

**IMPACT OF AMERICAN CULTURE ON INDIAN IMMIGRANTS' PERCEPTIONS OF
MARRIAGE AND MARITAL ROLE FUNCTIONING**

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The purpose of this study was to understand how the exposure to American society impacts married Indian couples' perspective toward marriage and their respective roles in marriage. A convenience sample of nine young educated Asian Indian couples was selected from two Midwestern cities. The study used primarily qualitative methodology: Interviews with thematic analysis of the narrative data. Qualitative analysis found that immigrant Indian couples have changed some aspects of their marital beliefs and behaviors due to exposure to American society. Change was observed in meaning of marriage and attitude towards child rearing. Spouses started seeing each other more as friends. They regarded marriage as mutual support system. There was a sense of equality among couples. This was reflected in areas such as sharing household chores. They respected each others' physical and psychological space. Though these couples appeared to have changed in many ways since coming to America, they retained some traditional beliefs about marriage such as sacred marital bond.

