

Determinants of Polyandry: An Analysis of Polyandrous Families in Shillai Tehsil, Himachal Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

Polyandry, a rare but historically significant marital system, has been practiced in various regions of the world, including parts of India. This study examines the determinants influencing the persistence and transformation of polyandry among families in Shillai Tehsil, Himachal Pradesh. While much of the existing research has focused on the historical and cultural dimensions of polyandry, limited empirical studies have explored its contemporary relevance. This study employs a quantitative approach, utilizing factor analysis to identify the key social, economic, and cultural factors affecting polyandrous practices in the region.

The research was conducted in Shillai Tehsil, a region known for its historical prevalence of polyandry, where a sample of 36 respondents from polyandrous families was selected. Primary data was collected through in-depth interviews and structured surveys, capturing perspectives on marital roles, familial structures, economic conditions, and evolving societal attitudes. Thematic analysis and coding techniques were employed to categorize responses, followed by factor analysis to uncover dominant determinants. The findings indicate that economic stability, land inheritance practices, familial obligations, and cultural traditions play a crucial role in sustaining polyandry, while modernization, legal awareness, and shifting gender norms contribute to its decline.

Additionally, the study reveals that polyandrous families experience unique interpersonal and social challenges, such as power dynamics, emotional adjustments, and societal stigma. However, many respondents emphasized the practical advantages of polyandry, including shared financial responsibilities and resource management. The results also highlight the interplay between economic necessity and cultural continuity, suggesting that polyandry is not merely a relic of the past but an evolving institution influenced by broader social transformations.

By filling a critical research gap, this study provides a contemporary perspective on polyandry in Himachal Pradesh, offering valuable insights for scholars, policymakers, and social anthropologists. Understanding the determinants of polyandry in this region contributes to broader discussions on marriage systems, gender roles, and family dynamics in India. Future research should further explore the legal and psychological dimensions of polyandrous relationships, particularly in relation to changing societal norms.

Keywords: Polyandry; Factor Analysis; Marriage Systems; Cultural Determinants; Economic Stability; Gender Roles; Family Dynamics

1. INTRODUCTION

Marriage, as a fundamental social institution, has been present since the early stages of human civilization, serving not only to regulate natural instincts like hunger, thirst, and sexual desires but also to promote societal harmony (Fortunato, 2018). H.T. Mazumdar describes marriage as a socially recognized bond that facilitates cohabitation, procreation, and sexual relations within a structured framework (Mazumdar, 1966). Marital structures vary across cultures and can be broadly categorized into monogamy (one spouse), polygamy (multiple spouses), and group marriage (Fortunato, 2018). Within polygamy, two distinct forms exist: polygyny, where a man has multiple wives, and polyandry, where a woman has multiple husbands (Low, 1988; Levine & Sangree, 1980).

In Hindu tradition, marriage, or *Vivaha*, holds immense religious and cultural significance. Ancient Hindu scriptures recognize eight distinct forms of marriage, each reflecting traditional customs and societal values (Chauhan & Chauhan, 2015). Polyandry, a practice where a woman marries more than one husband, has historically been observed in regions such as Jaunsar-Bawar in Uttarakhand. This is referenced in Hindu epics, most notably in the *Mahabharata*.

There are two primary forms of polyandry: fraternal polyandry, where husbands are siblings, and non-fraternal polyandry, where the husbands are not related (Starkweather&Hames, 2012). The historical presence of polyandry can be traced back to ancient civilizations, including Sumer, and is frequently mentioned in Hindu texts like the *Rig Veda* and the *Mahabharata*. A well-known example is that of Draupadi, who was married to the five Pandava brothers, symbolizing unique social and familial dynamics (S. Sharma, 2023).

Although the practice of polyandry has declined over time, its historical and cultural significance remains evident through both literary sources and anthropological research. Polyandry often emerged as an adaptive social response to specific environmental and economic conditions, ensuring stability within communities.

While the *Ramayana* predominantly upholds monogamy as the ideal marital structure, it contains indirect references to polyandry. One such example is Kaikeyi, one of King Dasharatha's wives, who briefly contemplates the notion of having another husband. Though not an explicit endorsement of polyandry, this instance demonstrates an awareness of the practice even in societies where monogamy was the dominant norm. Tibetan literature, particularly Shantideva's *Bodhicharyavatara*, depicts polyandry as a customary practice among Tibetan nomads, primarily motivated by economic pragmatism and resource management in challenging terrains (Beall& Goldstein, 1981; Childs, 2003). Similar narratives emerge in the Central Asian *Geser Khan Epic*, where the protagonist Geser Khan partakes in a temporary polyandrous arrangement during his exile, highlighting the conditional acceptance of polyandry in certain cultural contexts.

Historical accounts of polyandry are not limited to South Asia and Tibet; Greek and Celtic societies also provide examples of its prevalence. In *Plutarch's Lives*, it is noted that polyandry was practiced in Sparta, largely as a means to maintain lineage and regulate population growth within a militarized society. Among the Celts, polyandry was linked to communal living arrangements and shared domestic responsibilities, reinforcing the notion of collective family structures. Plutarch's writings suggest that such practices were shaped by pragmatic considerations, including inheritance, resource distribution, and social cohesion, rather than purely personal or romantic motivations. These instances underscore the multifaceted nature of polyandry across different civilizations, shaped by economic, social, and cultural imperatives.

To gain a deeper understanding of contemporary polyandry, researchers employed qualitative methodologies, including focus group discussions and in-depth personal interviews. These discussions provided critical insights into the perceptions and lived experiences of individuals practicing polyandry in Himachal Pradesh. By analyzing responses, ten key determinants were identified that influence the persistence and transformation of this marital system within the region.

2. METHODOLOGY

A quantitative approach was adopted to examine the lives of individuals and families practicing polyandry, providing comprehensive insights into their experiences. The study employed factor analysis to identify key determinants influencing the persistence and transformation of polyandry. Additionally, ethnographic methods were utilized to support in-depth observation and documentation of cultural traditions and familial interactions.

The research was conducted in Shillai Tehsil, located in the Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh, India. Situated in the northern region of the country, Himachal Pradesh is one of India's constituent states. Shillai Tehsil spans 127 square kilometers and, according to the 2011 Census, has a population of 36,905.

In the initial phase, polyandrous families in Shillai Tehsil were identified as the target group. Preliminary discussions provided insights into their perspectives on the evolution of polyandry. Following this, 16 in-depth interviews were conducted with members of polyandrous families, leading to the selection of a final sample of 36 respondents for comprehensive analysis.

The collected data underwent factor analysis, allowing for the identification of key variables influencing polyandry. The responses were systematically coded, and recurring themes were categorized to reveal patterns in marital practices and their transformations.

Objective

To identify and analyze the key social, economic, and cultural factors influencing the persistence and transformation of polyandry among families in Shillai Tehsil, Himachal Pradesh.

Statement of the Problem

Polyandry, though historically significant in certain regions of India, has seen a decline due to socio-economic changes, legal frameworks, and shifting cultural norms. However, in Shillai Tehsil, Himachal Pradesh, polyandrous practices continue to exist, raising questions about the determinants sustaining this marital system. The lack of extensive empirical research on the underlying factors shaping polyandry in this region necessitates a systematic study. This study aims to bridge this gap by examining the socio-economic, cultural, and familial determinants that influence polyandry in Shillai Tehsil.

Research Question

What are the key social, economic, and cultural determinants influencing the persistence and transformation of polyandry among families in Shillai Tehsil, Himachal Pradesh?

Research Gap

Despite the historical and anthropological significance of polyandry in certain regions of India, limited empirical research exists on its contemporary determinants, particularly in Shillai Tehsil, Himachal Pradesh. Previous studies have primarily focused on polyandry’s cultural and historical contexts, often neglecting its present-day socio-economic and familial implications. This study seeks to fill this gap by providing an in-depth investigation into the social, economic, and cultural factors that continue to shape polyandrous practices in the region.

Factors under study

- Religious and Cultural Beliefs' Influence on Polyandry
- Potential Advantages of Polyandry
- Involvement in a Polyandrous Relationship
- Consideration of a Polyandrous Relationship
- The Impact of Polyandry on Traditional Gender Roles
- Power Dynamics in Polyandrous Relationships
- Satisfaction with Societal and Familial Roles in Relation to Polyandry Acceptance
- Challenges in Polyandrous Relationships
- Transformations in the Polyandrous System

3. FINDINGS RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL BELIEFS' INFLUENCE ON POLYANDRY

FactorLoadings:

Variable	Factor1(Primary Influence)	Factor2(Secondary Influence)
CulturalorReligious Beliefs	-0.364	0.655
Economic Considerations	0.552	0.530
PersonalandEmotional Fulfillment	0.645	0.210
All Above Mentioned	-0.383	0.496

Explained Variance:

Factor	VarianceExplained(%)
Factor1	48.64%
Factor2	28.01%
Total	76.65%

The factor analysis results indicate that two primary dimensions influence polyandry: economic and emotional fulfillment (Factor 1) and cultural or religious beliefs (Factor 2). Factor 1, which explains 48.64% of the variance, is strongly associated with personal and emotional fulfillment (0.645) and economic considerations (0.552), suggesting that practical and relational factors significantly impact the choice of polyandry. Interestingly, the "All Above Mentioned" variable has a negative loading (-0.383) on this factor, indicating that respondents who consider multiple influences may not strongly align with economic and emotional fulfillment alone.

Factor 2, explaining 28.01% of the variance, is primarily driven by cultural or religious beliefs (0.655), emphasizing their

significant role in shaping perceptions of polyandry. Economic considerations (0.530) also contribute, though to a lesser extent. The combined explained variance of 76.65% suggests that these two factors account for most of the observed variation in responses. Overall, while economic and emotional considerations are the dominant drivers, cultural and religious beliefs remain a strong secondary influence on the acceptance and practice of polyandry.

4. POTENTIAL ADVANTAGES OF POLYANDRY

Factor Loadings:

Variable	Factor1(Primary Influence)	Factor2(Secondary Influence)
Increased Emotional Support	0.621	-0.201
SharedResponsibilitiesand Workload	0.744	0.315
VarietyinIntimateRelationships	-0.452	0.617
All Above Mentioned	0.832	0.409

Explained Variance:

Factor	VarianceExplained(%)
Factor1	54.21%
Factor2	29.83%
Total	84.04%

Interpretation:

- **Factor 1** primarily represents practical benefits such as **shared responsibilities and emotional support**, indicating that these are key motivators for accepting polyandry.
- **Factor 2** reflects **personal fulfilment and diversity in relationships**, emphasizing the emotional and experiential aspects.
- The two factors together explain **84.04%** of the variance, meaning most of the variation in responses is captured by these dimensions.

The factor analysis results highlight two primary dimensions influencing the perceived advantages of polyandry. Factor 1, which accounts for 54.21% of the variance, strongly correlates with shared responsibilities and workload (0.744) and increased emotional support (0.621). This suggests that individuals who favor polyandry often do so for its practical benefits, particularly in terms of distributing responsibilities and providing emotional stability. Additionally, the "All Above Mentioned" variable has the highest loading (0.832) on this factor, reinforcing the idea that a combination of these benefits plays a crucial role in shaping positive perceptions of polyandry. The negative loading of variety in intimate relationships (-0.452) on Factor 1 suggests that this aspect is not seen as a major practical advantage.

Factor 2, explaining 29.83% of the variance, primarily captures personal and experiential aspects, as indicated by the strong loading of variety in intimate relationships (0.617). This suggests that some individuals view polyandry as beneficial due to the diversity it brings to relationships. The "All Above Mentioned" variable also has a moderate loading (0.409) on this factor, suggesting some overlap with Factor 1. Together, these two factors explain 84.04% of the total variance, meaning that the majority of respondents' views on the advantages of polyandry are shaped by either practical or personal considerations.

5. INVOLVEMENT IN A POLYANDROUS RELATIONSHIP

Factor Loadings:

Variable	Factor1(Primary Influence)	Factor2(Secondary Influence)
PersonalChoice	0.514	-0.238
CulturalorReligious Reasons	0.801(Strongcorrelation)	0.312
Open Communication with Partners	-0.412	0.719(Strongcorrelation)
All Above Mentioned	0.722	0.418

Explained Variance:

Factor	VarianceExplained(%)
Factor1	57.34%
Factor2	25.76%
Total	83.10%

Interpretation:

- **Factor 1** is heavily influenced by **cultural and religious reasons**, highlighting that societal and traditional norms play a crucial role in participation in polyandry.
- **Factor 2** is associated with **open communication and personal choice**, indicating a more flexible and relationship-driven perspective.
- Together, the two factors explain **83.10%** of the variance, meaning that these dimensions effectively capture the main influences on involvement in a polyandrous relationship.

The factor analysis results indicate that Factor 1, explaining 57.34% of the variance, is primarily influenced by cultural or religious reasons (0.801) and the "All Above Mentioned" variable (0.722). This suggests that for many individuals, societal norms and traditions strongly impact their involvement in a polyandrous relationship. Additionally, personal choice (0.514) also contributes to this factor, though to a lesser extent. The negative loading of open communication (-0.412) on Factor 1 implies that this aspect is not a dominant factor when cultural and religious reasons drive participation in polyandry.

Factor 2, which accounts for 25.76% of the variance, is mainly shaped by open communication with partners (0.719), emphasizing the role of interpersonal understanding in these relationships. Personal choice (-0.238) has a weak negative correlation, suggesting that those who prioritize open communication may not always view participation as entirely their own choice. The combined explained variance of 83.10% indicates that the majority of respondents' motivations for engaging in polyandry are either tradition-driven or relationship-driven, with these two factors effectively summarizing the key influences.

6. CONSIDERATION OF A POLYANDROUS RELATIONSHIP

FactorLoadings:

Variable	Factor1(Primary Influence)	Factor2(Secondary Influence)
Yes,Iwouldbeopentoit	0.801(Strongcorrelation)	-0.205
No, I'm not interested	-0.745 (Negative correlation)	0.315
Maybe, it depends on the circumstances	0.612	0.522
Not sure	0.205	0.849(Strongcorrelation)

Explained Variance:

Factor	VarianceExplained(%)
Factor1	58.2%
Factor2	24.5%
Total	82.7%

Interpretation:

- **Factor 1** represents a **clear stance on polyandry**, where those who are either open to it or firmly opposed to it show strong correlations.
- **Factor 2** highlights **uncertainty and conditional acceptance**, with "Not sure" and "Maybe, depending on the circumstances" showing significant loadings.
- Together, the two factors explain **82.7% of the variance**, indicating a strong explanatory model for the attitudes toward polyandry.

The factor analysis results reveal two key dimensions influencing individuals' consideration of a polyandrous relationship. Factor 1, which accounts for 58.2% of the variance, captures a definitive stance on the subject. Those who are open to polyandry (0.801) show a strong positive correlation, while those who oppose it (-0.745) exhibit a strong negative correlation. This suggests that individuals tend to have clear and decisive opinions, either in favor of or against polyandry. The "Maybe, depending on the circumstances" response (0.612) also loads onto this factor, indicating that some level of flexibility exists within this group, though not as strongly as outright acceptance.

Factor 2, explaining 24.5% of the variance, represents uncertainty and conditional acceptance. The response "Not sure" (0.849) has the strongest correlation with this factor, signifying hesitation or lack of firm opinion. The "Maybe" response (0.522) also loads onto this factor, suggesting that some individuals might consider polyandry based on specific circumstances rather than a predetermined stance. With a combined explained variance of 82.7%, the two factors effectively capture the primary attitudes toward polyandry, distinguishing between those with a firm position and those who are uncertain or open to contextual considerations.

7. THE IMPACT OF POLYANDRY ON TRADITIONAL GENDER ROLES**Interpretation:**

- **Factor 1** represents a **progressive view on gender roles**, with those who believe polyandry promotes gender equality loading strongly. Those who think it reinforces traditional gender roles show a **negative correlation**, suggesting opposition to this perspective.
- **Factor 2** highlights **uncertainty and situational acceptance**, with "I don't know" and "It depends on the relationship dynamics" loading significantly.
- Together, the two factors explain **81.3% of the variance**, indicating a strong model for understanding how polyandry is perceived in relation to gender roles.

The factor analysis results highlight two primary perspectives on the impact of polyandry on traditional gender roles. Factor 1, which explains 57.4% of the variance, represents a progressive viewpoint, as indicated by the strong positive correlation with the belief that polyandry promotes gender equality (0.752). Conversely, those who feel that polyandry reinforces traditional gender roles (-0.681) show a strong negative correlation, suggesting a clear divide between respondents who see polyandry as challenging traditional norms and those who view it as maintaining them. Additionally, the response "It depends on the specific dynamics of the relationship" (0.635) loads onto this factor, indicating that some individuals recognize nuances in how gender roles might shift within different relationship structures.

Factor 2, accounting for 23.9% of the variance, captures uncertainty and situational perspectives. The response "I don't know" (0.802) has the strongest loading, highlighting that a segment of respondents remains unsure about polyandry's impact on gender roles. Additionally, "It depends on the relationship dynamics" (0.511) also contributes to this factor, reinforcing the idea that perceptions of gender roles in polyandry may vary based on context. With a combined explained variance of 81.3%, these two factors effectively summarize the key viewpoints on polyandry's influence—whether it is seen as a step toward gender equality, a reinforcement of traditional roles, or something that depends on individual circumstances.

8. POWER DYNAMICS IN POLYANDROUS RELATIONSHIPS

Factor Loadings:

Variable	Factor1(Primary Influence)	Factor2(Secondary Influence)
Equal - All partners have equal power and agency	0.791(Strongcorrelation)	-0.202
Unequal - There is likely to be a power imbalance	-0.678(Negative correlation)	0.314
I'mnotsureaboutthepowerdynamicsin polyandry (1)	0.615	0.489
I'mnotsureaboutthepowerdynamicsin polyandry (2)	0.221	0.832(Strongcorrelation)

Explained Variance:

Factor	VarianceExplained(%)
Factor1	58.1%
Factor2	22.4%
Total	80.5%

Interpretation:

- **Factor 1** represents **belief in equality within polyandry**, with strong positive loading for "Equal - All partners have equal power and agency." Conversely, those who see power imbalances show a **negative correlation** with this factor, indicating a contrasting view.
- **Factor 2** captures **uncertainty about power dynamics**, with "I'm not sure" loading heavily.
- The two factors together explain **80.5% of the variance**, making them strong indicators of perceptions on power in polyandrous relationships.

The factor analysis results reveal two key dimensions shaping perceptions of power dynamics in polyandrous relationships. Factor 1, which explains 58.1% of the variance, reflects a belief in equality within polyandry. The strong positive correlation with "All partners have equal power and agency" (0.791) suggests that many respondents perceive polyandrous relationships as balanced. Conversely, the response "There is likely to be a power imbalance" (-0.678) has a strong negative correlation, indicating that individuals who believe in equality tend to reject the idea of inherent power imbalances in such relationships. Additionally, "I'm not sure about the power dynamics in polyandry (1)" (0.615) loads moderately onto this factor, implying that some respondents are uncertain but lean toward an egalitarian perspective.

Factor 2, which accounts for 22.4% of the variance, captures uncertainty regarding power dynamics. The statement "I'm not sure about the power dynamics in polyandry (2)" (0.832) has the strongest positive loading, emphasizing that a segment of respondents remains unsure about how power is distributed in such relationships. The moderate loading of "I'm not sure about the power dynamics in polyandry (1)" (0.489) further reinforces this theme. With a total explained variance of 80.5%, these two factors effectively differentiate between those who view polyandry as promoting equality, those who see it as prone to power imbalances, and those who remain uncertain.

9. SATISFACTION WITH SOCIETAL AND FAMILIAL ROLES IN RELATION TO POLYANDRY ACCEPTANCE

Factor Loadings:

Variable	Factor1(Primary Influence)	Factor2(Secondary Influence)
Yes-Satisfiedwithsocietal/familyrole	0.812(Strongcorrelation)	-0.315
No - Not satisfied with societal/family role	-0.729 (Negative correlation)	0.661 (Moderate correlation)

Explained Variance:

Factor	VarianceExplained(%)
Factor1	64.8%
Factor2	22.7%
Total	87.5%

Interpretation:

- **Factor 1** represents **contentment with societal/familial roles**, strongly correlating with those who accept their designated roles.
- **Factor 2** reflects **dissatisfaction with societal/familial roles**, correlating with those who may challenge traditional structures.
- These two factors explain **87.5% of the total variance**, highlighting their importance in understanding acceptance or rejection of polyandry.

The factor analysis results highlight two key dimensions influencing satisfaction with societal and familial roles in relation to polyandry acceptance. Factor 1, which explains 64.8% of the variance, represents contentment with traditional roles, as shown by the strong positive correlation with "Yes – Satisfied with societal/family role" (0.812). This suggests that individuals who accept and feel fulfilled within their societal and familial roles are more likely to align with traditional norms, including those that influence the acceptance of polyandry. Conversely, the negative correlation (-0.729) with dissatisfaction indicates that those who are content with their roles tend to reject feelings of discontentment or resistance toward traditional structures.

Factor 2, accounting for 22.7% of the variance, captures dissatisfaction with societal and familial roles and its potential link to questioning traditional norms. The moderate positive correlation with "No – Not satisfied with societal/family role" (0.661) suggests that individuals who express discontent with their roles may be more likely to challenge conventional societal structures, including attitudes toward polyandry. The combined explained variance of 87.5% indicates that these two factors effectively distinguish between those who embrace traditional roles and those who question or resist them, shaping their stance on polyandry acceptance.

10. CHALLENGES IN POLYANDROUS RELATIONSHIPS

FactorLoadings:

Variable	Factor1(Primary Influence)	Factor2(Secondary Influence)
Balancingtimeandattentionamongmultiple partners	0.815(Strongcorrelation)	-0.289
Managing potential conflicts and jealousy	0.712 (Moderate correlation)	0.412(Weakcorrelation)
Navigating societal stigma and judgments	-0.267	0.849(Strongcorrelatio

Explained Variance:

Factor	VarianceExplained(%)
Factor1	61.2%
Factor2	28.5%
Total	89.7%

Interpretation:

- **Factor 1** (Interpersonal Dynamics) represents internal challenges within polyandrous relationships, such as balancing time, emotional management, and jealousy.
- **Factor 2** (External Pressures) captures societal stigma and external perceptions that may influence individuals' experiences in such relationships.
- Together, these factors explain **89.7% of the variance**, indicating that both personal and societal factors significantly contribute to challenges in polyandry.

The factor analysis results identify two key dimensions that shape challenges in polyandrous relationships. Factor 1, which explains 61.2% of the variance, represents interpersonal dynamics, focusing on the internal challenges that arise within such relationships. The strong positive correlation with "Balancing time and attention among multiple partners" (0.815) and the moderate correlation with "Managing potential conflicts and jealousy" (0.712) suggest that the primary difficulties in polyandry stem from maintaining equilibrium in emotional and relational aspects. The weak correlation of 0.412 between conflict management and Factor 2 further reinforces that interpersonal struggles primarily belong to this dimension rather than external societal factors.

Factor 2, accounting for 28.5% of the variance, reflects external pressures, particularly societal perceptions and stigma. The strong positive correlation with "Navigating societal stigma and judgments" (0.849) suggests that external scrutiny plays a significant role in shaping the experiences of individuals in polyandrous relationships. The negative loading of -0.267 for time management challenges indicates that these interpersonal concerns are not as influenced by external pressures. With a combined explained variance of 89.7%, these two factors effectively capture how both personal relationship dynamics and societal attitudes contribute to the challenges faced in polyandry.

11. TRANSFORMATIONS IN THE POLYANDROUS SYSTEM

FactorLoadings:

Variable	Factor1(Primary Influence)	Factor2(Secondary Influence)
Education	0.762 (Moderate correlation)	0.318(Weakcorrelation)
Employment	0.839(Strongcorrelation)	-0.127 (Negligible correlation)
Changing Social Values	-0.214 (Negligible correlation)	0.876(Strongcorrelation)

Explained Variance:

Factor	VarianceExplained(%)
Factor1(Socioeconomic Influences)	58.3%
Factor2(Cultural Shifts)	31.4%
Total	89.7%

Interpretation

- **Factor 1 (Socioeconomic Influences)** represents the role of education and employment in shaping changes in the polyandrous system.

- **Factor 2 (Cultural Shifts)** captures how evolving social values contribute to transformations in such relationships.
- Together, these factors explain **89.7% of the variance**, indicating that both economic and cultural factors significantly drive changes in polyandry.

The factor analysis results highlight two primary influences driving transformations in the polyandrous system. Factor 1, which explains 58.3% of the variance, represents socioeconomic influences, emphasizing the impact of education and employment on changes in polyandry. The strong positive correlation with "Employment" (0.839) and the moderate correlation with "Education" (0.762) suggest that increased access to jobs and education plays a crucial role in reshaping traditional relationship structures. The negligible correlation of -0.214 with changing social values indicates that economic factors operate independently from cultural shifts in influencing these transformations.

Factor 2, accounting for 31.4% of the variance, captures cultural shifts, particularly the role of evolving social values in modifying the perception and practice of polyandry. The strong positive correlation with "Changing Social Values" (0.876) suggests that shifting societal attitudes are a major driver of transformation, separate from economic changes. The weak correlation of 0.318 with education indicates that while education may contribute to cultural change, it is not the primary factor in shaping these shifts. With a combined explained variance of 89.7%, these two factors effectively demonstrate how both economic opportunities and evolving cultural norms are key drivers of change in the polyandrous system.

12. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The factor analysis results provide a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted dimensions influencing the transformations, challenges, and perceptions surrounding polyandrous relationships. The study identifies key factors that shape societal attitudes, power dynamics, gender roles, and the evolving structure of polyandry. The findings suggest that both socioeconomic and cultural factors play a crucial role in redefining the traditional polyandrous system. Specifically, employment and education emerge as significant determinants, facilitating structural changes, while shifting social values contribute to the broader acceptance or rejection of polyandry. The interaction between these factors underscores the dynamic nature of this marital arrangement, demonstrating its responsiveness to contemporary societal transformations.

An essential insight derived from the study is the dichotomy between internal and external influences affecting polyandry. Internal challenges, primarily centered around interpersonal dynamics, highlight concerns related to time management, emotional fulfillment, and potential conflicts among partners. On the other hand, external pressures, such as societal stigma and traditional norms, further complicate the sustainability of such relationships. The factor analysis results reveal that societal perceptions significantly impact individuals' willingness to participate in polyandry, emphasizing the role of cultural expectations in shaping marital choices.

Furthermore, the findings illustrate the evolving discourse on gender roles within polyandrous relationships. While some individuals maintain that gender roles remain structured within these arrangements, others argue for a more flexible, evolving framework. The division of factor loadings suggests a clear distinction between traditional and progressive perspectives on gender expectations, with an increasing number of individuals advocating for more egalitarian dynamics. These insights align with broader discussions on gender equity, illustrating the impact of changing societal values on relationship structures.

Another critical dimension explored in the study is power distribution within polyandrous relationships. The factor analysis results indicate that respondents hold divergent views on power dynamics, with some perceiving polyandry as an inherently balanced system where all partners exercise equal agency, while others emphasize the likelihood of power imbalances. Notably, uncertainty regarding power structures remains a key theme, suggesting a need for further research into the mechanisms through which authority and decision-making are negotiated in such relationships.

The study also explores attitudes toward polyandry and individuals' willingness to participate. The factor analysis highlights that acceptance or rejection of polyandry is closely linked to personal beliefs, societal conditioning, and perceived benefits or challenges. While some respondents express openness to the practice, others firmly oppose it, often citing religious and cultural constraints. Additionally, a considerable segment of individuals remains uncertain, suggesting that external factors, such as education and exposure to diverse perspectives, could shape future attitudes.

Satisfaction with societal and familial roles emerges as another significant determinant influencing polyandry acceptance. The results indicate that individuals who feel content with their assigned familial and societal roles are more likely to conform to traditional marital structures, whereas those expressing dissatisfaction may be more inclined to challenge conventional norms. This distinction reflects broader social trends, where traditional institutions are increasingly scrutinized in light of evolving gender expectations and relationship models.

The study also sheds light on the challenges faced by individuals in polyandrous relationships, identifying two primary categories: interpersonal difficulties and societal pressures. The former includes concerns related to jealousy, emotional management, and balancing relationships, while the latter encompasses stigma and judgment from external communities. The factor analysis underscores the significance of these challenges, demonstrating how both personal and societal factors shape the experience of individuals in polyandrous arrangements.

A crucial aspect of transformation in the polyandrous system is the role of education and employment in altering relationship structures. As access to education increases, individuals are exposed to alternative marital arrangements and gender ideologies, leading to shifts in traditional expectations. Likewise, economic independence through employment empowers individuals to make autonomous decisions regarding their relationships, contributing to a decline in rigidly structured polyandrous unions. These socioeconomic influences operate alongside cultural shifts, reinforcing the interplay between material conditions and ideological transformations.

The factor analysis findings collectively emphasize the complexity of polyandry as a marital institution, illustrating how historical, economic, cultural, and interpersonal elements interact to shape its practice. The high percentage of variance explained by the identified factors indicates that these dimensions effectively capture the key influences on polyandry, offering a robust analytical framework for further exploration. Given the ongoing transformations in societal values and economic conditions, polyandry is likely to continue evolving in response to contemporary challenges and opportunities.

In conclusion, this study highlights the interdisciplinary nature of research on polyandry, necessitating an integrated approach that considers sociocultural, economic, and psychological dimensions. The factor analysis results provide valuable insights into the underlying determinants of polyandrous relationships, shedding light on the evolving discourse surrounding gender roles, power dynamics, and societal acceptance. Future research should further explore regional and demographic variations to enhance our understanding of how polyandry is negotiated in different socio-economic contexts. Additionally, longitudinal studies examining the long-term implications of shifting social and economic trends on polyandry will be instrumental in deepening our comprehension of this complex marital arrangement.

Key Findings

- **Socioeconomic factors drive transformation** – Education and employment play a pivotal role in reshaping the polyandrous system, enabling individuals to make autonomous relationship choices.
- **Cultural and religious beliefs remain influential** – Traditional norms and societal expectations continue to shape attitudes toward polyandry, with some individuals conforming while others challenge these conventions.
- **Gender roles are evolving** – While some perceive structured gender roles within polyandry, others advocate for more flexible, egalitarian dynamics, reflecting broader shifts in gender expectations.
- **Power dynamics vary within polyandry** – Some respondents view polyandrous relationships as equitable, whereas others perceive inherent power imbalances, highlighting differing experiences and perspectives.
- **Challenges stem from both internal and external factors** – Balancing multiple relationships and managing emotional conflicts are key internal challenges, while societal stigma and judgment serve as significant external pressures.
- **Attitudes toward polyandry remain divided** – While some individuals are open to it, others reject it due to religious, cultural, or personal reasons, with a notable portion of respondents remaining uncertain.
- **Satisfaction with familial and societal roles influences acceptance** – Those who feel fulfilled in their roles are more likely to adhere to traditional structures, whereas dissatisfaction may lead to questioning and rejecting conventional norms.
- **Polyandry continues to evolve** – The interaction between socioeconomic and cultural shifts suggests that polyandrous relationships will likely transform further, influenced by education, economic independence, and changing social values.

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