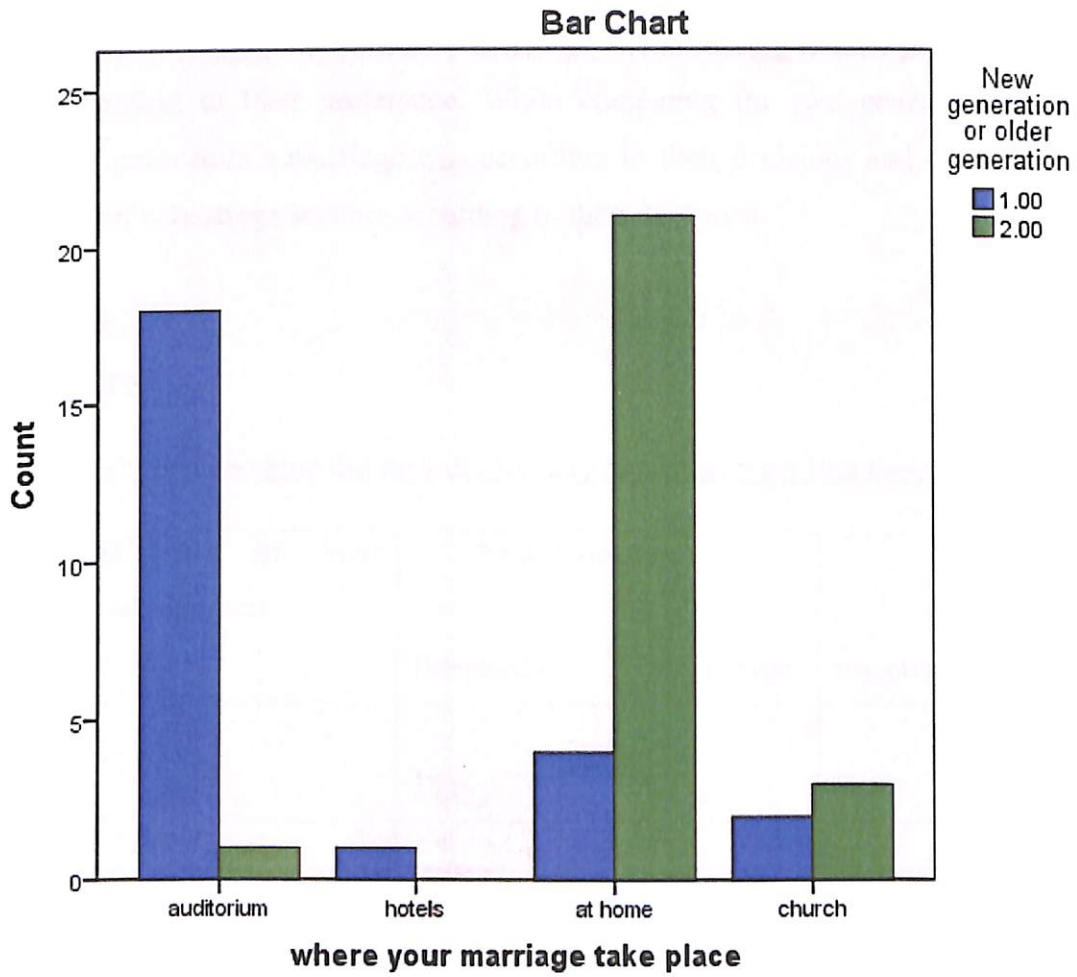


Table 4.14

The distribution showing their marry according to their preference

Marriage was according to your preference	New generation		Older generation	
	Frequency	percentage	Frequency	percentage
Yes	21	84%	12	48%
No	4	16%	13	52%

Figure 4.8

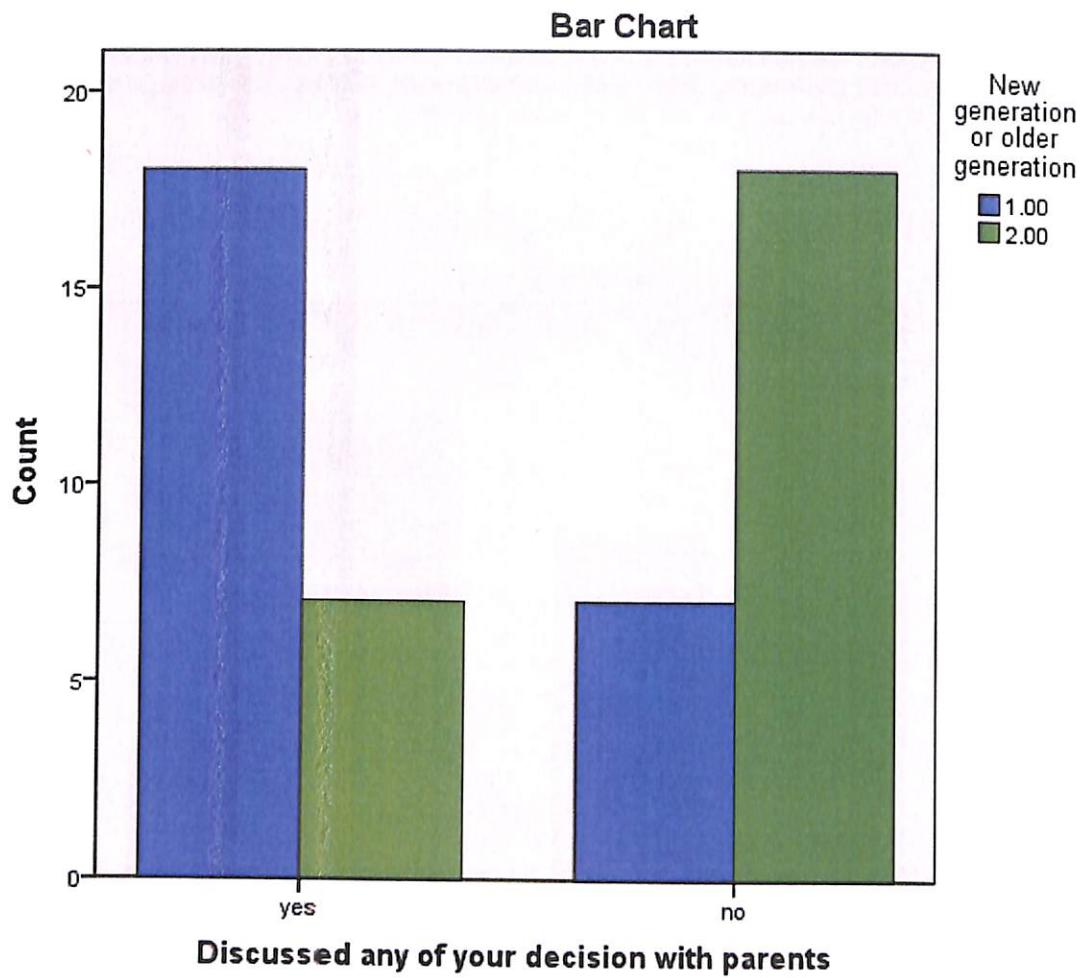


Table 4.16

The distribution showing the type of marriage they preferred

Type of marriage	New generation		Older generation	
	Frequency	percentage	Frequency	percentage
Arranged marriage	10	40%	18	72%
Love marriage	15	60%	7	28%

With regard to the table 40% of the respondents from younger generation preferred arranged and 60% prefer love marriage. While comparing the old generation 72% of the respondents prefer arranged marriage and 28% prefer love marriage. By comparing the two generation older generation mostly prefer love marriage and older generation prefer arranged marriage.

Figure 4.9

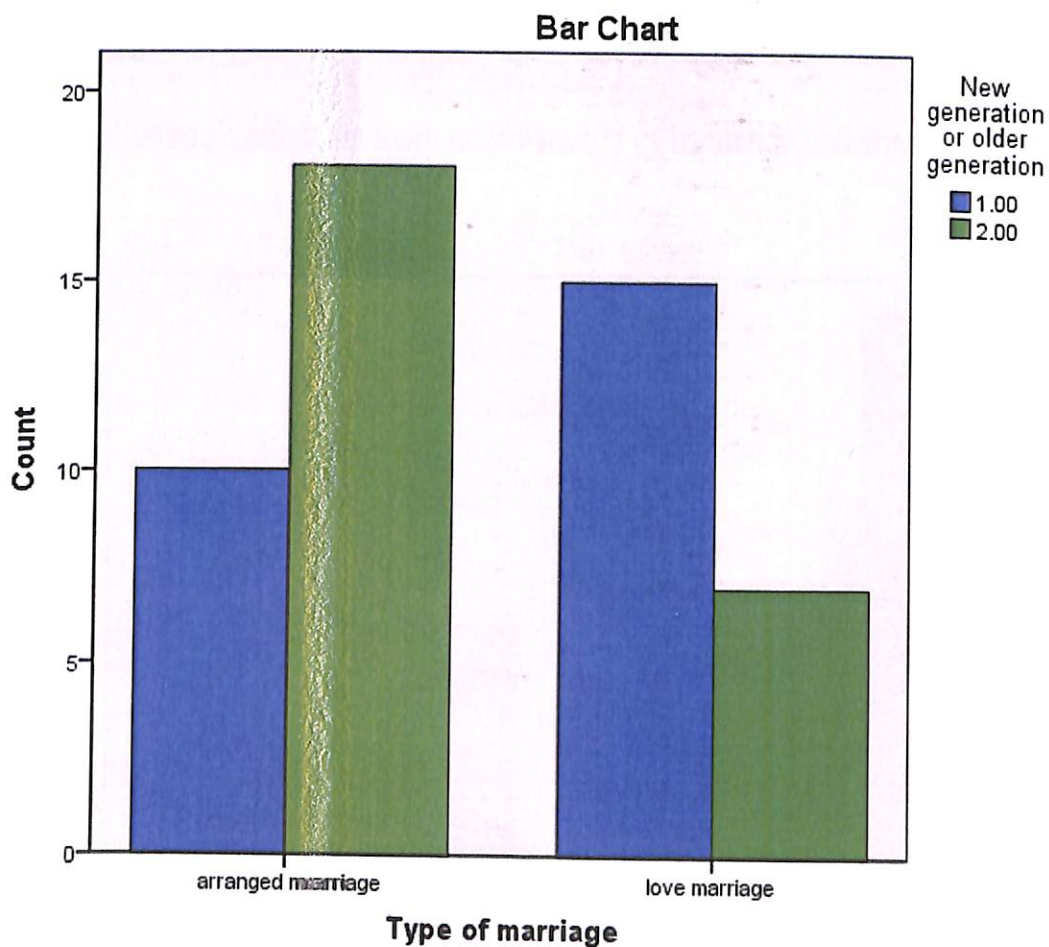


Table 4.17

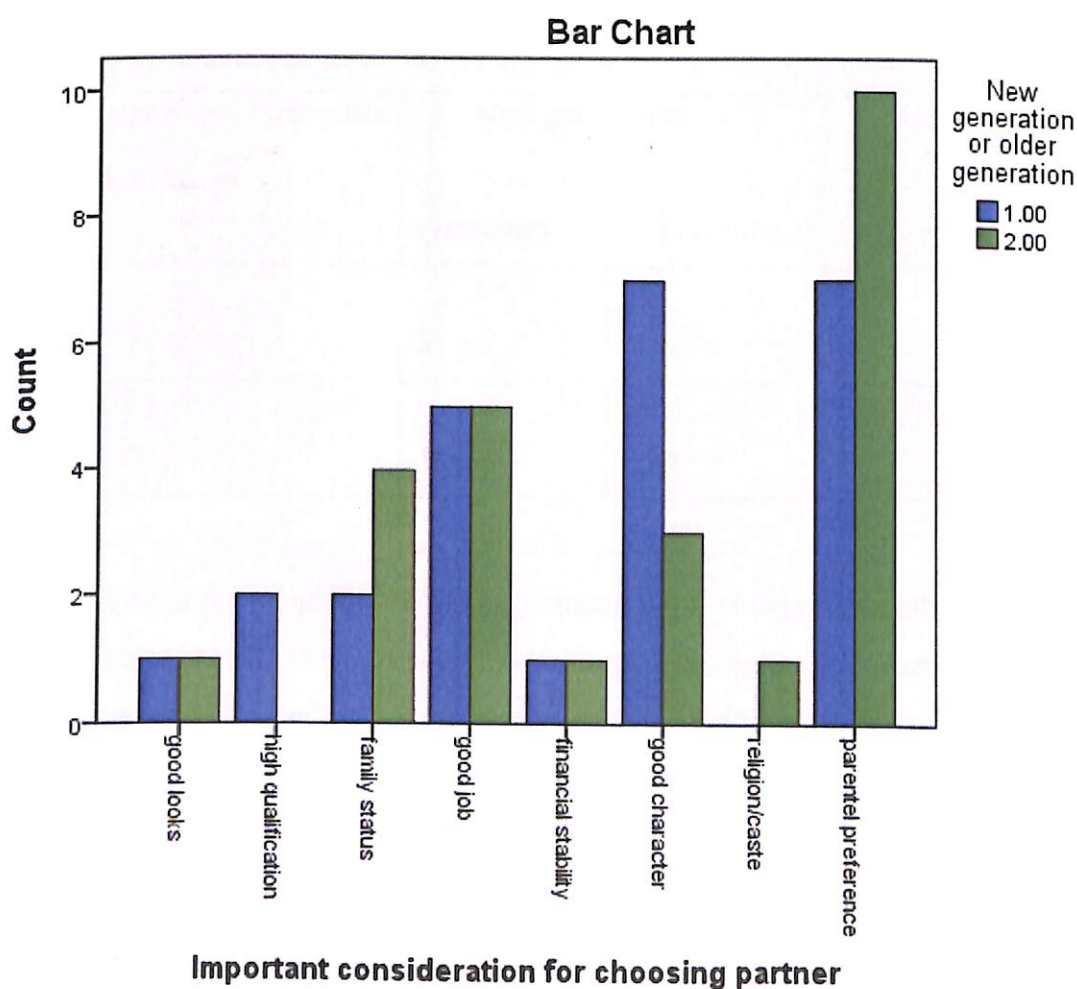
The distribution showing whether the dowry or bride price is necessary

Necessary to have a dowry or bride price	New generation		Old generation	
	Frequency	percentage	Frequency	percentage
Yes	6	24%	11	44%
No	19	76%	14	56%

From the distribution 24% of the respondents from younger generation is of the opinion that a dowry or bride is necessary and 44% is of the opinion it does not give any value in marriage. While the older generation respondents 76% respondents is of the opinion that dowry or bride price is necessary and 56% is of the opinion that it does not give any value to marriage. Mostly old generation is of the opinion that dowry is necessary in marriage.

Figure 4.10

The distribution showing the main consideration of women in choosing a partner



On the basis of the figure 4% from younger generation consider good looks as an important consideration for women in choosing a partner, 8% consider high qualification, 8% consider family status, 20% consider a good job, 4% consider a financial stability, 28% consider a

good character,28% consider on parental preference and they did not consider religion or caste an important consideration. While 4% of respondents from older generation consider good looks, 16% consider family status, 20% consider good job, 4% consider financial stability,12% consider a good character,4% consider religion or caste, 40% consider parental preference and they did not consider high qualification as an important consideration. By comparing the two generation younger generation consider good character and parental preference as the main consideration and older generation consider parental preference as the main concern of the women in choosing a partner.

Table 4.18

The distribution showing whether they decide an inter caste marriage for their children

Will you promote inter caste marriage	New generation		Older generation	
	Frequency	percentage	Frequency	percentage
Yes	5	20%	3	12%
No	20	80%	22	88%

On the basis of the table 20% of the respondents from younger generation will promote inter-cast marriage to their children and 80% will not promote an inter-cast marriage. While 12% of the respondents from older generation will promote inter cast marriage and 88% will not promote an inter- cast marriage. Mostly younger generation will promote inter-caste marriage than the old generation.

Table 4.19

The distribution showing whether divorce is necessary or not, if a husband and wife cannot get along well

Divorce is necessary or not	New generation		Older generation	
	Frequency	percentage	Frequency	percentage
Yes	8	33.3%	6	24%
No	16	66.7%	19	76%

From the table it is evident that 33.3% of the respondents from younger generation tells that divorce is necessary if a husband and wife cannot get along well and 66.7% they should not because their children will suffer for that. While 24% from older generation tells divorce is necessary if the couples cannot get along well and 76% is of the opinion that they should get divorced if they cannot get along well. Mosly the younger generation respondents tells divorce is necessary if the couples cannot get along well.

PART C

Intergenerational decision making in the field of food habit

Table 4.20

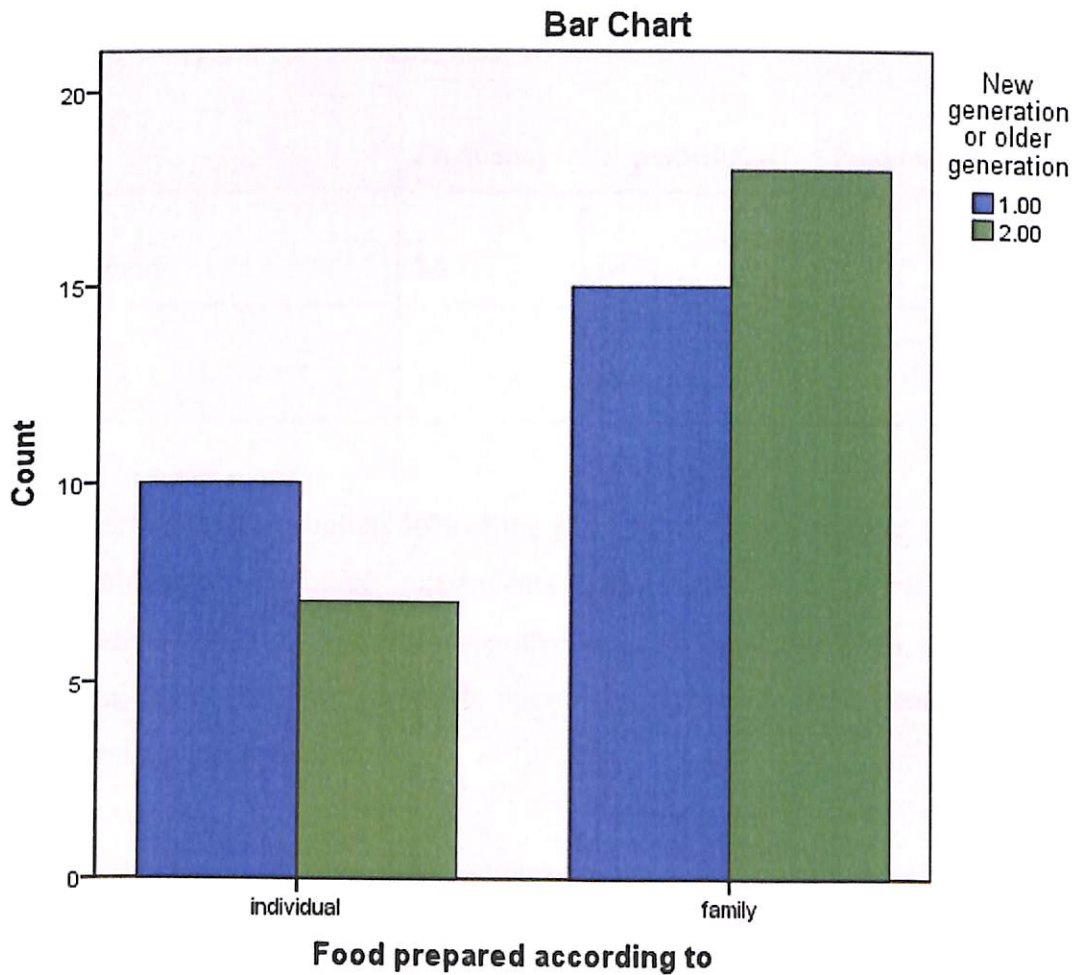
The Distribution showing whether there is difference in food habits while comparing the two generation

Difference in food habits between the two generation	New generation		Older generation	
	Frequency	percentage	Frequency	percentage
Yes	19	76%	17	68%
No	6	24%	8	32%

On the basis of the table 76% of the respondents from younger generation suggest that there is difference in food habits between the two generations and 24% says there is no difference in the food habit. While the respondents from older generation 68% says there is difference in the food habit between the two generation and 32% says there is no difference in food habit. Mostly the younger respondents say there is difference in food habit.

Figure 4.11

The Distribution showing whether the food prepared according to individual or family preference.



On the basis of the figure it is evident that 40% from younger generation respondents prepare food according to individual preference and 60% prepare food commonly for family. While the respondents of older generation 28% prepare food according to individual preference and 72% prepare food commonly for family. By comparing the two generation mostly younger generation respondents prepare food according to individual preference and older generation prepare food commonly for family.

Table 4.21

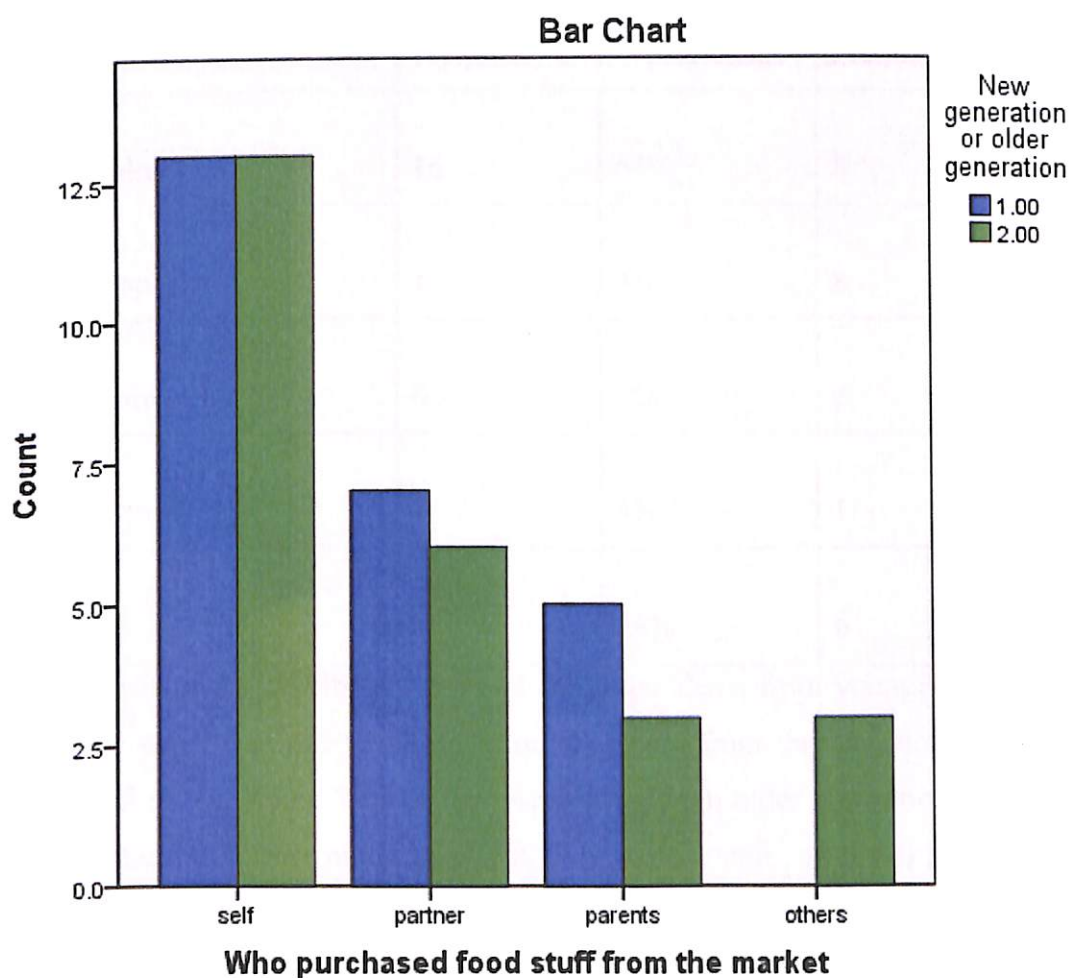
The Distribution showing the food they prefer

Food preferred	New generation		Older generation	
	Frequency	percentage	Frequency	percentage
Healthy food	14	56%	21	84%
Tasty food	11	44%	4	16%

With regard to the distribution 56% of the younger respondents prefer healthy food to eat and 44% from older generation respondents prefer tasty food to eat. While 84% of the respondents from older generation prefer healthy food and 16% prefer tasty food. By comparing the two generation mostly the older generations prefer healthy food and younger generations prefer tasty food.

Figure 4.12

The Distribution showing the decision made in the purchase of the food item



On the basis of the distribution it is evident that 52% of the respondents from younger generation purchase food stuff by self, 28% respondent's partner will purchase and 20% of the respondent's parents will purchase the food stuff. While 52% of the respondents from older generation purchase food stuff by self, 24% of the respondent's partner will purchase and 12% their parents will purchase and 12% others of the family will purchase the food stuff from the market. By comparing the two generation mostly the partners and parents of the younger generation purchase food stuff from the market than the older generation.

Table 4.22

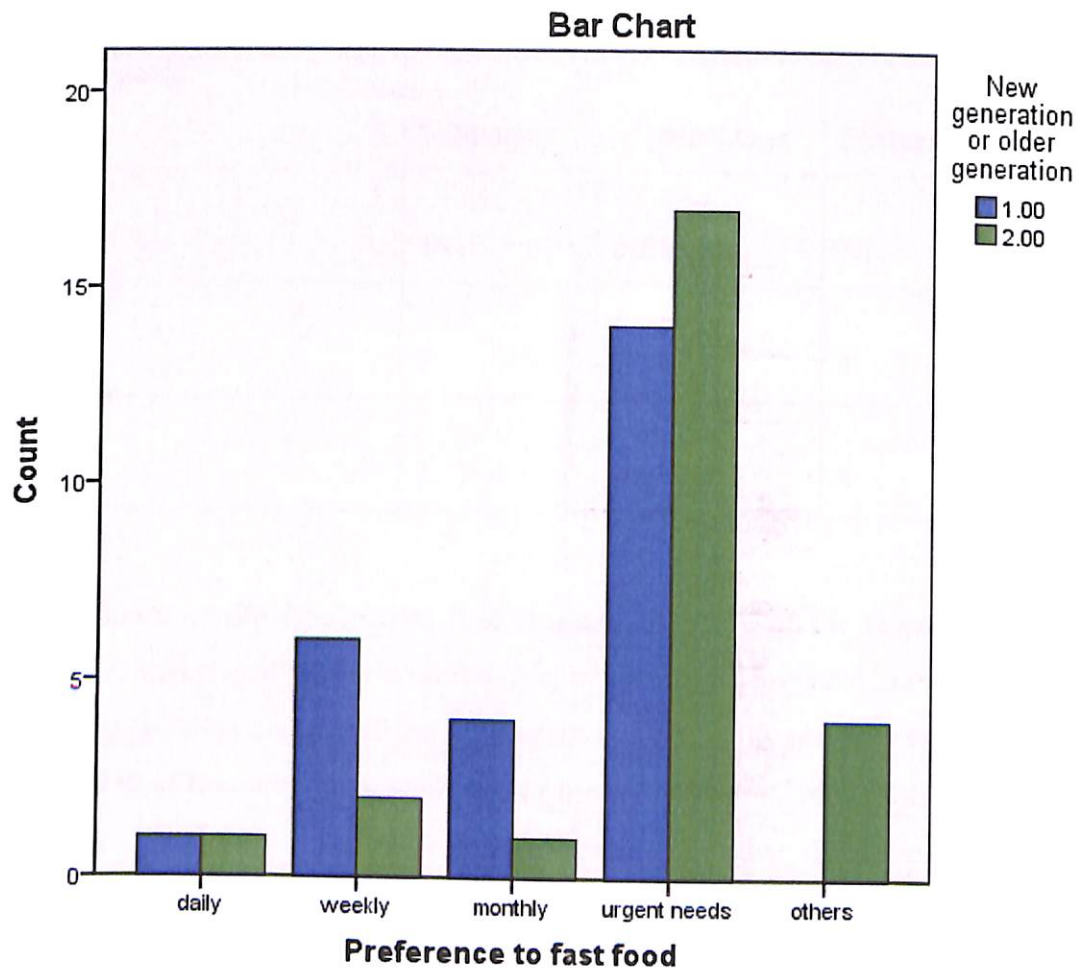
The Distribution showing the things purchased for food preparation from.

The things purchased from	New generation		Older generation	
	Frequency	percentage	Frequency	percentage
Super market	16	64%	8	32%
Ration shop	1	4%	8	32%
Maveli store	0	0%	2	8%
Thriveni store	1	4%	1	4%
Other	7	28%	6	24%

On the basis of the distribution 64% of the respondents from younger generation buy food stuff from super market, 4% from ration shop, 4% from thriveni store and 28% buy from other retail shops. While 32% of the respondents from older generation buy food stuff from super market, 32% from ration shop, 8% from maveli store, 4% from thriveni store and 24% from other retail shops. By comparing the two generations the younger respondents mostly buy food stuffs from super market and older respondents buy mostly from ration shops.

Figure 4.13

The distribution showing the respondents preference to fast food



These figure represent the preference of fast food, it is evident that 4% of the younger respondents prefer fast food daily, 24% prefer weekly, 16% prefer monthly, 56% prefer only on urgent needs. While the respondents of older generation 4% prefer fast food daily, 8% prefer weekly, 4% prefer monthly, 68% prefer only on urgent needs and 16% prefer on other needs. By comparing the two generations fast food consumption is more in younger generation and mostly the older generation consume fast food only on urgent needs.

Table 4.23The Distribution showing the decision made on the kind of food to be prepared

Decision on the kind of food to be prepared	New generation		Older generation	
	Frequency	percentage	Frequency	percentage
Self	15	60%	16	64%
Partner	8	32%	4	16%
Others	2	8%	5	20%

On the basis of the distribution it is evident that 60% of the respondents from younger generation makes self decision on the kind of food to be prepared, 32% respondent's partner makes the decision and 8% of the respondent's other family member will makes the decision. While 64% of the older generation makes the self decision, 16% of the respondent's partner will make the decision and 20% of the respondent's other family member will makes the decision. While comparing the two generations older generations makes more self decisions than younger generation.

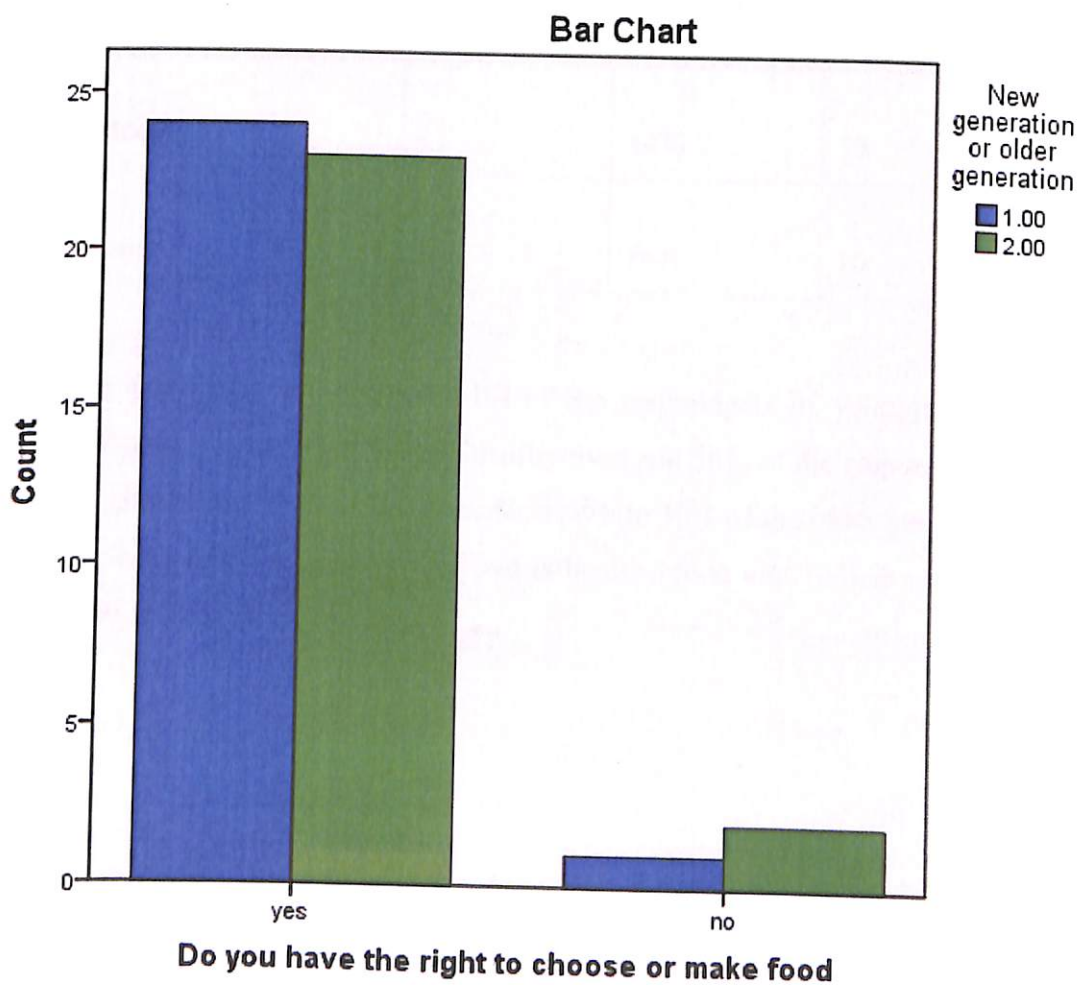
Table 4.24The Distribution showing their preference to outside and homely food

More likely to eat	New generation		Older generation	
	Frequency	percentage	Frequency	percentage
Outside food	9	36%	5	20%
Homely food	16	64%	20	80%

From the data given it is evident that 36% of the respondent's from younger generation are more likely to eat outside food and 64% of the respondents are more likely to eat homely food. While 20% of the respondents are more likely to eat outside food and 80% of the respondents are more likely to eat homely food. By comparing the two generation younger respondents are more likely to eat outside food than the older respondents and the older respondents are more likely to eat homely food than the younger generation.

Figure 4.14

The distribution showing whether they have the right to choose the food at home



From the table it is evident that 96% of the respondents from younger generation have the right to choose or make the food items in their family and 4% of the respondents do not have

the right to choose or make the food items in their family. While 92% of the older generation has the right to choose or make the food items and 8% does not have the right to choose or make the food item in their family. By comparing the two generation the younger generation is more active in their home in choosing the food items for their family members.

Table 4.25

The Distribution showing different opinion about new generation food

Opinion about new generation food	New generation		Older generation	
	Frequency	percentage	Frequency	percentage
Healthy food	11	44%	15	30%
Instant food	14	56%	10	70%

From the table it is evident that 44% of the respondents of younger generation is of the opinion that new generation food is healthy food and 56% of the respondents is of the opinion that new generation food is all instant food. While 30% of the older generation respondents is of the opinion that new generation food is healthy food and 70% is of the opinion that new generation food is all instant food.

FINDINGS
AND
CONCLUSION

CHAPTER 5

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

The present study was undertaken with the purpose of comparing the decision making capacity of housewives in two generations. 25 new generation and 25 older generation housewives comprised the sample. The tool used for the collection of data was interview schedule. The major findings of the study are enumerated below.

The major objectives of the study was to find whether there is difference between new generation and older generation housewives with regard to decision making capacity in the field of marriage, education and food habit. The researcher interviewed the respondents of the age group of 20-40, 41- 60 and above 60. 25 respondents reside in nuclear family and 25 in joint family. In field of education the younger generations are more active than the older and education play an important role in younger generations' life. While comparing the two generations 64% from older generation did not consider education as an integral part of their life and 12% from younger generation life's education does not play an important role. While comparing the type of schooling they studied mostly the older generation studied in government schools and younger in private aided schools. Older generation respondents completed their schooling more in Malayalam medium and younger generation in English medium. The younger generations do not face any difficulties in achieving education while the older generation faced problems in achieving education the main concern of their parents was getting them married and some faced financial problems and some respondent's parents were illiterate. 84% from younger respondents has the right to take decision about their education and 16% do not have the right. While 40% from older respondents has the right to take decision about education and 60% does not have the right. By comparing the two generation mostly the younger respondents has the right to take decision about their education. Mostly the younger generations are more active and allowed to make choices of education and less number of the respondents was not allowed to make choices of education while comparing with the old generation. 68% from older generation drop their education after marriage and 32% continue their education. While 56% from younger generation drop their education and 44% continue their education after marriage. 48% of the respondents from older generation their husband takes decision regarding their children's education and 24% from younger generation makes a self decision 48% from both generations consult

together and make the decision. While comparing, the younger respondents are more involved in decision making about their children's education. While comparing the two generations mostly (44%) new generation respondent's parent's main concern was to give good education and mostly (80%) younger respondent's parents main concern was to get married.

In the field of marriage also the decision making pattern has changed while comparing the two generations. Mostly the older generation respondents decision is that their parents should select the mate for their children and 24% is of the opinion a self decision should be made and 28% from younger generation is of the opinion while consulting together a decision should be made. Mostly the younger generation's marriage takes place in auditorium and older generations at home. Younger generations are involved in decision making in families mostly they marry according to their preference and old generation respondents marriage was not according to their preference. While comparing the two generations more number of the respondents from younger generation discussed their decisions with their parents and more number from older generation does not discussed any decisions with their parents. Mostly older generation respondents prefer arranged marriage and younger generation prefer love marriage. 44% from old generation is of the opinion that bride price is necessary when someone gets married and it will held the newlywed couples to have a happy life and 76% from younger generation is of the opinion bride price is not necessary and it does not play an important role. Parental preference was the main consideration of the older respondents in choosing a partner while younger generations prefer good character and good job. The two generation mostly of the same opinion that they will not decide an inter caste marriage for their children but 20% from younger generation will promote inter caste marriage to their children. If a husband and wife cannot get alone well 33.3% from younger generation is of the opinion divorce is necessary and 76% from older generation says divorce is not a solution for any problem and if they separate their children will suffer for that.

The respondents are of the opinion that there is difference while comparing the food habits between the two generations. While new generation foods are fast foods and junk foods. While old generation mostly prefer homely food and new generation prefer outside food. By comparing the two generation the old generation respondents prepare food commonly for everyone and old generation prefer healthy food and old generation prefer tasty food. 52% from both generation respondents purchase food stuffs by self and mostly in younger generation more respondent's partner and parents are also involved in purchasing the food

stuffs. Mostly the younger respondents purchase things from super market and older respondents mainly from ration shops. Mostly the younger generation respondents consume fast food weekly while older generation prefer only on urgent needs. Mostly in older generation the decision on the kind of food to be prepared is made by self while in younger generation respondent's parents and partners are involved in decision making. By comparing the two generations younger has more right than the older generation to choose or make food for their family. Different opinion is from the both generation about the new generation food. Mostly the respondents are the opinion that the food is instant food and 44% from younger respondents are the opinion that it is healthy food.

Woman plays an important part in man's life and the most significant one is that of a wife. A woman's role in her family is very significant. She should be active in her family by making decisions from the early stage of her life. From the early stage women can take decisions regarding their education like the type of school, the medium of schooling etc. Modern women's are active in their family compare to the old generation because of the influence of new technologies. Although some generational differences have existed throughout history, modern generational gap have often attributed to rapid culture change in post-modern period, particularly with respect to such matters as education, marriage, food habit or food preparation and culture. By comparing the two generation there is difference in the attitudes and choices of decision making. In the field of education the younger respondents give more importance to education than the older. The younger generation prefer schools with good facilities and older prefer near to house school. The younger generation has the right to take choices of education, but the older generation respondents are not involved and they does not have the right to take decision about their education. After marriage more number of respondents drops their education after marriage. In the field of marriage more number of women's are involved while comparing the two generation mostly the younger generation's marriage was according to their preference and they discussed their decisions with their parents but the older respondents give more importance to their parent's decision. Older generation mostly prefer arranged marriage and younger prefer love marriages. The main consideration in choosing a partner the younger generations prefer good character, good job and older prefer parental preference. The older generation will not promote inter-caste marriage and they are the opinion that divorce is not a solution if a husband and wife cannot get along well and their children will suffer for that but the younger is the opinion that divorce is necessary. In the case of food habit there is difference between two generation.

Mostly the older generation prepare food commonly for everyone but the younger prefer to prepare to individual preference. Mostly the younger prefer healthy food while younger prefer tasty food. The older purchase food from ration shops while younger purchase from super markets. The younger respondents consume fast foods weekly while older prefer only on urgent needs. And the younger more like to eat from outside and older prefer tasty and homely food. By comparing the two generations the younger have more right to choose food at home. The younger generation is of the opinion that new generation food is healthy food and old generation is of the opinion it is instant food.

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Decision making in families an intergenerational comparative study among families in Cochin City

QUESTIONNARE

1. NAME:

2. AGE:

3. FAMILY TYPE:

- Nuclear family
- Joint family

4. ANNUAL INCOME:

5. FAMILY DETAILS:

No	Family members	Relationship	education	Occupation

EDUCATION

6. Does education play an important role in your life?

- Yes
- No

7. In which type of school did you study?

- Government school

- Drop
- Continue

15. Who makes decision regarding your children education?

- Husband
- Consulting together
- Self

16. In your time, did you knowledge about different field of education and its opportunities?

- Yes
- No

17. What was the main concern of your parents- giving you a good education or getting you married quickly?

- Good education
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MARRIAGE

18. Who did you think should choose your mate?

- Parents
- Self
- Consulting together

19. Where did you think your marriage should take place?

- Auditorium
- Hotel
- At home
- Church

20. Did you marry according to your preference?

- Yes

- No

21. If yes, did your parents give any value to your opinion in deciding your marriage?

- Yes
- No

22. Did you discuss any of your decision regarding your marriage with parents

- Yes
- No

23. What was your type of marriage?

- Arranged marriage
- Love marriage

24. Did you think it is necessary to have a bride price or dowry when someone gets married?

- Yes
- No

25. Did you give dowry for your marriage?

- Yes
- No

26. In your view, what is the most important consideration for women in choosing a partner?

- Good looks
- High qualification
- Family status
- Good job
- Financial stability
- Good character
- Religion/cast
- Parental preference

- Others

27. Should a husband be older or younger than his wife?

- Older
- The same
- Younger
- Doesn't matter

28. While choose a mate for your child will you decide an inter caste marriage?

- Yes
- No

29. If no, still religion, castes are the main factor in bounding of couple?

- Yes
- No

30. If a husband and wife cannot get along well, do you think they should divorce or not?

- Yes
- No

FOOD HABIT/PREPARATION

31. Do you find any differences while comparing the food habits "between" the two generation?

- Yes
- No

32. Is food prepared according to individual preference or preference of the family as a whole?

- Individual preference
- Family preference

33. Do you prefer?

- Healthy food
- Tasty food

34. Who makes decision on the food stuffs that are purchased from the market?

- Self
- Partner
- Parents
- Others

35. From where do you purchase your things for your food preparation?

- Super market
- Ration shop
- Maveli store
- Thriveni store
- Any other

36. Who decide the criteria for the purchase of food items?

- Self
- Husband
- Consulting together
- Parents
- Others

37. How often do you consume fast food?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Urgent needs
- Other specify

38. Who makes decision on the kind of food to be prepared?

- Self
- Partner
- Others

39. Who shops for food at your home?

- Self
- Partner
- Parents
- Others

40. Are you more likely to eat food from outside or homely food?

- Outside food
- Homely food

41. Do you have the right to choose or make food for your family?

- Yes
- No

42. What is your opinion about new generation food?

- Healthy food
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Decision making in families an intergenerational comparative study among families in Cochin City

QUESTIONNARE

1. NAME:

2. AGE:

3. FAMILY TYPE:

- Nuclear family
- Joint family

4. ANNUAL INCOME:

5. FAMILY DETAILS:

No	Family members	Relationship	education	Occupation

EDUCATION

6. Does education play an important role in your life?

- Yes
- No

7. In which type of school did you study?

- Government school

- Private aided school
- CBSE
- Private unaided school

8. Which was your medium of study?

- Malayalam
- English

9. What is the reason for selecting this school in which you studied?

- Good facilities
- Provided vocational training
- Name and tradition
- Near to house

10. Do you face any other difficulty in achieving your education?

- Yes
- No

11. If yes, what difficulty did you face?

- Marriage
- Financial problem
- Illiterate parents

12. In your childhood did you have right to take decision about your higher studies?

- Yes
- No

13. Were you allowed to make choice of education?

- Yes
- No

14. After your marriage was it your decision to drop or continue your education?

- Drop
- Continue

15. Who makes decision regarding your children education?

- Husband
- Consulting together
- Self

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