

Insights for Empowering Visually Impaired Individuals in Matrimony (Analysing the Dynamics of Suyamvaram)

¹M. Nagarajan, ²Dr. U. Thanesh

Assistant professor Department of English, Presidency college, Chennai

Nagarajan.madasamy@gmail.com

Associate professor, Department of English, R.K.M. Vivekananda college, Mylapore, Chennai

thaneshviveka@gmail.com

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ABSTRAC

Marriage is a significant life event, deeply embedded in cultural and social contexts. For visually impaired individuals, the journey to matrimony comes with unique challenges and societal barriers. This paper presents an analysis of data from a Swayamvaram (a traditional Indian marriage event) specifically tailored for visually impaired men. By examining various socio-demographic factors such as age distribution, vision impairment levels, employment status, income, marital preferences, and community affiliation, this study aims to shed light on the matrimonial landscape for visually impaired individuals and discuss the implications for empowerment and inclusion.

Introduction

The institution of marriage plays a pivotal role in many societies, influencing social structure, cultural traditions, and individual well-being. For people with disabilities, especially those who are visually impaired, navigating the matrimonial process is often fraught with challenges. These include societal prejudices, limited opportunities for social interaction, and economic constraints. The Swayamvaram, a traditional marriage event, offers a platform where visually impaired individuals can meet prospective partners, thereby bypassing some of these challenges. This paper delves into the data from one such Swayamvaram event, offering insights into the demographics, preferences, and challenges faced by the participants.

Age Distribution

The age of participants at marriage events is crucial, as it often reflects societal norms and individual readiness for marriage. The data from the Swayamvaram event reveals that the majority of participants were in their 30s, with a few in their 20s and 40s. The age distribution, as shown in **Figure 1**, indicates that most participants fell within the 29-35 age group. This suggests that individuals are most likely to seek marriage in their 30s, possibly due to the stability in their personal and professional lives.

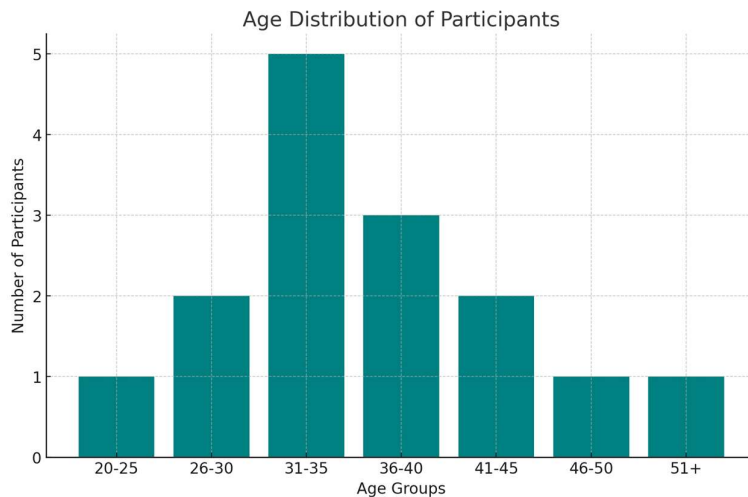


Figure 1: Age Distribution of Participants

Vision Impairment and Its Impact on Matrimonial Prospects

Vision impairment significantly affects an individual's daily life, including their prospects in the marriage market. The data indicates a diverse range of vision impairments among the participants, with some being completely blind and others having low vision. Interestingly, the event also included sighted individuals, highlighting an inclusive approach. As depicted in **Figure 2**, the majority of participants were blind, followed by those with low vision. The presence of sighted individuals, albeit a minority, suggests a willingness to embrace diversity within the community.

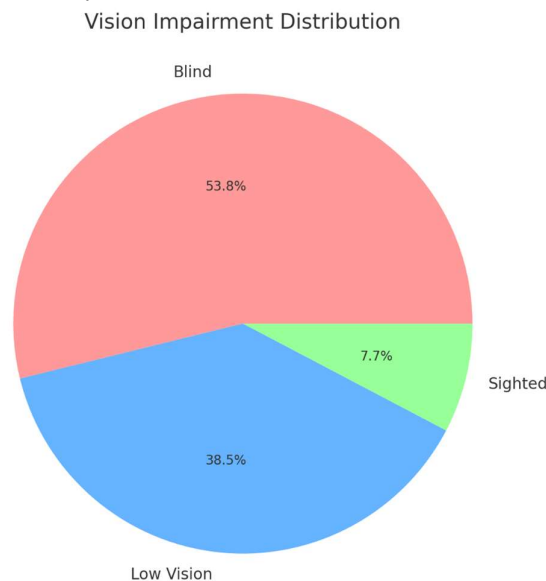


Figure 2: Vision Impairment Distribution

Employment Status and Income Levels

Economic stability is a key factor in the marriage market. The Suyamvaram data shows that most participants were employed, with a mix of permanent, temporary, and self-employed statuses. The income levels varied significantly, ranging from ₹9,000 to ₹100,000 per month, indicating a wide spectrum of financial stability among the participants. **Figure 3** illustrates the relationship between employment status and income levels. The data suggests that those with permanent jobs tend to have higher incomes, which could enhance their prospects in the marriage market.

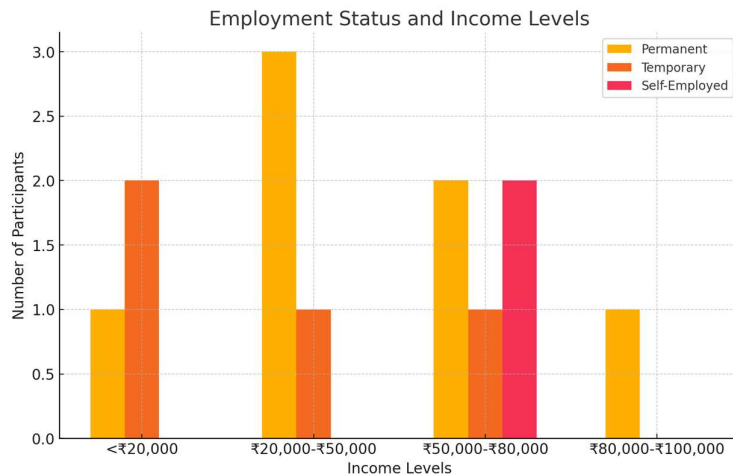


Figure 3: Employment Status and Income Levels

Marital Preferences

The preferences for a partner's vision status were varied, reflecting the complexity of matrimonial considerations. Some participants preferred sighted partners, while others were open to marrying someone with low vision or blindness. **Figure 4** highlights these preferences, showing that a significant number of participants preferred partners with low vision or blindness, likely due to shared experiences and mutual understanding.

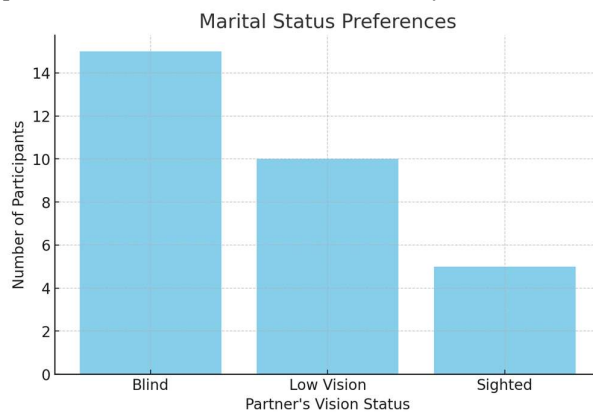


Figure 4: Marital Status Preferences

Religion and Community Affiliation

Religious and community affiliations often play a decisive role in marriage decisions in many cultures. The Suyamvaram data reveals that almost all participants were Hindu, with one Muslim participant. The community distribution included OBC, BC, MBC, SC/ST, and general categories, as shown in **Figure 5**. This suggests a diverse representation within the Hindu community, while also highlighting the potential challenges faced by non-Hindu individuals in such events.

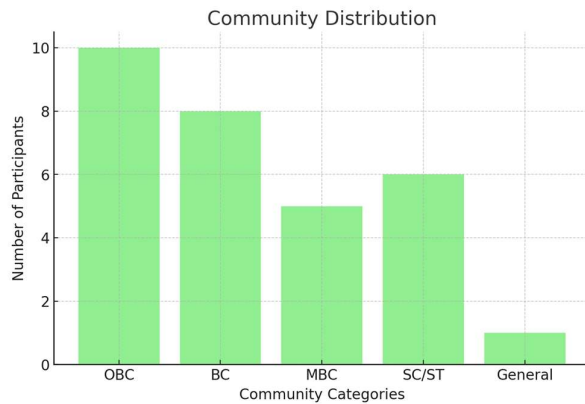


Figure 5: Community Distribution

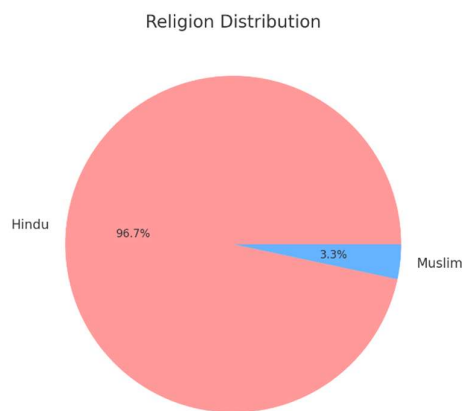


Figure 6: Religion Distribution

Discussion

The analysis of the Swayamvaram marriage data provides valuable insights into the socio-demographic dynamics at play within the visually impaired community. The predominance of participants in their 30s underscores the importance of economic and personal stability in marriage decisions. The diversity in vision impairment among participants reflects an inclusive approach, though the data also suggests a need for greater outreach to sighted individuals to foster broader acceptance.

Economic factors, as evidenced by the varied income levels, play a crucial role in the marriage prospects of visually impaired individuals. Employment stability, particularly in permanent positions, is linked to higher incomes, which in turn can enhance marriage prospects. This finding highlights the importance of economic empowerment initiatives for the visually impaired.

The data on marital preferences reveals a tendency towards seeking partners with similar vision impairments, which could be attributed to shared experiences and a deeper understanding of each other's challenges. However, this also suggests the need for awareness and education to encourage more open-mindedness regarding partner selection.

Finally, the religious and community affiliations of participants highlight the cultural context within which marriages occur. While the event was predominantly Hindu, the presence of diverse community categories suggests a broad, though culturally specific, representation. This points to the potential need for similar events tailored to other religious communities to ensure inclusivity.

Conclusion

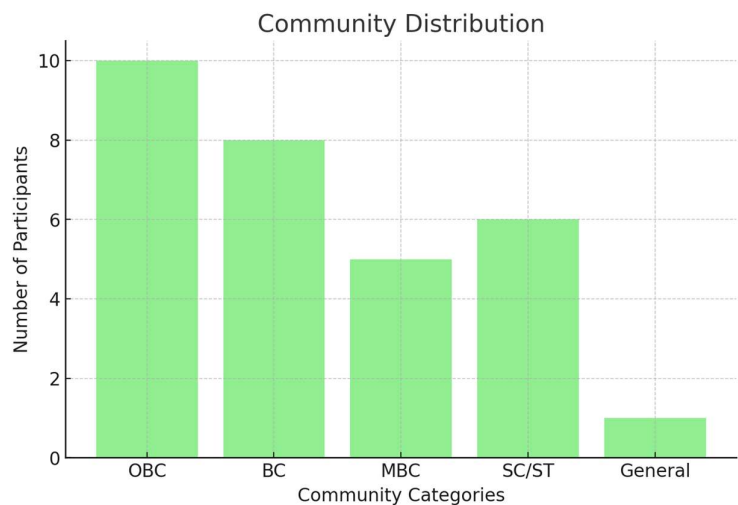
The Swayamvaram marriage event data provides a window into the matrimonial aspirations and challenges faced by visually impaired individuals. By understanding the age distribution, vision impairment levels, employment

and income statuses, marital preferences, and community affiliations, stakeholders can better design interventions that support the marriage prospects of visually impaired individuals. Such initiatives could include economic empowerment programs, awareness campaigns to reduce societal prejudices, and the organization of inclusive marriage events that cater to diverse communities.

This analysis also underscores the importance of fostering inclusivity within the marriage market, not only among visually impaired individuals but also across different disabilities and sighted persons. By promoting mutual understanding and acceptance, society can move closer to ensuring that the right to marriage and family life is accessible to all, regardless of disability.

References

1. Data sourced from the Swayamvaram marriage event for visually impaired individuals, analyzed for demographic insights.
2. Visual representations are based on the analyzed data, illustrating key findings in age distribution, vision impairment, employment status, income levels, marital preferences, and community affiliations.



Here are the generated figures based on the requested data:

1. **Figure 4: Marital Status Preferences** - A bar chart showing participants' preferences in partner's vision status.
2. **Figure 5: Religion Distribution** - A pie chart representing the religious affiliation of the participants.
3. **Figure 6: Community Distribution** - A bar chart showing the community categories of the participants.