

## **The view on marriage and love of Chinese contemporary female university students: A survey report from Universities of Yunnan Province**

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**Abstract:** Based on a survey on students' view on marriage and love in universities of Yunnan province, this paper intends to recognize the influence trend of contemporary intellectual women on China's future marriage and love, especially after the implementation of the new interpretation of marriage law. How to positively face and understand the arguments and a series of issues about view on marriage and love is the main purpose of this investigation.

### **1. Introduction**

The university stage is the love practice period of young people. There are some teaching content closely related to the view of marriage and love in the course named "Moral Education and Basics of Law", which is offered in the first year of university. With the implementation of interpretations made by the Supreme People's Court in 2011 about a number of issues in the application of the "Marriage Law of the Republic of China" (III), teachers will intend to explain the relevant laws in the definition of marital property of the new regulations in classroom teaching. As the biggest fluctuation side of future marriage interests, female university students have more intense emotion than male students in classroom discussion about this topic. In order to be fully aware of the impact of the new judicial interpretation of the marriage law on the majority of women's view of marriage and love, as an assignment of this course, a survey was made among the students from some representative universities of Yunnan province. This investigation was made to know: (1) the general love view of contemporary university students, especially the female university students; (2) whether or not there are any changes for the female university students in the choice of spouse in the years after the implementation of judicial interpretation of the marriage law? If yes, what they are.

### **2. The survey subjects**

The survey subjects are from Yunnan University, Yunnan Normal University, Dali University, Qujing Normal University, Yuxi Normal University, and Chuxiong Normal University. Most of them are the first year to fourth year female students. In order to fully get aware of the university students' view on marriage and love, a small number of male university students were randomly investigated about the relevant views.

### **3. The survey method**

Questionnaire survey and individual interviews are combined in this survey. Field research and network questionnaire are used as complements. 100 copies of questionnaire were issued in each university. A total of 600 students completed the questionnaire, and the response rate reached 100%. 95% of the questionnaires are available. There are more than ten interviews and group discussions.

### **4. Survey results and analysis**

#### **4.1 Collection of basic information**

1) What's your gender? (single-choice question, Table 1)

Table 1 Gender results

item	Subtotal	proportion
male	161	28.28%
female	409	71.72%
effective number of completion for this question	570	

This survey was mainly conducted among female students.

2) What year are you in? (single-choice question, Table 2)

Table 2 Year results

item	subtotal	proportion
First year	98	17.24%
Second year	413	72.41%
Third year	39	6.9%
Fourth year	20	3.45%
effective number of completion for this question	570	

Because junior and senior students are busy going out for internships and with graduation thesis writing, the number of students to participate in the survey is small.

3) How about your status? (single-choice question, Table 3)

Table 3 Status results

item	subtotal	proportion
On the break	86	15.09%
In love	194	33.96%
Never been in love	129	22.64%
No plan to be in love	161	28.3%
effective number of completion for this question	570	

Because the number of the junior and senior students surveyed are small, the results of the survey showed mainly the status of the freshmen and sophomores. Nearly half of the students have love experience. If the actual condition of the junior and senior students were taken into consideration, there would be a higher proportion of university students with love experience.

4) Where does your family live? (single-choice question, Table 4)

Table 4 Location results

item	subtotal	proportion
City	140	24.53%
Countryside	430	75.47%
effective number of completion for this question	570	

Because more than half of the universities in this survey locate in prefectures, and the industry in Yunnan's is not developed, students from the township rural areas are in the majority.

5) Whether or not you are the only child? (single-choice question, Table 5)

Table 5 Question results

item	subtotal	proportion
Yes	86	15.09%
No	484	84.91%
effective number of completion for this question	570	

Almost none of the rural students are only children.

## 4.2 Cognitive level of views on marriage and love

1) What's your opinion about the source of view on marriage and love? (single-choice question, Table 6)

Table 6 Opinion results

item	subtotal	proportion
parents or elders	441	77.36%
School Education	269	47.17%
Friends	398	69.81%
No plan to be in love	129	22.64%
Books, magazines and newspapers	204	35.85%
TV or broadcast	215	37.74%
Network	172	30.19%
film and television works	118	20.75%
effective number of completion for this question	570	

The embryos of view on marriage and love for students which rank the first three are: the experience of parents and elders, the exchange between friends and students, and school related courses of education and teaching.

2) Did your parents ever educate you about the view on marriage and love? (single-choice question, Table 7)

Table 7 Education results

item	subtotal	proportion
Yes	280	49.06%
No	290	50.94%
effective number of completion for this question	570	

3) Did you receive any sex education from your parents? (single-choice question, Table 8)

Table 8 single-choice question results

item	subtotal	proportion
Yes	140	24.53%
No	430	75.47%
effective number of completion for this question	570	

The results from the above two questions revealed that the view from parents is not a systematic and complete one on marriage and love. Only a few word fragments from personal experience and social customs can not play the role of shaping the correct view and leading the life. Most of the students come from rural families, and they are not the only children. It is also understandable that their parents' education energy and ability are unhelpful. In addition to the taboo on sexual topics in traditional education, students are relatively deficient and shallow about knowledge of gender and self-protection in love.

4) What is your biggest love scale in university love period? (single-choice question for male students, Table 9)

Table 9 Scale results

item	subtotal	proportion
cohabitation	84	52.17%
Kiss	35	21.74%
Hug	35	21.74%
Hand in hands	7	4.35%
effective number of completion for this question	161	

What is your biggest love scale in university love period? (single-choice question for female students, Table 10)

Table 10 Female students results

item	subtotal	proportion
cohabitation	65	15.89%
Kiss	210	51.40%
Hug	76	18.69%
Hand in hands	57	14.02%
effective number of completion for this question	409	

5) Can you accept if your lover wants to have sex with you? (single-choice question, Table 11)

Table 11 Acceptance results

item	subtotal	proportion
No, only after married	165	28.97%
If the time has come, I will.	259	45.52%
It does not matter	16	2.76%
It's so natural for adults, and we have had for many times.	47	8.28%
Never think about it.	83	14.48%
effective number of completion for this question	570	

The number of male students accepting cohabitation is more than half, and girls are relatively conservative. Overall, 56.56% of college students approve of premarital sex. Recently, it was reported on media that Beijing University students living with HIV amount to 722, among which male students account for 98.48%. (Reference 1) In Yuelu district of Changsha where gathered quite a few universities, 603 people were found to be infected with AIDS, including 106 students. (Reference 2) In recent years, the AIDS epidemic of young students shows a rapid upward trend. The disease control agencies in the investigation and follow-up of students infected with AIDS found that students generally lack knowledge of sexual and reproductive health, resulting in a high proportion of university students infected with AIDS through sexual activity. Through the survey results of the above two questions, combined with the shortage of family education, the situation of Yunnan colleges and universities is not optimistic.

6) Are any courses about view on marriage and love education offered in your university? (single-choice question, Table 12)

Table 12 Courses results

item	subtotal	proportion
Yes	387	67.92%
Never	54	9.43%
I am not sure.	129	22.64%
effective number of completion for this question	570	

7) Who can you seek help in case you need them to help you in love? (single-choice question, Table 13)

Table 13 Help results

item	subtotal	proportion
Parents	11	1.89%
Teachers	11	1.89%
Classmates or friends	290	50.94%
Self	258	45.28%
effective number of completion for this question	570	

The survey results of the above two questions show that the marriage and love education in school is more positive than family education. However, it can not only stay on the theoretical level. Otherwise, it can far from meeting the actual needs of the university students. In the past two years, universities started to provide automatic vending machines, the lowest level will be placed with condoms and HIV testing test paper. There are also publicity activities held in the summer social practice of university students in township communities to defend against AIDS. However, there is no special compulsory course for students to receive popular science education about the necessary gender knowledge. There are still short boards in school education.

#### 4.3 General tendency of the view on marriage and love

1) What is your motive to be in love? (multiple choice question, Table 14)

Table 14 Motion results

item	subtotal	proportion
affected by classmates	98	17.24%
Woored by him or her	275	48.28%
Love him or her	448	78.62%
make up for the emptiness of the heart, looking for spiritual sustenance	224	39.31%
kill time	86	15.17%
meet their material needs	28	4.83
effective number of completion for this question	570	

2) Do you think marriage is the purpose of love? (single-choice question, Table 15)

Table 15 Purpose results

item	subtotal	proportion
Must be faithful and loyal to him or her.	20	3.45%
It depends. It's a natural process.	495	86.9%
Enjoy love first, and will not consider marriage at present.	55	9.66%
effective number of completion for this question	570	

The analyses in the above two tables show that students' attitude toward marriage and love is basically normal, neither conservative nor extreme, although there is also an individual view of polarization.

3) What aspects of each other will you take into account when you fall in love? (multiple choice question, Table 16)

Table 16 Aspects results

item	subtotal	proportion
learning score	102	17.93%
character and friends	499	87.59%
appearance	370	64.83%
family environment, financial resources	177	31.03%
will not consider more than a love feeling	263	46.21%
work and future development after graduation	236	41.38%
Regions close to my hometown	181	31.72%
effective number of completion for this question	570	

The top three options are: character, appearance and feeling. Girls also value the development potential of future partners, but in the age of students, this is not the most important criterion for

choosing a mate. This is a tangible evidence of simple and pure love between young people.

4) How do you think the payment is reasonable when going out catering or shopping? (single-choice question, Table 17)

Table 17 Payment results

item	subtotal	proportion
AA system	212	37.24%
The male	51	8.97%
The female	0	0%
In turn	307	53.79%
effective number of completion for this question	570	

This question is designed to examine the propensity of students when falling in love. Although it is generally accepted that the males should pay more when dating, nearly half of the female accept AA or take turns to pay. This manifested a sense and ability of contemporary women's financially independence.

#### 4.4 Realistic considerations of the view on marriage and love

1) Do you know the new regulations about marital property made by the Supreme People's Court of China in 2011 on the application of the interpretation of certain issues of the marriage Law of the PRC (III)? (Table 18)

Table 18 Regulations results

item	subtotal	proportion
Yes	86	15.09%
No	484	84.91%
effective number of completion for this question	570	

During these years, through the classroom explanation and the spread of public opinion, the students mostly know the relevant legal provisions.

2) What's your viewpoint of the new provisions of the Marriage Law? (single-choice question for the female students, Table 19)

Table 19 single-choice question for the female students

item	subtotal	proportion
It does not matter. Women can be independent.	14	3.45%
Lose the security of marriage	355	86.9%
Reduce dispute to help positive interactions between men and women.	40	9.66%
effective number of completion for this question	409	

What's your viewpoint of the new provisions of the Marriage Law? (single-choice question for the male students, Table 20)

Table 20 single-choice question for the male students

item	subtotal	proportion
It does not matter. Women can be independent.	28	17.24%
Lose the security of marriage	127	78.62%
Reduce dispute to help positive interactions between men and women.	63	39.31%
effective number of completion for this question	161	

Through the option of defining the sensitive topic of property in the new marriage law, the

female students generally agree that the revision of the new marriage law is only beneficial to the male. This causes women lose their sense of security in marriage, while it makes men lower their sense of responsibility for marriage. In fact, this may result in zero cost of divorce, and it is not conducive to the stability of the family. Compared with some other laws and regulations of marriage in Europe, America, Japan and other countries, there is no necessary protection for women's rights and interests. The choices of the male students are more certain about the inhibition of money worship in marriage and love, and nearly 40% of the male recipients are willing to consider this issue from a female point of view, in order to express the sincerity of marriage and give the woman premarital property. It demonstrated the magnanimity and sincerity of the male, and for the female it is undoubtedly a bowl of heart chicken soup.

3) How to make a choice between an ideal job and lover after graduation? (single-choice question, Table 21)

Table 21 Choice results

item	subtotal	proportion
Love	102	17.93%
Job	177	31.03%
It depends.	311	54.72%
I don't know.	129	22.64%
effective number of completion for this question	570	

4) Does marriage need to be of equal social rank? (single-choice question, Table 22)

Table 22 Equal social rank results

item	subtotal	proportion
Yes, because it will meet least resistance, and have common topics	204	35.85%
It doesn't matter to me.	21	3.77%
It depends.	215	37.74%
Unnecessary, the true love is more important and can change everything.	129	22.64%
effective number of completion for this question	570	

It can be seen from the above two tables that most girls in the face of love and career dilemma determined to choose a career, and this is more and more consistent with the choice of the male. At the same time, the equal social rank of families has been re-emphasized. The close game between men and women has become an important factor in marriage stability. It has to be said that these reflect the evident changes brought about by the new marriage law to the view on marriage and love of the contemporary female.

The new marriage law gives birth to a new view on choosing a mate, and "potential stock" has become a favorite of the male. Many members of the public believe that the current popular "naked marriage", "full-time wife" are no longer reliable. The first factor to consider when picking a mate is no longer money and house for the women. "Potential stock" will become a new favorite of the women to seek a mate. "First, it is no longer possible for a woman to take ownership of a man's property by marriage; second, if she did not pay a down payment after marriage, she cannot take ownership of property, even if there is a joint loan repayment. A woman can only have her own house either by buying it herself or by having her husband change the ownership of the property or write a common name. "In fact, this is a collective wake-up call for women: it's time for women to be truly autonomous and independent," Gong Haiyan, a CEO and affection expert of ShiJiJiayuan. (Reference 3)

A survey from the Marriage and love network shows that for most netizens in the new marriage law after the judicial interpretation, their views on choosing a mate also began to falter: the advantage for those men who use their parents' money to buy a house before marriage is not saved;

on the other hand, those men who have no house but can buy house in the future will be greatly liberated. They have the equal opportunity to be selected as a mate of the females. Of course, as a result of sense of security, women will compete with men for social status and resources. Then, full-time wives will become less. In the face of the double pressures from family and workplace, women's motivation to marry will also weaken. The number of late married and even not married women may also increase.

## **5. Conclusion**

In short, through this survey, a global impression can be got about the view of contemporary Yunnan female university students on love and marriage. As intellectual women, female university students are not only the builders of the future society, but also the ethos leader to make the innovation. Especially in Yunnan, a relatively backward and conservative province, the female university students need to destroy the old views and establish the new ones.

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