

"A man is  
great by  
deeds, not by  
birth"

-Chanakya

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**Autonomy in partner choices: Evidence from the Indian marriage market**

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## **Autonomy in partner choices: Evidence from the Indian marriage market**

**Abstract:** Using the second wave of the India Human Development Survey, that is, IHDS-2 for the year 2011-12, the present paper makes an attempt to understand the relationship between autonomy in partner choices and wellbeing of married women. Wellbeing includes a wide range of outcome variables such as health (general health and probability of being underweight), gender relations (women's decision-making power and mobility) and labour market outcomes (such as probability of working for pay/wages, probability of having the most say in work related decisions and willingness to work). Women who had an autonomy in partner choices were found to have better health outcomes, higher decision-making power in the household and higher mobility score, relative to women who did not have any autonomy to choose their partners. Furthermore, women who had the autonomy were found to have higher chances of being employed for wages, had higher say in their work-related decisions and had higher willingness to work than their counterparts.

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