



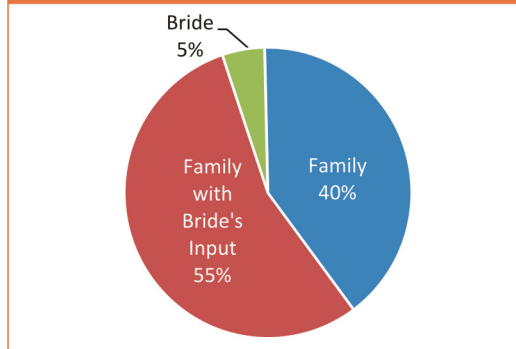
# India Human Development Survey Research Brief No. 2

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**Even in globalizing India, marriage is a family affair. The change is from purely arranged marriage to marriage with input from the bride**

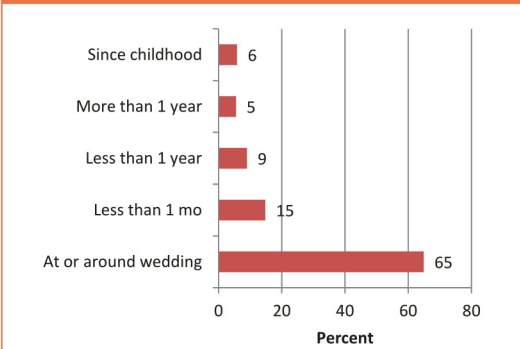
## Families Continue to Shape Marriage Decisions in India

Who Selected Husband?



## Few women have an opportunity to get to know their husbands before wedding

Length of Acquaintance Before Marriage



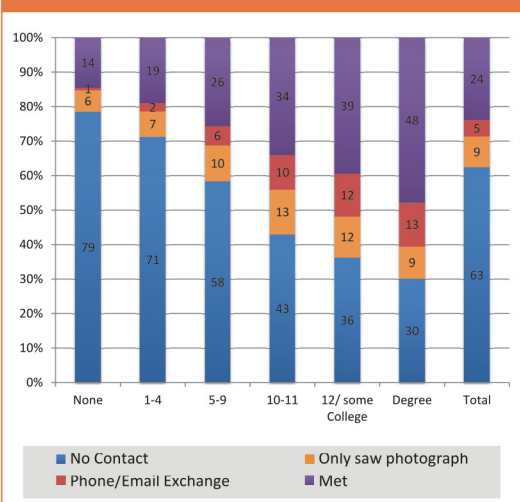
## More educated women have a greater participation in marriage decision but rarely initiate partner selection

Table 1: influence of education on participation in decision regarding marriage

Bride's Education	Family	Family with Bride's Input	Bride	Total
None	56	41	3	100
Class 1-4	38	57	5	100
Class 5-9	35	59	6	100
Class 10-11	23	71	6	100
Class 12 & some college	19	74	7	100
College Degree	14	77	9	100

## Even educated women rarely get a chance to meet their husbands in private before wedding

Type of Pre Marriage Contact with Husband by Education



One of the reasons extended families play such an important role in marriage decisions maybe because more than 95% of the couples live in an extended family following marriage, 70% co-reside for 10 or more years.

As many as 95% of the marriages take place within caste.

Survey Description Continued >>

# India Human Development Survey 2004-5 and 2011-12 (IHDS-I and II)

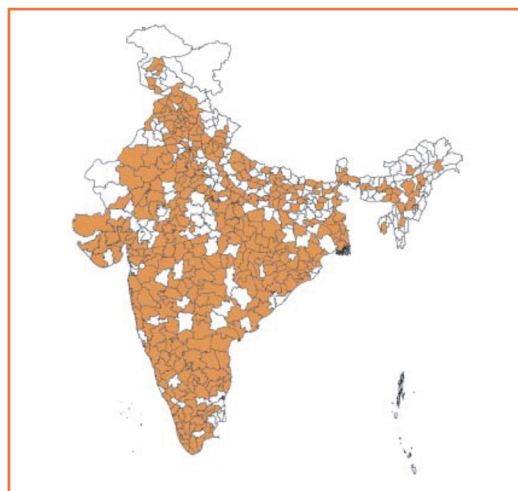
**IHDS is a panel survey of about 42,000 households conducted in 33 states and union territories covering both urban and rural areas. This brief is based on interviews with 35,145 ever-married women ages 15-49**

The India Human Development Surveys (IHDS) I (2004-05) and II (2011-12) are part of a collaborative research programme between researchers from the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and the University of Maryland, Washington, D.C. The surveys constitute a vast and comprehensive study of various dimensions of income, employment and household well-being, as their main objective has been to document changes in the daily lives of Indian households in an era of rapid transformation. And while chronicling these changes in the way people live, work, educate their children, care for their aged parents, and deal with ill health, the surveys seek to infuse the development discourse with the lived experiences of ordinary people. They provide a rich empirical database free of charge to a wide range of researchers in India and abroad. An estimated 7,000 users are currently using these data.

across 33 (now 34) states and union territories, and covers rural as well as urban areas. Contextual information was also collected in surveys of village infrastructure and markets, and from one private and one government school and medical facility in each village/block.

India has a long and distinguished history of survey research starting with the 1950s. However, most national surveys are single focus surveys, only allowing for snapshots of society at isolated points in time, making it difficult to study inter-relationships between different aspects of human development. The strength of the IHDS surveys thus lies in the fact that by repeatedly interviewing the same households, they have facilitated a richer understanding of which households are able to partake in the fruits of growth, what allows them to move forward, and the process through which they are incorporated in or left out of a growing economy.

IHDS fieldwork, data entry and analyses have been funded through a variety of sources including the US National Institutes of Health, UK Department of International Development, The Ford Foundation, The World Bank and International Research Development Centre, Canada. Logistical support for this work was provided by The Planning Commission. Throughout this work, the IHDS project has been guided by an advisory panel of eminent Indian researchers, policy makers and representatives of several government ministries. For more information about IHDS surveys, visit [www.ihds.info](http://www.ihds.info)



While IHDS-I is a nationally representative survey of 41,554 households conducted in 2004-05, IHDS-II has re-interviewed 83 per cent of the original households as well as split households residing within the same locality along with an additional sample of 2134 households, taking the total IHDS sample size to 42,152 households. The sample is spread

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