

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE EFFECT OF MARRIAGE ON THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF UNDERGRADUATE FEMALE STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY LEVEL OF BANGLADESH: A CASE STUDY

Mohammad Monjur Morshed<sup>1\*</sup> and Jarin Nusrat<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>Department of Statistics, University of Chittagong, Chattogram -4331, Bangladesh

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.56293/IJASR.2024.5809>

IJASR 2024

VOLUME 7

ISSUE 2 MARCH – APRIL

ISSN: 2581-7876

**Abstract:** This study analyzed the effect of marriage on the academic performance of female students in a selected public university, named University of Chittagong in Bangladesh. For this purpose, 106 married female students were selected from different faculties of university by using the purposive and snow-ball sampling techniques. A number of statistical hypotheses were generated and tested by using the chi-square and paired sample t tests. The findings show that academic performance of married female students has significant effect with some factors such as study hour, time spent over mobile phone, getting help from husband and in-laws family members for study, respondents' faculty and satisfaction level in marital status. On the other hand, class attendance, management of financial needs, getting pressure to take child from husband and in-laws family members has been found insignificantly related with their academic performance. The analysis reveals that marriage have notable positive effect on higher studies for female students and most of the student's result remain constant & raised because of contribution and help of their husband & in-laws family members for household work, marital satisfaction and mental stability with financial security.

**Keywords:** Academic performance, GPA, Satisfaction level, Higher education, Female student

## INTRODUCTION

Marriage and higher education are two imperative elements for female students in Bangladesh. The important vital events in human life are birth, marriage and death where marriage is a matter of choice (1). A moment of carnival and breakthrough event in young people life is marriage which is formally recognized as a union between a man and a woman as partner in a personal relationship. Marriage is a life event that frequently bases changes in a person's urgencies, duties and responsibilities (2). Therefore, they have had to make important decisions regarding their education and family roles (3). It is often considered as a hurdle to education because females are typically likely to leave institution in order to focus on caring for their new home or on childbearing and childcare (4).

Many studies have been carried out on marriage and its effects on the individual's mental and physical health. Many of these studies showed that there is an interconnection between a person's marital status and their happiness (5). Marriage has positive effects among male married students on their academic performance (5). A cross-sectional study carried out in 1983 found marriage as the best interpreter of happiness. In the same context, Barrett Investigations (2000) exposed that there are leading mental improvements from marriage. Another study (5) associated undergraduate married and single students in terms of personal needs, pleasure, and apparent complications. Unmarried male students were found to be more likely to share in activities associated with unwary expressiveness and sensitive dependence [6]. Data collected by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and analyzed by Joseph Price proved that students who were married prior to starting graduate school do not have worse outcomes than students who were single [7]. Another study concluded that there was no significant relationship between marital status and academic performance [8].

Many women especially young female those who enter into higher education get marriage without any choice. Education is the continuing process of acquiring knowledge and higher education is considered as a preparation for finding a job than those who do not have a university degree. The practice of female students getting married involves the deprivation of educational success (1). Marriage of female students at university level causes for

disturbs and confuses of their academic performance, but these does not infer that all married female students perform poorly in education (1). Reduced appearance to class, inadequate time to read and study, departed attention from academics to families' welfare and poor time management are the challenges that usually effect the academic performance of married female students in higher education (1). Higher education for female students in Bangladesh accelerates the level of female empowerment, but it also depends on a number of other factors. Higher education enables women to take up leadership roles in society, increasing workplace diversity. However, married female graduates in Bangladesh are less likely to apply to or enroll in graduate programs because of their commitments to their homes, their children, and their jobs. Some women even go without their husbands' and families' approval or permission to continue their further education. This explains why women are less likely than males to pursue higher education. Many programs have been created in Bangladesh to support them for equal participation in society. Since it gives them the chance to enter the workforce and achieve financial independence, education is crucial for women's empowerment (9). The findings revealed that academic performance differs between married and single women students, with some students being satisfied with their performance while others are not. Despite complaints, the majority of participants, both married and single, continue to support cultural practices, believing that they make women responsible for their academic performance (10).

The findings revealed significant differences in responses based on class, age, and residential areas. The study suggests developing counseling programs and involving stakeholders to improve their achievement (11). A study examines the impact of early marriages on girls' education that has negative effect on education due to early pregnancy and recommends media awareness campaigns against early marriage (12). The study evaluated the impact of marriage, pregnancy, and childbearing on the academic performance of female medical students in Saudi Arabia. This study concluded that marriage doesn't directly affect academic performance (13).

Results showed a significant relationship between academic performance and marital status, with age being the most significant factor. Marital status was also significant with age at the time of marriage, but not with the type of family. (14). Therefore, the promotion of females' education is imperative for achieving sustainable development in a country like Bangladesh (9). In this respect the present study will help to identify the factors that cause contrasting with academic consequences so that married female students can avoid them, and guide them regarding academic objectives when making their marriage plan decisions.

The objective of this study are as follows:

1. To determine the effect of marriage on academic performance of female students under higher education in Bangladesh.
2. To explore which determinant factors do affect their academic performance and to investigate the association between academic performance (GPA) on different variables as marital status, age at the time of marriage, type of family and other demographic variables of the married female students.
3. To detect the relationship between variables in aspect of before & after marriage of female students at higher education in Bangladesh.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

106 married female students were selected from different faculties of a selected public university in Bangladesh for taking information in May – June, 2023. They were female undergraduate students at the University of Chittagong in Chattogram, Bangladesh. Data were obtained by a self-administered questionnaire. The questionnaire was made on demographic and academic information of married female undergraduate students and it was reviewed and adjusted accordingly. The purposive and the snowball sampling techniques were adopted to collect data. The respondents of the study were considered for married, female, an undergraduate, a current female student and less than one year newly graduated students and completing at least one year/semester before marriage and one year/semester after marriage studying in University of Chittagong, Chattogram, Bangladesh. The questionnaire was designed to assess academic performance in terms of grade point average (GPA) and study hours. The questionnaire was also designed to evaluate selected factors that may affect academic performance after marriage, namely: marriage duration, having children, having a source of income, time spent over phone, accommodation availability, having a comfortable means of transportation, satisfaction with family life, supportive attitude of husband, husband's work status, assistance of family with household tasks and children's matters and the place of

residence of the husband. The continuation of post marriage education was the dependent variable in this study. The analysis considered several explanatory variables that may have a potential influence on the academic performance of the female students after marriage. These incorporate factors include the age of the respondent (grouped into three categories: less than 20 years, 20–23 years and above 23 years), academic year, name of faculties, type of marriage, class attendance before and after marriage, partner’s education status, time spent over phone before and after marriage, current residence with husband (yes, or no), time spent on household chores, fulfillment of financial needs, number of children, satisfaction level in marital life etc.

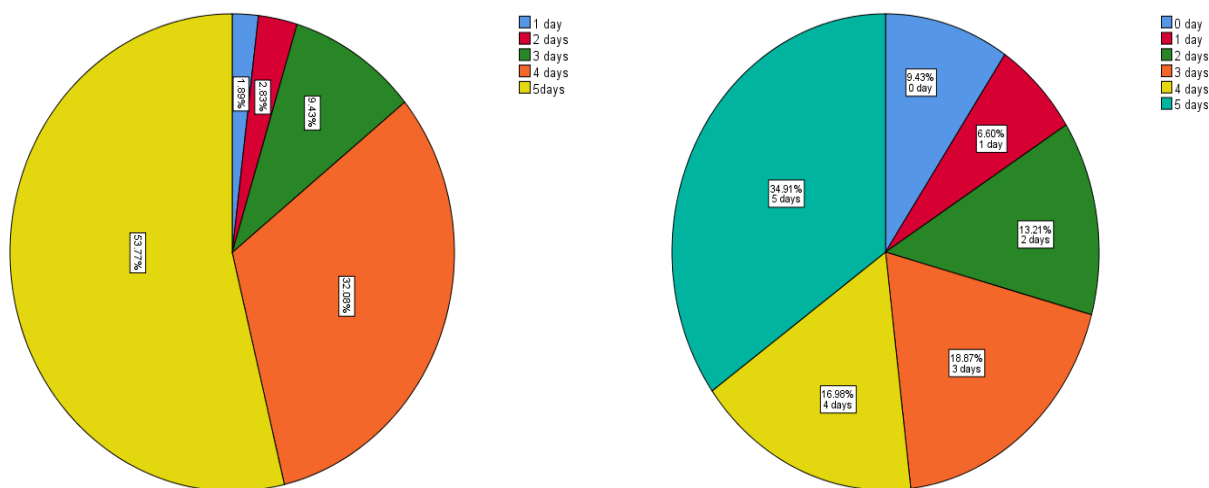
The data collected was encoded into an Excel spreadsheet file and statistically analyzed by the SPSS Software (version 23). A number of research hypotheses were formulated and tested in this study. The chi-square test was employed to find out if there was a relationship between post marriage education and academic performance of the respondents. Paired sample t test was also used to test the hypotheses to know the effect of marriage with the factors before & after marriage academic performances. The multivariate logistic regression analysis was carried out for the significant variables to examine their relative significance in the study. P-value was considered for less than 0.01 as highly significant, less as or equal 0.05 as significant and above 0.05 as insignificant to examine the relationship.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

We have found from our study that there is a relationship between continuations of post marriage education with their academic performances. Now it is useful to describe on some preliminary features of data analysis. Table 1 presents the class attendance of respondents per week before and after marriage, Table 2 shows bivariate analysis between the married female students according to different categories of GPA obtained and selected variables, Table 3 describes result of paired sample t test for selected variables and the following Pie chart shows the class attendance of respondents before and after marriage.

**Table- 1: Class attendance for respondents**

Before marriage, class attendance per week					After marriage, class attendance per week				
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent			Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
valid	1 day	2	1.9	1.9	valid	0 day	10	9.4	9.4
	2 days	3	2.8	2.8		1 day	7	6.6	6.6
	3 days	10	9.4	9.4		2 days	14	13.2	13.2
	4 days	34	32.1	32.1		3 days	20	18.9	18.9
	5days	57	53.8	53.8		4 days	18	17.0	17.0
	Total	106	100.0	100.0		5 days	37	34.9	34.9
					Total	106	100.0	100.0	



**Figure:** Class attendance per week for respondents before & after marriage According to the analysis, faculty wise average GPA for married female students have significantly found. That means faculty of the married female students at university level & their results are strongly related.

**Table-2: Bivariate Analysis Married female students according to different categories of GPA obtained and selected variables**

Variables		Post marriage average GPA -			Chi square value	P value
		dropped	raised	remains constant		
Respondent's Faculty	Arts & social science	5 (4.7)	17(16)	25(23.6)	13.920	0.031
	BBA	6 (5.7)	3 (2.8)	5 (4.7)		
	Science related	9(8.5)	4(3.8)	25(23.6)		
	others	2(1.9)	1(0.9)	4(3.8)		
Post marriage study hour per day -	less than 2 hours	20(18.9)	14(13.2)	32(30.2)	19.847	0.001
	2-4 hours	2(1.9)	5(4.7)	24(22.6)		
	Above 4 hours	0(0.00)	6(5.7)	3(2.8)		
Number of supplementary & improve courses at post marriage education	less than 2	14(13.2)	19(17.9)	51(48.1)	8.491	0.075
	2-4	7(6.6)	4(3.8)	4(3.8)		
	Above 4	1(0.9)	2(1.9)	4(3.8)		
class attendance per week at post marriage study	0 day	2(1.9)	2(1.9)	6(5.7)	16.927	0.076
	1 day	3(2.8)	0(0)	4(3.8)		
	2 days	6(5.7)	1(0.9)	7(6.6)		
	3 days	6(5.7)	6(5.7)	8(7.5)		
	4 days	2(1.9)	7(6.6)	9(8.5)		
	5 days	3(2.8)	9(8.5)	25(23.6)		
Getting help from husband & in-laws for study purpose-	yes	17(16)	24(22.6)	57(53.8)	9.178	0.010
	no	5(4.7)	1(0.9)	2(1.9)		
financial needs fulfilled by-	husband	14(13.2)	22(20.8)	44(41.5)	5.916	0.433
	in-laws	1(0.9)	0(0.00)	2(1.9)		
	parents	3(2.8)	0(0.00)	7(6.6)		

	self-dependent	4(3.8)	3(2.8)	6(5.7)		
Getting pressure to take child from husband and in-laws family-	yes	7(6.6)	2(1.9)	10(9.4)	4.599	0.080
	no	15(14.2)	23(21.7)	49(46.2)		
Satisfaction level of marital status -	dissatisfied	5(4.7)	0(0.00)	6(5.7)	16.416	0.003
	highly satisfied	1(0.9)	13(12.3)	16(15.1)		
	satisfied	16(15.1)	12(11.3)	37(34.9)		

We have also seen from table that, Arts & social science married female students did continue to do better results than all other faculties like science, BBA etc. A female student of Arts faculty has to attend less classes, handle less coursework pressure than a female student of other faculties specially science related faculties. Also, there are no practical classes. Therefore, she can manage to cut a good figure in the exam along with giving enough time and focus to her marital life. But the scenario is different for a female student of science related faculties. It is difficult for her to perform well academically along with managing her marital life due to greater number of classes comparatively, practical exam, coursework pressure etc.

After marriage, self-study is highly associated with average GPA. This study reveals that married female students who continue to do self-study regularly even after marriage, their GPA are not dropped. The students who are not given sufficient time in their studies regularly after marriage, their GPA are dropped. Number of supplementary & improvement courses are associated with average GPA after marriage. The case where number of supplementary & improvement courses get increased after marriage indicates that marriage may be a reason to create obstruction in the study. But if number of supplementary & improvement courses get decreased, it may be due to the reason that the female student has got some kind of convenience or positive environment from her husband or in-laws or both. It may be also due to the reason that she herself is very much hardworking and committed to her study.

Class attendance per week and average GPA after marriage are found significantly associated. After marriage, she becomes occupied to cope with her married life. Thus, her class attendance rate gets reduced which affects her academic life. Getting support for study purpose from the spouse and in-laws is important for enhancing academic outcomes after marriage. The investigation indicates a substantial association between the average GPA after marriage and receiving study assistance from one's husband and in-laws. The majority of female students received study support. Students who had improved or maintained their results in the past had assistance from their husbands and in-laws.

The provider of financial needs after marriage and the average GPA after marriage of the students have not found statistically significant. Her financial need gets fulfilled either by her husband or by her father and so she feels financially secured. Therefore, the effect is not significant. There is an association between the pressure to take child by husband and in-laws and the average GPA after marriage of the female student. In this case, she feels anxious about how to handle the situation and the responsibility if she takes a child which affects her result.

The most crucial element in any marital life is the degree of satisfaction. It's a measure of mental tranquility that fosters an environment conducive to fruitful learning. The data above demonstrates a strong positive association between average GPA after marriage and level of marital satisfaction. In maximum time, the result of the female students who are highly satisfied in their marital life, gets raised and the female students who are simply satisfied remains constant. But in the case of the female students who are dissatisfied in their marital life, the result never gets raised. Their results either remain constant or get dropped.

The percentage distribution, chi-square value, and p-value are all clearly displayed in Table-2. It has been used to find association between dependent & independent variables.

Table 3: Paired sample test for association of various selected variables

		Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	class attendance before marriage - class attendance after marriage	1.00943	1.50235	.14592	.72010	1.29877	6.918	105	.000
Pair 2	Self-study before marriage – self-study after marriage	.48113	.87539	.08503	.31254	.64972	5.659	105	.000
Pair 3	before marriage number of supplementary and improve courses - after marriage number of supplementary and improve courses	-.12264	.52920	.05140	-.22456	-.02072	-2.386	105	.019
Pair 4	Before marriage time spent over phone - after marriage time spent over phone	.39623	.94294	.09159	.21463	.57782	4.326	105	.000
Pair 5	before marriage time spent over household chores - after marriage time spent over household work	-.83962	.81809	.07946	-.99718	-.68207	-10.567	105	.000

Female students encounter numerous challenges upon marriage which significantly impacts their academic career. The academic result of a female students shows the reflection of the effect of these various variables. It is clearly evident that marriage has significant effect on daily life routine of the female students. In some cases the effect is positive whereas in some cases the effect is negative. By using paired samples t test, difference between before marriage & after marriage has been shown from many aspects. The differences are found highly significant.

Pair 1 indicates that there is a highly significant difference (p-value: 0.00) in the class attendance before & after marriage among the respondents. It is because married female students have responsibilities to their husband & in-law’s family that’s why they become irregular in their class attendance. Pair 2 shows that there is a highly significant difference (p-value: 0.00) in the self -study before and after marriage which indicates that there is effect of marriage on self-study. From pair 3, it is understood that there is significant difference (0.019) in the number of



supplementary and improvement courses before and after marriage. Pair 4 shows time spent over phone before & after marriage doesn't remain same. There is a highly significant ( $p$ -value: 0.00) difference between these two situations. Lastly, it is seen from pair 5 that there is a highly significant difference ( $p$ -value: 0.00) between time spent over household chores before & after marriage. After marriage, responsibilities get increased in the life of a female student and she has to contribute more in the household works.

In the above paired sample  $t$  test, there have been found highly significant difference in five pairs. Comparing the values of some specific variables, it is clearly seen that marriage has significant effect on those variables. Here, maximum variables are study related which measure the growth of the study effectively and effect of marriage on those variables has been found comparing the difference before and after marriage. We have already studied the association of several variables with the involvement in average GPA after marriage. Four of the variables taken into account have been found independently significantly associated with average GPA (after marriage). Let us now consider all of those significant variables simultaneously to examine their relative significance.

Satisfaction in marriage is strongly associated with GPA obtained by female married students. The study shows that the female students who are dissatisfied in their marital life 6.683 times more likely to have dropped GPA after marriage than those who are highly satisfied. Again, mental peace is directly related with marital satisfaction and so the more satisfied a female student is with her marital life, the more peaceful she feels. As a result, she becomes more focused which helps her to make a good academic result. In some cases, a student fails to make a good academic result even if she is satisfied in her marital life. Here, her own negligence and other reasons are responsible.

From the study, the odds ratio 0.155 indicates that the female students who get help from husband & in-laws for study purpose are 0.845 times less likely to have dropped GPA after marriage than those who don't get help from husband & in-laws for study purpose. The odds ratio 0.300 indicates that the female students who did self-study less than 2 hours are 0.700 times less likely to have raised GPA than those who did self-study above 4 hours. In general, the priorities of a female student get changed or her focus gets shifted towards her married life after marriage. From the analysis, it is understood that the female students who can make it possible to study for above 4 hours after marriage, will have raised GPA and accordingly students who study less than 2 hours will be more likely to have dropped their GPA.

### CONCLUSION

The goal of this study was to determine how the marriage for female students at university level affected academic performance and average GPA. We observed that most of the female students like to get married between ages of 20-23 years in their fourth academic year. The majority of married female students come from the arts faculty (including social science) and they are satisfied with their marriage. The average GPA of the majority married female students' (55.7%) at university level has remained unchanged. The study found that academic performance of married female students has a significant relation with some factors such as study hour, time spent over mobile phone, getting help from husband and in-laws for study, respondents' faculty and satisfaction level in marital status. On the contrary, class attendance, management of financial needs, getting pressure to take child from husband and in-laws family members has been found insignificantly related with their academic performance. The study discovers a substantial strong statistical relation between GPA obtained of female students and their marital life satisfaction. GPA after marriage has a negligible association with several other variables, including age at marriage, type of marriage, family structure, etc.

From our society we have always heard that marriage is an obstacle in case of higher education for females. But our study reveals something different aspects. We have found that, marriage have notable positive effect on higher studies for female students. Majority of the student's result remain constant & raised because of contribution of husband & in-laws for household work & study purpose, marital satisfaction, financial security, mental stability etc. Therefore, a highly satisfying family life and a supportive husband can contribute to a married female student at undergraduate level education to achieve a better academic performance. The identified factors of this study can help educators and policy-makers to develop effective intervention programs to improve the academic performance of the married female students.

## REFERENCES

1. Research Clue. (2019). Effect of marriage on academic performance of selected Nigeria university. Available at: <https://nairaproject.com/projects/3689.html>. [Accessed: 2024-4-9].
2. Ebaugh HRF. *Becoming an ex: The process of role exit*. University of Chicago Press, 1988. 10.7208/chicago/9780226160535.001.0001 [[CrossRef](#)] [[Google Scholar](#)]
3. Howlader, S., Aminur Rahman, A., & Mosfequr Rahman, M., (2023). Continuation of education after marriage and its associated factors among young adult women: findings from the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2017–2018, [BMJ Open](#). 2023; 13(11): e078892. Published online 2023 Nov 23. doi: [10.1136/bmjopen-2023-078892](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2023-078892)
4. Jensen R, Thornton R. Early female marriage in the developing world. *Gender & Development* 2003; 11:9–19. 10.1080/741954311 [[CrossRef](#)] [[Google Scholar](#)]
5. Darwish, E., Ahmed Alkhars, A., & Murtadha Alkhars, F. (2021). Effects of marriage on the academic performance of undergraduate male students at the King Faisal University. *International Journal of Medicine in Developing Countries*, 5(2), 1-5.
6. Chilman, C and Meyer, D. Single and Married Undergraduates' Measured Personality Needs and Self-Rated Happiness. *Journal of Marriage and Family*. 1966;28(1):67-76. <https://doi.org/10.2307/350045>
7. Price, J. Marriage and Graduate Student Outcomes. Cornell Higher Education Research Institute (CHERI). 2005.
8. Amuda, B., Bulus, A. and Joseph, H. (n.d.). Marital Status and Age as Predictors of Academic Performance of Students of Colleges of Education in the North- Eastern Nigeria. *Science and Education An Open Access and Academic Publisher*. 2016;4(12), 896-902.
9. Bishwajit Ghose , Iftekharul Haque and Abdullah Al Mamun, Factors influencing post-marriage education and employment among Bangladeshi women: A cross-sectional Analysis, *women* 2023,3,396-407.
10. Potokri, O.C (2013). The Academic performance of married women students in Nigerian higher education.
11. Noori, A. Q. . , & Orfan, S. N. . (2021). The Challenges of Undergraduate Married Female Students in Higher Education: A case study of Takhar University. *Journal of World Englishes and Educational Practices*, 3(6), 09–18.
12. Saima Mughal and Prof. Dr. Abdul Ghafoor Awan, *Global Journal of Management, Social Sciences & Humanities*, Vol 6 (4) Oct-Dec,2020, pp.856-.875-894.
13. Abou-Elhamd, K.-E. A., Al-Wadaani, H. A., & AlMulhim, A. R. S. (2014). Female medical undergraduate; *The Professional Medical Journal*, 21(03), 566–569.
14. Iqra Afzal, Shumaila Kamal Khan, Latifa Mansoor (2022) , A sociological analysis of impact of marriage on academic performance: specifically female: A case study of Baluchistan's Universities, *Pak. journal of Int'L Affairs*, vol 5(2).