

Social Network Usage and College Students' Views of Marriage and Love

Lin WANG^{a*}, Cai-Ge LU^b, Zhi-Feng HAO^c

School of Management Tianjin Normal University Tianjin China

^awanglinpku@163.com, ^blucaige@126.com, ^c1178107396@qq.com

Keywords: Social network, College students, View of marriage, School education.

Abstract. With the rapidly development of mobile network, social network gradually becomes new social communication medium. It may influences undergraduates views of love and marriage to some extent, which include standards of choosing spouse, attitudes towards sex and the goal of love. This paper adopts questionnaire survey to investigate the relationship between social network usage and college students' views on love and marriage. The result shows that social network dependence is highly correlated with college students' standard of choosing a spouse and acceptance of premarital sexual behavior. The social network usage frequency is negatively correlated with motivational strength of finding a life partner as the goal of love.

Introduction

College students' views of marriage have changed with the emergence of social network. College students' psychology and physiology have not yet fully mature and their understanding of marriage is not thorough, and their love and marriage outlook are susceptible to the impact of social networks [1]. However, college students are the central force in the future development of our country. Their views on marriage can reflect their values and outlook on life, which can influence the direction of our country's future development and the national quality [2].

According to the 34th report of the China Internet Network Information Center, until June 2014, the number of online users in China reached 632 million, of which 527 million were mobile Internet users, of whom students accounted for the largest proportion of Internet users [3]. Social networking has become an important part in people's lives. Social Networking Site (SNS) helps a group of people with common interests and activities to establish an online community. Its service is based on the Internet, and provides users with communication channels, such as QQ, WeChat and so on[4]. At present, there are few studies of the influence of social networks on college students' views of marriage. This paper mainly explores the influence of social network usage on college students' concept of marriage and love.

Research Background and Related Concepts

The nature of marriage and love is a special relationship between individuals [5]. As for the view of marriage and love, so far there is no consensus on its definition. Li believes that "the view of marriage and love is determined by people's world outlook, outlook on life and values, and it is people's opinions and attitudes toward marriage and love." [6]. Xu proposes "the view of marriage and love is the embodiment of human values on the issue of marriage and love" [7]. This paper defines the view of marriage and love as the reflection of individual values on the aspects of love, mate selection, marriage and sexuality, which mainly include the concepts of love, mate selection, marriage and sexuality. The researches on the view of marriage and love in foreign countries began with the establishment of the psychoanalytic theory of Freud in the 1840s, and its history has been more than 100 years. Therefore, the research on the view of marriage and love is rather abundant [8]. Brantley, Knox and Zusman's study shows that college students' love is very common, and two-thirds of students think that love is the basis of marriage, marriage without love cannot be happy [9]. Research demonstrates that people with different sexual attitudes may also differ when choosing a partner.

Open-minded people tend to pay more attention to partner's appearance, whereas people who have traditional sexual attitudes tend to attach importance to partner's character [10].

The research on college students' views of marriage and love in our country started relatively late. It began in 1980's. In the early stage, it basically borrowed foreign research mode but also had its own features [11]. The research on college students' views of marriage and love in China mainly focuses on three aspects: love, marriage and sexuality. In terms of research content, scholars concentrate on the motives of love and marriage, the attitude of love and marriage, the criteria of choosing mate, the concept of self and the impact factors. The main research method is questionnaire. With the rapid development of the network, many scholars have begun to study college students' views of marriage under the network environment.

Research Hypotheses

This paper proposes three hypotheses:

H1: There is a positive correlation between the degree of social network dependence and college students' emphasis on the appearance of mate.

H2: There is a positive correlation between the degree of social network dependence and college students' acceptance of premarital sex;

H3: There is a negative correlation between the frequency of social interaction on social networks and the motivation intensity of seeking lifelong partner when falling in love, as far as college students are concerned.

Subjects and Methods

According to actual research contents of this paper, a questionnaire is designed. From March 10 to March 30, 2015, 56 questionnaires were distributed online. 52 valid questionnaires were collected. In addition, 52 paper-based questionnaires were distributed in Tianjin Normal University, and 50 valid questionnaires were collected. Therefore 102 valid questionnaires were totally collected. We used SPSS to test the reliability of the items in the questionnaire. The test results show that α coefficient is 0.746. Since α coefficient is greater than 0.7 and less than 0.8, so the questionnaire is reliable [12].

Research Results

Correlation Analysis of Social Network Dependence and College Students' Views of Marriage and love

We ask questions such as "How frequently do you refresh social networks such as WeChat, QQ, etc.", "What is the probability that when turning on your computer or mobile phone you will first log in to social software (such as QQ)" and "The degree you will feel uncomfortable or anxious, when you cannot use social networks". We average the value of each question and use the variable of social network dependence to represent them. We ask question "When you mate, you put will top priority on the appearance". Question items are measured by the Likert scale: 1 is extremely not, 2 is relatively not, 3 is not sure, 4 is relatively right, 5 is extremely right. We calculate the correlation between social network dependence and college students' emphasis on the appearance of mate and their acceptance of premarital sexual behavior respectively.

The results of correlation analysis by SPSS for the relationship between social network dependence and college students' emphasis on appearance are as following:

Table 1 Correlation Analysis

Correlations			
		Social network dependence	Mate selection criteria
Social network dependence	Pearson Correlation	1	.573**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	102	102
Mate selection criteria	Pearson Correlation	.573**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	102	102

**.Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

As shown in Table 1, the correlation coefficient between social network dependence and college students' emphasis on appearance is 0.573 and the P value is 0.000, which means that the stronger the social network dependence of college students, the more importance they attach to their mate's appearance. Hypothesis 1 is supported.

As for the relationship between social network dependence and undergraduates' acceptance of premarital sex, we measure the question item Can you accept premarital sex "by Likert scale: 1 is absolutely not, 2 is relatively not, 3 is not sure, 4 is relatively sure, 5 is absolutely sure. We use SPSS to analyze the relationship between social network dependence and the acceptance of premarital sexuality. The results are as follows:

Table 2 Correlation Analysis

Correlations			
		Social network dependence	Premarital sex
Social network dependence	Pearson Correlation	1	.430**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	102	102
Premarital sex	Pearson Correlation	.430**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	102	102

**.Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

As shown in Table 2, the correlation coefficient between dependence degree of social network and college students' acceptance of premarital sex is 0.430, and the P value is 0.000. It means the stronger the social network dependence of college students, the greater the likelihood that they will accept premarital sex. Hypothesis 2 is thus supported.

The Relationship between the Frequency of Social Networking and College Students' Views of Love and Marriage

We designed questions such as "How frequently will you use social networking chatting?", "How frequently will you send status in social networks like QQ space, circle of friends?" "How frequently will you comment on status sent by friends?" We average the value of each answer and then use the variable social network usage frequency to represent them. We use the Likert scale to measure the question "Your motivation for love is to find a lifelong companion": 1 for absolutely not, 2 for relatively not, 3 for not sure, 4 for agree, and 5 for totally agree. Consequently, we analyze the relationship between the frequency of using social networks and their motivation intensity of searching lifelong partner when falling in love.

Table 3 Correlation Analysis

		Correlations	
		Social network interaction frequency	Love motive
Social network interaction frequency	Pearson Correlation	1	-.204*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.039
	N	102	102
Love motive	Pearson Correlation	-.204*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.039	
	N	102	102

*.Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

As shown in Table 3, the correlation coefficient between the frequency of using social networks by college students and the motivation intensity of college students' seeking lifelong companions is -0.204. It is a negative correlation and $P < 0.05$. In other words, the more frequently college students use social networks to communicate, the weaker their motivation to find lifelong partner when falling in love. Hypothesis 3 is supported.

From the analysis, we can see that all research hypotheses are supported. The more college students rely on the network, the more importance they attach to mate's appearance, and the more likely they are to accept premarital sex. The more frequently students use social networks, the more their motivations of love deviate from the traditional motivation of love.

Discussion

There is a positive correlation between college students' dependence on social networks and college students' preference for good appearance when looking for a partner, and their acceptance of premarital sexual behavior. The college students' motivations of looking for lifelong companion, the emphasis on appearance, and the acceptance of premarital sex are the manifestation of their views of marriage and love. Therefore, it can be said that the college students' dependence on social networks is closely related to their views of marriage and love.

Each user in the social network has their own profiles, and more users tend to use handsome or beautiful photos as their own head photos. This visual impact will unconsciously affect perceived importance of appearance for college students. According to the above analysis, there is also a positive correlation between the dependence on social networking and the acceptance of premarital sexual behavior among college students. Social networking provides many chances for students to hook up. It is much easier for them to find one night love by using dating apps, especially for those old hands. This really a sexual lure for young students. They may betray traditional ethics and indulge themselves hooking up. As for students who has a boyfriend or girlfriend, many exciting stories and examples of premarital sexual behavior on social network attracts them to try forbidden fruit.

Social networking interactive functions update fast, which continues to attract the attention of college students. There are all kinds of people on social networks. College students have much more choices for love. It is more likely for them to keep changing their mind when mating. This may be the reason why the proportion of finding life-long partners has gradually reduced. In the social network, there are more and more examples of flash marriage and flash divorce. This implies irresponsibility for themselves, and irresponsibility for the family. It will have a great impact on college students' love and marriage.

Conclusion

Social networking has become an indispensable part of modern college students' learning and life, and it is closely related to the development of college students' view of marriage and love. This paper proposes the hypotheses that the social network dependence is related to college students' views of marriage, and there is a correlation between social network interaction intensity and college students'

views of marriage. Among them, college students' views of marriage and love include emphasis on the appearance of mate and premarital sex attitude. Through empirical analysis, we can reveal that due to the influence of various external factors such as social networks, college students' views of marriage and love are gradually deviating from the traditional view. The stronger the dependence on social network, the more the college students love motives deviate from the traditional motives of love, the more the mate choice standard is biased toward the good appearance, the more the reason of marriage is deviated from love and the greater the possibility of accepting premarital sex. The more frequently college students interact with each other using social networks, the more their love motives deviate from the traditional motive of love. Therefore, it is necessary to work hard from perspectives of social network use education and school education to help college students form the correct view of marriage and love.

Acknowledgement

This research is supported by Tianjin Normal University Project “Innovative Team of Outstanding Academic Youth” and Tianjin Municipal Education Commission Project “Middle-aged Backbone Talent”.

References

- [1] M.Xie, The Contemporary University Students' Concept of Marriage and Love and Its Educational Countermeasures, Qingdao:Qingdao University of Science and Technology,2010.(in Chinese)
- [2] C.C.Zhao and Y.Zhang,A Summary of Researches on Contemporary College Students' Outlook on Love and Marriage, 3rd ed.,The Border Economy and Culture,2011,pp.157-158. (in Chinese)
- [3] The 34th Statistical Report on Internet Development in China. China Internet Network Information Center (CNNIC) July21,2014.(in Chinese) <http://www.cnnic.net.cn/>
- [4] X. Zhang, Social Network Information Diffusions. Beijing: Electronic Industry Press, 2016.
- [5] Y.Bao,Study on the Development and Status Quo of Marriage and Love among Contemporary Female College Students in China,Guizhou:Guizhou University,2009.(in Chinese)
- [6] Z.Q.Li,The College Students' Love Psychology and Its Countermeasures, 4th ed., vol. 6. Journal of North China Coal Medical College,2002,pp.798-799. (in Chinese)
- [7] M.Xu,An Analysis of the Status Quo of Marriage Views of a High-level College Student, 27th ed., vol.8. Chinese Journal of School Health,2006,PP.688-700.(in Chinese)
- [8] C.C.Zhao and Y.Zhang,A Summary of Researches on Contemporary College Students' Outlook on Love and Marriage, 3rd ed.,The Border Economy and Culture,2011,pp.157-158.(in Chinese)
- [9] A.Brantley,D.Knox,&M.E.Zusman When and why gender differences in saying “I love you” among college students,College Student Journal,2002,vol.4.pp.614-615.
- [10]H.Y.Sun,Investigation and Study on Marital Views of Female Graduate Students in Nanjing Colleges and Universities, Nanjing: Nanjing Normal University,2009.(in Chinese)
- [11]Z.Y.Song,Research on College Students' Outlook of Marriage and Love in Network Environment and Educational Countermeasures, Xian: Xian University of Science and Technology,2013.(in Chinese)
- [12]A. Field, Discovering Statistics Using IBM SPSS Statistics: North American Edition (Fifth Edition) Sage, 2017