

## CONTENT ANALYSIS OF ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN 'PRATIBIMB' A JOURNAL OF MARRIAGE COUNSELLING 2010 -2019

<sup>1</sup>Geeta Joshi and <sup>2</sup>Dr. B.T.Lawani

<sup>1</sup>Ph.D Scholar and <sup>2</sup>Ph. D Co-Guide

<sup>1&2</sup>Department of Social Work, Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, Maharashtra, India

### Introduction

Quantitative research used measurement and statistics to transform empirical data into numbers and to develop mathematical models which quantify behaviour. (Tracy 2013).

Content Analysis is an empirically grounded method and exploratory in its nature. In the year of 1910 the early origin of formal academic content analysis emerged in sociology and Journalism. (Drisko, Maschi 2015) Further Gordon Allport a psychologist, applied content analysis to case studies to understand personality of Irish immigrants to the United States.(Allport 1965) In other words content analysis means to support the content for the purpose of target research which helps to understand how society operates and interprets with its text.(Krippendorff 2004) Berelson (1952) defined content analysis as 'research technique for the objective, systematic and quantitative description of manifest content of communication. Content analysis with scientific measurement as well specifically, with 'any systematic reduction ...of text (or other symbols) to a standard set of statistically manipulable symbols representing the presence, intensity or the frequency of some characteristic relevant to social sciences' (Shapiro and Markoff's, 1997) Content Analysis appeared in Social Work literature in the year 1940. Dollard and Mowrer (1947) both psychologists evaluated the effectiveness of case work services. Further, they developed Discomfort Relief Quotient based on the frequency of the word use found in client case records. Both of them showed that newly generated data can be used for content analysis. Their contribution provided an evidence grounded method to find out the effectiveness of social work practice.

Inductive reasoning is the approach which moves from the particular to general, from set of specific observations to the discovery of pattern that represents some degree of order among all the given events(Babbie Earl 2002). Hence in this study inductive approach is used to understand the communication pattern about family and marital disputes.

Marriage helps us to enrich our life, it gives social and legal approval to all needs of human being. In marriage process, any individual married to someone, is supposed to understand that spouse is not an ideal person. Individual differences are there and one should accept the variance in nurturing, thinking and habits. Nobody is perfect, and every individual has strengths as well shortcomings. In marital relationship when there are less words and more understanding, less complaints and more love, less expectations and more trust only then the relationship is long lasting. Marriage helps to develop new bonding between two families and support to improve family health, and ultimately social health. However, society is not able to perceive this ceremony in serious manner.

Many marriages are based on deception and people have casual attitude towards it. Generally, parent think that now our daughter or son is in age of marriage let's cut it out. Deteriorated behaviour of daughter or son will improve after marriage. If son is unemployed, he will not understand responsibility after marriage. If con has mental illness, it will also improve after marriage. Such irrational thinking of parents destroys life of married couple and they get stuck in the maze of court. Then it becomes reasons of stress and depression to an individual as well as family.

Divorce is very disturbing incidence for any couple, if the divorce is contested then it is time consuming and cost intensive. If couple mutually agrees to take divorce then they have to prove that they are separated for one year for the court to consider their appeal.

Divorce is becoming increasingly prevalent in our society, significantly affecting all parties involved, particularly children. Studies in the USA and Europe have estimated that 30 to 50% of children will suffer consequences from a divorce; similar rates have been reported in Argentina. Many studies have shown that parental divorce affects a child's physical and psychosocial health. Generic health-related quality of life questionnaires are valid tools to measure both physical and psychosocial health in children. To our knowledge no studies have been published to date concerning psychosocial quality of life in children of divorced parents. (Alfredo Eymann, et.al. 2009)

In India, religious platforms are very strong and hence in most cases of divorce rules are highly influenced to religion. Hindu Marriage Act 1955 governs the divorce among Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs and Jains. Muslims are governed by the Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act, 1939, Parsis by the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936 and Christians by the Indian Divorce Act, 1869. All civil and inter-community marriages are governed by the Special Marriage Act, 1956.

Few amendments were made in the following areas. The six months waiting period is not necessary, and payment of maintenance is as per the convenience of the applicant, Supreme Court directed the government to add irretrievable break down of marriage as valid ground for divorce, under Hindu Marriage Act. The amendment made in Marriage Law, 2013, entitles wives to share husband's of immovable property acquired during course of marriage benefit applicable to irretrievable breakdown of marriage. The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill 2017 considered the practice of Triple Talaq unconstitutional and arbitrary in nature.

However, the court held that any Christian couple who is seeking divorce will have to mandatorily procure a divorce from a civil court (Mohanty 2019).

## Methodology

Using method of content analysis, the study reviewed a stratified random sampling 309 research articles published in 'Pratibimba' from 2010 to 2019. The study was conducted to identify background characteristics of authors and document the trends in empirical content, subject area and methodological characteristics in terms of source of data and research design. Quantitative descriptive studies, mostly employing survey research design were in higher proportion, while qualitative and analytical studies were lower in numbers. Hence in the present study descriptive research design was used to describe different characteristics of authors and articles.

The journal is the place where the academic community as well as practitioners may find up-to-date knowledge most relevant to marriage counselling. 'Pratibimb' is the journal published every year by team of marriage counsellors of family court from Maharashtra for the last 22 years. Association of Marriage Counsellor of Family Court, Maharashtra State has started to publish this journal in 1995 and every year it was published in Annual Coordination Meeting of Marriage Counsellors. Every year the journal had published on the basis of some conceptual framework or theme. The articles published, moreover, reflect the major concerns and issues related to marriage institution. The meaning of 'Pratibimb' is the reflection of marriage partner in each other, conceptually mutual understanding between husband and wife. All the experts and experienced stakeholders of Family Court contributed regularly in Pratibimb to make it more qualitative. Family courts are established by the initiative of late Smt. Durgabai Deshmukh after her visit to China in 1953 where she had opportunity to study the functions of family courts. In 1974, the Law of Commission in its 59th report recommended for setting up of special courts where rules and procedure would be simple. In 1975, the 'Committee on status of Women' recommended that all matters concerning the family should be dealt separately. Further in 1984, the Family Courts Act was passed and it came into force on September 14, 1984. The objective was to take family and marital disputes away from the overcrowded, intimidating and congested environment of traditional courts of law and bring them to congenial and sympathetic surroundings. The aim was 'conciliation' between estranged family members and not confrontation. Family Court Mumbai was established with effect from 7th October 1989. It began with five courts initially and in May 1995, 6th and 7th court's operations started. Total 16 Family Courts in Maharashtra namely in Pune, Nanded, Solapur, Nasik, Latur, Akola, Aurangabad, Ahmadnagar, Kolhapur, Thane, Mumbai, Osmanabad, Dhule, Nagpur, Amarawati and Buldhana till October 2018.

However, no systematic study of the publication content of 'Pratibimb' journal was made to ascertain the changing trends and characteristics of published research during the last two decades. In this context an attempt was made in this paper to describe such trends by analysing the content of articles published in the 'Pratibimb'.

## Objectives of the Study area are

- To study the profile of authors; their gender, geographical location, language used to communicate the current scenario of marital relationship, collaborative writing and their professional background;
- To identify research trends; more specifically trends in the empirical content and the other based on secondary data of research articles published in the Pratibimb over a time span of 10 years.
- To examine the experience based articles in terms of changing trends of divorce, its impact on family system and suggested remedial measures for the young generation.

Thus, purpose of the study was to provide answers to the question 'what is the present situation of marriage institution today in the context of relationship, legal procedure, parenting, importance of marriage counselling etc?' The emphasis in the analysis was on identifying the trends in the literature and the methodological characteristics of the research article

## Sources of Data

All the research articles and research notes published in the 'Pratibimb' between 2010 and 2019 constituted the universe for study. A span of 10 years was thought to be reasonably long enough to give a stable and representative profile of the trends and shifts in the articles published in the 'Pratibimb'. The unit of analysis for the review was an article. Authors who have published more than one article during the mentioned time period were taken as different authors. Moreover, no attempt was made in this review to judge the quality of the articles. All these articles were listed by the name of first author as well as second, third author and serially numbered. Editorials, collection of thoughts or tips, collection of some poems by late renowned individuals and summary of detailed activities of Maharashtra State Court Counsellors Organisation were excluded from the sampling frame. Thus, a total number of 325 articles and poems published at a rate of 25- 30 per year during 2010 through 2019 constituted the universe of study. Multistage sampling method was used to select samples. To represent the entire Maharashtra such as Madhya Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Marathwada, Uttar Maharashtra and Kokan, sample was selected from 13 Districts of all these regions. By using Krejcie and Morgan sample table 178 sample articles and poems were included in the study.

Classification of Categories

The following categories were used in the analysis:

1. Background characteristics of authors which comprised:
2. Gender
3. Profession of author

4. Geographical location of author in Maharashtra
5. Writing collaboration of the authors of articles.
6. Language of article
7. Type of writing such as experience based, research article based on primary data and book review.
8. Article written on various themes related to marital conflicts.

In content analysis the preparatory phase of determining the themes, categories and codes is crucial and extremely important to the study itself. Determining the framework by using content of the recording is very significant. Thus, it is necessary to explicitly state criteria of inclusion and exclusion of articles in frame work. Articles represented respective geographical location, other professional and all types of writing such as practice based, research base, book review, poem all were included in the sample

### The Coding Process

1. First reading of Pratibimb was undertaken to understand the basic theme of that year on which all articles and poems were written.
2. Using the Content Analysis framework, various themes were identified and relevant code was given to each article. On an average, at least two thorough readings were needed to understand what author wanted to convey.
- Crucial decisions to identify the themes under which a certain word could be coded were made at this stage. The instances where themes overlapped, the researcher entered it under one category only to maintain clarity and focus.
3. A excel sheet with the number of codes per theme was maintained to determine frequency and important areas of focus that emerged from the data.
4. During the process of transcribing data, the researcher changed a code if it was better fit with another theme.
5. The coded data was verified once again before transferring into the SPSS.

### Coder Reliabilities

The analysis was done by going through the articles as per the article-reading schedule prepared by using the above categories. To eliminate any preconceived notions, fifty articles were selected randomly from the journals and handed over to a faculty colleague for Content Analysis. In this pilot reading the key words under each theme were identified. These processes ensured inter coder reliability. To calculate Cohen's kappa agreement an inter coder reliability test for multiple coder was used to find out the reliability for the different categories used in the study. The results showed a high rate of agreement among the three coders on type of articles, authors' background, and theme of article. Berry and Mielke's (1997),

Analysis of classified categories:

Table 1

Articles Published in Pratibimb by Gender of Authors

Gender	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Men	78	43.8	43.8	43.8
Women	100	56.2	56.2	100.0
Total	178	100.0	100.0	

It is evident from the data that, more articles were written by women than men. The following pie chart depicts the dominance of women author over men authors.

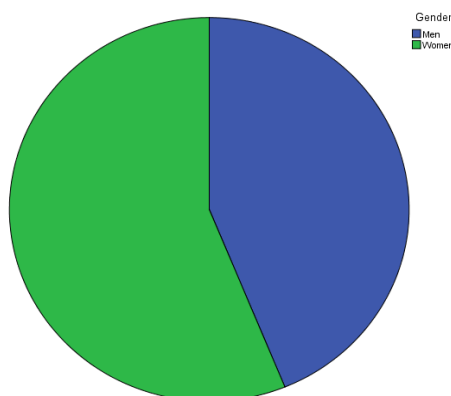


Table 2 Percentage of Articles Published in The 'Pratibimb ' by Professional Background of authors

	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Counsellor	88	49.4	49.4	49.4
Legal Professional	40	22.5	22.5	71.9
Medical Practitioners	13	7.3	7.3	79.2
Academicians	13	7.3	7.3	86.5
Others	20	11.2	11.2	97.8
Retired Professionals from Family Court	4	2.2	2.2	100.0
Total	178	100.0	100.0	

In the regard with the profession of authors, it can be seen that 88 (49.4 percent) articles were written by counsellors from family Court, while legal professionals such as advocates, Judges, District Judges, Principal Judges contributed 40(22.5 percent) articles. 13(7.3 percent) were medical practitioners and academicians who wrote equal number of Articles. Some articles were also contributed by journalists and persons associated with civil society organisations, soft skill trainer, relationship therapist, government representative, businessman and a student. A few were contributed by retired judges and counsellors from family court.

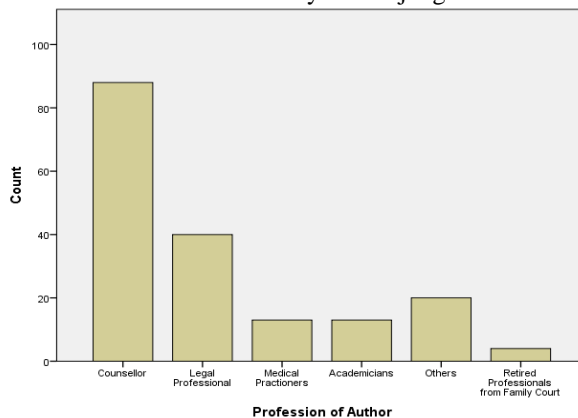


Table 3 Percentage of Articles Published in the 'Pratibimb ' by Geographical Distribution of Authors

	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Mumbai	67	37.6	37.6	37.6
Pune	48	27.0	27.0	64.6
Solapur	1	.6	.6	65.2
Nagpur	24	13.5	13.5	78.7
Latur	1	.6	.6	79.2
Akola	7	3.9	3.9	83.1
Amaravati	3	1.7	1.7	84.8
Jalgaon	1	.6	.6	85.4
Buldhana	2	1.1	1.1	86.5
Kolhapur	1	.6	.6	87.1
Aurangabad	18	10.1	10.1	97.2
Nasik	4	2.2	2.2	99.4
Thane	1	.6	.6	100.0
Total	178	100.0	100.0	



A significant majority i.e 67 (37.6 per cent) articles were written by authors from Mumbai, they are counsellors from family court and experts from other professions. 48(27 percent) articles were written by authors from Pune followed by 24(13.5 percent) from Nagpur and 18 (10.1 percent) from Aurangabad. Very less number of articles were written from Solapur,Latur, Jalgaon, Kolhapur, and Thane. It shows that more articles were from Kokan region followed by Madhya Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Marathwada, Uttar Maharashtra. Data shows that significant majority articles were written by women than men.

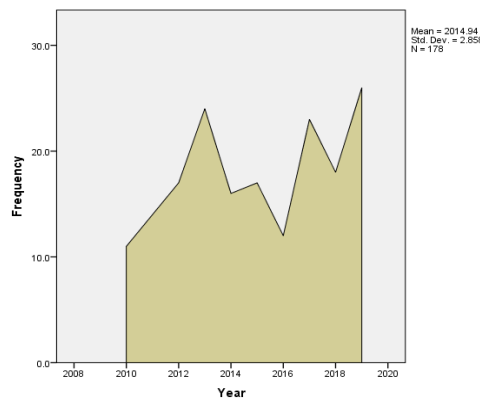
Categories of Articles

Number of articles published in a volume of a journal is one of the significant indicators contents covered in the journal. Table 4 presents the distribution of articles by the period of study.

Table 4Percentage of Articles Published in the 'Pratibimb ' During Ten Years of Period

Table with 5 columns: Year, Frequency, Percentage, Valid Percentage, Cumulative Percentage. Rows include years from 2010.00 to 2019.00 and a Total row.

Year wise publication of articles shows that more number of articles 26(14.6 percent) were published in the year 2019. Followed by 24(13.5 percent) in the year 2013, 23(12.9 percent) in the year 2017. Less number of articles were written in the year 2010 i.e.11(6.2 percent). It shows the statistical significant relationship between year of publication and article written on the theme. After 2015 drift on the rise for the theme of parenting, maintaining relationship, mental health and effect of divorce on family as compare to first five years.



Another significant indicator of contents of the journal is the theme of the articles. As such, content of the journal was analysed by its theme. Table 5 presents the distribution of articles by its central theme.

Table 5 Percentage of Articles Published in the 'Pratibimb' by Theme of Article

	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Domestic Violence	5	2.8	2.8	2.8
Role & importance of marriage counsellor	26	14.6	14.6	17.4
New initiatives	2	1.1	1.1	18.5
Causes of Divorce	18	10.1	10.1	28.7
Effect of social media	13	7.3	7.3	36.0
Gender Justice	13	7.3	7.3	43.3
Maintaining relationship	31	17.4	17.4	60.7
Parenting	16	9.0	9.0	69.7
Legislative procedure	22	12.4	12.4	82.0
Mental Health	10	5.6	5.6	87.6
Effect of Divorce on Family	13	7.3	7.3	94.9
Sexual Health	6	3.4	3.4	98.3
Family in 2030	1	.6	.6	98.9
Live in relationship	2	1.1	1.1	100.0
Total	178	100.0	100.0	

Contribution and representation of authors with various professions shows that, variety of areas were highlighted by using different kinds of writing such as case studies, surveys, experiences, book reviews, poems etc. More number of articles i.e. 31(17.4 percent) were written on importance of maintaining relationship in married life. Due to increasing rate of divorce, need of marriage counselling is increased. Consequently 26(14.6 percent) articles were written on role of marriage counsellor. Divorce legislation had social impact across the countries (González 2015) so more awareness regarding laws is necessary. 22(12.4 percent) articles were written on legislative procedures. Followed by Causes of divorce 18(10.1percent), Divorce had social, psychological and educational impact on the children (Mary,2013) Thus author also high lights by writing 16(9.0 percent) responsible and careful parenting is necessary. Articles written on effect of social media and divorce on family, gender justice were considerable in numbers. Very few articles were written on live in relationship, sexual and mental health, domestic violence, new initiative taken by Family Court and family in 2030.

Table 6 Percentage of Articles Published in the 'Pratibimb' by Authorship, and Writing Collaboration

	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Single Author	172	96.6	96.6	96.6
Two or More Authors	6	3.4	3.4	100.0
Total	178	100.0	100.0	

In the regard with the other attributes of authors, it can be seen that more number of articles were written individually and very few articles were authored collaboratively in sample. Men, either alone or as first authors, wrote majority of the articles 172 (96.6 per cent). Comparatively, few women 6 (3.4 per cent) wrote collaboratively as first and second authors or third author with others. More number of women counsellors wrote in collaboration than other professionals. Articles which based on the primary data were written in collaboration.

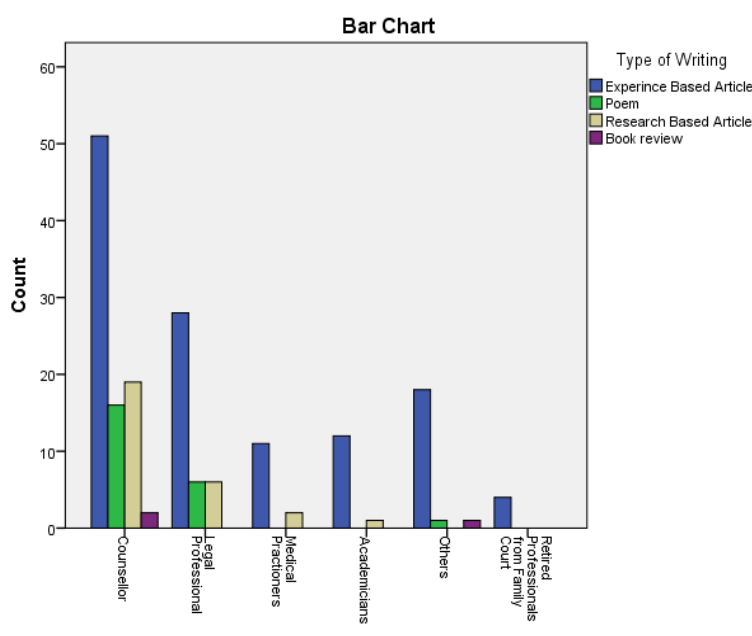
Table 7 Percentage of Articles Published in 'Pratibimb' during Ten-Year Period According to Language

	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Marathi	125	70.2	70.2	70.2
English	52	29.2	29.2	99.4
Hindi	1	.6	.6	100.0
Total	178	100.0	100.0	

It can be seen that more than half of the sample articles published in the 'Pratibimb' during ten years period were in Marathi language. However, 52 (29.2 percent) articles were in English Language. Only one article was written in Hindi. As this journal is representation of Maharashtra Family Courts more articles have been written in regional language.

Table 8 Percentage of Articles Published in the 'Pratibimb' during Ten-Year Periods by Type of Writing

	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Experience Based Article	124	69.7	69.7	69.7
Poem	23	12.9	12.9	82.6
Research Based Article	28	15.7	15.7	98.3
Book review	3	1.7	1.7	100.0
Total	178	100.0	100.0	



Experience based articles were most recurrent in the sample articles and majority articles written by counsellors. There were 28(15.7 percent) research articles based on primary data comprising of quantitative and qualitative in nature. Then poems written by counsellors, lawyers and judges were found which could be creative way of expressing about current scenario of marriage and family system. Articles based on book review were very few in sample articles. Cross tabulation shows that being a social worker with research perspective more number of research articles were written by counsellor compared to other profession.

## Discussion

Majority of the articles were written on the basis of professional practice and experience. The trend shows that the counsellors, judges, advocates and other field experts have highlighted this issue through their professional point of view.

**Counsellors:** All counsellors in family court were professional social workers and were dealing with average 10 cases of family disputes daily. The trend of articles written by the counsellors create awareness in the society about assorted dimensions of family. Through their articles they have highlighted importance of family relationship, companionship, impact of social media on family and attitude towards relationship of an individual. Counsellor accentuate the facts that commitment, humanity in marital relationship is decreasing day by day. Articles were drawn attention to complexity in relationship, triviality of marital discard in some cases, discrimination, lack of openness and acceptance in relationship leads to divorce. However positive initiatives taken by the counsellors were mentioned in 'Pratibimb' such as support for rehabilitation of women after divorce, successful experiments in marital life, book





reviews and yearly activities, project like 'Swaymsiddha' for women from economically weaker section to make them self-reliant, pre-marital, stress management workshop, Children's Day, Women's Day, for society to minimize this issue.

**Judges:**Judges, the upper most authority in family court, reveal the situation of family members or couples in court. Judges have written the articles related to the importance of counsellors in family court, challenges faced by them during judicial proceedings, for example how couples are struggling and fighting with each other to get the custody of child in the court, which shows how family system is collapsing. Conversely, there were articles written about importance of child witness room, measures to sustain family system, need of right based approach through various International Conventions.

**Lawyers:**Lawyers have written on the use of legal of provisions to get the proper rights to individual, effect of modern lifestyle on family, digital evidences, etc . There was complexity in court process hence 'Janadalat' was initiated which is a simple process for those who are not able to pay court fees of court still need speedy justice in marital issues.

**Experts:**Experts from fields related to family disputes seized the opportunity to write in 'Prtibimb'. These articles were very informative and offered insight to society. The articles were based on sexual - mental health of men and women, gender equality, child psychology, stress and coping mechanisms etc.

### Conclusion

The Journal 'Prtibimb' is an eye opener for society in general and young generation in particular. This journal is reflection of human interactions of family which ultimately support the scientific endeavour of Content Analysis. This journal is good initiative of marriage counsellors of family court representing society or stake holders working in the field of marriage and family. Hence, it becomes very comprehensive in nature and covers all aspects in contemporary era. Marriage counsellors wrote more articles compared to other stake holders. Madhya Maharashtra and Konkan shows more participation in various forms of writing compared to the other regions. More articles were experience based, rather than scientific research. Book reviews significantly covers contribution and imitative take in other countries in the field of marriage and family. This is state level journal hence more number of articles were written in Marathi language.

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