MIDLANDS STATE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

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A survey of midlands state university students' portrait of an ideal marriage partner

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DEDICATION

To Mum and Dad, you would have been proud of the man I have turned out to be.

To the Machingura family – Wonder, Present and Petronella, Humphrey and Enneresi, Charles and Sharon, Gloria and Jacob, Samson, Harry and Cousin brother Gabriel – this work is yours.

To Zimbabwe, to the Motherland and to the World.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ABSTRACT

The study runs along the topic "A survey of Midlands State University students' portrait of an ideal marriage partner" based upon the problem statement that ignorance of characteristics one expects and is expected of in a marriage partner can result in miscalculated social commitments and non-satisfying relationships. The ultimate purpose of findings being to chart a course to happier and longer lasting relationships, a matter critically crucial upon the current background of increasing levels of national, continental and global break-ups and divorce rates.

This study defines attractiveness, and introduces factors that lead to attractiveness. It further introduces the Stimulus Value Role theory with attempt to show how life partner selection lies beyond interpersonal attraction alone. This is a study of 340 Midlands State University students across ages 19 to 26 and across 11 degrees. The study finds preferences for Physical Attractiveness, Social Roles, Geographical Area, Academic Qualifications, Levels of Affluence and Sexual Lifestyle to be generally similar variables in the selection of life partners across the given ages and sexes. The study also finds a shift of expected social roles from the traditional perspective.

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1.1 INTRODUCTION

The study runs along the topic "**A survey of Midlands State University students' portrait of an ideal marriage partner**" based upon the problem statement that ignorance of characteristics one expects and is expected of in a marriage partner can result in miscalculated social commitments and non-satisfying relationships. The ultimate purpose of findings being to chart a course to happier and longer lasting relationships, a matter critically crucial upon the current background of increasing levels of national, continental and global break-ups and divorce rates.

1.2 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

There is a dating break-up and divorce pandemic sweeping across the world. Pelt (2010) notes that fifty percent (50%) of marriages end in divorce in the United States. In Zimbabwe, year 2011 divorce cases increased by 21% from year 2010 (Newsday, Jan 5, 2013) and as of year 2015 divorce rates have increased by 50% from year 2014(Newsday, 24 April, 2015). Though further research on love relationships breakups still needs to be done, it is fairly observable that the Western dating culture of heartbreak and divorce is being shipped into Zimbabwe (and in Japan and South Korea in Asia). Practicing the dating culture includes practicing the breakups because breakups are part of the dating culture. Hence it can be deduced that there is a dating breakup and marital divorce pandemic sweeping upon this contemporary world.

This rate of break-ups and divorces is most likely to influence delay in marriage or the tendency to never married as people begin to lose faith in marriage. In the case of the United States for example, the number of the never married almost doubled from 1960 to 2008 where it rose from 15% to 27% respectively(Banks, 2011). About 72 percent were married in 1960, yet the number has declined to 51% percent by 2008(Banks, 2011). Furthermore, in late 1950s individuals with college or university degrees exhibited lesser likelihood for marriage than their non-university or college educated contemporaries (Fry, 2010). This shows that both education and rate of break-ups have an influence on marriage decisions and attitudes towards settling down.

Causes of breakups in the dating stage of love relationships and divorce later in life do have behavioural characteristics some of which could have been observed before the onset of the love relationship. (The extent, however, is arguable). In a two year study of 103 college students, Hill *et al* (1976) notes that discrepant age, educational aspirations, unequal involvement and physical characteristics as factors that predicted the possibility of a dating relationship breakup. The top ten cause of divorce are infidelity, no longer in love, emotional problems, financial problems, physical abuse, alcohol usage levels, sexual problems, and problems with the in laws. An ideal marriage partner therefore, might be a person who, before a relationship begins, is endowed with characteristics that are non-susceptible to the above causes e.g. a violent man is non-ideal because he can be physically abusive, a "player" (i.e. a man/woman who cheats on own dating partner) might be non-ideal since their characteristics contribute to infidelity later in life. The image of an ideal marriage partner is partly influenced by awareness of factors that cause breakups and divorce.

It is notable that Zimbabwe's average age of marriage for man and women is 26 years and 21 years respectively, Nigeria similarly is 27 and 21, whilst United States of America is 29 and 26, 28 and 26 for United Kingdom, 26 and 23 for United Arab Emirates plus 25 and 23 years of age respectively for China (UN, 2005). Globally the general mean of marriage age falls below 30 years, thus meaning the ideals that influence selection of life partners are concluded in the twenties. The above statistics show that these conclusions may occur in the mid-twenties for man and early twenties for women.

The African Traditions, particularly Zimbabwe, had their own images of a suitable marriage partner. Gombe (1998) gives four main characteristics that are expected in a "marriageable" man or woman. These are: *kuzvibata, kuzvishongedza, kuzvigadziramuviri* and *rooranaivematongo.*

- **Kuzvibata**

Literal translation: to hold oneself
Meaning: Self Control
Characteristics: This is a person who preserves oneself a virgin, who goes steady with one person, and who does not have a baby before marriage or out of wedlock.

- **Kuzvishongedza**

Literal translation: to wear jewellery and beautiful apparel

Meaning: having a Dress Sense

*Characteristics:*Dressing in a societally decent way, and to properly synchronise dressing with oneself.

- **KuzvigadziraMuviri**

*Literal translation:*to prepare one's own body

*Meaning:*to apply ointments and cosmetics

*Characteristics:*This is a person who knows where to apply facial paints and hairpins in such a way that she (or he in some African countries) appears attractive.

- **Roranaivematongo**

*Meaning:*this is an African proverb that encourages one to "marry within the house/clan"

*Characteristics:*Young people would be encouraged to marry within the same culture and someone of close proximity, hence a close suitable person was more ideal than a distant suitable partner.

The traditional images or expectations of potential marriage partners where perpetrated through the counsel and advisory roles of uncles and aunties. However, contemporarily these roles have become obsolete and extinct in many Zimbabwean families. This is due to modernization, colonization, urbanization and influence of western education systems that have disturbed channels these roles have used in the painting of the African potential marriage partner portrait. The disturbance consequently results in the gradual change of the portrait as it succumbs to modernization and westernization.

To add on, the world is developing into a global village through enhanced cross cultural and cross continental interactions brought about by technological mediums such as social networks (e.g. Facebook and Whatsapp), the World Wide Web, films, movies, newspapers, radio

broadcasting and other forms of media(Onu & Armstrong , January 2013). The advancement of transport systems like aeroplanes, also encourage the intermingling of cultures through travel and tourism. The Zimbabweans in the diaspora are also connection agents to the globalization of Zimbabwe. Globalisation involves change of Zimbabwean perceptions towards all facets of life including the marriage facet and the selection of life partners. It is from these observations that it would be accurate to infer the potential marriage partner portrait of Zimbabwe is undergoing a number of editions. It is being interrogated, questioned and revised in everyday interactions with the rest of the world. The question being, is the portrait developing into a more functional one that results in stable marriages, or is Zimbabwe adopting only those dysfunctional ideals that result in increasing rates of dating breakups and marriage divorces?

Whilst gleaning through the grapevine, the proposing researcher tracked some keywords within everyday university students' conversations. The keywords clearly suggest that Zimbabwe is in a wilderness; in search of an ideal marriage partner. To some the portrait is purely traditional, to some quiet westernised, and to an arguably significant fraction the portrait of an ideal marriage partner is blurred – being neither black nor white but lying somewhere within shades of gray – it is a self contradictory and unstable definition – inspiring inner and interpersonal conflicts.

Grapevine harvests include the following conversations:
"I will never marry a college girl…"
"If you're still expecting a virgin in this day and age, then you are still living in the past…"
"…my virginity makes me proud…"
"Virginity is important guys refuse to settle for less…"
"How can you marry a man who has never been to varsity whilst you have been to varsity? I mean really, what do you talk about?"
"It doesn't matter he has money or not, as long as his character is good and you truly love each other…"
"I just can't stand a girl who applies cosmetics…and wears blonde hairpiece…"

Such conversations suggest three things. Firstly, Zimbabwe has a psychological portrait of a marriage partner which has some alterations from one individual to another. Secondly, the portrait is dynamic and undergoing change. Lastly, the portraits are conflicting between some

individuals. These gleanings inspire that the portrait be painted and hanged on the wall for comment, review, editing and further perfecting.

Finding an image of the "marriageable" person has been done among the African American people in the United States of America (USA). The characteristics studied include levels of education, financial stability, monogamous or polygamous preferences, affluence and religiosity (King & Allen, 2009). However, in Zimbabwe there is still a need to gain a clear customised research that respects and integrates all the major traditional and contemporary characteristics of the Zimbabwean citizen. It is such exactitude that will result in precision of effectiveness in Zimbabwean social psychology and marriage consultancy.

Furthermore, a number of characteristics paramount to Africa that are to be newly integrated into this research include virginity, past sexual history, use of cosmetics, grooming and proximity. King and Allen (2009) after the USA African American focused research recommend that later research should include such characteristics as criminal history, skin shade and physical characteristics. Such recommendations are to be effected in this research.

1.3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM
Statement: Ignorance of characteristics one expects and is expected of in a marriage partner can result in miscalculated social commitments and non-satisfying relationships.

Explanation of Statement: It is critical that the students' portrait of an ideal marriage partner be researched and painted. Only then, can it be judged to be contributing to function or dysfunction of marriages and families later in life, whether the ideals are realistic or unrealistic, and if blurred; areas of clarification could start to be enlightened.

1.4 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY
The research sought to find how ideals of marriage partner preference differ at first and fourth year at university. It also will shows how such ideals may differ according to sex. The objectives of the study can be outlined thus:

- To describe the gender preferential differences for personality characteristics deemed suitable in the selection of a marriage partner among university students

- To ascertain physical characteristics are most ideal in the selection of a life partner according to university students

- To find whether Do the social roles expected of each sex differ in any way from the studied traditional role expectations

- To delineate the ideal geographical boundary in which students' most suitable life partners are being preferred to be found

- To find how close to a student's own level of education does an ideal marriage partner lie

- To ascertain the affluence levels expected for suitable marriage partners by male and female students

- To understand how important the values of monogamy, abstinence and virginity are to the current students' selection of life partners

1.5 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What are the gender preferential differences for personality characteristics deemed suitable in the selection of a marriage partner among university students?

- What physical characteristics are most ideal in the selection of a life partner according to university students?

- Do the social roles expected of each sex differ in anyway from the studied traditional role expectations?

- What is the ideal geographical boundary in which students' most suitable life partners are being preferred to be found?

- How much close to a student's own level of education does an ideal marriage partner lie?

- What are the affluence levels expected for suitable marriage partners by male and female students?

- How important are the values of monogamy, abstinence and virginity to the current students' selection of life partners?

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

1.6.1. Social Psychology and Marriage Consultancy

With limited research of such extent, it can be said that the most common marriage partner portraits that are behind today's romantic bond-ups, break-ups and make-ups stand quiet vague in most Zimbabwe's social psychology and marriage consultancy fields and firms. How a marriage goes and ends is partly determined by how it begins – specifically, who it begins with. Yet it remains a challenge to offer services on selection of a lifetime partner when the common ideals – with their pros and cons – are still vague, insufficiently discussed, non-reviewed, understudied and possibly inaccurately evaluated in terms of their applicability in this real world.

This research paints the portrait(s) of what most Zimbabwean students regard as the most ideal person to marry. Social and marriage consultancy services can then continue further research that measures the effects of those portraits on function and dysfunction of marriages, discuss applicability of those portraits in real life contexts and through further evidence, the portraits be painted into healthy and applicable ideals that will be communicated back to the Zimbabwean society – to be embraced and applied for the betterment of the marriage institute.

1.6.2. Individual Single People in Zimbabwe

To the Zimbabwean young people who are still in the "Urge to Merge Crisis," where they are seeking to understand:

"Who is the right person to settle down with?"

"Does Mr Perfect really exist?"

"What do I want?"

"Do my friends want the same thing?"

Initially, this research exposes the Zimbabwean Singles to their own expectations and thus jump start or accelerate a process of re-evaluating personal individual ideals. Secondly, the research shows single youngman and women what their peers expect of them, and thus provide a standard towards which to grow. Thirdly, the research exposes single individuals to many definitions of "Mr/Miss Right", thus encouraging an expansion – or contraction – of ideals towards those consequential research shall test as most healthy ideals.

1.6.3. Online Dating

With the advent of internet technology such as Whatsapp and Facebook there is no doubt that online dating (whether formal or informal) is gaining its popularity in Zimbabwe. People are getting to know each other through the internet, physically meeting for some would serve the purpose of merely "sealing" the relationship.

Firstly, the research is an advancement towards "life-partner" heuristics that equips people to reduce risk while dating on online dating landscapes. Secondly, the online population is a vast cross continental population, this research leads one to easily sift the population and remain with only a few "marriageable" persons.

1.7 ASSUMPTIONS

- Everyone has a portrait of an ideal marriage partner regardless of their preferences to marry or stay single.

- The sample represents the whole Midlands State University student's population.

1.8 DELIMITATIONS

The study will be undertaken on Midlands State University (MSU). The target group is the first year and fourth year students only.

1.9 LIMITATIONS

400 questionnaires cannot be used to generalise on a university of more than 14000 students(MSU, 2015). Furthermore, a state university might (or might not) have a significant difference in results from such private Universities as Africa University (AU) whose students' composition might be dominantly of different economic status from those on MSU. There is still need, with time, for the research to be exported to other universities country wide for comparison and reconciliatory purposes.

1.10 DEFINITION OF TERMS

Breakup
The termination of an intimate love relationship by any other means beside death.

Divorce
The legal termination of marriage .

Ideal Marriage Partner: An abstract or hypothetical optimum that is applied as a standard for choosing who or who not to marry.

Marriage
The permanent formal union of a man and a woman, typically as recognized by law, by which they become husband and wife with deliberate intention to remain so till death does them part.

Marriageable
Fit or suitable for marriage, herein with regard to age, personality, academic, economic and physical characteristics etc.

Portrait
A mental artistic representation of a person; as the portrait in photography depicts only face, head and shoulders, so does the term portrait here in show that the human mind cannot have a

full representation of a person, rather it embraces fundamental depictions of personality, physical and other behavioural characteristics that become basis of everyday discriminations of persons. Where used only as "Portrait" herein, the term refers to the Ideal Marriage Partner Portrait.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter defines attractiveness, and introduces factors that lead to attractiveness. It further introduces the Stimulus Value Role theory with attempt to show how life partner selection lies beyond interpersonal attraction alone.

2.2 PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS THAT INFLUENCE INTERPERSONAL ATTRACTION

Attractiveness is the feeling of being drawn to someone – it is a feeling of liking or having positive emotions and thoughts toward someone (Hockenbury & Hockenbury, 2014). The main factor in attraction is facial attractiveness with reference to wide smiles, high eyebrows and full lips (Hockenbury & Hockenbury, 2014). Furthermore, in a study of mate preference done through one thousand advertisements in a local magazine in Miami, the outcome was that man emphasised youth and physical appearance in mate selection more than women (Greenlees & McGrew, March 1994).

People have a particular standard of preferences to be found in their marriage partners, these are commonly called ideal partner preferences. These ideal partner preferences combine together to form a portrait specific to every individual. Men and women have shown significant difference in these qualities that influence their evaluations of suitable marriage partners and the correlations between male and female partner portraits is insignificant, yet physical attractiveness has been found to be a quality of universal priority for both sexes (Eastwick, Luchies, Finkel, & Lucy, May 2014). However, other studies point out that males place a greater emphasis on physical attractiveness than women (Schwarz & Hassebrauck, December 2012).

2.3 PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS AND PARTNER PREFERENCE

People are also most likely to be attracted to individuals who are similar to them in terms of personality, likes and dislikes, background and beliefs towards a situation or life in general (Finkel & Baumeister, 2010). Familiarity is also a pivotal factor that influences attraction as

frequency of interaction leads to predictability of another's behaviour and hence comfort and acceptance of another person (Hockenbury & Hockenbury, 2014).

Studies show that even a space of twenty years is not enough to foster similarity of spousal personality and values (Caspi, Herbener, & Ozer, February 1992). Recently 1,296 couples who are married were studied using a Multidimensional Personality Questionnaire and it was found that the convergence hypothesis that says married partners develop similarity towards each other over years may not necessarily be true (Humbad, Donnellan, & Iacono, 2010). This means that finding similarity in a marriage is possible not through convergence means (gaining alikeness over years) but through assortative means (identifying and settling for a partner of similar personality attributes). That means selection is more important than socialisation. This research seeks to discover portraits and argue along them as a way to develop selection intelligence in humans.

2.4 GLOBAL CHANGES IN SOCIAL ROLES AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIPS

Studies are showing that the movement of women into the labour market has left a void in the home such that men are now spending more time in domestic tasks than used to be practiced (Forste & Fox, September 2012). Inadequacy of time is resulting a new kind of division of labour (Fox, 2009) which this study rather prefers to term "unification of labour" for the sake that both males and females are beginning to help rear children and bring food on the table at the same time without specialisation.

The unification of labour is a new trend showing tradition transforming into modernity. The study seeks to identify how the unification of labour has become an ideal ingrained in the contemporary student psyche as a portrait determining interpersonal attraction and marriage partner selection. Failure to understand these new expected social roles is a misdefinition of the current marriage partner portrait which could result in love relationships that are weak and characterised by loneliness.

2.5 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION, PROXIMITY AND MATE SELECTION

Proximity is another factor just as important in the influence of attraction, it is more likely to be attracted to people one shares the same geographical location, classroom or school with than one who is distanced in location or totally out of sight (Feldman, 2011).

However, the evolution of the Zimbabwean society is resulting in the above factors of attraction being questioned in practice. For example, with mobile networks technology and social media, it is questionable how far levels of proximity can hinder or facilitate interpersonal attraction. This is so because one can interact with an individual two cities away, hear their voice and watch their profile pictures and posted videos using Whatsapp, Facebook, Google plus or LinkedIn social networks. Hence if proximity be the factor, how close is close and how far is far in the contemporary setting? The truth is proximity, among the technologically advanced university students, has a new definition that still needs to be defined.

2.6 EDUCATION AND MARRIAGE PARTNER SELECTION

Furthermore, notable it is therefore that the participation of women in higher and tertiary education contemporarily is placing an influence in the career choices that man make. Men are stimulated to succeed in education and business so that they can increase their prospects for marriage and decreases chances of marriage dissatisfaction and divorce(Gould, 2008). Furthermore, with the global change in divorce laws such that divorce becomes more liberal and less costly, men's selection of life partners is being orchestrated with relatively reduced precaution (Gould, 2008).

In Hong Kong, the education of women has affected their partner portraits. Educated women have found liberty to choose their careers, and hence select partners who are related to the careers chosen (May, 2012). With this liberalisation also comes up the finding that Honk Kong women now prefer intimacy with higher priority than in the past (May, 2012). However a discrepancy can be drawn in the need to pursue career and desire for intimacy for these too are dominantly antagonistic. The meaning of such findings is that education and women empowerment (as is happening in Zimbabwe) unlocks a new line of possibilities for women, the exploration of these possibilities can be facilitated or hindered by the type of marriage partner

one chooses to settle down with. Hence it becomes critical that Zimbabwe's current feminine portrait be studied and analysed in relation to the career development of women. It is possible for the women who have been liberated and empowered to re-entangle and disempower themselves through the marriage partners that they chose, this will be caused by a failure to revise their partner portraits according to their anticipated future rather than their dissipating past.

2.7 AFFLUENCE AND LIFE PARTNER SELECTION

The portrait is subject to change with the change in socio economic status. In a Nigerian study at college students revealed that they are most likely to marry or date people of their own socio-economic status, and that women emphasise the socio economic status more than men (Maliki A. , 2011). Women, more than men, emphasise ambitiousness, industriousness, prospects for financial success and status of influence and power in the selection of life partners(Hatfield & Rapson, 1996). It is general research consensus that women emphasise potential for financial security (Greenlees & McGrew, March 1994). All these providing evidence of the established fact that women weigh socio-economic status in selection of a life partner as more important than man do(Feingold, 1992).

2.8 MONOGAMY, ABSTINENCE AND VIRGINITY: IMPORTANCE IN THE CURRENT GENERATION.

Studies show that man seek casual and promiscuous relationships more than women and women seek long term monogamous relationships than man (Greenlees & McGrew, March 1994).

Furthermore, the sexual revolution that came to the United States of America in the 1960s seems to be partly at play in the contemporary Zimbabwean student generation. In America this revolution was characterised by disruption of social norms such that of the marriages that occurred in 1960, only 2% occurred with parental consent (Packard, 1968), there was the introduction of the pill contraceptive, reproductive rights and women empowerment initiatives (Heale, 2001). It is an intelligent guess that the Zimbabwean university students (and nation

arguably) is undergoing a sexual revolution of its own characterised by disruption of marriage process traditions as cohabitation is a growing trend in the nation and among students (Newsday, 2013). It is also an era of sexual freedom when condom contraception and the pill are being emphasised above abstinence and religious and moral chastity. Christianity is being viewed as an adversary to desire and lust (Zimmermann, 2011), and the human being defining oneself as el cuepo del desio (a body of desire) such that expression of sexuality becomes an inalienableright.

Meanwhile in the United States today, Virginity and rate of abstinence is on the increase. The number of adolescents who have ever had sexual intercourse has dropped from51% in 1988 to 43% in 2006–2010 (Martinez, Copen, & Abma, 2011.). In the United Kingdom a new trend of
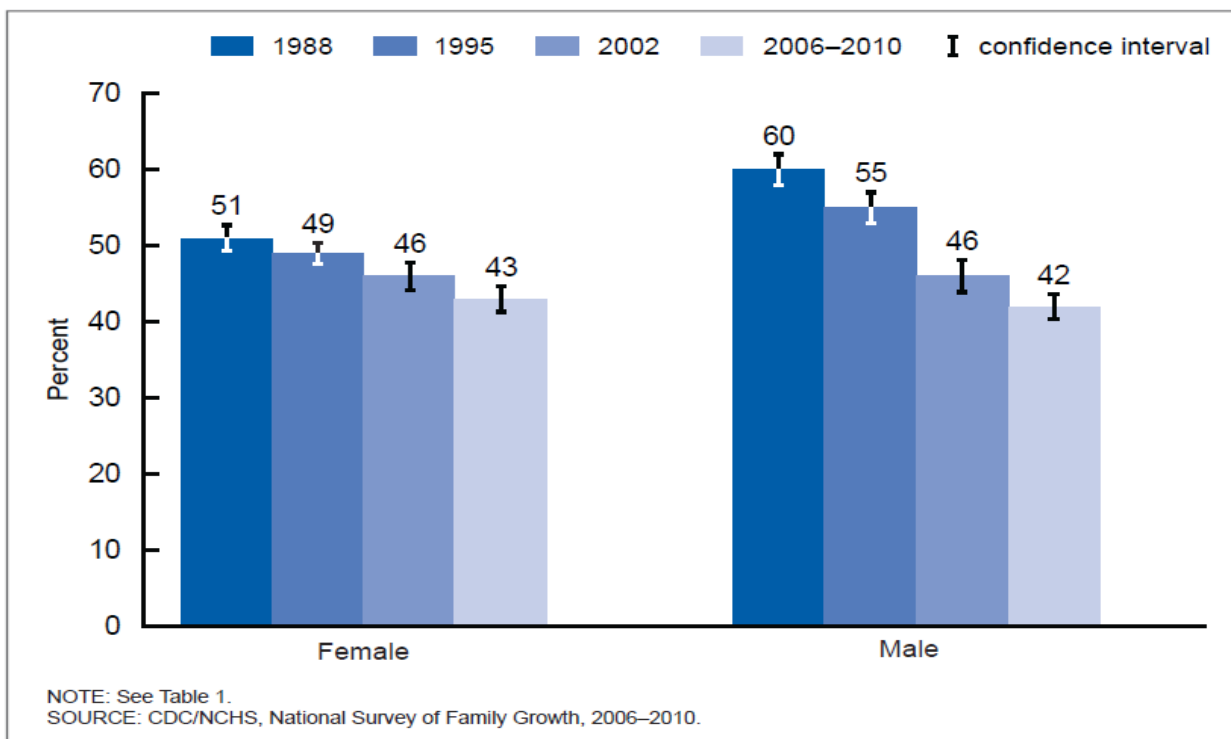
Figure 1: American Teenagers who are having sex

asexuality is gradually gaining popularity (McClave, 2013). All this being evidence that after sexual freedom they will always return sexual moderation. After question the institution of marriage as an inhibition of sexual desire, the human society finds way back to asking if that fence was worth pulling down.

This study seeks to understand how far this current educated generation has pulled down the fence and introduced liberality to sexual activity and the extent to which the most activity are still acceptable for permanent lifelong commitments.

2.9 BEYOND ATTRACTIVENESS

Studies, however, show that marriage is a decision influenced by factors beyond attraction alone, and in non-western cultures attraction is a secondary influence in marital partner selection. Attractiveness is prioritised in United States but in other continents, Africa included, the priorities are different. In the Zulu tribe of South Africa for instance, men prioritise emotional stability in the selection of life partners while women prioritise reliability of character. Chinese men on the other hand emphasise good health in selection of life partners while women emphasise reliability of character and maturity(Buss, Abbott, & Angleitner, 1990).

A cross cultural conceptualisation as evident in above given research would show that there is more to life partner selection than merely the fact that one is attracted to an individual. Life partner selection is culturally influenced. Secondly, African traditional approaches differ from western approaches to life partner selection. Thirdly, interpersonal attraction may be influenced by such already given factors as proximity, familiarity and similarity (Feldman, 2011)(Hockenbury & Hockenbury, 2014) selection of life partners, however, goes further than that into being influenced by cultural valuesin a particular nation or ethnic group. Individuals seek in potential partners what they most value for themselves.

Education is a transfer of culture with intent to develop the effectiveness of norms, values and beliefs of particular individuals. Thus the multicultural approach to education in university, is resulting in the refurbishment of existing individual cultures from tradition to modernity. It is thus evident education is sublimely causing revision of what one values in the selection of a life partner. The bias towards one particular value e.g. attractiveness can be a sign of a one sided source of influence in the selection of life partners. The research is a step ahead in understanding the psychology of interpersonal attraction in the contemporary African context.

2.10 LONELINESS AND THE PORTRAIT

It is possible to be lonely in love, and arguably this kind of loneliness is so common that some have concluded marriage is not meant to take loneliness away. In social context loneliness may commonly be attributed to deficiency of social connections, in a love relationship, however, the most applicable definition of loneliness would be that it is a painful realisation that a social relationship is less meaningful as desired (Myers, 2010).It is when there is a gap between a relationship one has and one would like to have(Rokach & Philibert-Lignieres, 2015). Thus meaning loneliness results from a discrepancy between the desired partner and the actual partner – it is a consequence of the actual partner failing to meet the standards of the portrait partner.

According to Erikson, the young adulthood and the intimacy versus isolation stage is a moment in life that one seeks to escape loneliness(Feldman, 2011), and succumb to the urge to merge with someone.Marriage is an antidote of loneliness and being unmarried magnifies the feeling of loneliness (Rokach, Orzeck, Moya, & Exposito, 2002).According to Maslow the escape from loneliness and finding belongingness is one of the dominant drives and needs of life(Maslow, 1970).

However, the knowledge gap is in that though loneliness has been studied prior to an individual's event of marriage, and studied to be a consequence of divorce as well – the cause of the loneliness within marriage itself remains ill-underpinned. Loneliness in marriage has been studied to be a result of how couples interact in the marriage, for example loneliness asa consequence of jealousy, being ignored, insulted and unaccepted (Rokach & Philibert-Lignieres, 2015). Yet the causes of these insults and failure to accept a partner might actually be resulting from the fact that the partner is not as was expected to be. In other words, the portrait of the partner and actual partner would be discrepant. Portraits therefore, are predictors of loneliness later in marriage, unless observed and revised for adaptability and progress of a marriage. For this reason, it is imperative that the portraits be continuously studied and recorded with precision, so that awareness of what one may expect of a partner or one be expected of as a partner might be sharpened. The research clarifies the expectations university students have of life partners with specific reference to this day and era, and thus open doors to forums and research that further discusses the applicability of such expectations (portraits).

2.11 THE REALITY OF THE PORTRAIT AS A CONSTRUCT

This research, therefore, uses the above facts to infer that there exists an image template in the mind of every individual. This image functions as a semi-permeable membrane that defines how far all the individuals one meets penetrate into personal life to as far as settling down and intimately sharing a lifetime with someone. This mental membrane is meant to drive off everyone and remain with only one person worth marrying. This membrane, by error, can drive off everyone or allow everyone in – or it can only allow those who are not worthy of entrance into an individual's intimacy zone of life. The Portrait is the name given to this people selective mental membrane.

Adapting understanding from the Stimulus Value Role Theory (theory which shall be further explained later on in this chapter)the Portrait is a product of Attraction, Values, Social Roles and Personality. The research's aim is to kick-start conversation that encourages the balance of these four factors in the selection of a life partners. Bias to one, due to cultural influence or any other cause in particular, can result in dysfunction of portrait and selection of life partners that are detrimental to the life one desires for oneself.

2.12 PORTRAITS USED IN SIMILARITY AND COMPLEMENTARITY SELECTION PARADIGMS

There are mainly two types of factors at interplay during the selection of a life partner. These are similarity and complementarity factors. People are likely to be attracted to individuals who are similar to them; this maybe physically, psychologically or even religiously(Barelds & Dijkstra, 2008). Similarity in beliefs for example influences attraction in that it validates the common beliefs as true or worthy of application (Morry & Gaines, 2005). In other words it gives that "We are one" ideal and the "If we stick together we'll go far" commitment a more solid confirmation. Similarity is also characterised by reduced conflict (Morry & Gaines, 2005).

Complementarity is when individuals are attracted to individuals on the basis of their difference. It is the "Opposites attract" ideal. It is normally exhibited when younger women are attracted to older men, or women lacking economic resources are attracted towards people of higher

economic status (Eagly & Wood, 1999). Main areas of complementarity are physical attractiveness, level of education, religion and socio economic status (Barelds & Dijkstra, 2008).

It is in the light of these facts and changes that it becomes critical to describe the new portrait that the current college generation finds expected of oneself. Furthermore, it remains pivotal to be able to compare those self-perceived qualities and the real qualities upheld by other students of the same or opposite sex. Such introspection could only be unlocked by such a research as this.

2.13 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The main theoretical framework used in this research is the Stimulus Value Role theory. The Exchange Theories and the Evolutionary Theories of mate selection are only used for supportive roles.

2.13.1 The Stimulus Value Role Theory
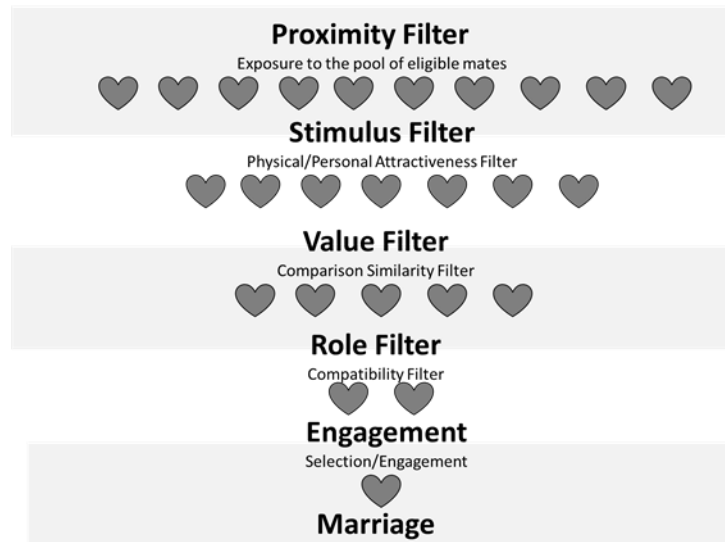
Figure 2: The Stimulus Value Role Theory

The Stimulus Value Role Theory is also called the Filtering Model of Mate Selection (Hockenbury & Hockenbury, 2014). It involves the process of selecting one person from billions

of people around the world and settle down with those people. The main filter in mate selection is proximity. Proximity determines occurrence and frequency of exposure to someone. One cannot select someone they have never been directly or indirectly exposed to. However, with the advent of Social Networks like Facebook and Whatsapp than connects people cross continentally, and with the dispersion of Zimbabweans into diaspora, proximity dimensions are brought under question. The research therefore seeks to find how far is far? And how close is close? The research seeks to find the optimum level of proximity that is related to marriageability.

Another step in mate selection is the Stimulus Filter model. This refers to the discrimination of people according to their physical and personal attributes of attractiveness. This includes considerations of race, complexion height, grooming, composure and personality. The research then seeks to understand the ideal physical and personality features of a suitable life partner for most Midlands State University students. This is in order to jump start conversations on the applicability of such ideals. Some ideals in terms of race for instance, might be overly limited by a person's levels of exposure to the particular, especially where the ideal race is foreign.

The next stage in mate selection is the value filter. This is separation of people according to what they value and whether these values correspond with the selecting individual's values. It is most likely one desires for others what he/she would desire for one self. All conflicts happen on the bedrock of values. The research seeks to know the values affording today's mate selection, and goes on to further understand if values themselves are valued.

The following step in mate selection is role filtering. This is more than merely selecting according to who one gets along with, to selecting how one gets along with them. Role filtering is about compatibility. Philosophically expressed, "life is a journey and though many are going where you are going, they are few that you can ask to be accompanied by." Role filtering involves those conflicts such as equality, equity, of roles, resources and everyday interactions.

The last stage in the theory is selection and engagement that leads to marriage. This is when one partner is selected from a billion potential partners. The purpose of the research is to find the

ideals of the students in each stage. The aim being to trigger interrogative correction of mean ideals in every stage of the model.

2.13.2 Exchange Theories

Exchange theories of mate selection mainly stress that people select life partners with an aim of reaching a level of equity. This means for every relationship and marriage that begins, there are normally expectations of what each person will give and receive. It is within the suggestions of these theories that it can be inferred that the higher status that education gives to individuals in a society, is resulting in the educated desiring in some way to be courted and married by individuals who can equally show similar status. The promise of change of status and standards of living brought about by education will influence the ideals of the students who pursuing education.

2.13.3 Evolutionary Theories of Mate Selection

Men and women seek different traits in mate selection (Abelson, Gregg, & Frey, 2004). The reason being, for instance women seek to be protected and cared for. For this reason they are more likely to desire hypergamy than men. Still on that they are most likely to focus on masculine strengths such as broad shoulders, power and height (Maliki A. E., 2011). The research seeks to understand how far up women are likely to look, since education has already brought them up - or to understand if women are now looking down. It also seeks to understand, since men have the tendency to look down to those of lower income and/or class, if the down has been altered to a down that is higher than it was once used to be before.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. INTRODUCTION

This is a quantitative descriptive research targeting 14000 plus students population of Midlands State University students across 11 degree programs. The questionnaire was used as a surveying instrument distributed through a cluster sampling method. Data was then analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software and presented using histograms, pyramids, bar graphs and pie charts. The researcher sought all means to maintain ethicality in this research.

3.2. RESEARCH PARADIGM

This research is a quantitative approach to the study of the components that underpin the selection of life partner.

Quantitative Research can be defined as the kind of research that seeks to acquire scores from participant individuals with the goal of measuring the variables, assigning numerical values and applying statistical analysis in summarisation and interpretation of the findings(Gravetter & Forzano, 2009).

Numerable kinds of influences in partner selection have been studied, this research focuses on the amount of these influences rather than the kind of these influences. A number of factors within interpersonal attraction, a wide spectrum of values, social roles and personality factors have been extensively studied as influential components in the selection of life partners. Though these factors are common across cultures and individuals, the weight accorded to each component differs across individuals with respect to human and cultural diversity. It isfor this reason that a quantitative approach is used. It is to measure the weight accorded to the studied major components of the portrait, thus enable empirical comparison of the measures between individuals.

Furthermore, the significance of difference between male and female expectations of contemporary university students can more accurately be clarified through quantitative means.The final hypothesis that seeks correlations between personal values and life partner characteristics can be best tested using a quantitative that allows employment of correlational tests.It is for these reasons that the research employed a quantitative research paradigm.

3.3 RESEARCH DESIGN

The research employees a descriptive quantitative research design. The description of the ideal marriage partner portrait will be done through measuring and quantification of data in numerical forms and the use of questionnaires.

Consequently, the research quantitatively describes the portraits that are upheld by contemporary Midlands State University students and at the same time show how such described portraits correlate with a general number of life values. The purpose of the correlation being in order to apply a context within which a portrait can be inferred to exist. For example for a partner who tops values financial security, it would at least provide a clue that a specific portrait can be the most likely upheld one by that individual. This helps in the applicability of the descriptions that are generated by the research.

3.4 TARGET POPULATION

The target population comprised of more than 14 000 Midlands State University students (MSU, 2015) across eight available faculties that included Arts, Commerce, Education, Law, Medicine, Natural Resources Management and Agriculture, Science and Technology, and Social Sciences. The students received a questionnaire, chances ranging according to the sampling techniques explained herein.

3.5 POPULATION SAMPLE

The sample comprises of Midlands State University Students across all academic levels and stages. The sample is selected not by age but by life stage in academic achievement. However,

there is still a correlation between age and life stage that might to a reasonable extent place the sample at a further advantage.

The research mainly focuses on individuals in the above given academic stages without distinguishing the un-married, never married or commitment to celibacy. Analysing according to marital status remains unsuitable since the sample did not provide adequate numbers for such in its respondents.

The research does not limit to celibacy, monogamy or polygamy. Thus because it expects every individual has a portrait of a life partner and that portrait accommodates the commitment for celibacy, monogamy or even polygamy. For example a celibate's portrait maybe one that depicts a marriage partner as unattainable or as retrogressive to one's life. It is this portrait that accommodates such celibate ideals.

3.6. RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

The research used a Questionnaire as the research instrument. The battery took approximately 9 minutes to complete. The questionnaire included the following components: Demographic questions such as Sex (male/female), Age, Relationship Status, Level of education and Background (rural/urban).

Next the respondents ranked preference on a scale 1 to 5 of 73 characteristics that are in a 7 categories namely Physical Attractiveness, Social Roles, Geographical Area, Academic Qualifications, Levels of Affluence and Sexual Lifestyle.

The choice of questionnaires was to maintain uniformity of responses for effective comparison purposes, to afford consulting a large number of respondents (340 respondents were found) at minimal costs of time and money.

3.7 DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES

The study is a 400 questionnaire cross sectional survey. Firstly the researcher created cluster samples of the university such that psychology, LGS, HR, Horticulture, Agronomy, Computer Studies, Developmental Studies, Media, Marketing and Law where picked clusters to be be studied. The general endeavour was to strike a balance in disciplinary representations. It is notable however, that the representation stills seems somewhat limited especially of third year law students. Afterwards the questionnaire was filled in by convenience means of sampling. For instance, the researcher finds a 4.1. Level class that falls within a selected cluster and requests participation into the research and moves on to seek another one afterwards.

3.8 DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS PROCEDURES

The Data was fed into the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software and after wards the demographic details were analysed in terms of sex, age, and program of study. Afterwards the social roles expected of life partners were analysed according to sex differences. Lastly bivariate correlations were analysed and calculated according to sex and accumulation of age. The information was presented using histograms, pie charts, pyramids and tables.

3.9 ETHICS

The research aims for excellence in ethical practice. The following ethics are adapted from Shamoo&Resnik (2009):

Honesty

To be honestly report data, results and procedures that are totally free from fabrication, misrepresentation and or falsification.

Objectivity

The aim is to avoid any forms of bias in experimental design, data analysis and any other aspects of this research. No personal or financial interests have so far been observed as to affect the research, but if noticed the research report shall be accompanied by a clause of disclosure.

Carefulness

Effort is made to ensure the research is as much error free as possible.

Respect for Intellectual Property

Effort is made to make sure all patents, copyrights and other forms of intellectual property are acknowledged; and that this proposal and the research is and shall be free from plagiarism.

Confidentiality

Identities, names and clues related to both, of all subjects participating in the research, are to be kept confidential.

Responsible Publication

The purpose of this research is to gather information and advance research and scholarship. It is NOT a means to advance a personal career.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This is a study of 340 Midlands State University students across ages 19 to 26 and across 11 degrees. The study finds preferences for Physical Attractiveness, Social Roles, Geographical Area, Academic Qualifications, Levels of Affluence and Sexual Lifestyle to be generally similar variables in the selection of life partners across the given ages and sexes. The study also finds a shift of expected social roles from the traditional perspective.

4.2 CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS
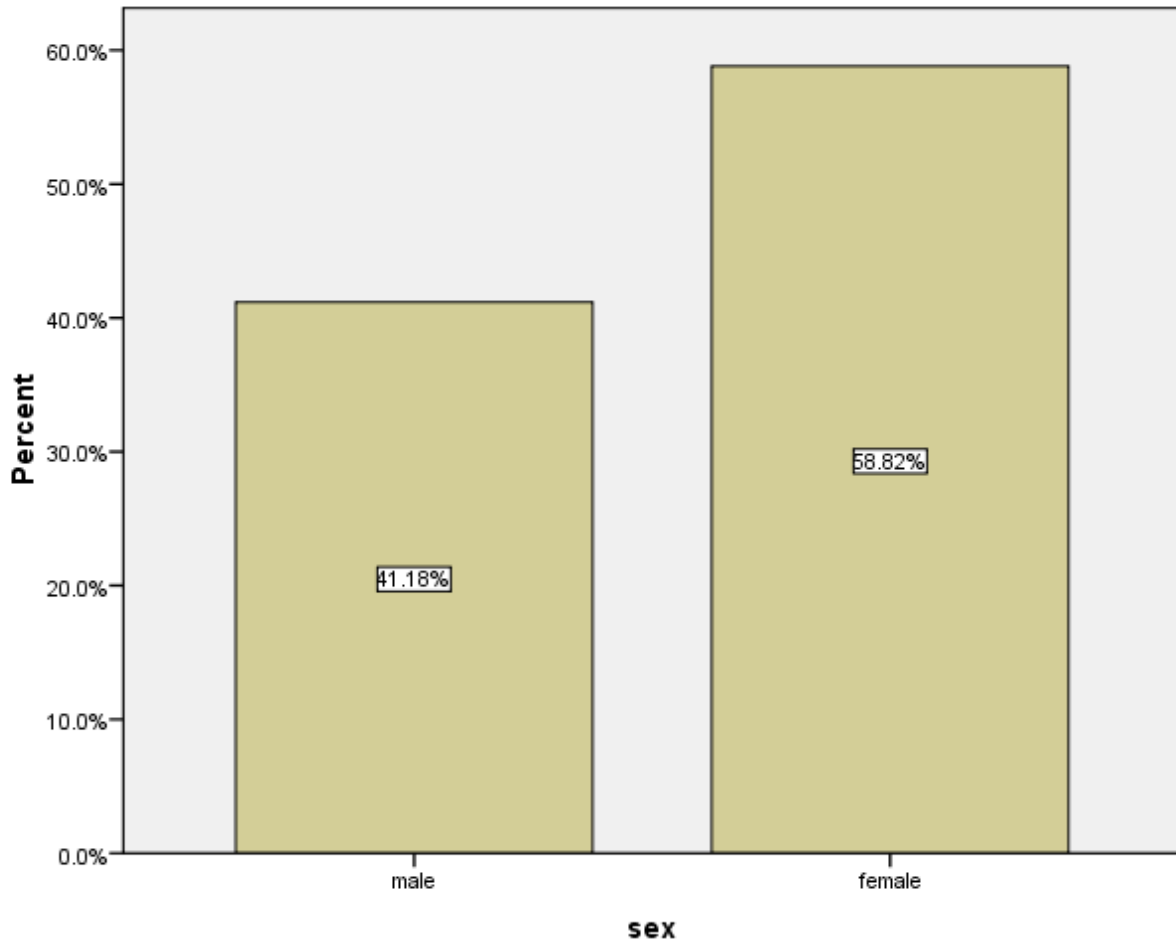
Figure 3: Respondents distribution according to sex

The initial number of respondents was 400, 340 returned the questionnaire therefore the research had a response rate of 85%. The questionnaire was a comprehensive one, with 87 questions hence completing it became a challenge for a significant number of participants. 340 participants responded to the questionnaire in which 41.18 % were male and 58.82 % were female. That means more were females than males, however, this is quiet representative of every student community.
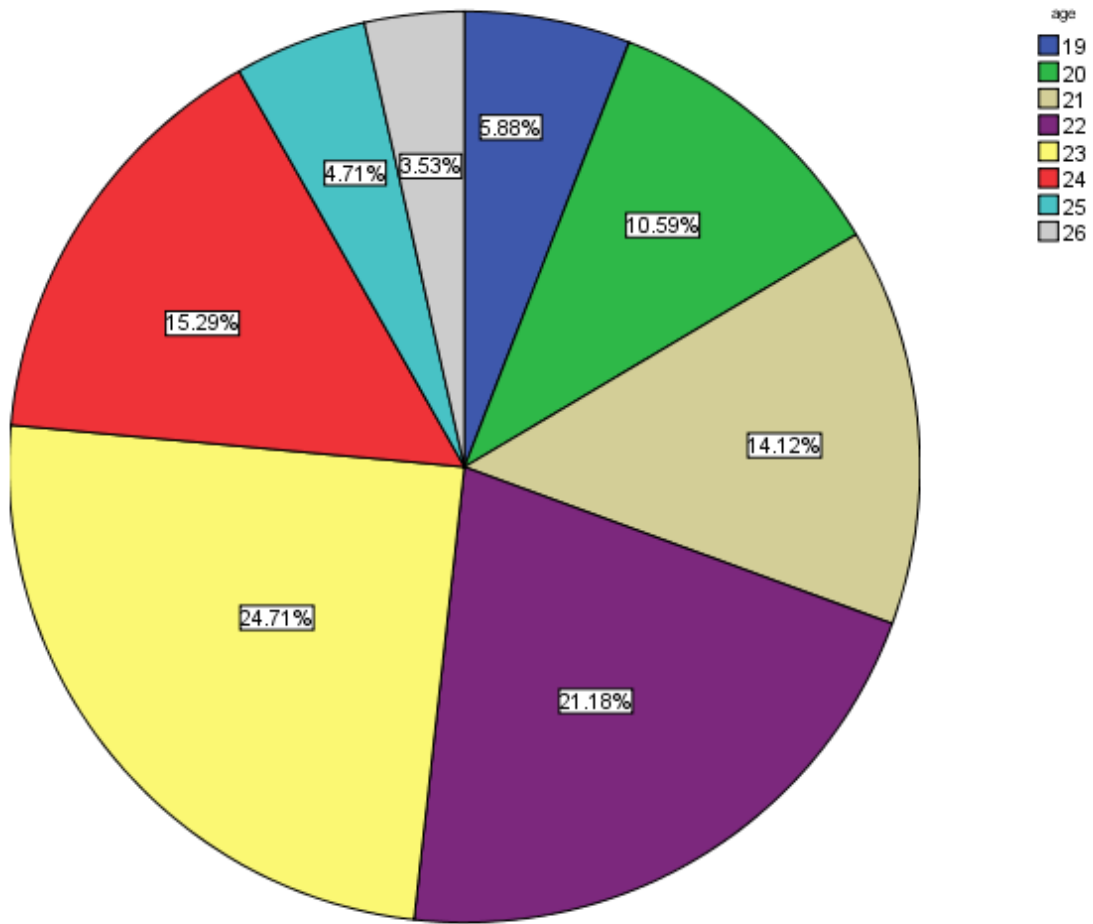
Figure 4: Respondents distribution according to age

	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	5.88%	10.59 %	14.12 %	21.18%	24.71%	15.29%	4.71 %	3.53 %

Table 1: Respondents Distribution according to age

The majority of the students' respondents were 23 years old, and the next where aged 22. The least where 26 years old and 19 years old. The age distribution formed a normal distribution curve.
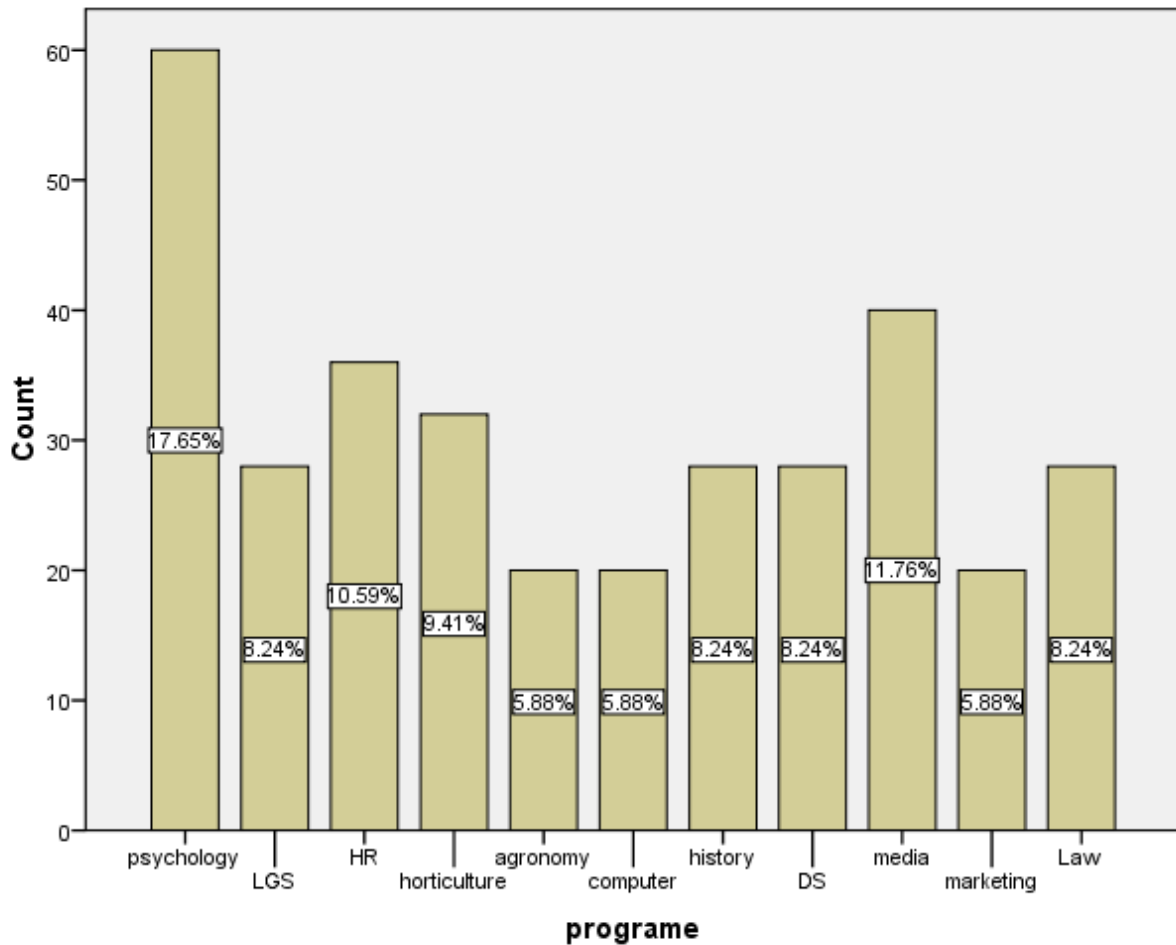
Figure 5: Respondents distribution according to program

The population sample comprised of students enrolled in a variety of 11 degree programs. The programs included psychology, LGS, HR, Horticulture, Agronomy, Computer Studies, Developmental Studies, Media, Marketing and Law. Psychology was the dominantly represented degree (17.65%) and Agronomy, Computer Studies and Marketing were the least represented with 5.88% representation each.
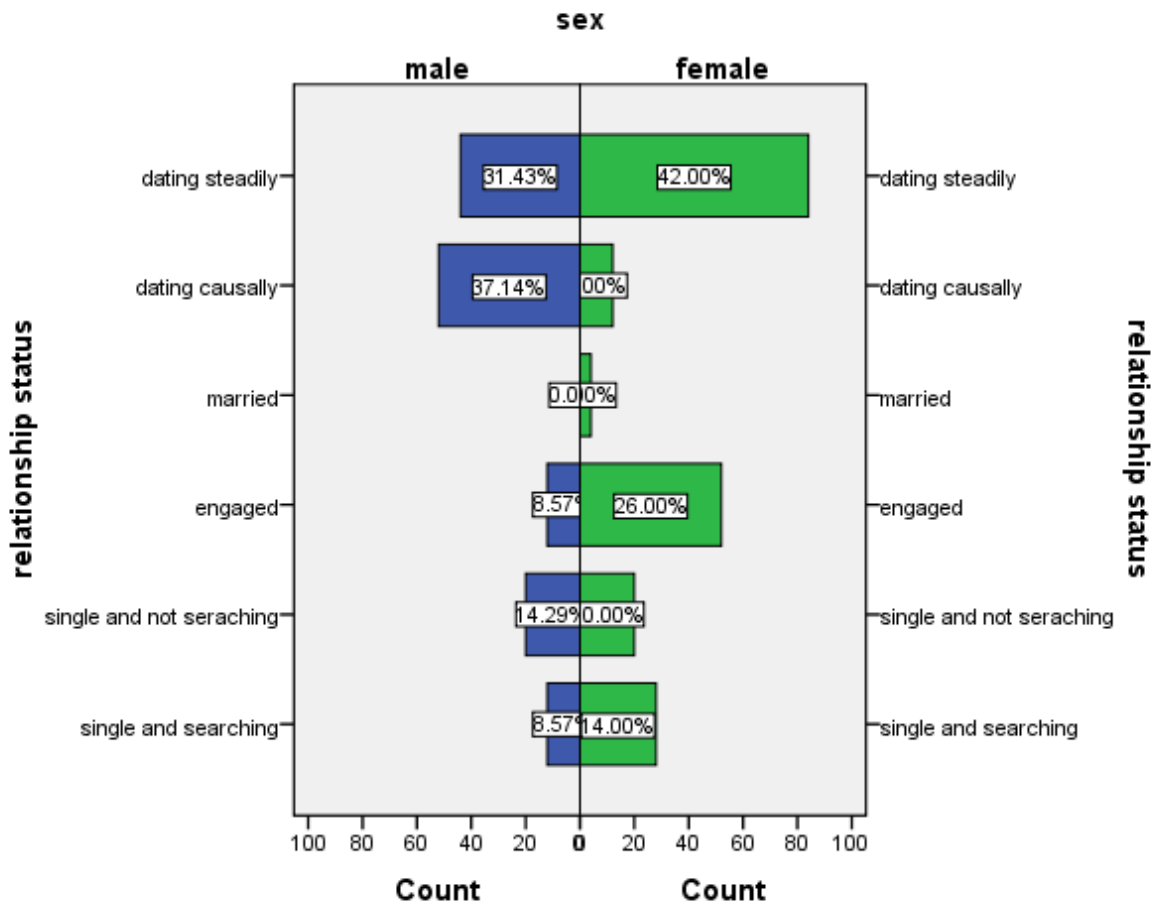
Figure 6: Relationships statuses of respondents

The study shows that more females are dating steadily than males. Males are dating casually more than females. There were more married females than males and more females where engaged at the time of the study than males. The number of the single and not searching was fairly equal for both sexes. Yet more females are searching for relationships than males.
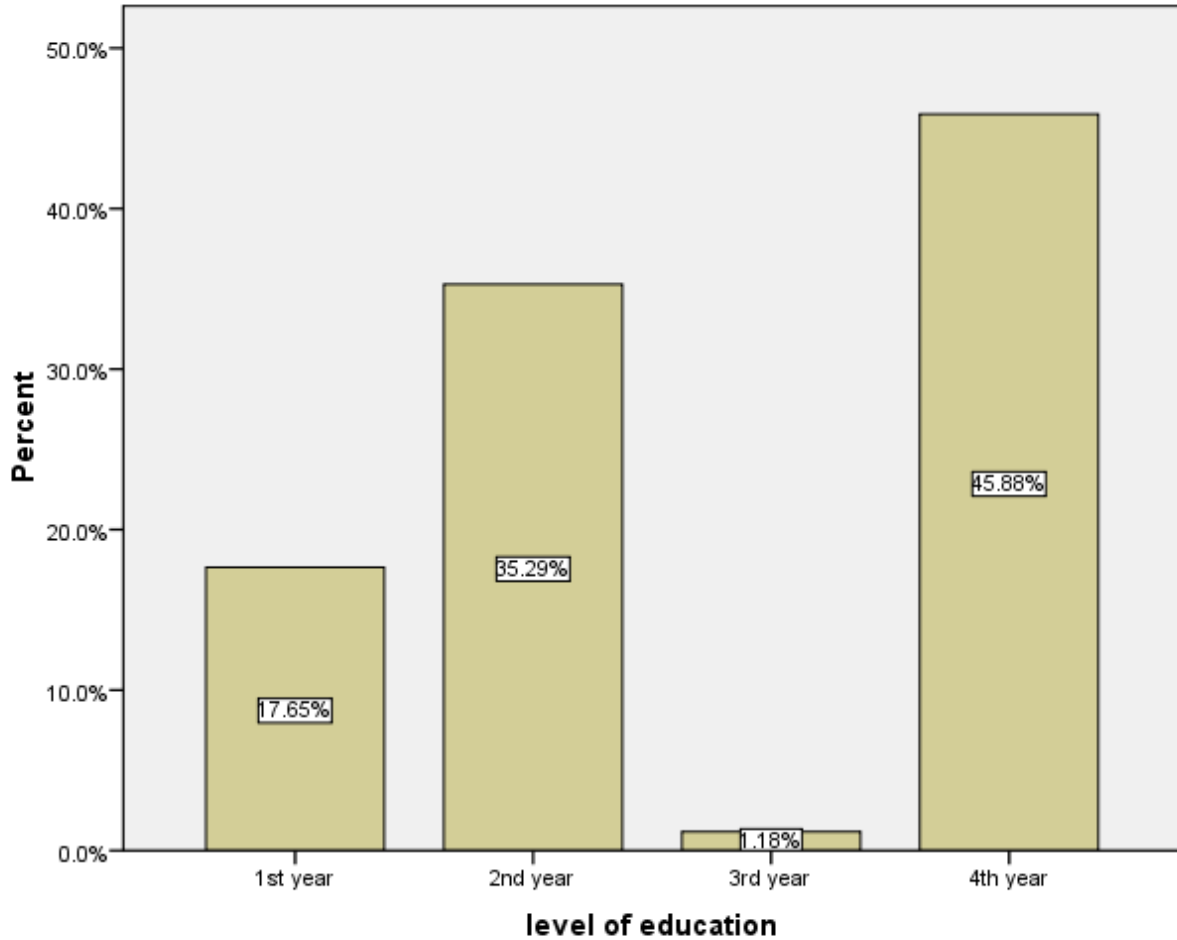
Figure 7: Respondents according to level of education

The respondents ranged from First Year to Fourth Year students. The Fourth Year students where the predominantly represented at 45.88% and the Third Year students where the least represented at only 1.18 percent representation.

4.3 RESPONSES

4.3.1 Physical Characteristics Held Most Ideal In The Selection Of A Life Partner According To University Students
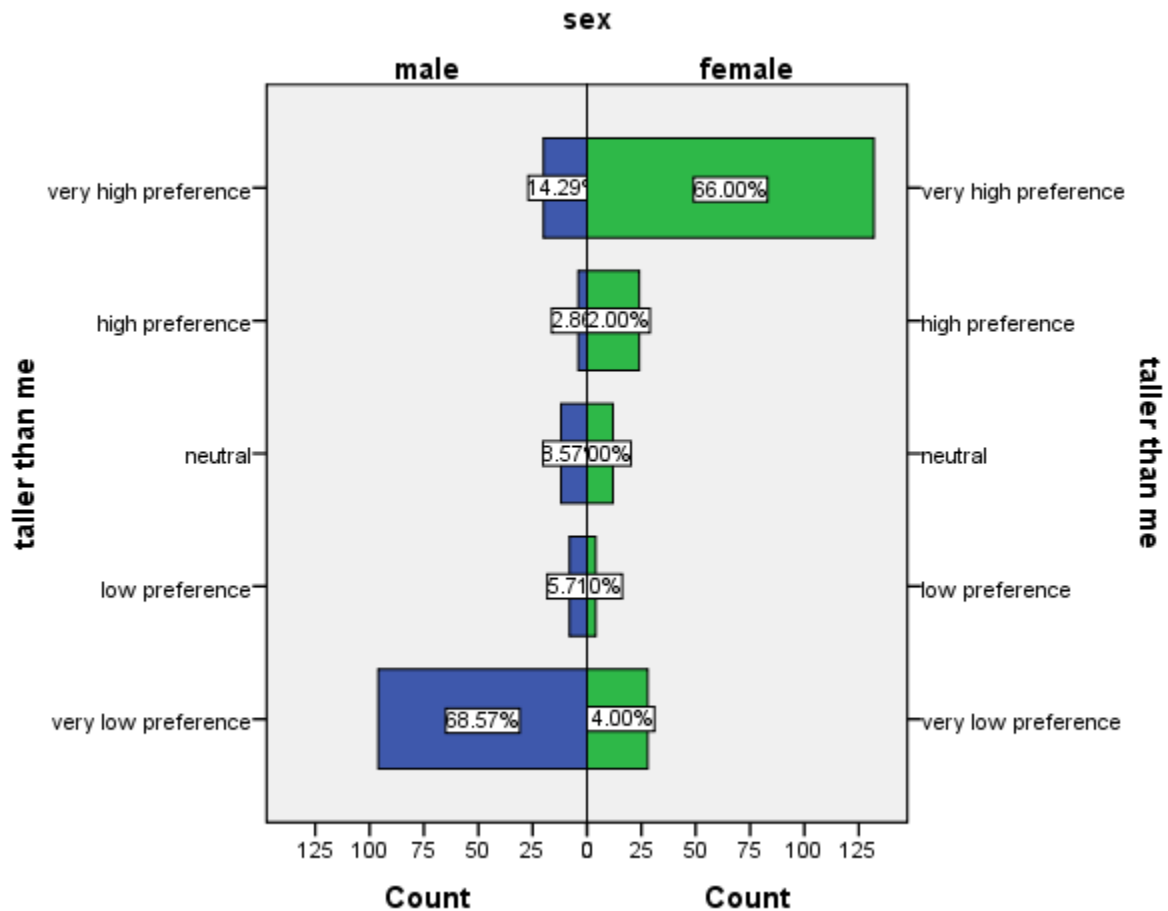
Figure 8: Preference for Taller Partners

Women more than men prefer a partner who is taller than them. Only 14.29% of males expressed a very high preference for a partner that is taller than oneself, and 66.00% of women expressed very high preference for a partner that is taller than oneself. On the other hand 68.57% of males said a very low preference for a taller partner as compared to only 4.00% of females. Women prefer a man who is taller than them.

Figure 9: Preference for Shorter Partners

Men more than women prefer a partner who is shorter than them. 40% of males expressed a very high preference for a partner that is shorter than oneself, and only 4.00% of women expressed very high preference for a partner that is shorter than oneself. On the other hand 20% of males said a very low preference for a shorter partner as compared to only 85.71% of females. Women have a very low preference for men that are shorter than them.
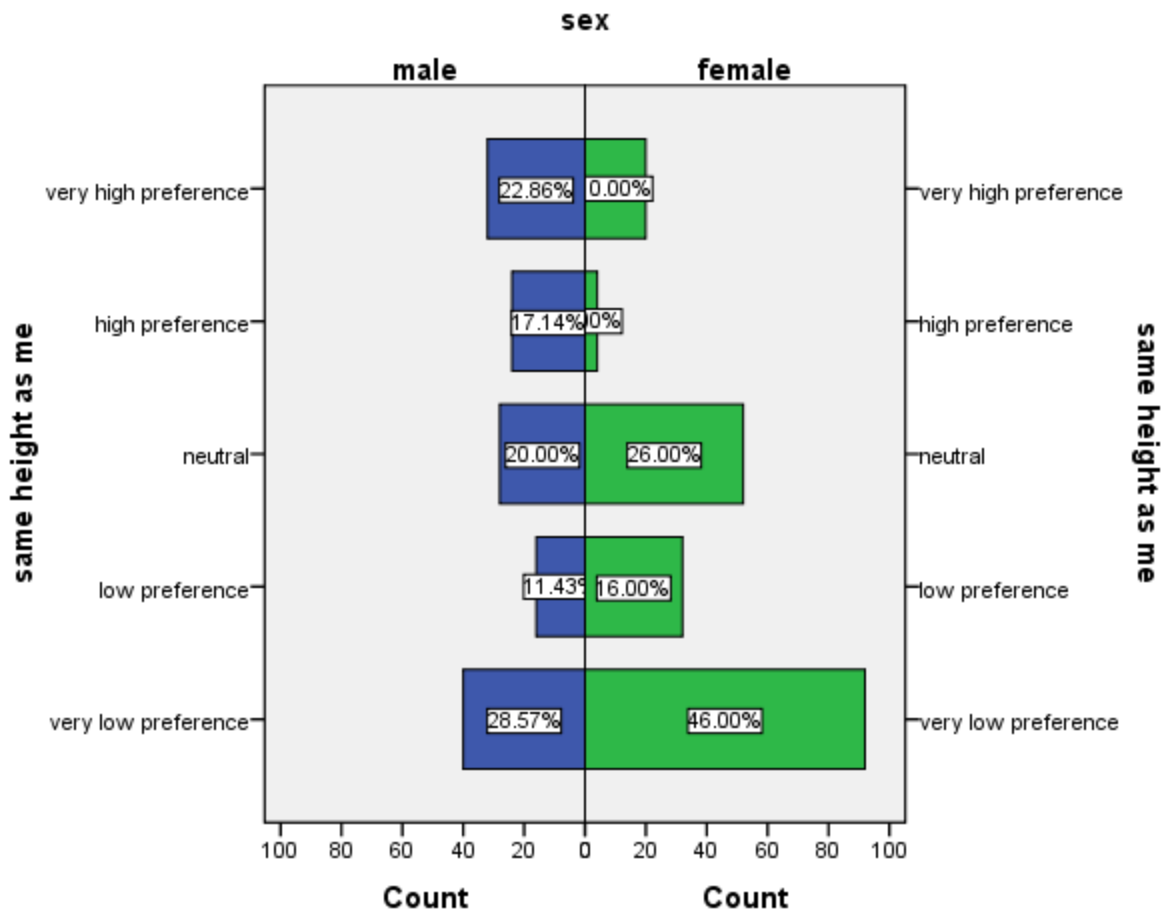
Figure 10: Preference for same height Partners

Generally, both males and females have a very low preference for partners that are the same height with them. Yet if it comes to the few who express high preference men more than women prefer a partner who is same height as them. 28.57% of males expressed a very low preference for a partner that is at same height as oneself, and 46.00% of women expressed very low preference for a same height partner too. On the other hand 22.86% of males said a very highpreference for a shorter partner as compared to only 20.00% of females. However, 20.00% males and 26.00% females do not find being same height as someone a matter of weighty consideration.
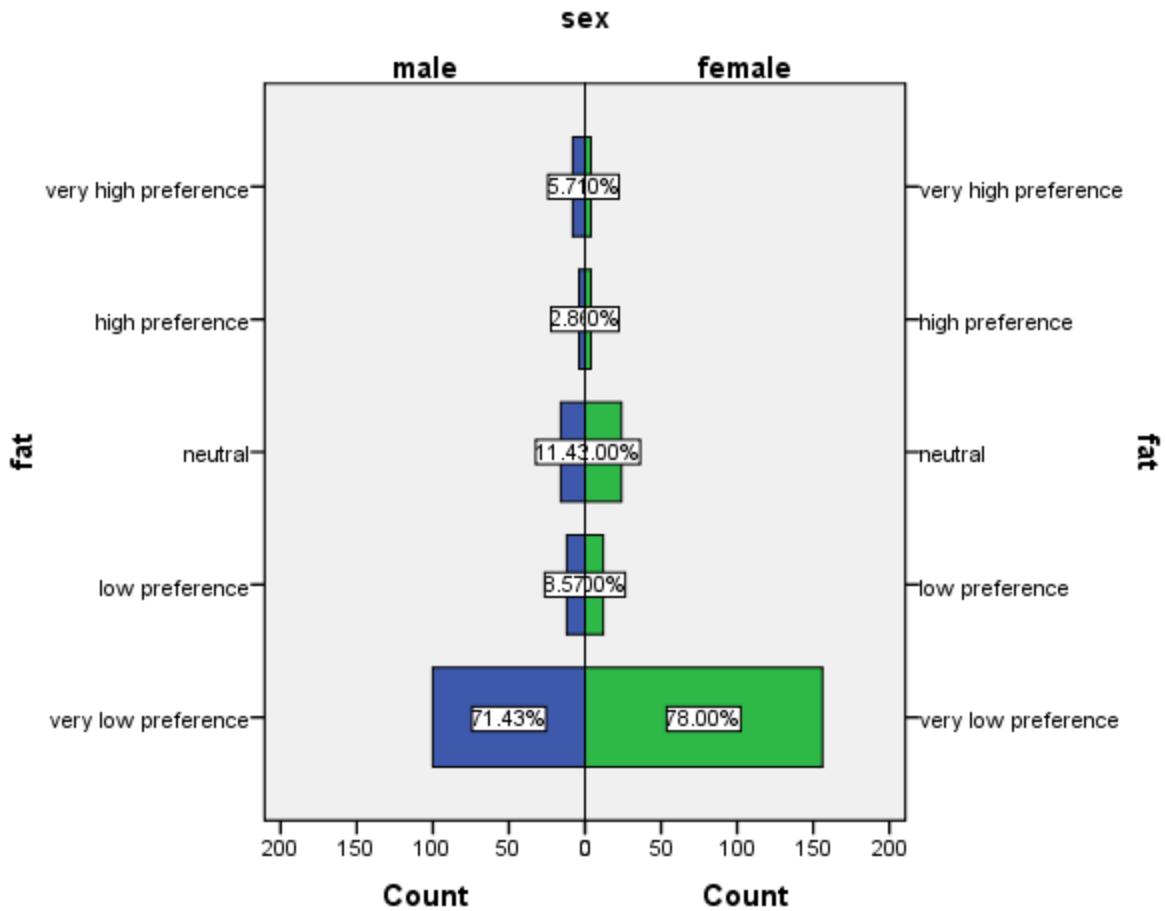
Figure 11: Preference for fat Partners

Among the physical characteristics, being fat ranks within the very lowly preferred of all. Generally, both males and females have a very low preference for partners that are fat. 71.43% of males expressed a very low preference for a partner that is fat, and 78.00% of women expressed very low preference for a fat partner too. Only 5.71% of males said a very high preference for a fat partner as compared to only about 2.00% of females.
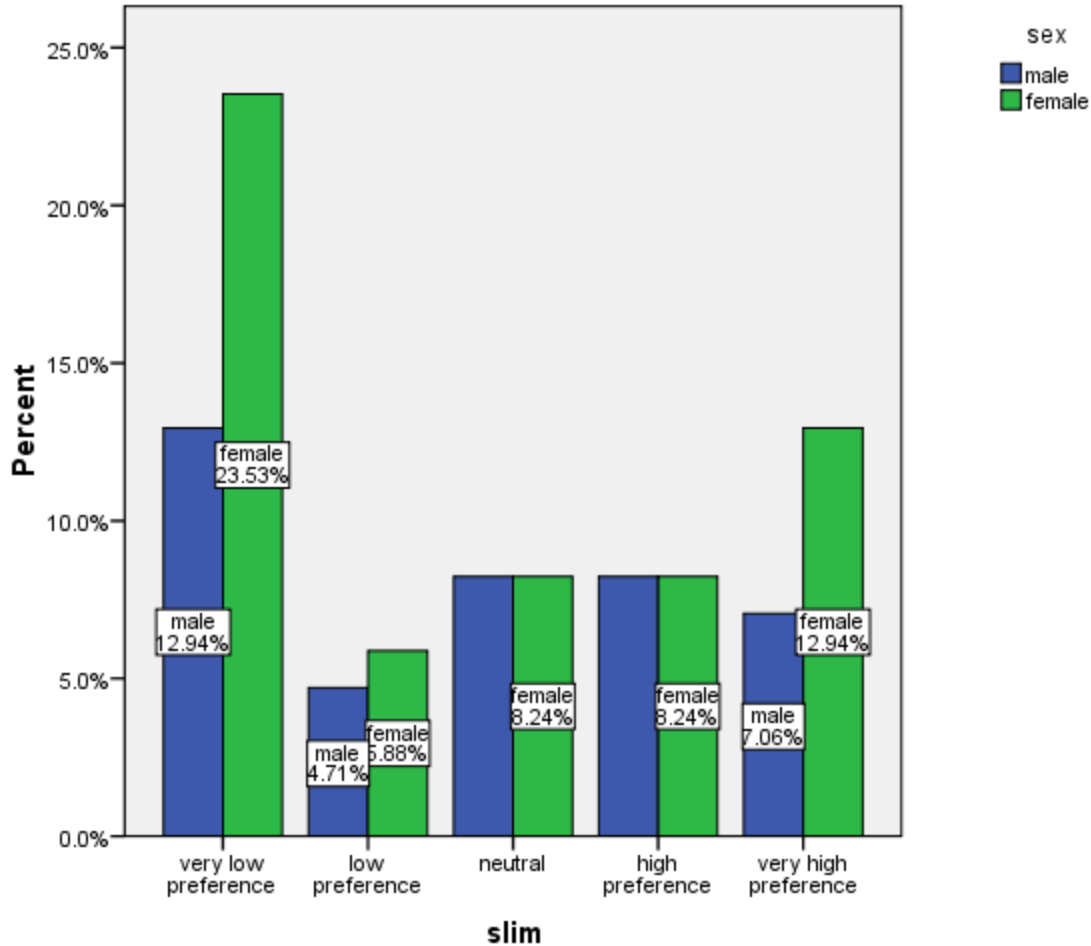
Figure 12: Preference for slim Partners

Surprisingly, being slim is proving to be a characteristic of very low preference. Both males and females generally express as very low preference for a slim partner. 12.94% males and 23.53% females express a very low preference for a partner who is slim. Women are less preferring a slim partner than men. However, the distribution for very high preference is evenly opinionated. Equally 8.24% of males and females are neutral about slimness. Among those who prefer slimness however, more females do (12.94%) than males (7.06%).

Figure 13: Preference for middle bodied Partners

Both males and females have a very high preference for a partner who is middle bodied. 17.65% males and 34.12% females have a very high preference for an middle bodied partner. Notable is that more women expect middle bodied men than there are men who expect middle bodied women. 9.41% of males and 4.71% of females said they may have a low preference for middle bodied partners. 4.71% of males and 8.24% of females have a neutral preference for middle bodied partners.
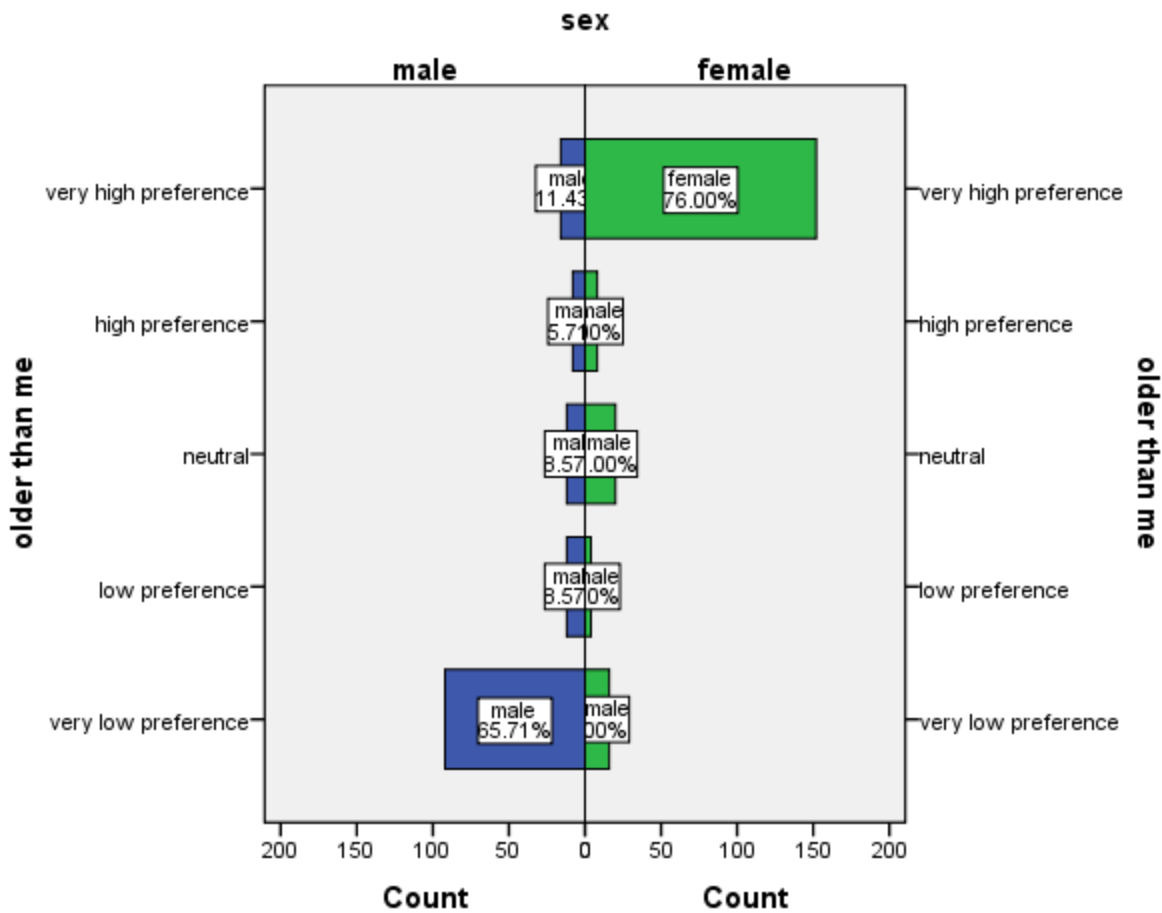
Figure 14: Preference for older Partners

Women more than men prefer a partner who is older than them. Only 11.43% of males expressed a very high preference for a partner that is older than oneself, and 76.00% of women expressed very high preference for a partner that is older than oneself. On the other hand 65.71% of males said a very low preference for an older partner as compared to only 4.00% of females. Women prefer a man who is older than them.
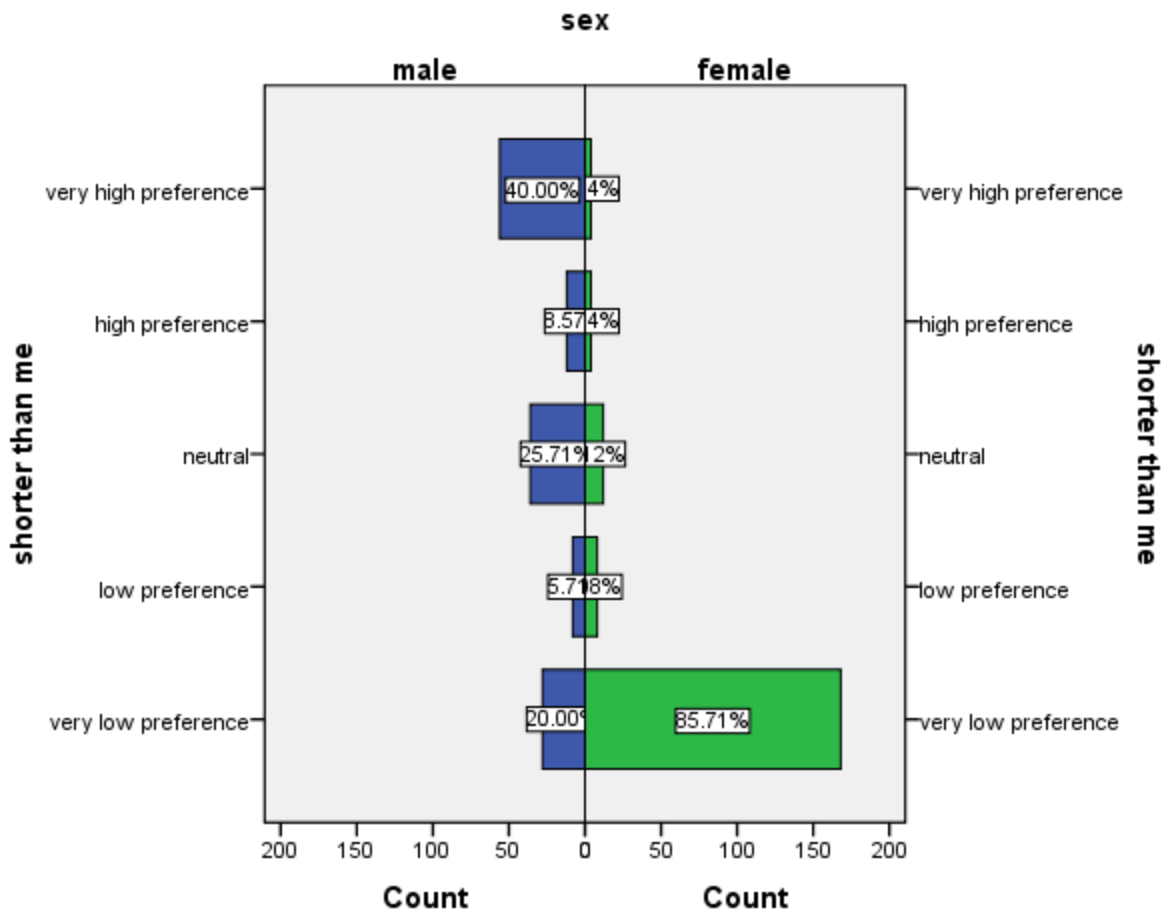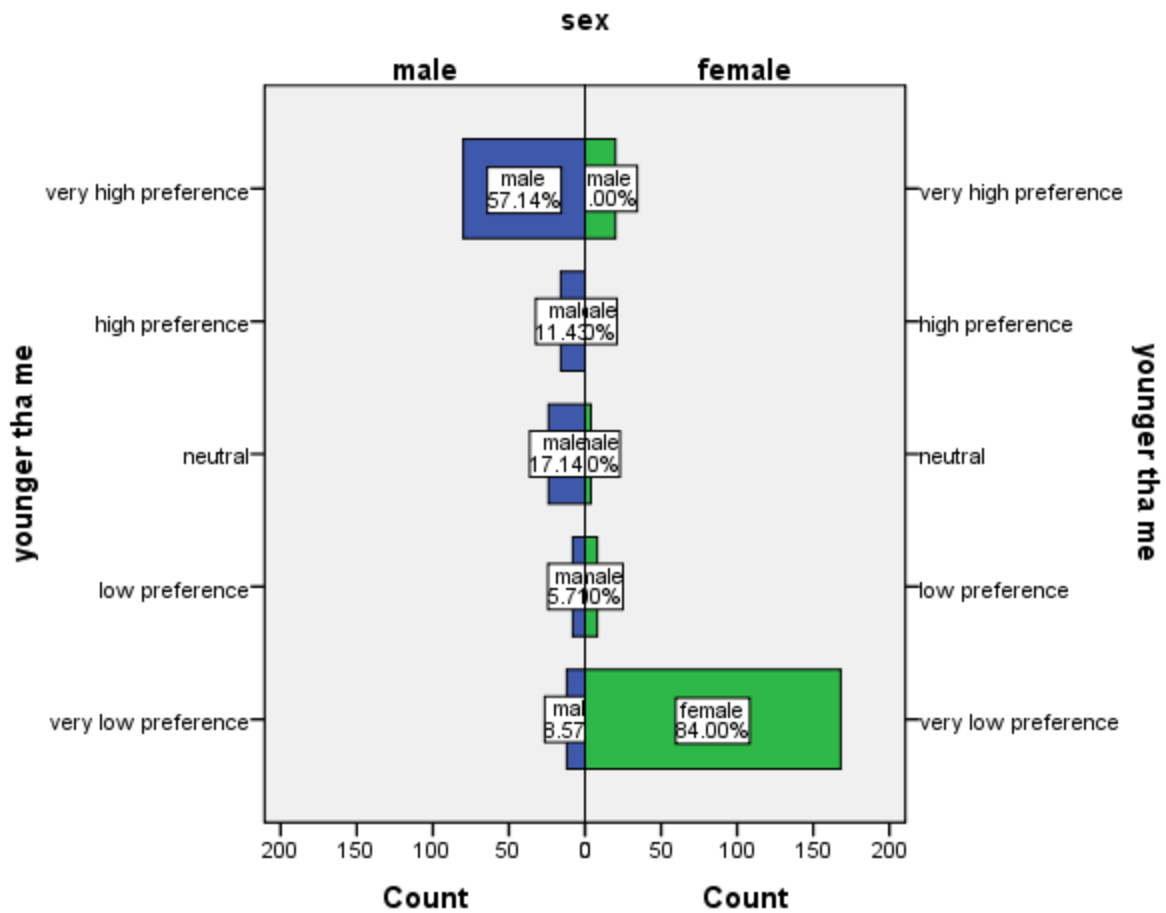
Figure 15: Preference for younger Partners

Men more than women prefer a partner who is younger than them. 57.14% of males expressed a very high preference for a partner that is younger than oneself, and about 5.00% of women expressed very high preference for a partner that is younger than oneself. On the other hand 3.57% of males said a very low preference for an younger partner as compared to 84.00% of females. Men prefer a woman is younger than them.
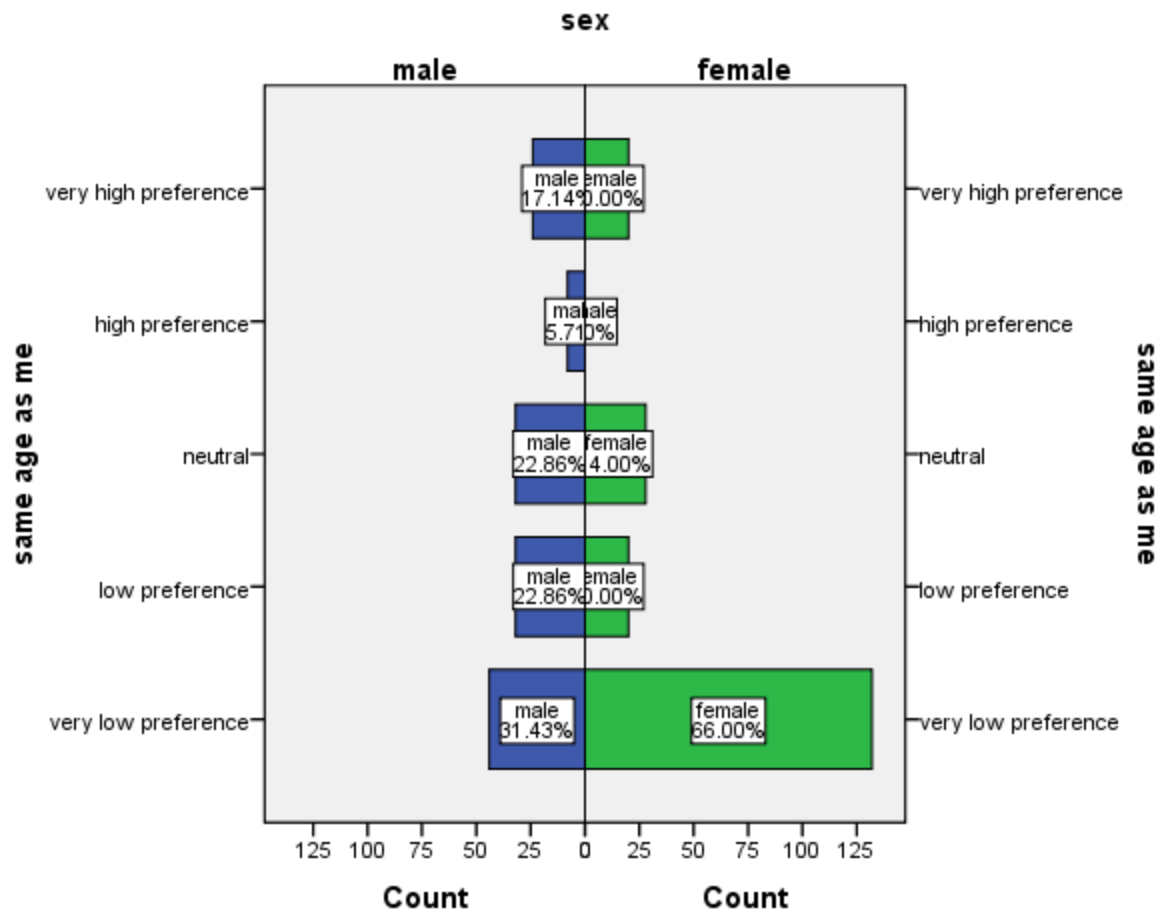
Figure 16: Preference for same age Partners

Being the same age is a characteristic of very low preference for both male and female students. 31.43% of male respondents showed very low preference for same age marriage compared with 17.14 who said they would highly preferred to. 66.00% of females expressed very low preference for a men who are at the same age as them.

4.3.2 Gender preferential differences for personality characteristics deemed suitable in the selection of a marriage partner among university students
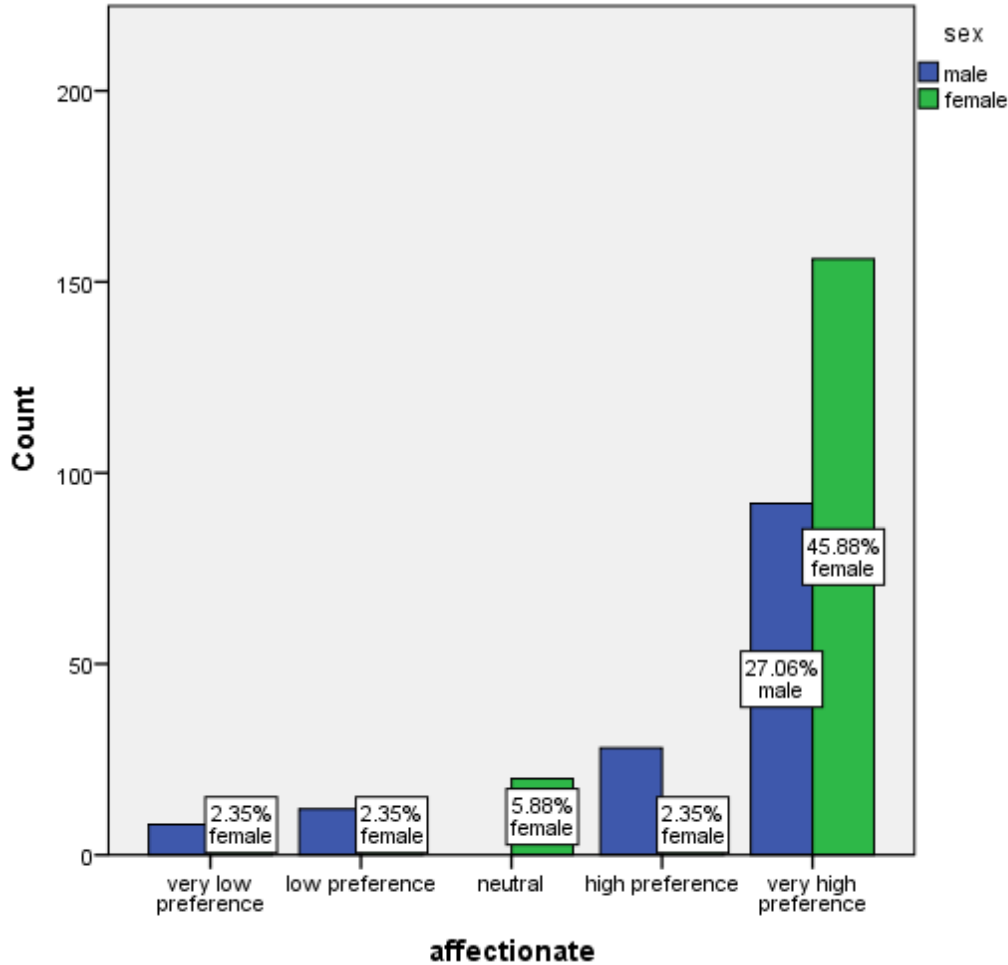
Figure 17: Preference for affectionate Partners

Both males and females have a very high preference for a partner who is affectionate. 27.06% males and 45.88% females have a very high preference for an affectionate partner. Notable is that more women expect affectionate men than there are men who expect affectionate women. About 2% of males and 2.35% of females said they may have a low preference for affectionate partners.
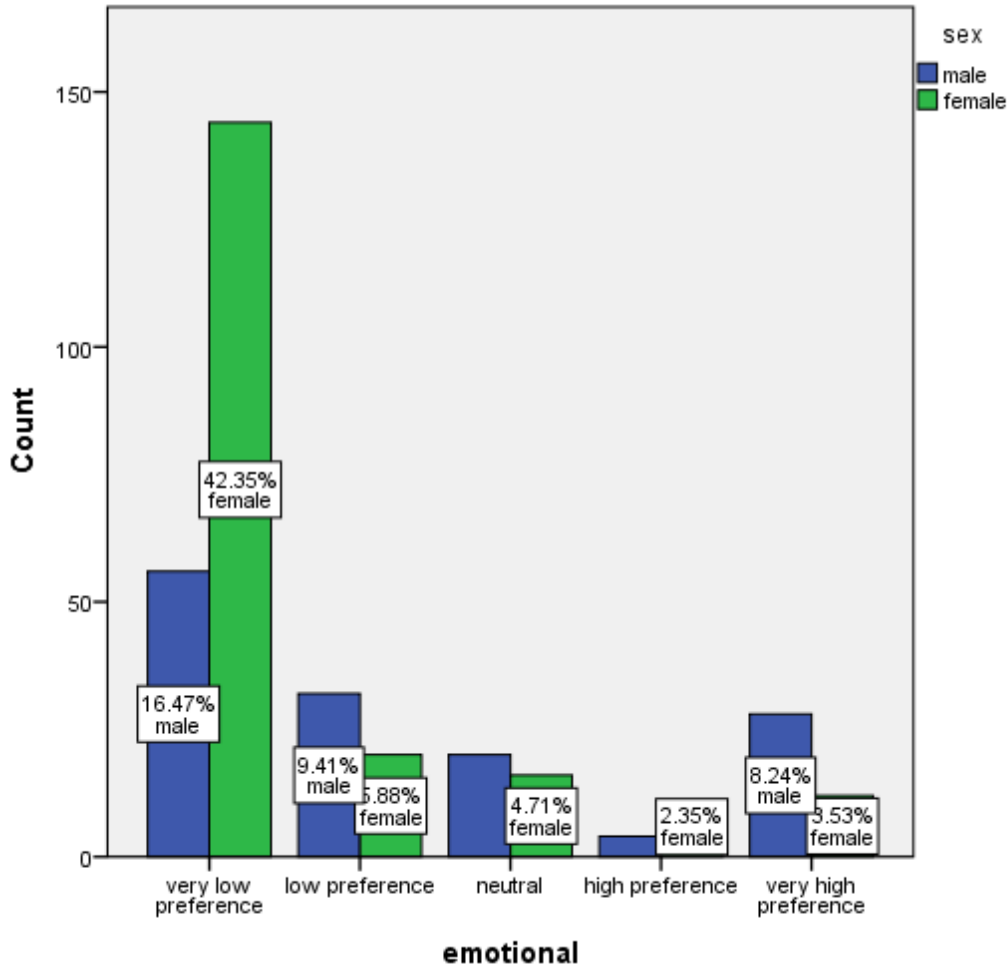
Figure 18: Preference for emotional Partners

Both males and females have a very low preference for a partner who is emotional. 16.47% males and 42.35% females have a very low preference for an emotional partner. Notable is that more women have a very low preference for emotional men than there are men who have a very low preference for emotional women. About 8.24% of males and only 3.53% of females said they may have a very high preference for emotional partners.

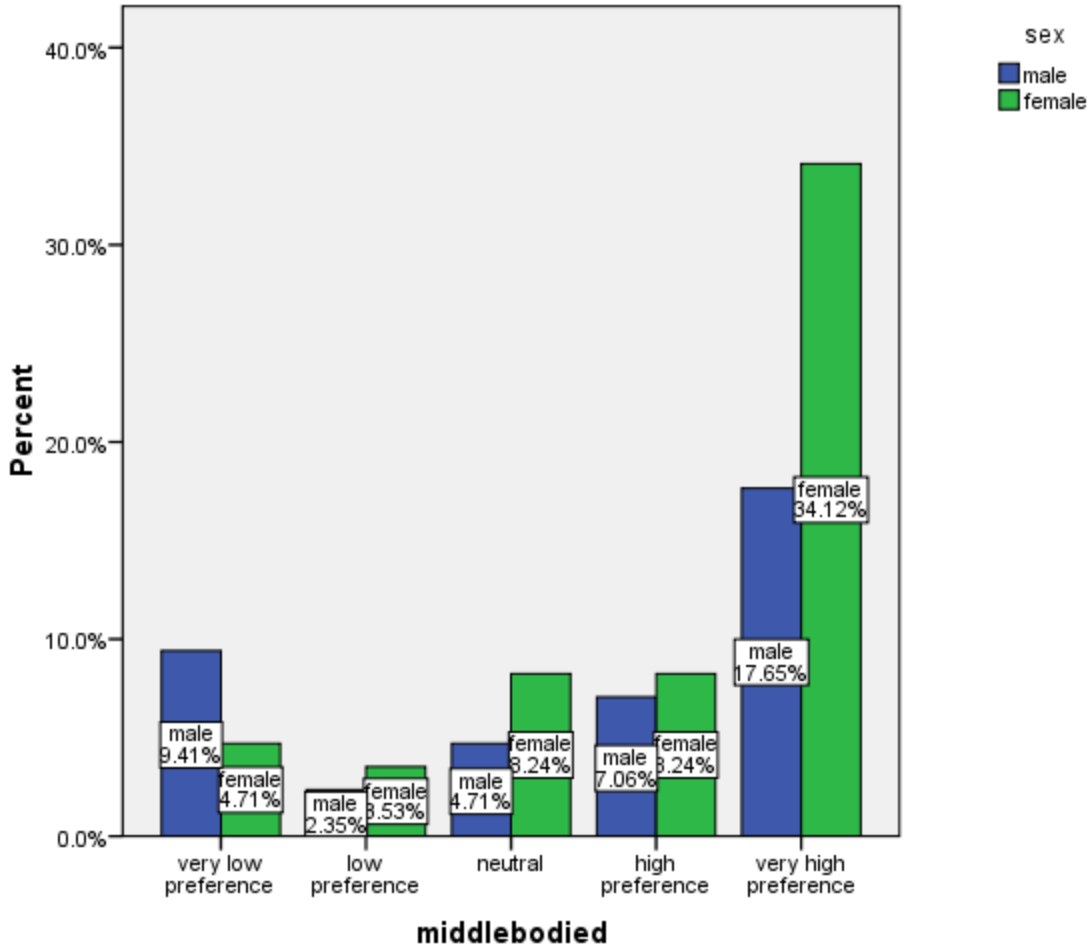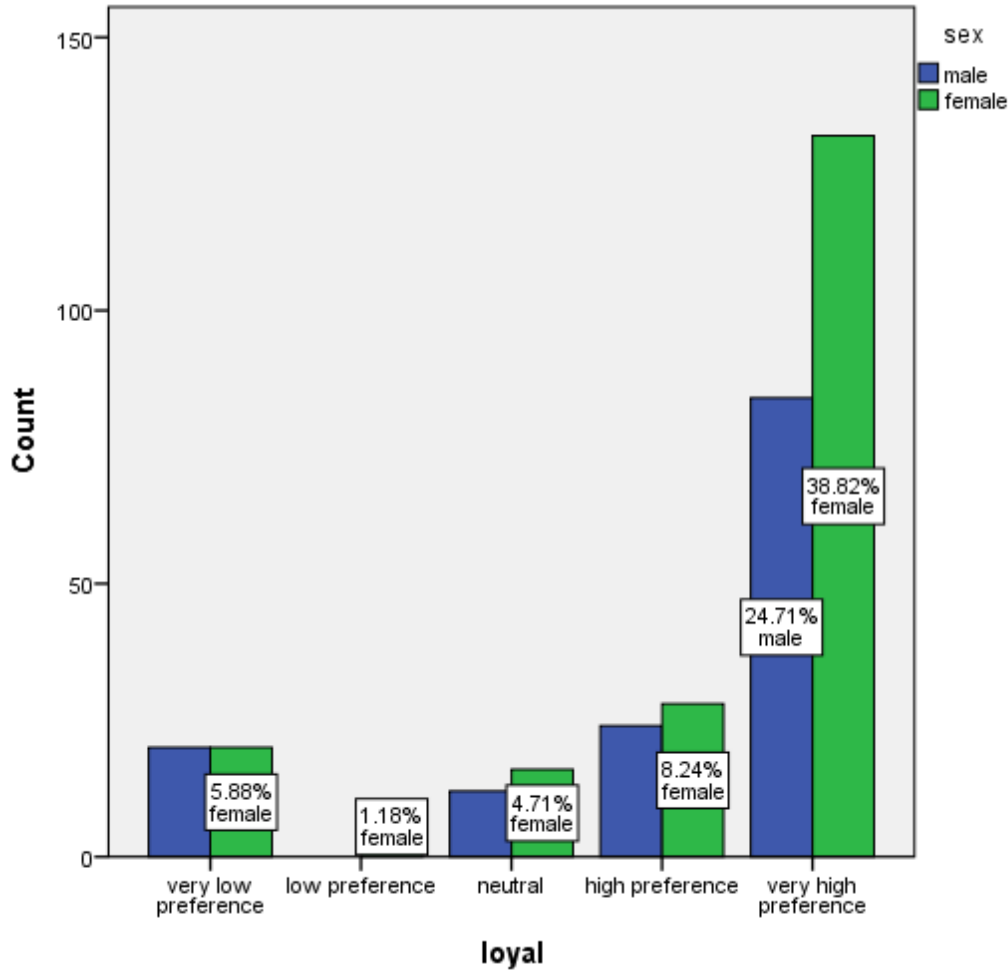**Figure 19: Preference for loyal Partners**

Both males and females have a very high preference for a partner who is loyal. 24.71% males and 38.82% females have a very high preference for a loyal partner. Notable is that more women expect loyal men than there are men who expect loyal women. Equally 5.88% of males and 5.88% of females said they may have a low preference for loyal partners.
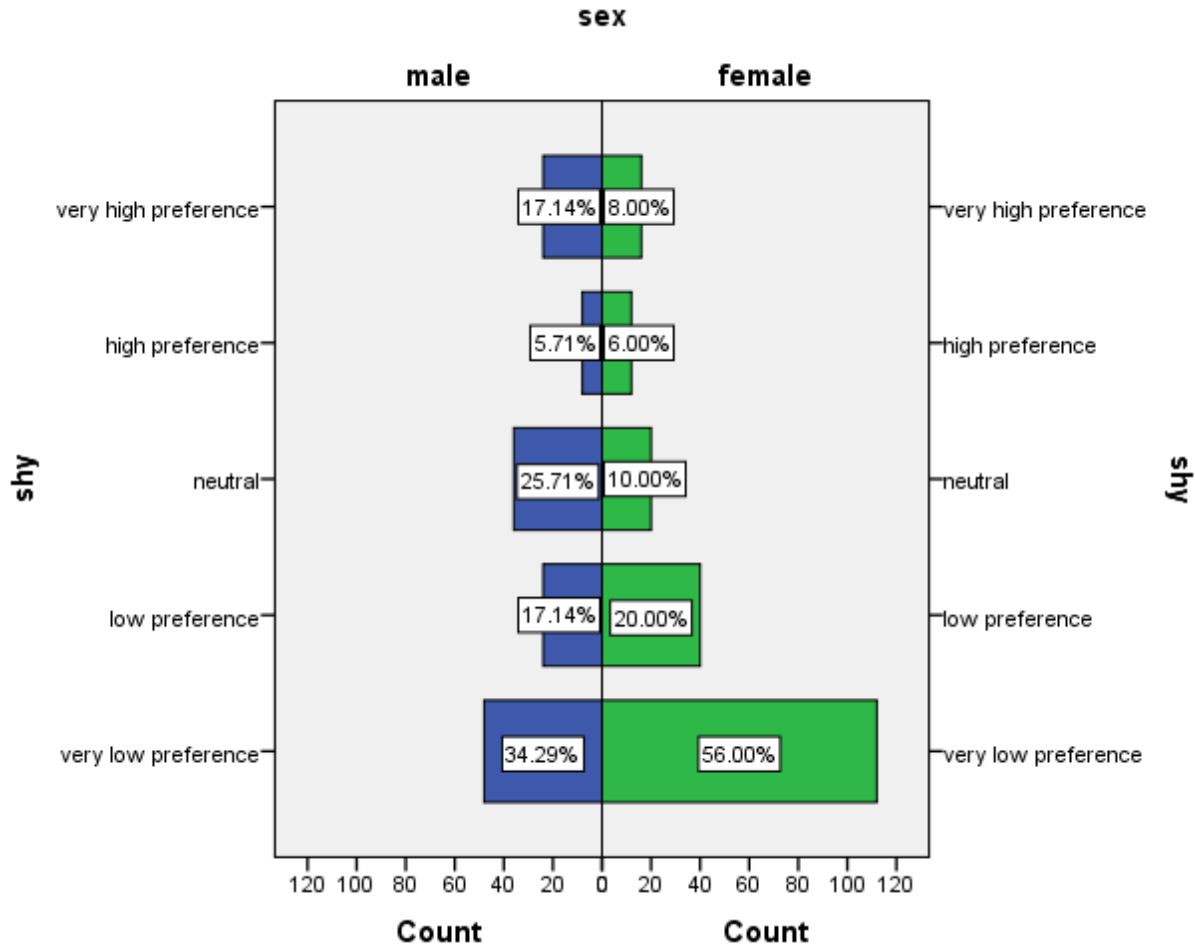
Figure 20: Preference for shy Partners

Both males and females have a very low preference for a partner who is shy. 34.29% males and 56.00% females have a very low preference for a shy partner. Notable is that more women have a very low preference for shy men than there are men who have a very low preference for shy women. About 17.14% of males and only 8.00% of females said they may have a very high preference for emotional partners. This shows that men are most likely to marry a shy woman than would women marry a shy man.

Figure 21: Preference for submissive Partners

Both males and females have a very high preference for a partner who is submissive. 42.86% males and 30.00% females have a very high preference for a submissive partner. Notable is that more women expect loyal men than there are men who expect loyal women. This is in comparison with 8.57% of males and 24.00% of females who said they may have a very low preference for loyal partners. However, more women are unlikely to marry a submissive man than there are men who may marry a submissive woman.
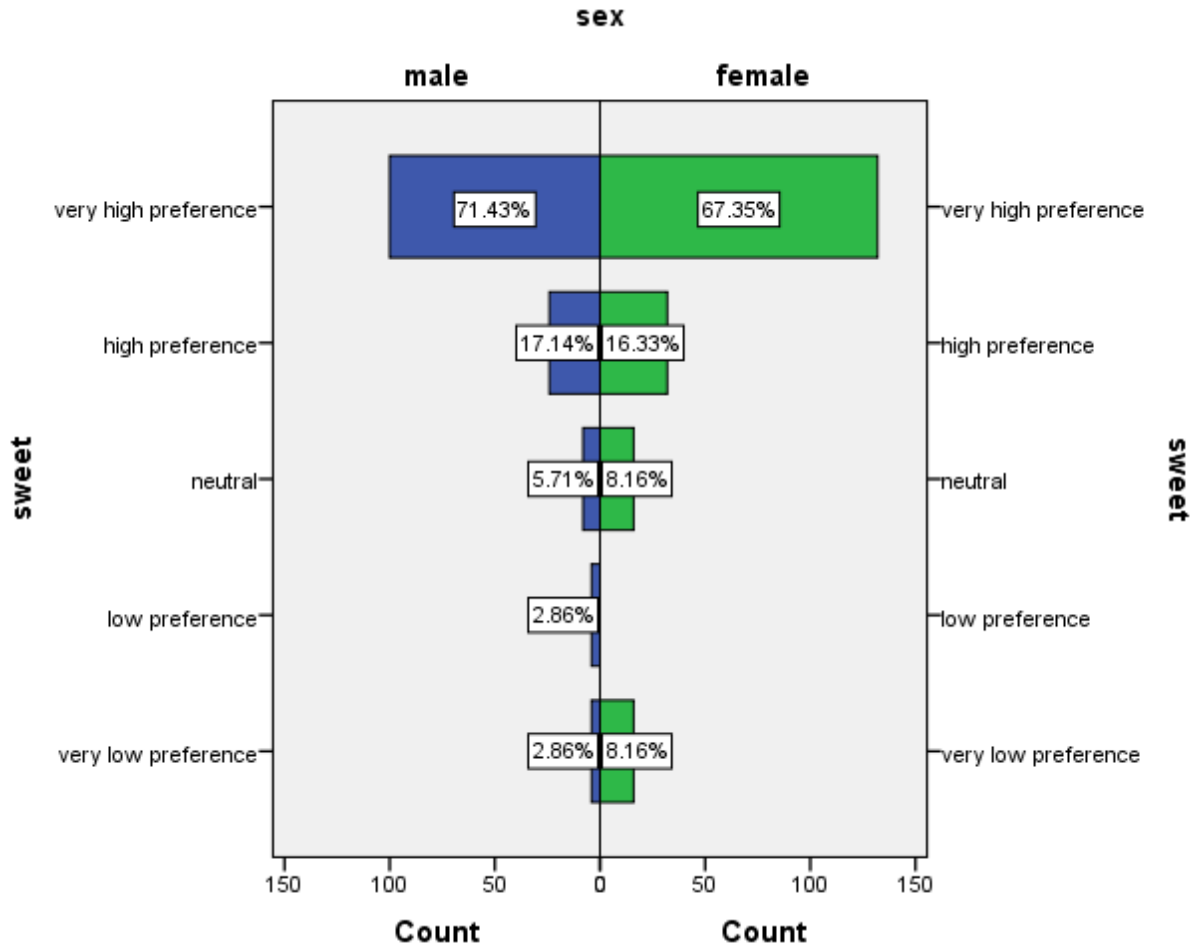
Figure 22: Preference for sweet Partners

Being sweet and romantic is one of the highest ranking personality characteristic of all. Both males and females have a very high preference for a partner who is sweet. 71.43% males and 67.35% females have a very high preference for a sweet (romantic) partner. Notable is that more men expect a sweet men than there are women who expect a sweet romantic man. This is in comparison with a mere 2.86% of males and 8.16% of females who said they may have a very low preference for sweet partners. Sweetness is a characteristic of very high preference.
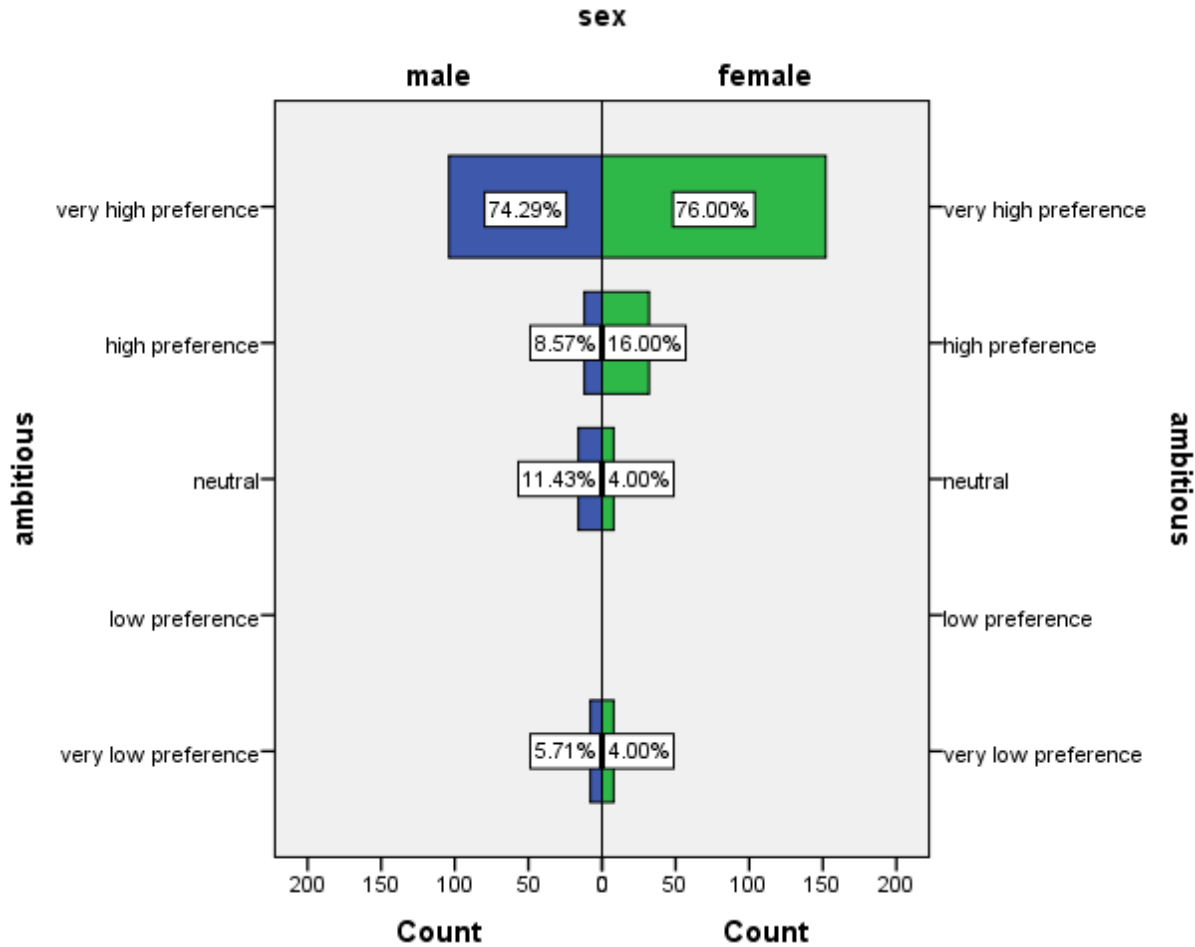
Figure 23: Preference for ambitious Partners

Being ambitious is as highly preferred as being sweet and romantic. Both males and females have a very high preference for a partner who is ambitious. 74.29% males and 76.00% females have a very high preference for an ambitious partner. Notable is that more women expect ambitious men than there are men who expect a ambitious women, however the difference is very slightly as shown by results. This is in comparison with a mere 5.71% of males and 4% of females who said they may have a very low preference for ambitious partners.
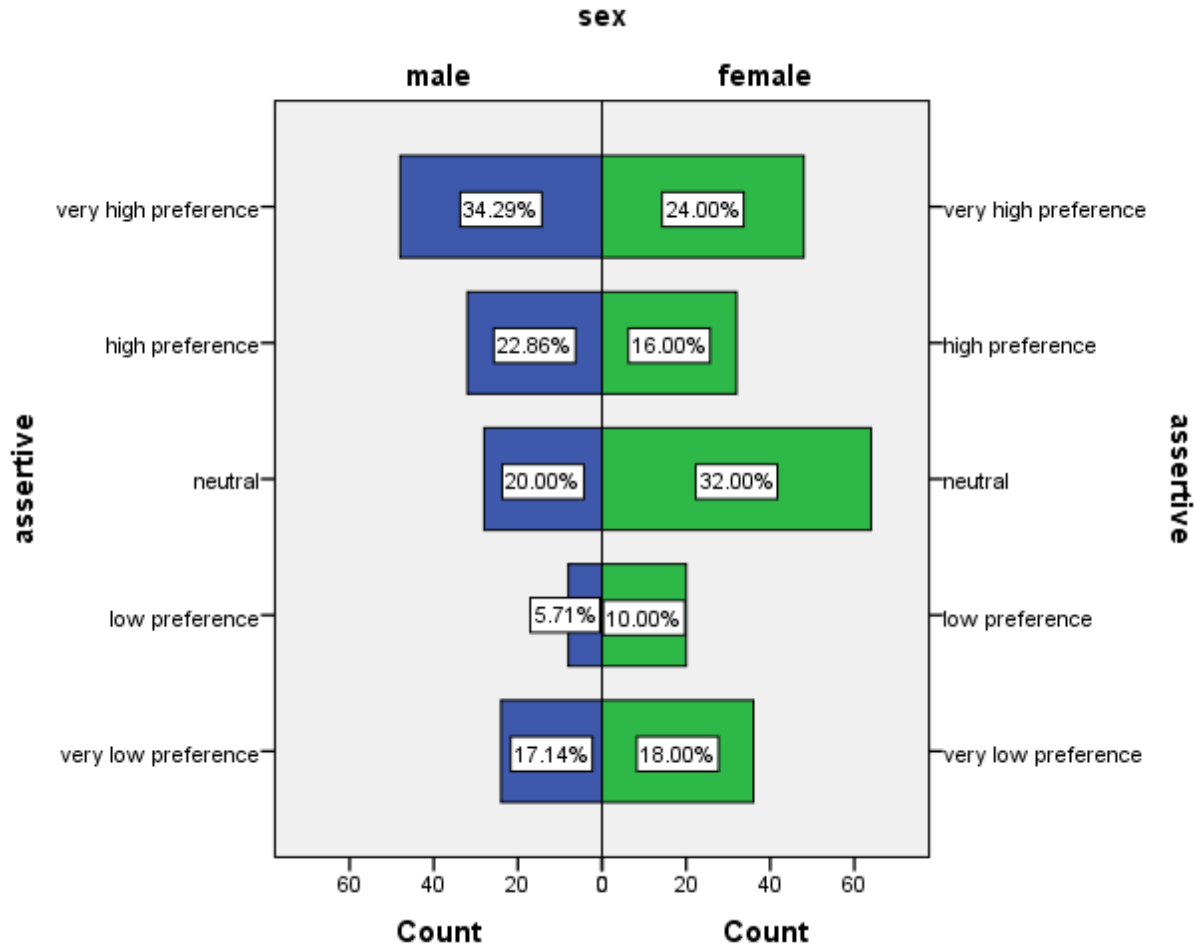
Figure 24: Preference for assertive Partners

Being assertive is as highly preferred characteristic; however most men and women are also neutral towards it. There are more women who are neutral than those who very highly prefer assertiveness in their partners. 34.29% males and 24.00% females have a very high preference for an assertive partner. Notable is that more men expect ambitious women than there are women who expect a ambitious men. However, 20.00% males and 32.00% females have a neutral viewpoint toward this characteristic. 17.14% of males and 18.00% of females said they may have a very low preference for assertive partners. This means being assertive gives someone a balanced rather than upper advantage in the selection of a life partner.
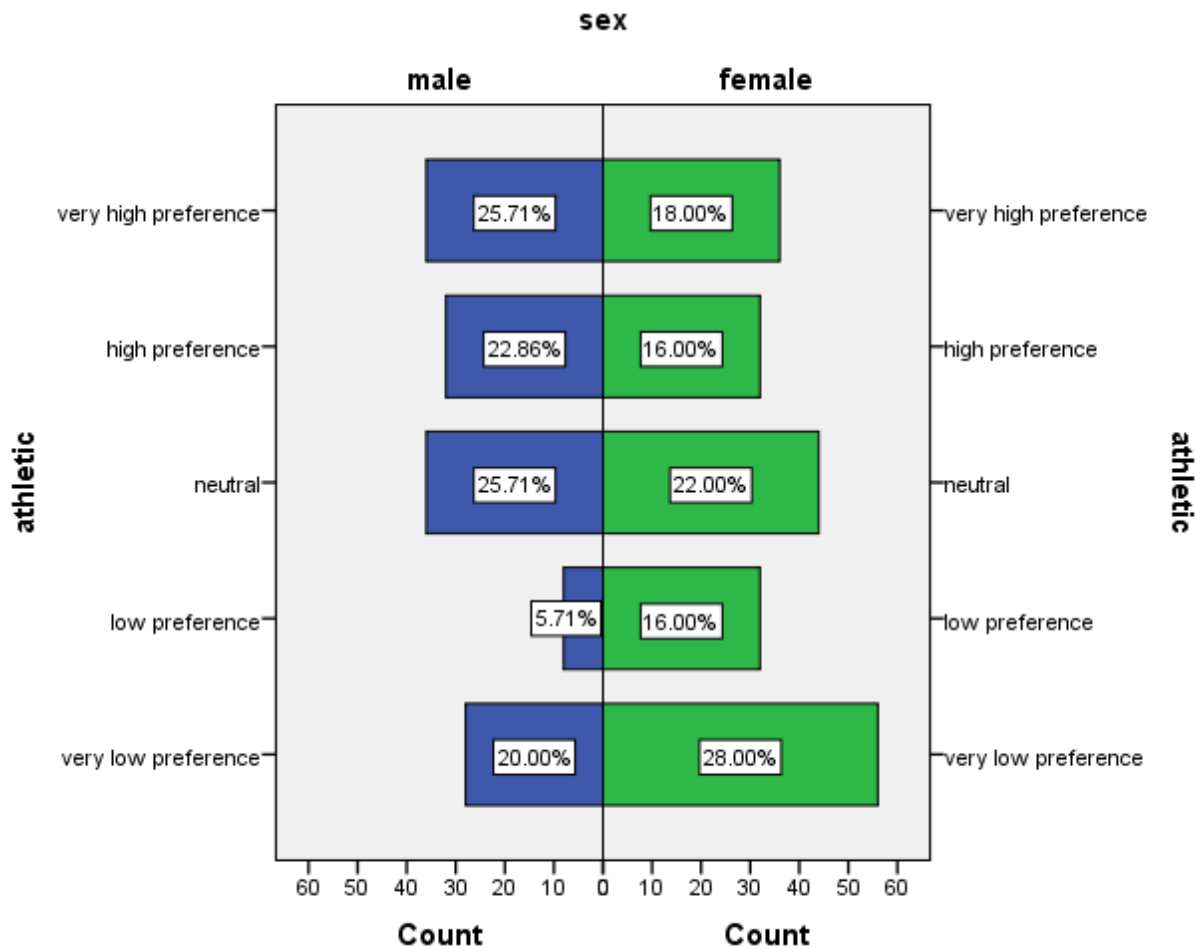
Figure 25: Preference for athletic Partners

Being athletic is another characteristic that may give someone only a balanced rather than upper advantage in the selection of a life partner. Most women expressed a very low preference for an athletic partner (28.00%) whilst men expressed a very high preference for an athletic partner (25.71%). However, these preferences are only slightly dominantly, 20% of males showed a very low preference for athletic partners whilst 18.00% of women showed very high preference for athletic partners. This shows that being athletic only gives an in-between advantage rather than an upper advantage in the selection of a marriage partner.
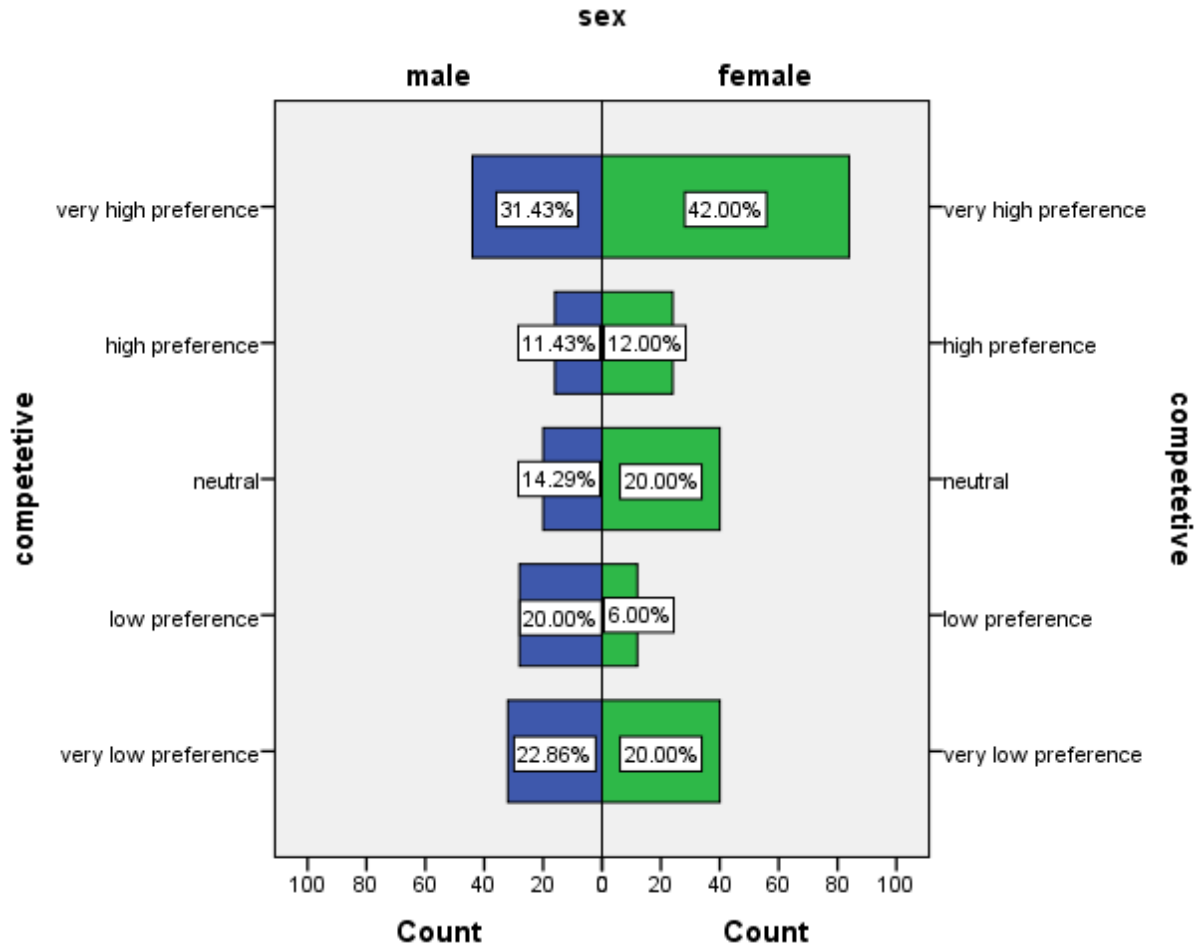
Figure 26: Preference for competitive Partners

Both males and females have a very high preference for a partner who is competitive in life. 31.43% males and 42.00% females have a very high preference for a competitive partner. Notable is that more women very highly prefercompetitive men than there are men who very highly prefer competitive women. This is in comparison with 22.86% of males and 20.00% of females who said they may have a very low preference for competitive partners. Men are more unlikely to prefer a competitive partner than women.

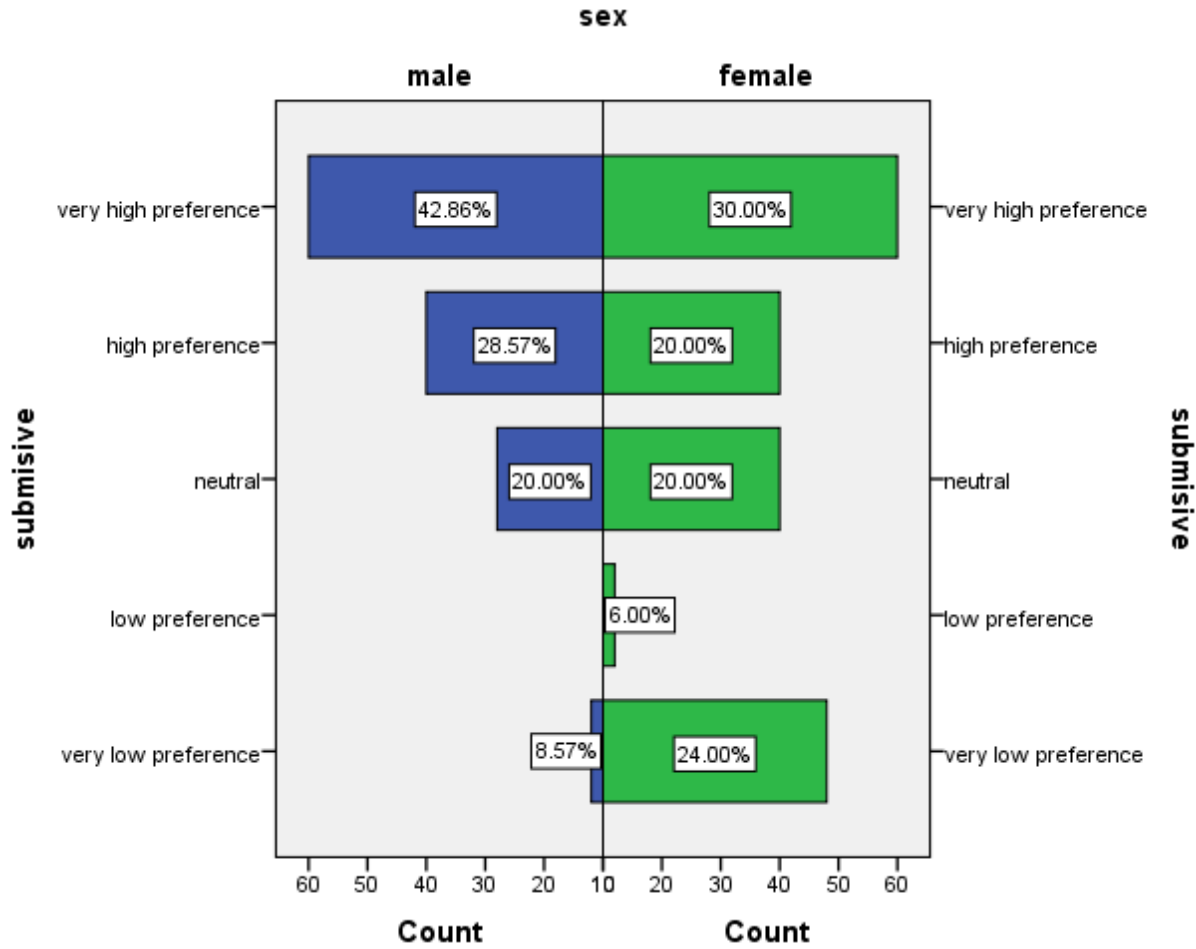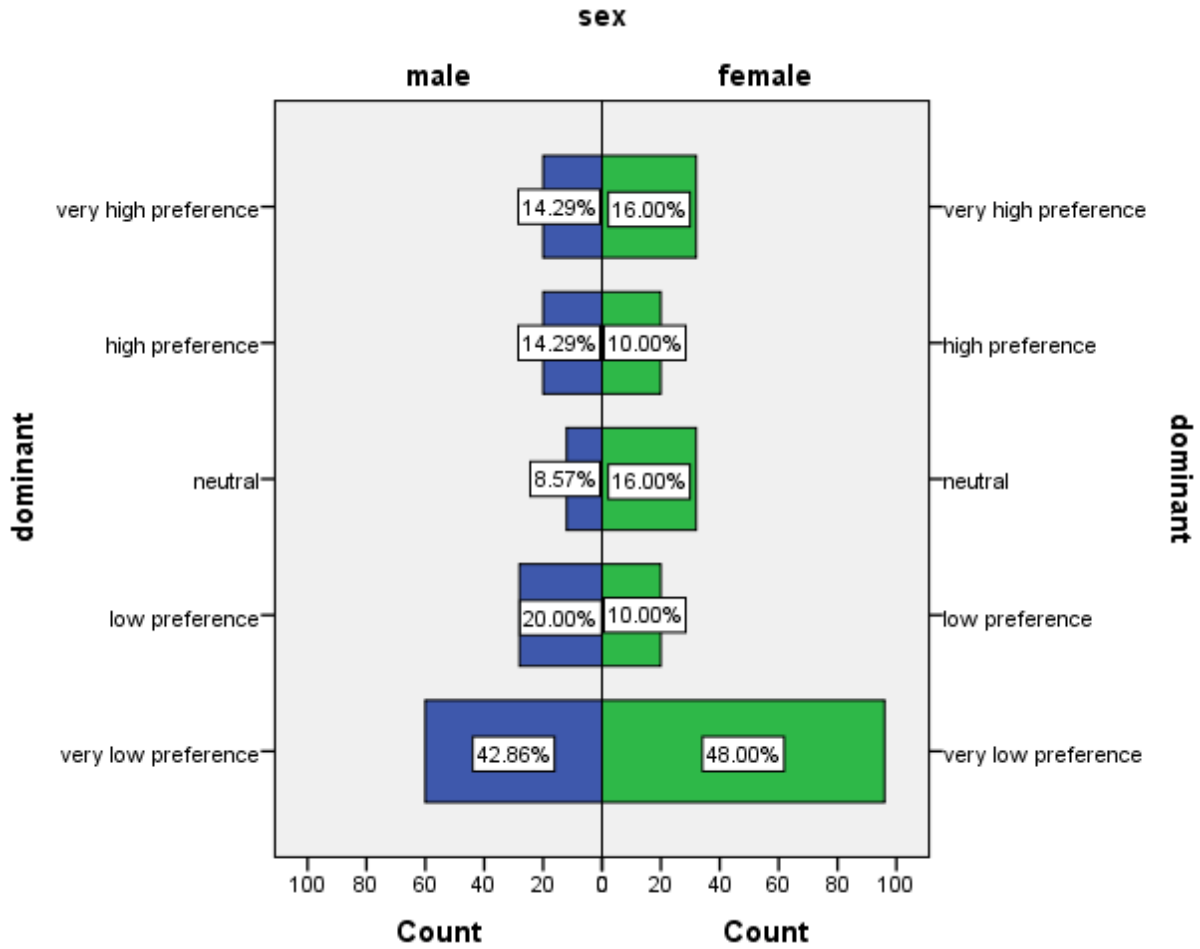**Figure 27: Preference for dominant Partners**

Both males and females have a very low preference for a partner who is dominant. 42.86% males and 48.00% females have a very low preference for dominant partners. Notable is that more women have a very low preference for dominant men than there are men who have a very low preference for dominant women. About 14.29% of males and only 16.00% of females said they may have a very high preference for dominant partners.
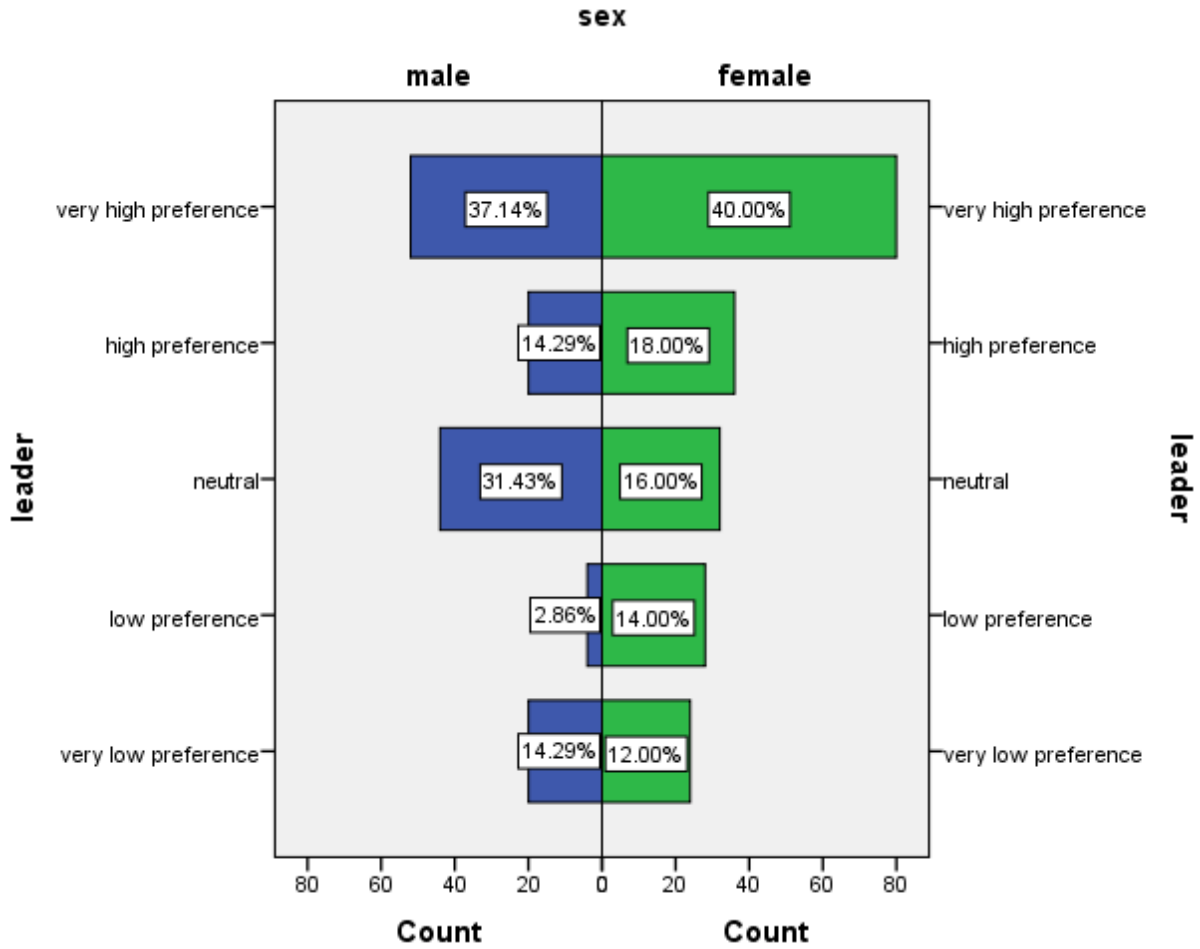
Figure 28: Preference for leading Partners

Both males and females have a very high preference for a partner who has leadership qualities. 37.14% males and 40.00% females have a very high preference for a partner with leadership qualities. Notable is that more women expect leading men than there are men who expect leading women. This is in comparison with 14.29% of males and 12.00% of females who said they may have a very low preference for leading partners. However, more women are unlikely to marry a leader than there are men who may marry a leading woman.
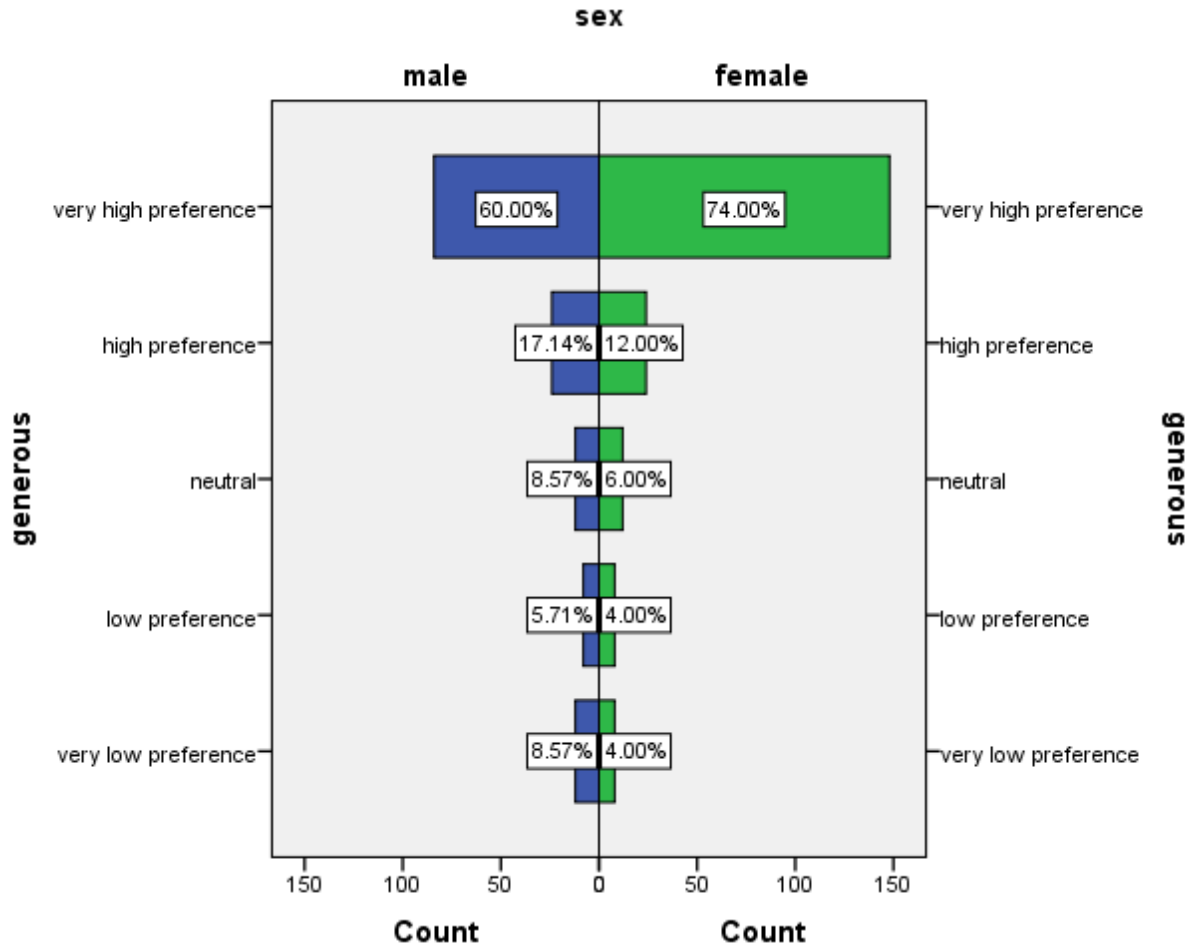
Figure 29: Preference for generous Partners

Being generous is one of the most very highly preferred characteristics for both males and females.60.00% males and 74.00% females have a very high preference for a generous partner. Notable is that more women prefer a generous partner more than there are men who prefer a generous partner. This is in comparison with only8.57% of males and 4.00% of females who said they may have a very low preference for generous partners.
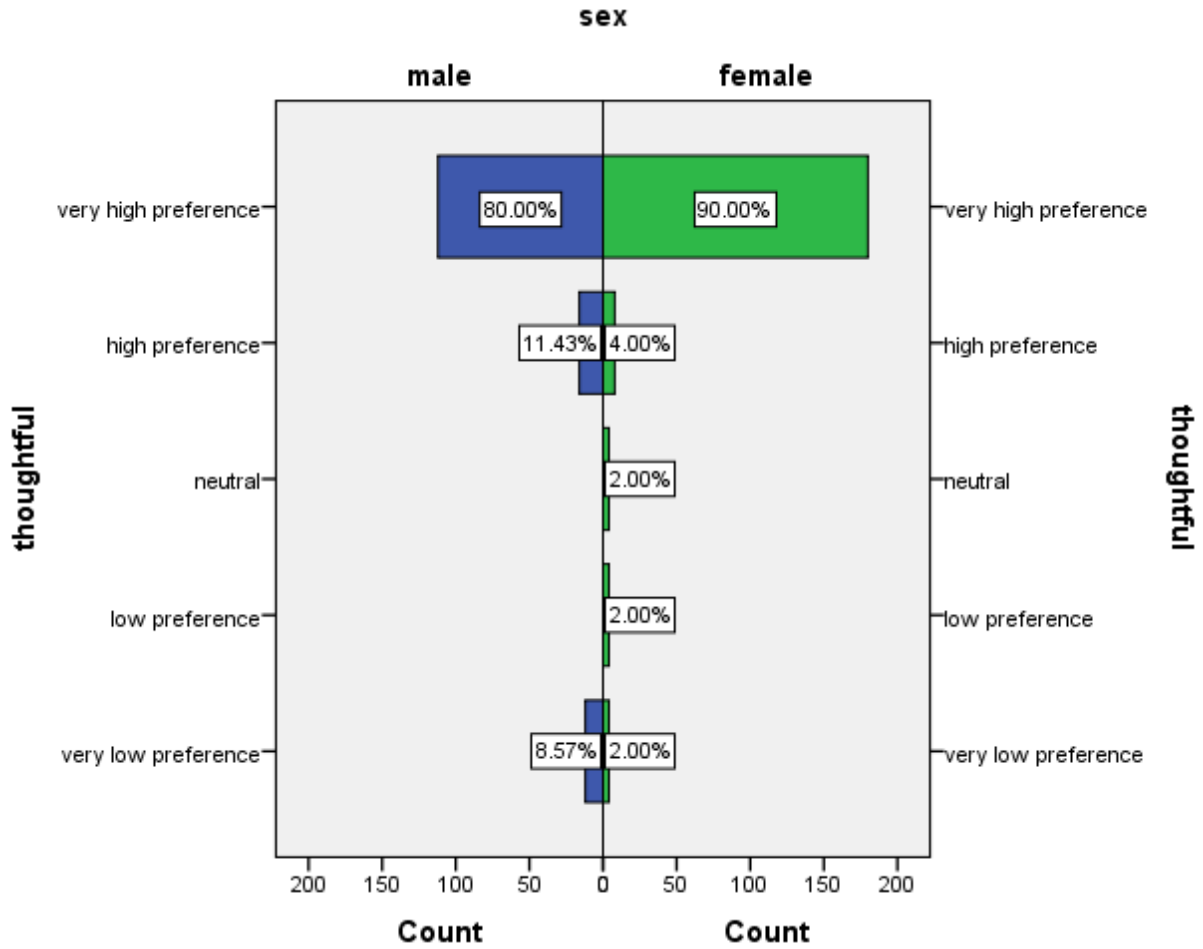
Figure 30: Preference for thoughtful Partners

Being thoughtful is the highest preferred personality characteristic of all, to both males and females. 80.00% males and 90.00% females have a very high preference for a thoughtful partner. Notable is that more women prefer a thoughtful partner more than there are men who prefer a thoughtful partner. This is in comparison with only 8.57% of males and 2.00% of females who said they may have a very low preference for thoughtful partners.
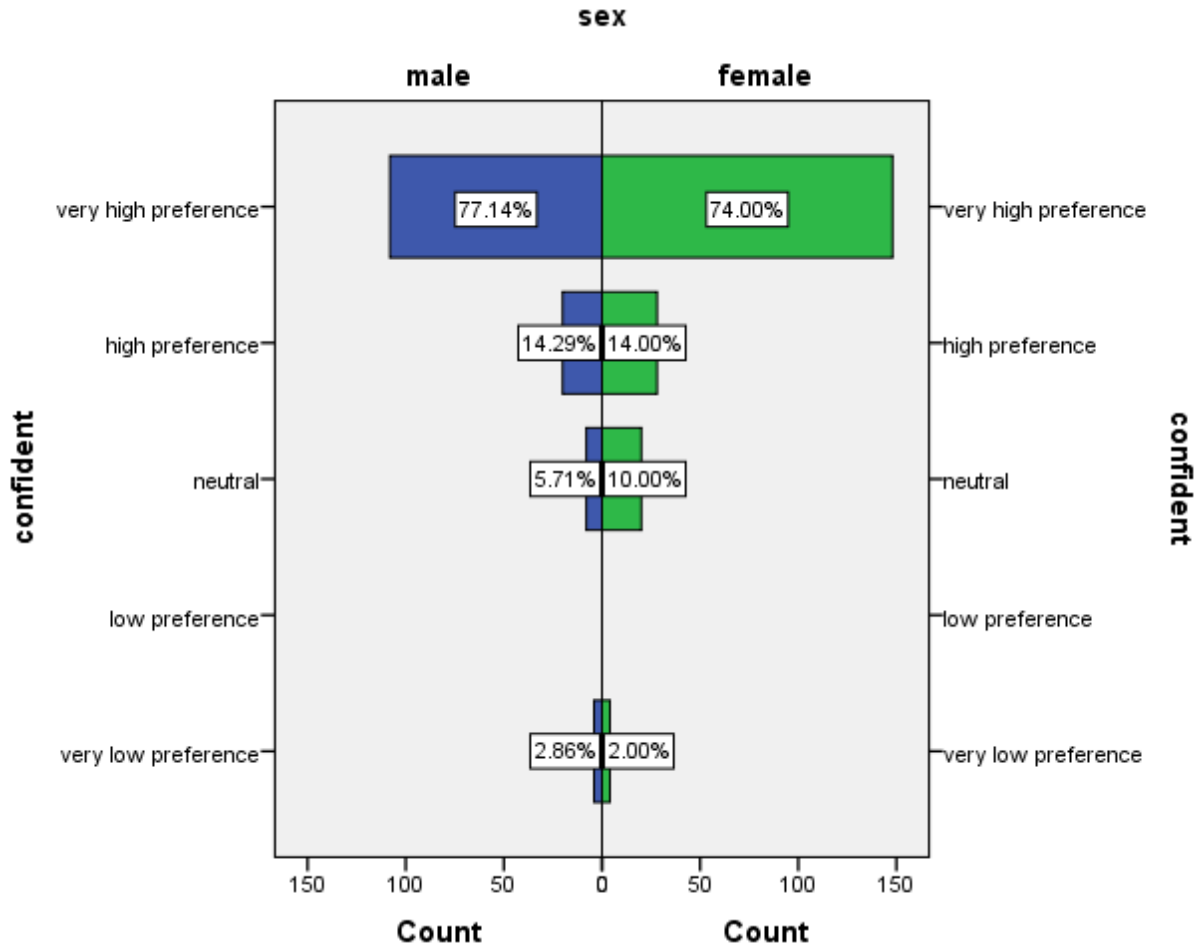
Figure 31: Preference for confident Partners

Being confident is a personality of dominantly very high preference. 77.14% males and 74.00% females have a very high preference for a confident partner. Notable is that more men prefer a confident partner more than there are women who prefer a confident partner. This is in comparison with only 2.86% of males and 2.00% of females who said they may have a very low preference for confident partners.
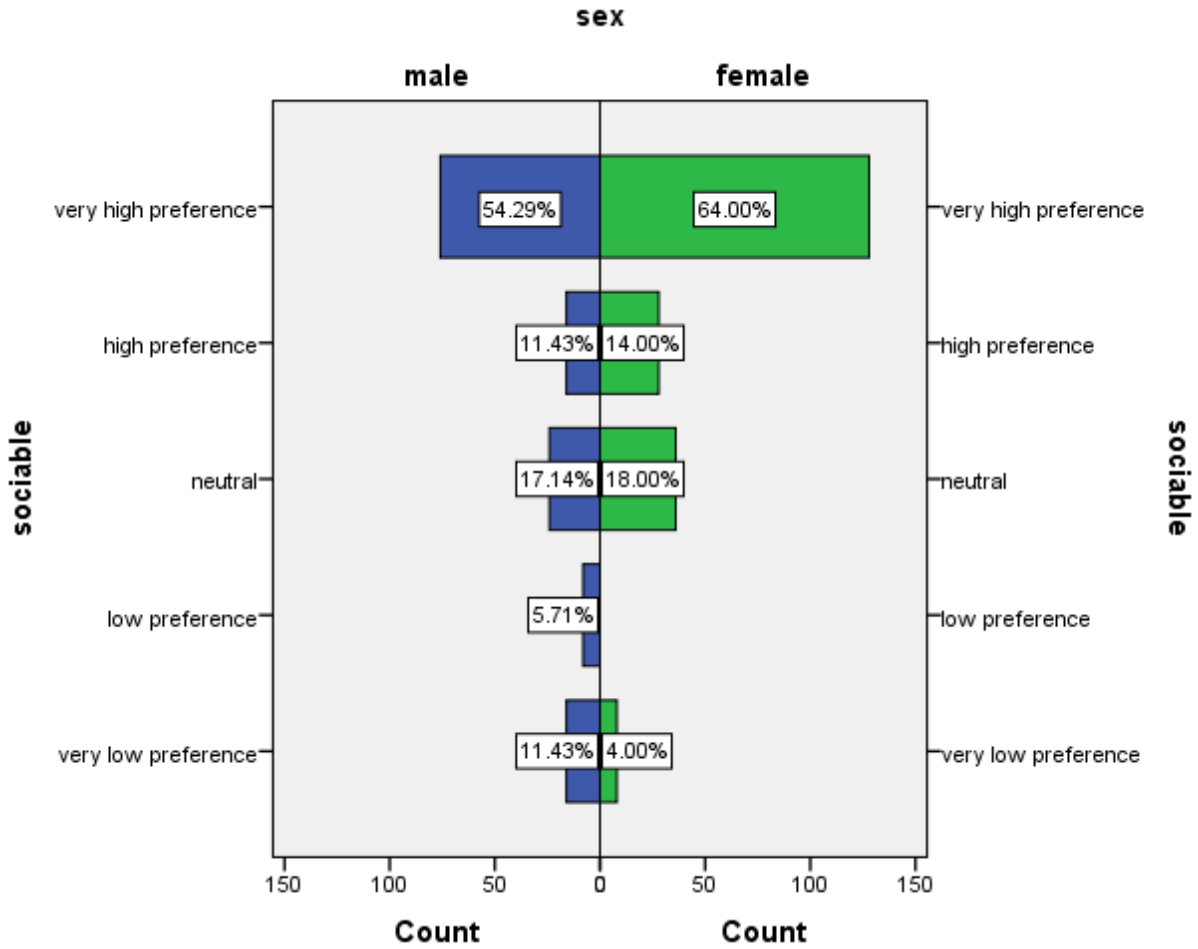
Figure 32: Preference for sociable Partners

Both males and females have a very high preference for a partner who is sociable. 54.29% males and 64.00% females have a very high preference for a partner who is sociable. Notable is that more women expect sociable men than there are men who expect sociable women. This is in comparison with 11.43% of males and 4.00% of females who said they may have a very low preference for sociable partners. When it comes to low preference, men are more likely to express low preference for sociable women than women may express for sociable men.

4.3.4 The Social Roles Expected of Each Sex Differ from the Studied Traditional Role Expectations.

Figure 33: Preference for partners who are good cooks

The study of 340 Midlands State University students across 11 degree programs and ranging between 19 to 26 years observes that 30.59% of males strongly hold that they are most likely prefer to marry a partner who is a good cook, and similarly 35.29% of female responses says females are most likely to prefer to marry a partner who is a good cook. Both males and females highly expect their partner to be a good cook. Females more than males are expecting their life partners to be good cooks. 4.71% of males and 11.76% are neutral about it and only 1.18% males with 3.53% females preferred this role so importantly that they may not marry a person able to perform it.
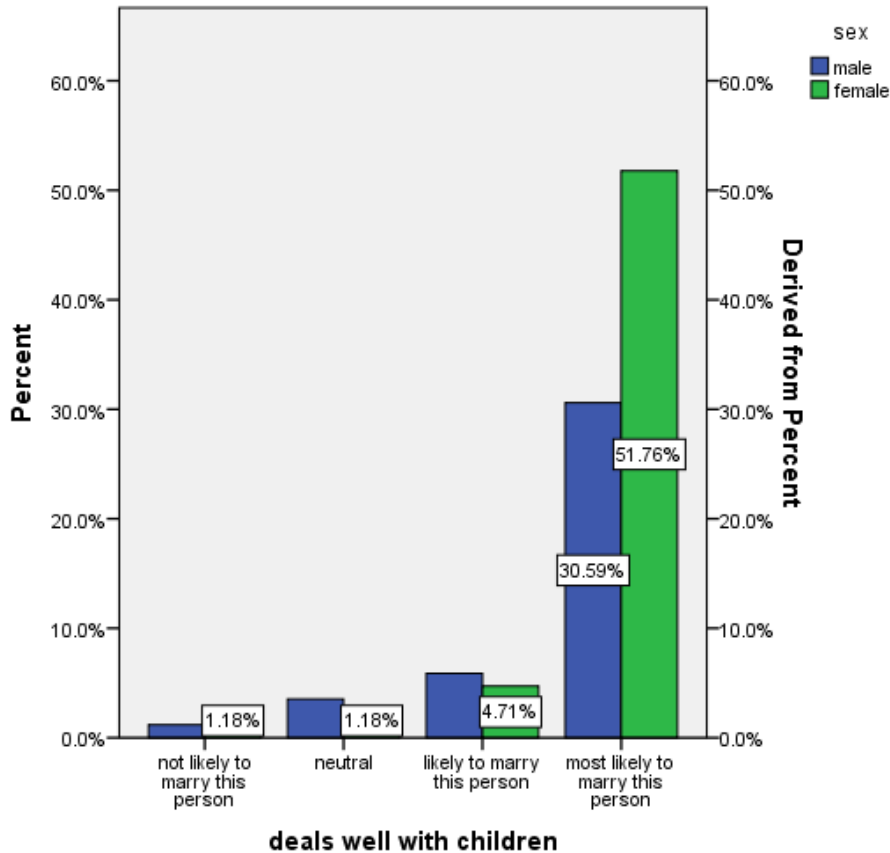
Figure 34: Preference for partners who deal well with children

The study of 340 Midlands State University students across 11 degree programs and ranging between 19 to 26 years finds that 30.59% of males strongly hold that they are most likely prefer to marry a partner who deals well with children, and surprisingly 51.76% of female responses says females are most likely prefer to marry a partner who deals well with children. Both males and females highly expect their partners to be able to deal with children. Females more than males are expecting their life partners to be able to deal with children. Almost 5% of males and 4.71% are neutral about dealing well with children as a social role and almost 2% males with 1.18% females preferred this role so importantly that they may not marry a person able to perform it.
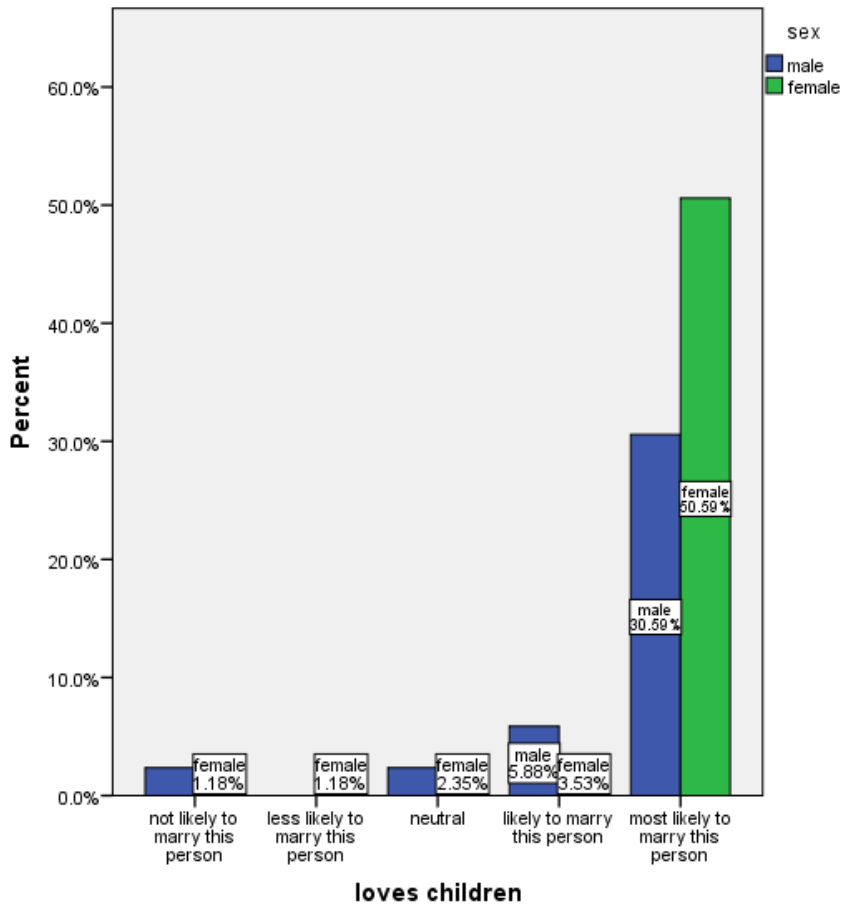
Figure 35: Preference for partners who love children

The study of 340 Midlands State University students across 11 degree programs and ranging between 19 to 26 years finds that 30.59% of males strongly hold that they are most likely prefer to marry a partner who loves children, and surprisingly 50.59% of female responses says females are most likely prefer to marry a partner who loves children. Both males and females highly expect their partners to love children. Females more than males are expecting their life partners to be able to love children. Almost 5.88% of males and 3.53% are when it comes to having partners who love children and almost 2% males with 1.18% females preferred this role so importantly that they may not marry a person who can well perform it.
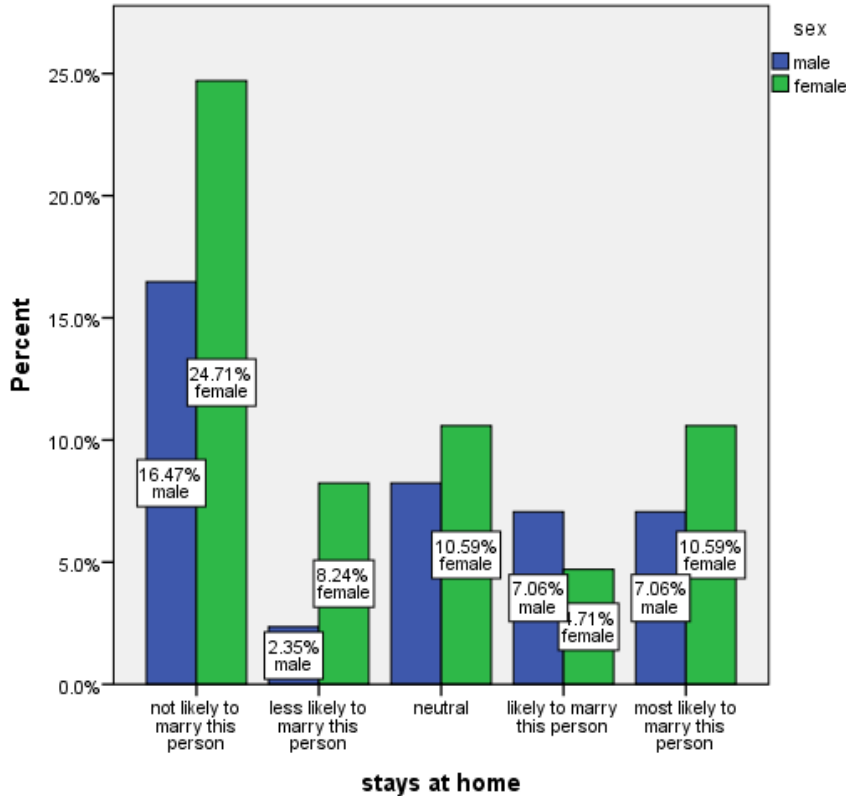
Figure 36: Preference for partners who stay at home

The study of 340 Midlands State University students across 11 degree programs and ranging between 19 to 26 years finds that 16.47% of males strongly hold that they are unlikely to marry a partner who stays at home, and 24.71% of female responses says females are very unlikely to prefer marrying a partner who stays at home. Both males and females highly expect their partners not to stay at home. Females more than males are unlikely to marry a partner who stays at home. Almost 8.24% of males and 10.59 % are neutral when it comes to having partners who stay at home and almost 7.06% males with 10.59% females said they could marry this person. More females than males are preferring to marry partner who stays at home, and more females than males are saying it really does not matter whether a partner stays at home or not.
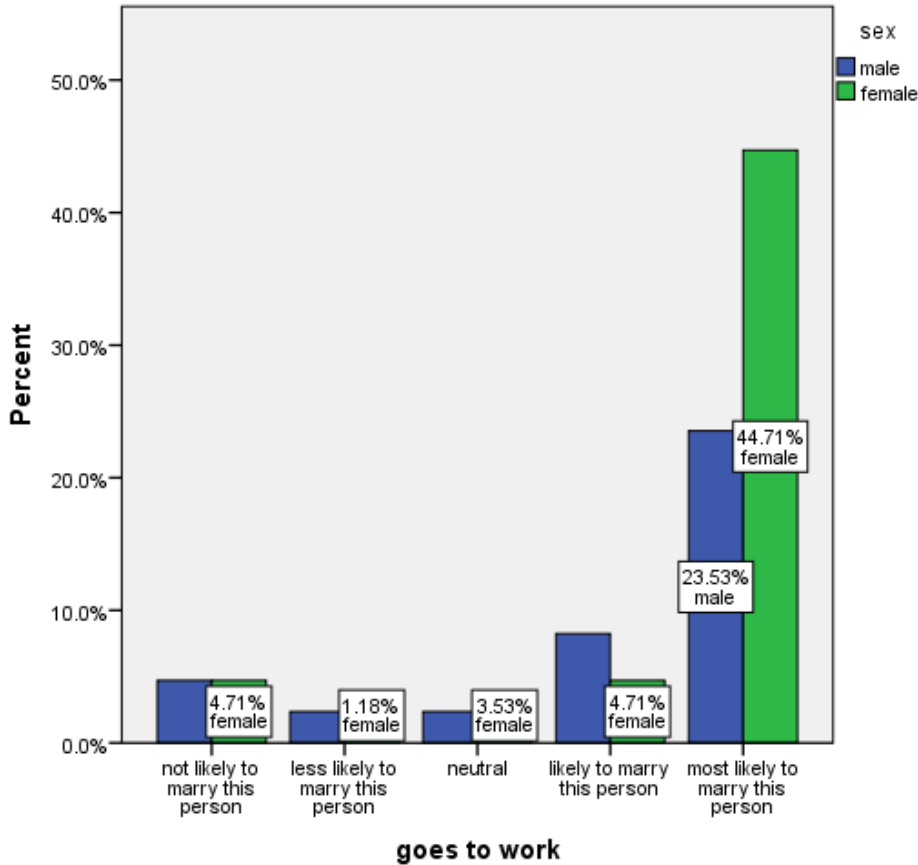
Figure 37: Preference for partners who stays at work

The study of 340 Midlands State University students across 11 degree programs and ranging between 19 to 26 years finds that 23.53% of males strongly hold that they are most likely prefer to marry a partner who goes to work, and 44.71% of female responses says females are most likely prefer to marry a partner who goes to work. Both males and females highly expect their partners to go to work. Females more than males are expecting their life partners to be able to go to work.

4.3.5 The ideal geographical boundary in which students' most suitable life partners are being preferred to be found
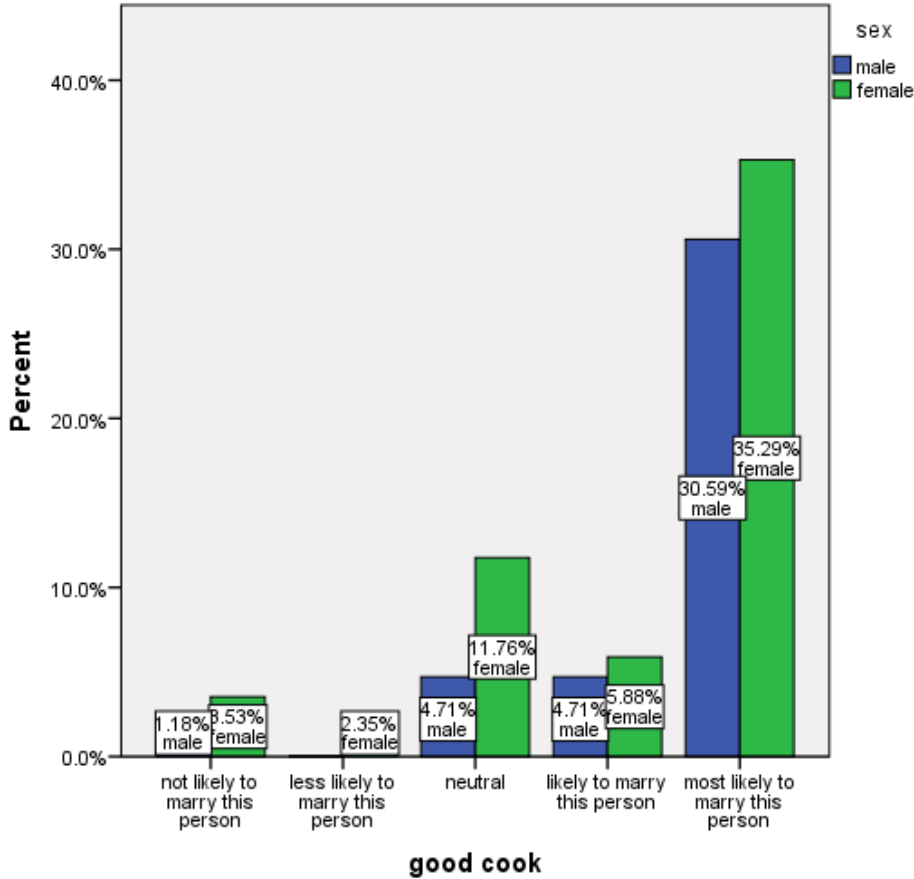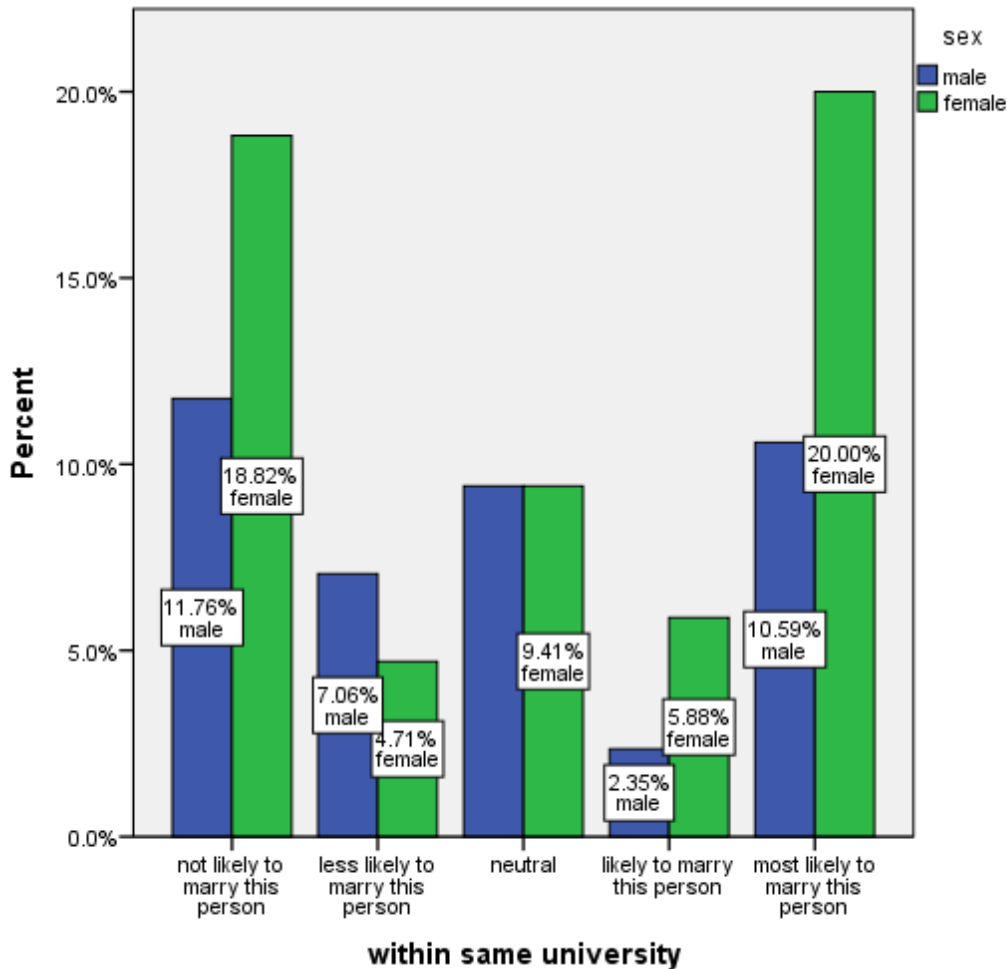

Figure 38: Preference for partners who are within same university

The study of 340 Midlands State University students across 11 degree programs and ranging between 19 to 26 years finds that marrying someone with the same university is almost equally most likely as it is most unlikely. 20% female response said it is most likely they would marry a person from the same university, 9.41% expressed neutral views whilst 18.82% of females strongly detested the idea of marrying within the same university. 10.59% of males suggested high preference for marrying within the same university, 9.41% like females suggested neutrality whilst 11.76% suggested against the idea of marrying within the same university.

The women who would most likely prefer to marry from within the same university are slightly higher than the woman would not. On the other hand men who would most likely prefer to marry within the same university are slightly lower than those who would.
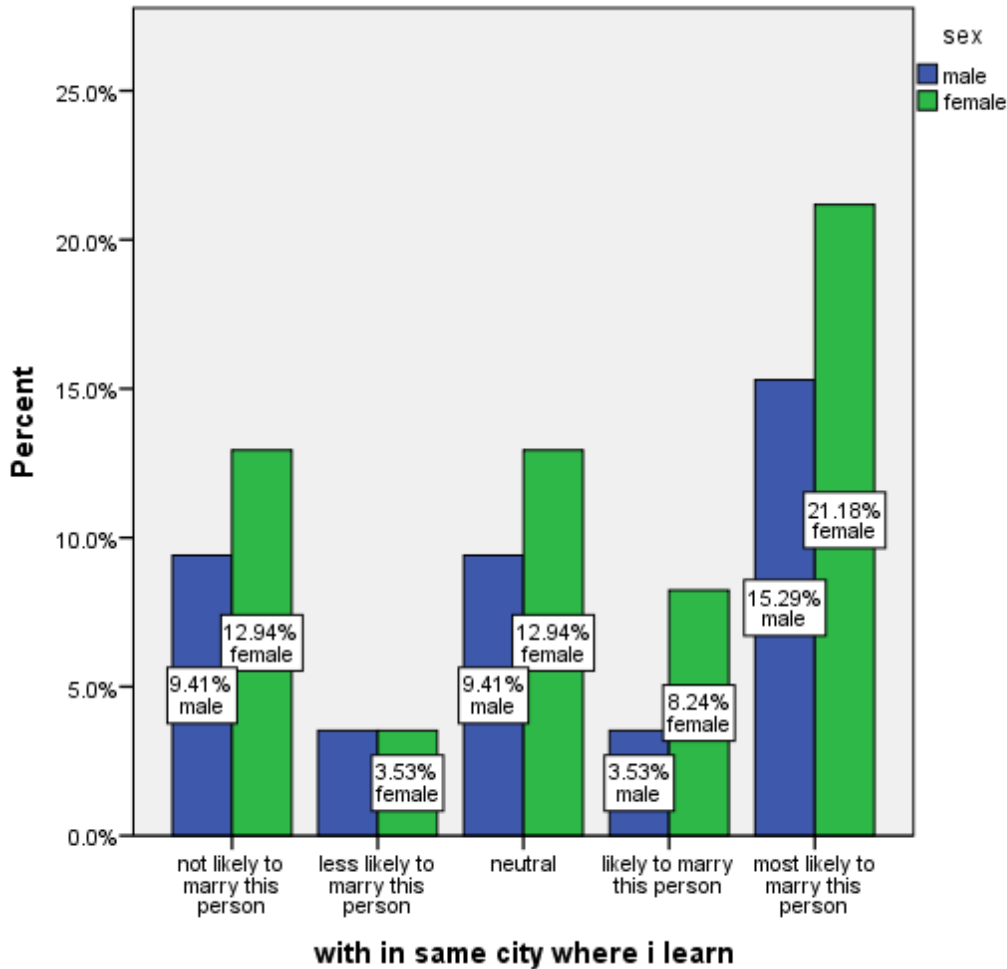
Figure 39: Preference for partners who in the same city of university

Even though most students may not prefer to marry within the same university, students preferring to marry within the same city where they learn are more than those who say they are not likely to marry within the same city where they learn.

The study of 340 Midlands State University students across 11 degree programs and ranging between 19 to 26 years finds that 21.18% of males strongly hold that they most likely prefer to marry within the same city where they learn, and 15.29% of female responses says females most likely prefer to marry within the same city where they learn. 12.94% of females and 9.41% of

males said it does not matter that much being within the same city where they learn. Both males and females highly expect their partners to be within the same city where they learn.
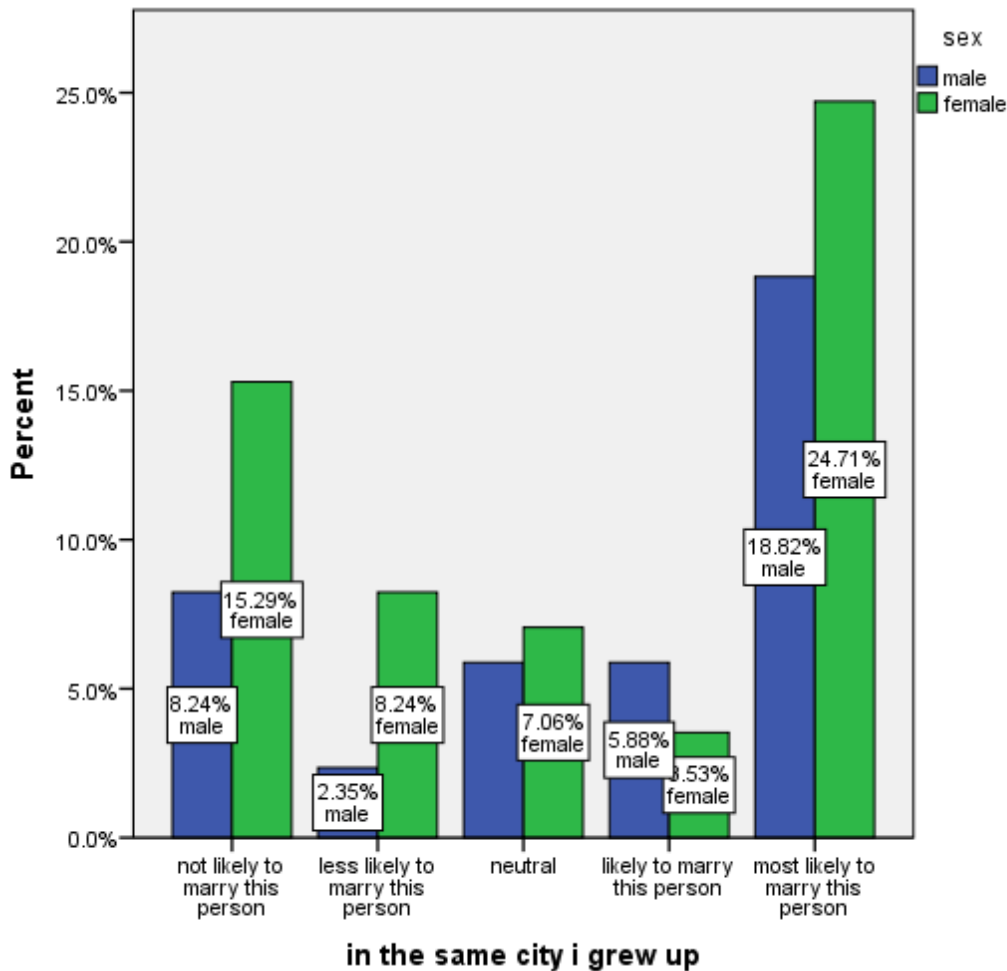
Figure 40: Preference for partners who in the same city of upbringing

However the preference for most likely marrying someone from the same city one grew up is higher than the preference for most likely marrying from the same city one learns at. The study of 340 Midlands State University students across 11 degree programs and ranging between 19 to 26 years finds that 24.71% of males strongly hold that they most likely prefer to marry within the same city where they grew up, and 18.82% of female responses says females most likely prefer to marry within the same city where they grew up. Females more than males are likely to marry

from within the same city they grew. However, 15.29% females and 8.24% males prefer to diversify beyond boundaries and hence suggested they are not likely to marry within the same city where they grew up.
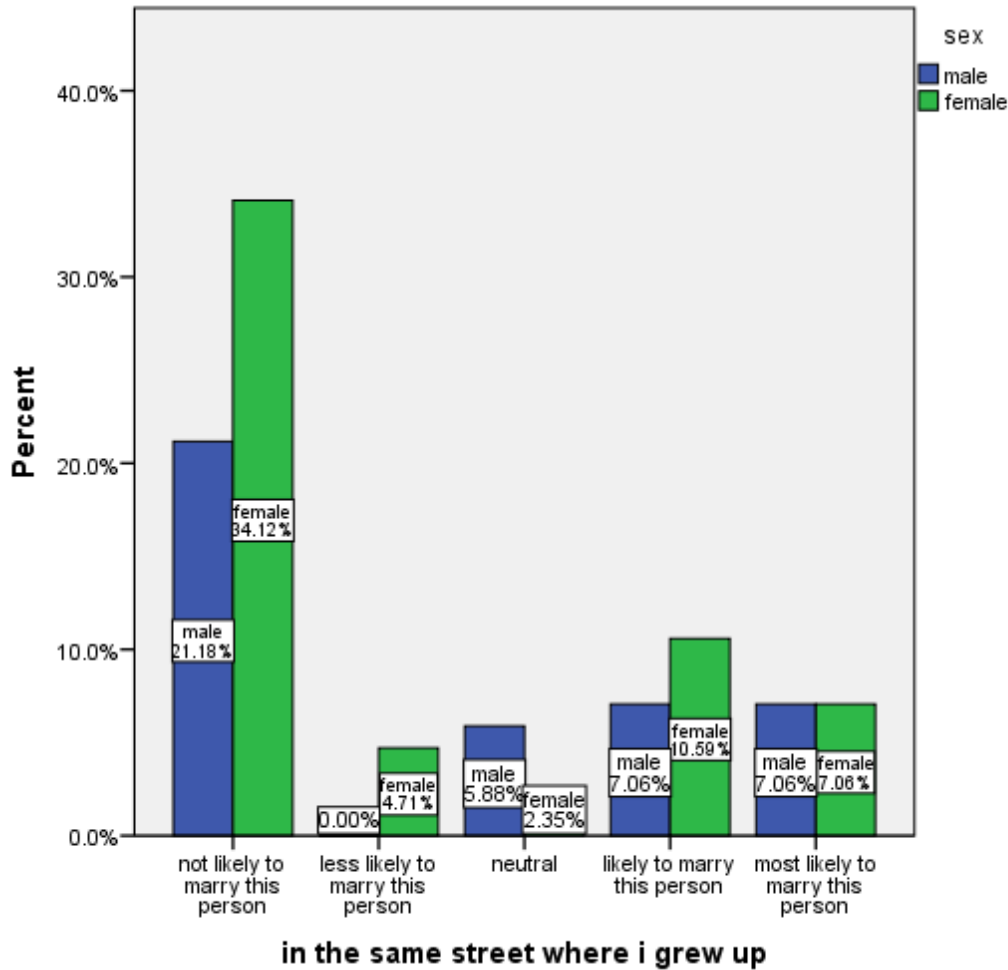
Figure 41: Preference for partners who in the same street of upbringing

Even though marrying from the same city in which one grows up is the most likely preferred above marrying from the same university or university city, it is notable that students do not want to marry from the same street where they grew up.

The study of 340 Midlands State University students across 11 degree programs and ranging between 19 to 26 years finds that 21.18% of males strongly hold that they are unlikely to marry within the same street they grew up compared to 7.06% males who said they would, and 34.12%

of female responses says females are unlikely to marry within the same street where they grew up compared with the 7.06% who say they would do.. Females more than males are unlikely to marry from within the same street they grew. Only 5.88% of males and 2.35% females find this preference unimportant.
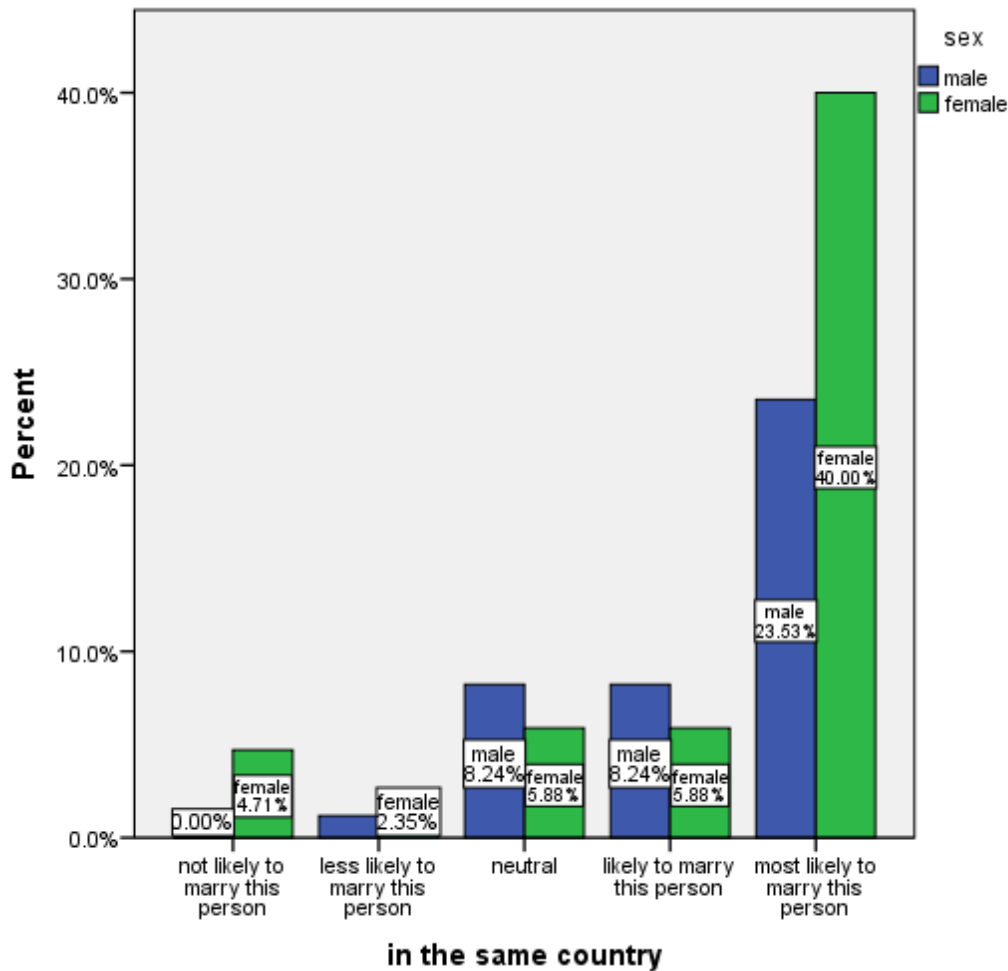
Figure 42: Preference for partners who in the same country

Students want to marry within their own country rather than any other country. The study of 340 Midlands State University students across 11 degree programs and ranging between 19 to 26 years finds that 23.53% of males strongly hold that they are likely to marry within the same country of origin compared to a 00.00% males who said they may not prefer marrying within the same country. 40% of female responses says females are likely to marry within the same country of their origin and background compared with only 4.71% who strongly suggest they would not

prefer to marry such a person. Females more than males are prefering to marry from within the same home country. Only 8.24% of males and 5.88% females find this preference unimportant.
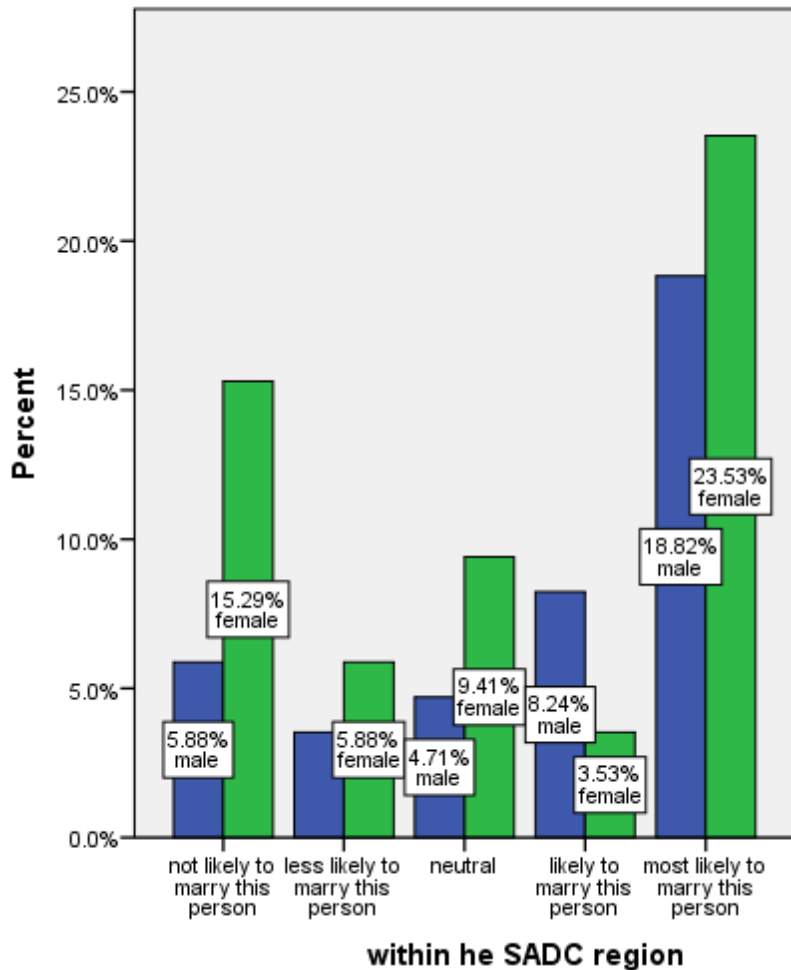
Figure 43: Preference for partners who are in the Southern Africa

Even though preferences are slightly lower than marrying within the same home country, marrying within the SADC region is showing a high preference characteristics. The study of 340 Midlands State University students across 11 degree programs and ranging between 19 to 26 years finds that 18.82% of males strongly hold that they are likely to marry within the SADC region compared to a mere 5.88% males who said they may not prefer marrying within SADC region. 23.53% of female responses says females are most likely to marry within SADC region compared with 15.29% who strongly suggest they would not prefer to marry from such an area. Females more than males are prefering to marry from within the SADC region and females

more than males are also less likely to marry from the SADC region. 4.71% of males and 9.41% females find this preference unimportant.
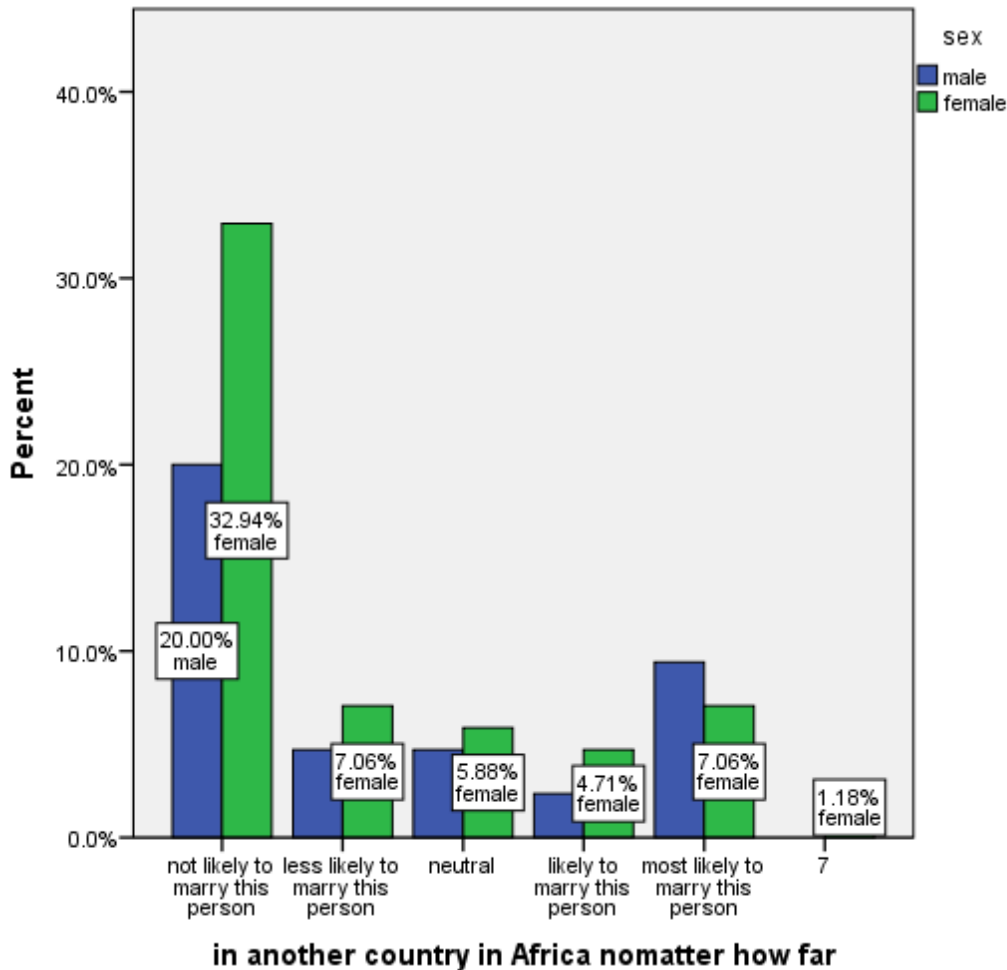
Figure 44: Preference for partners who beyond Southern Africa

However, marrying beyond the immediate southern region is proving too far for the contemporary students. Marrying in another country in Africa no matter how far is reflecting to be an unpopular preference. The study of 340 Midlands State University students across 11 degree programs and ranging between 19 to 26 years finds that 20.00% of males strongly hold that they are unlikely to marry in another country in Africa no matter how far (beyond SADC) and 0.00% males said they may prefer marrying beyond southern region. 32.94% of female responses says females are unlikely to marry beyond the southern region compared with 1.18% who strongly suggest they would. Females more than males are unlikely to marry beyond the

southern region. Only less than 2% of males and 4.71% females find this characteristic unimportant.
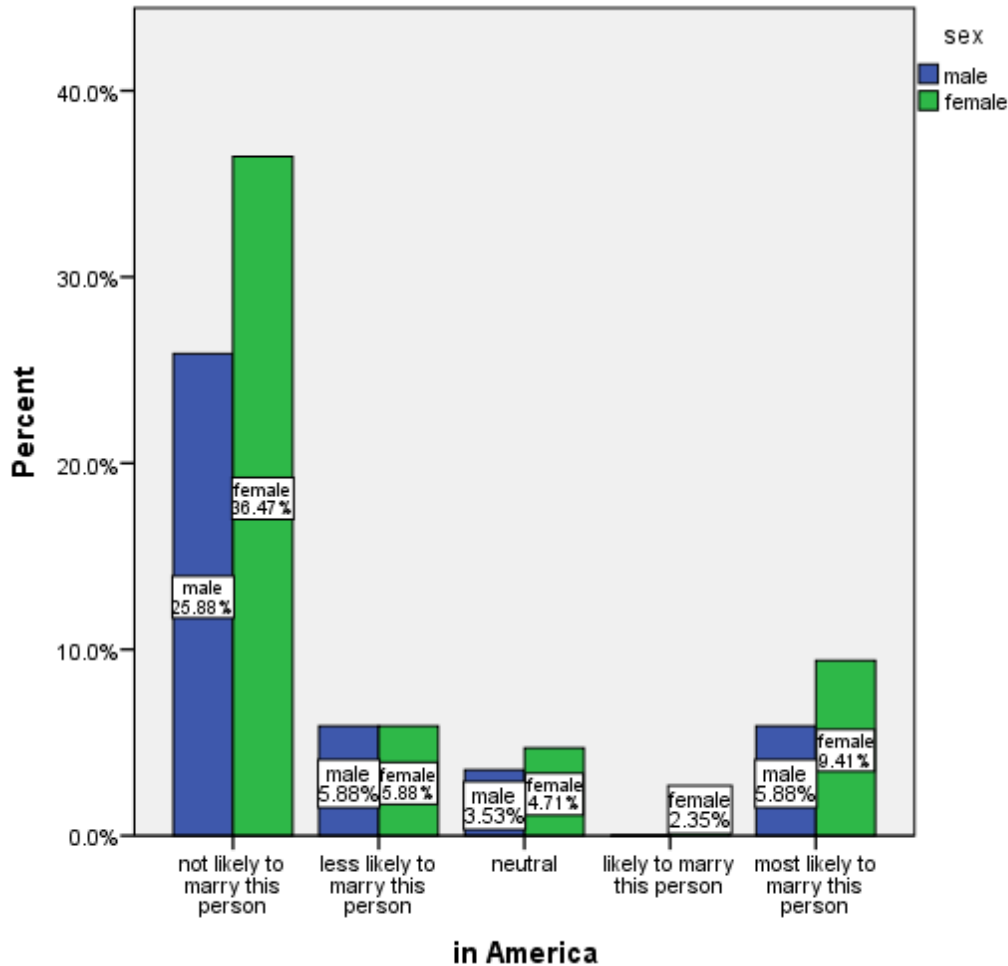
Figure 45: Preference for partners who are in America

Though America is a prestigious nation all around the world, marrying a person in America is showing to be a matter of very low preference to Zimbabwean Midlands State University. The study of 340 Midlands State University students across 11 degree programs and ranging between 19 to 26 years finds that 25.88% of males strongly hold that they are unlikely to marry someone in America compared to a mere 5.88% males who say they would. More than men, 36.47% of female responses says females are unlikely to marry someone in America compared with 9.41%

who strongly suggest they would. Females more than males are unlikely to marry in America. However, among those who may highly prefer so, it is notable that females still exceed males. Only 3% of males and 4.71% females find this characteristic unimportant.
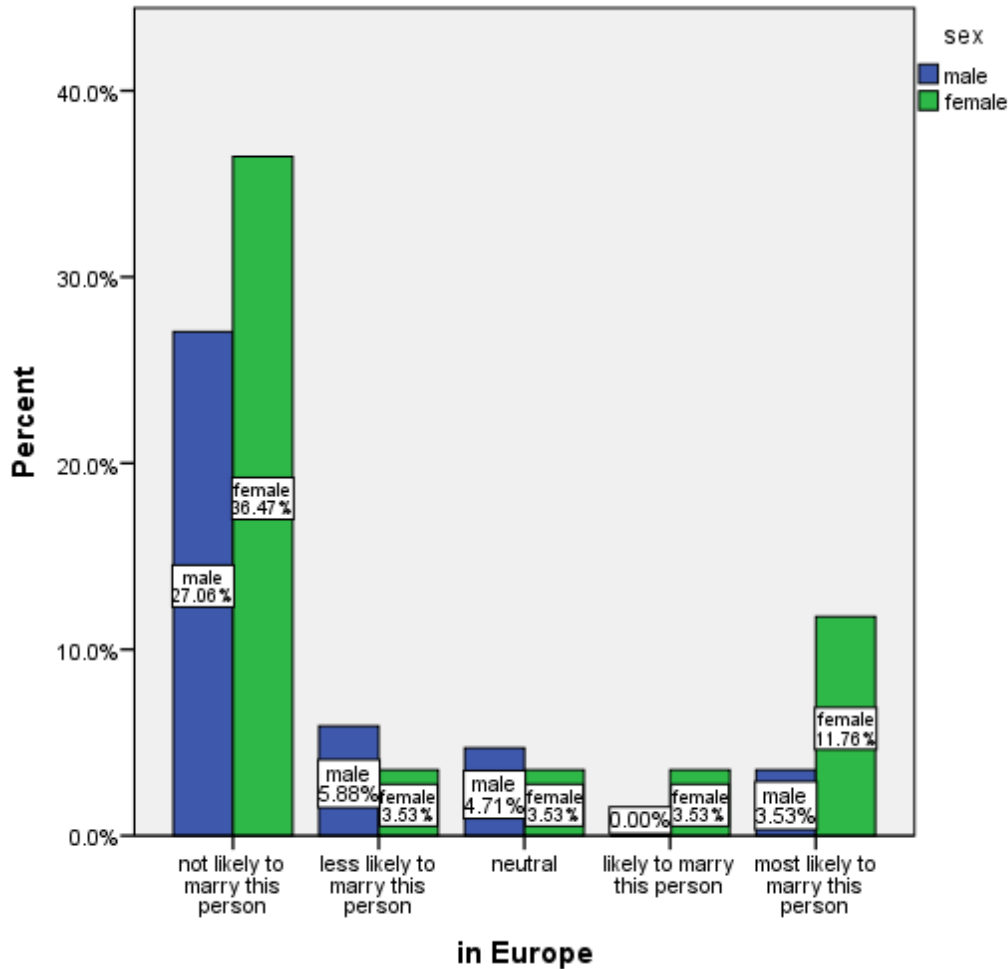
Figure 46: Preference for partners who in Europe

Though Europe is much as prestigious a nation as America, marrying a person in Europe is showing to be a matter of very low preference to Zimbabwean Midlands State University. However, women would likely marry in Europe than in America considering the percentages for those who exhibited preference. The study of 340 Midlands State University students across 11 degree programs and ranging between 19 to 26 years finds that 27.06% of males strongly hold that they are unlikely to marry someone in Europe compared to a mere 3.53% males who say they would. More than men, 36.47% of female responses says females are unlikely to marry

someone in Europe compared with 11.76% who strongly suggest they would. Females more than males are unlikely to marry in Europe. However, among those who may highly prefer so, it is notable that females still exceed males. 4.71% of males and 3.53% females find this characteristic unimportant.
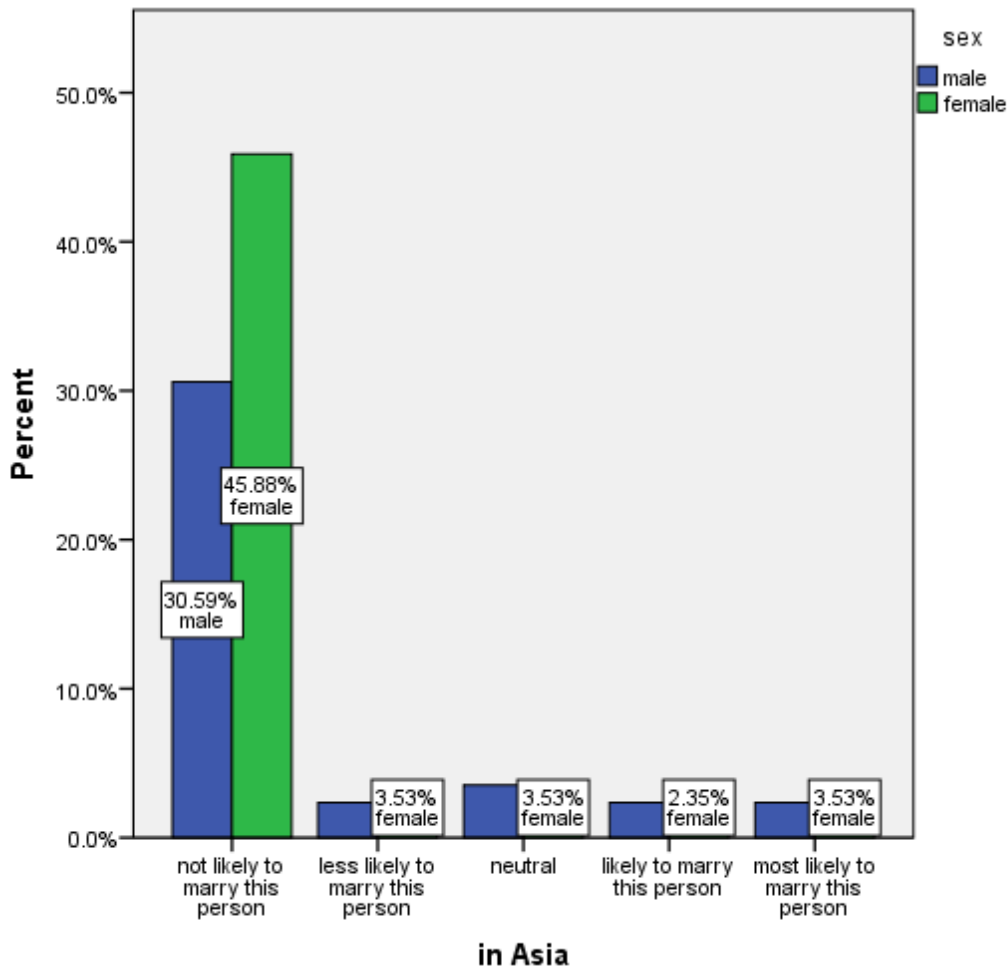
Figure 47: Preference for partners who in Asia

Perhaps Asia can be termed the least preferred continent to marry as according to most Midlands State University students. The study of 340 Midlands State University students across 11 degree programs and ranging between 19 to 26 years finds that 30.59% of males strongly hold that they are unlikely to marry someone in Asia compared to an almost 2% males who say they would. More than men, 45.88% of female responses says females are unlikely to marry someone in Asia compared with 3.53% who strongly suggested they would. Females more than males are

unlikely to marry in Asia. About 4% of males and 3.53% females find this characteristic unimportant.
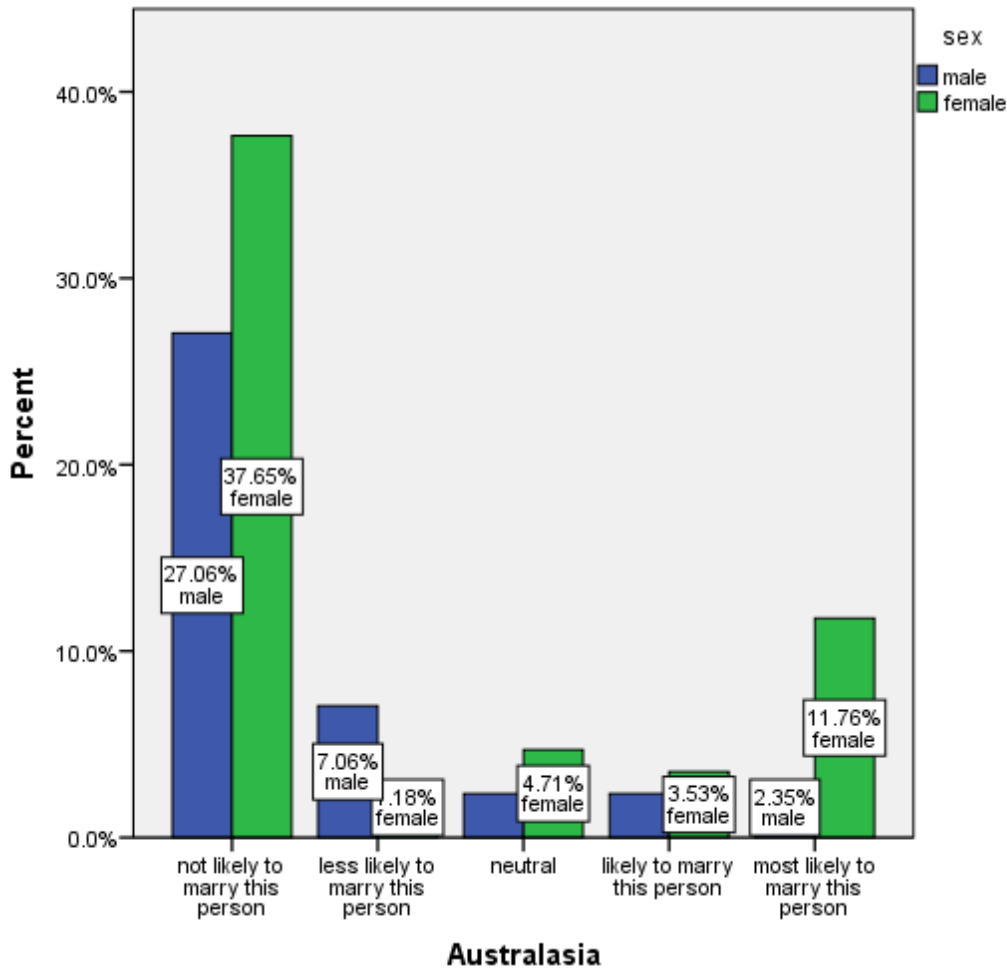
Figure 48: Preference for partners who are in Australasia

Though marrying in Australasia is more "most likely preferred" than Asia, it is still as lowly preferred as marrying in Europe and or America to most Midlands State University students. The study of 340 Midlands State University students across 11 degree programs and ranging between 19 to 26 years finds that 27.06% of males strongly hold that they are unlikely to marry someone in Australasia region compared to an almost 2.35% males who say they would. More than men, 37.65% of female responses says females are unlikely to marry someone in Australasia compared with 11.76% who strongly suggested they would. Females more than males are unlikely to marry in Australasia. The percentage of females who are likely is more than twice the

percentage of those who are unlikely. About 2% of males and 4.71% females find this characteristic unimportant.

4.3.6 How close an ideal marriage partner lies to a student's own level of education
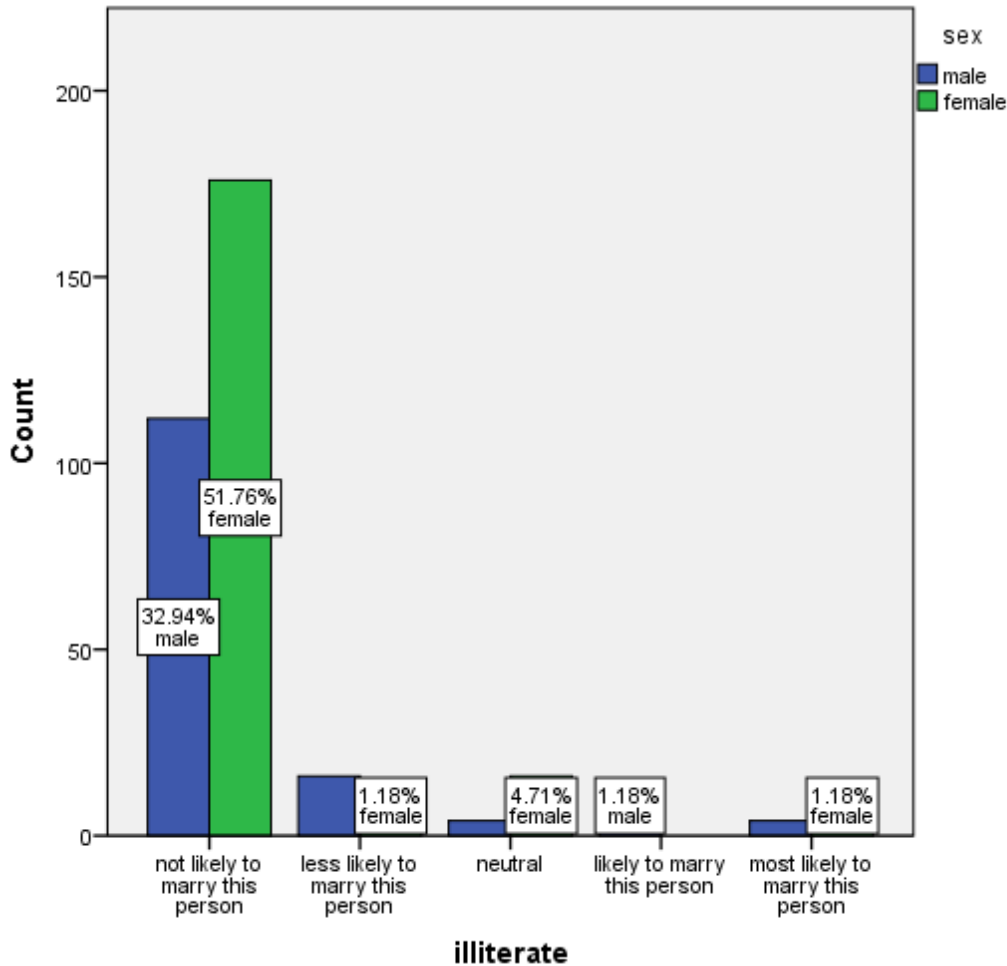
Figure 49: Preference for partners who are illiterate

Being illiterate was expressed as a characteristic of very low preference for both male and female university students. 32.94% males and 51.76% females have a very low preference for illiterate partners. Notable is that almost twice more women have a very low preference for illiterate men than there are men who have a very low preference for illiterate women. Only about 2% of males and only 1.18% of females said they may have a very high preference for illiterate partners.
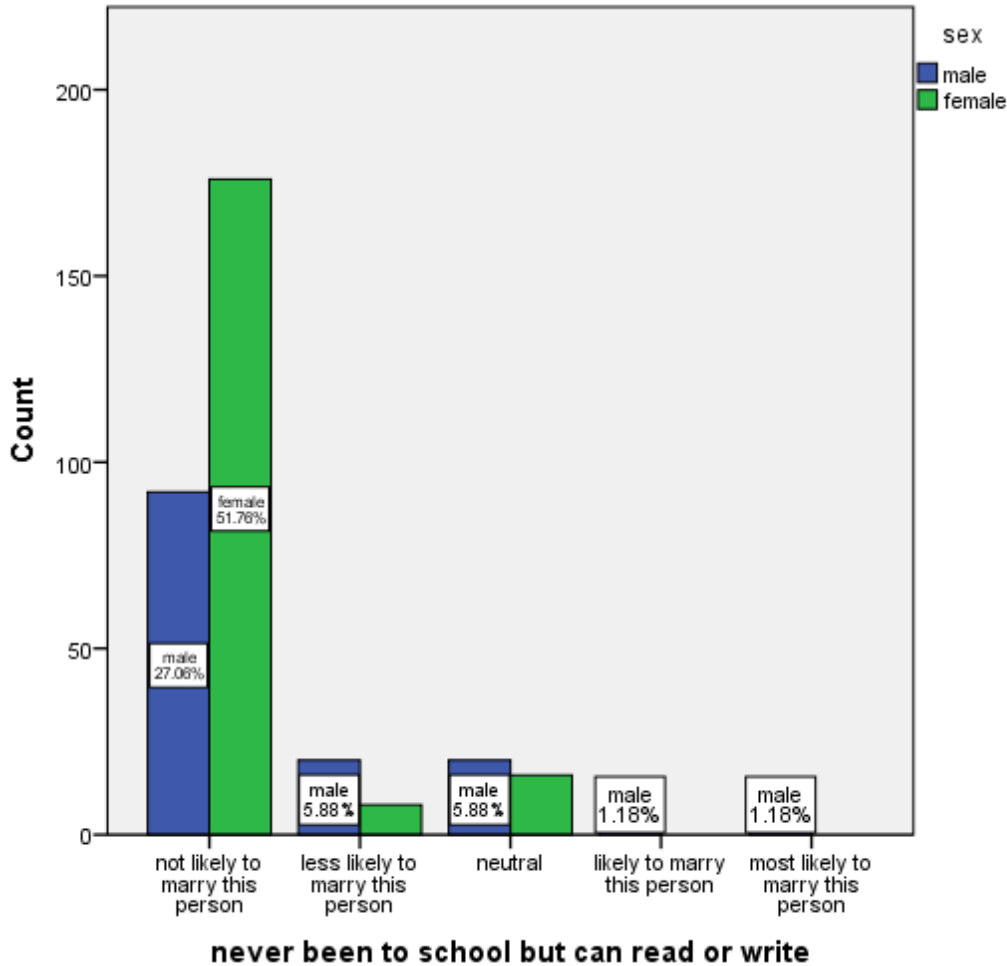
Figure 50: Preference for partners who have never been to school but read and write

Similarly a partner having never been to school though able to read or write was expressed as a characteristic of very low preference for both male and female university students. 27.08% males and 51.78% females have a very low preference for partners who have never been to school though may be able to read or write. Notable is that almost twice more women have a very low preference for these partners than there are men who have a very low preference for such women. 1.18% of males and only 0.00% of females said they may have a very high preference for partners who have never been to school though may be able to read or write.
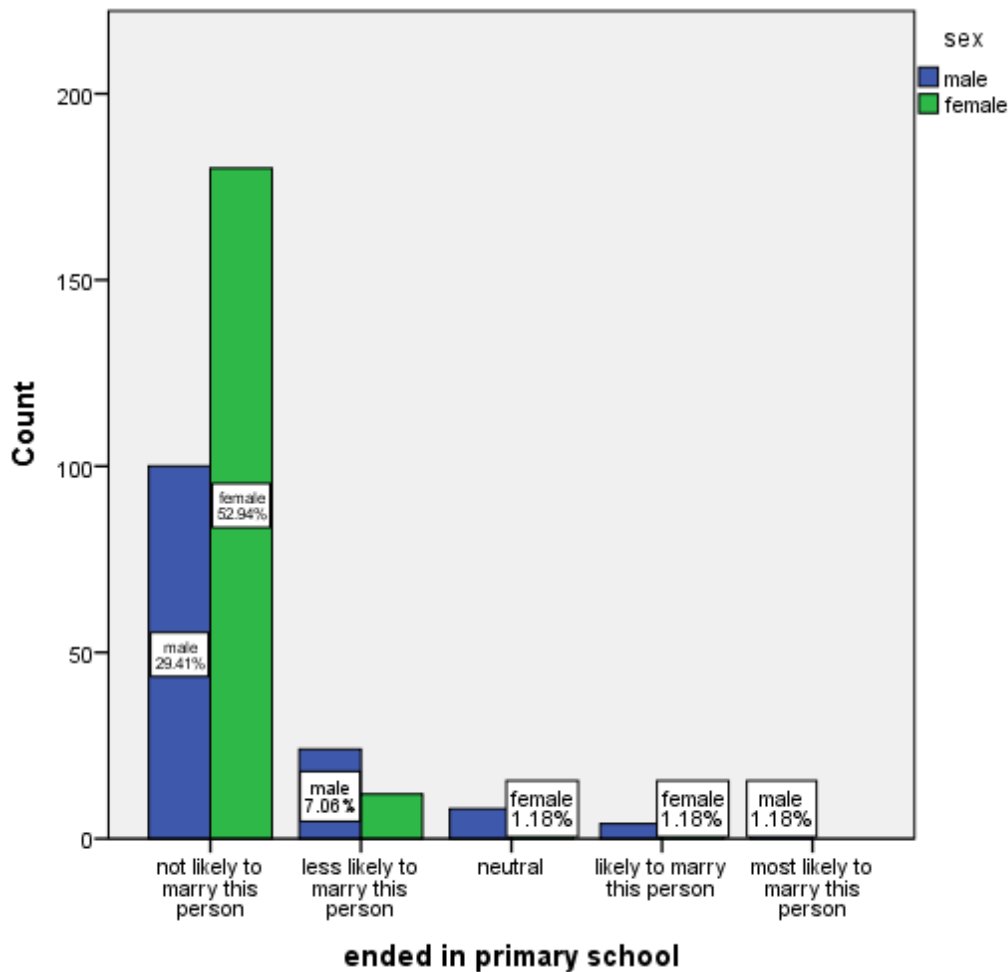
Figure 51: Preference for partners who ended in primary school

Similarly a partner having ended in primary school was expressed as a characteristic of very low preference for both male and female university students. 29.41% males and 52.94% females have a very low preference for partners who ended in primary school. Notable is that there are more women have a very low preference for these partners than there are men who have a very low preference for such women. 1.18% of males and 0.00% of females said they may have a very high preference for a partner who ended in primary school.
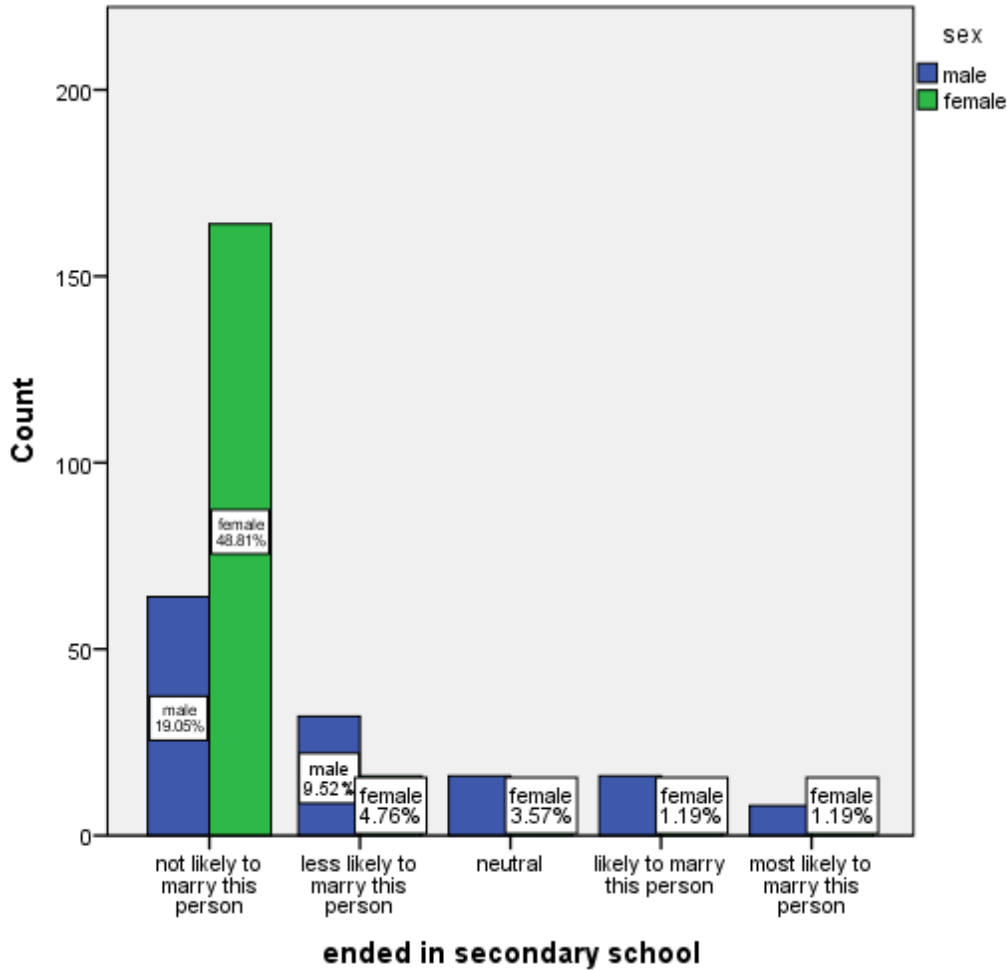
Figure 52: Preference for partners who ended in secondary school

Similarly a partner having ended in secondary school was expressed as a characteristic of very low preference for both male and female university students.19.05% males and 48.81% females have a very low preference for partners who ended in secondary school. Notable is that far more than half the percentage of women than men have a very low preference for partners who ended in secondary school. About 2% of males and 1.19% of females said they may have a very high preference for a partner who ended in secondary school.
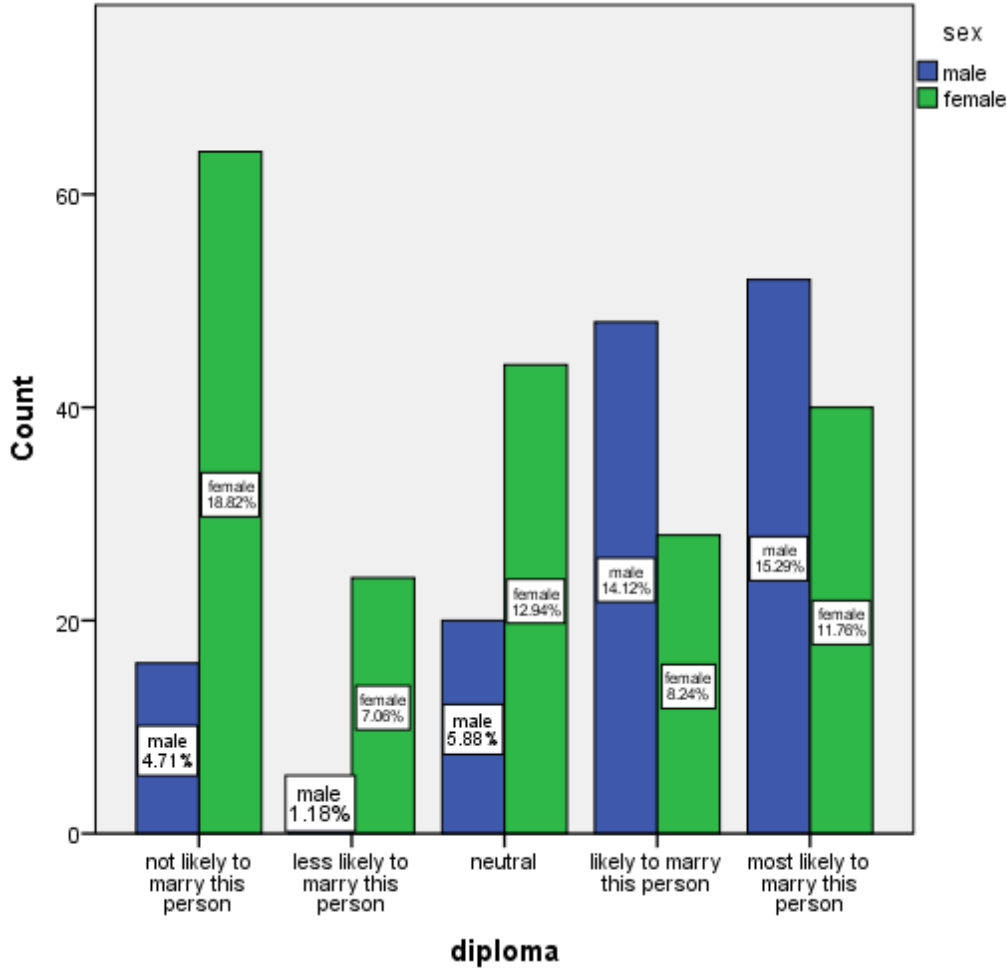
Figure 53: Preference for partners who have a diploma

High preference for academic qualifications begins at diploma level. Yet it should be noted that the largest percentage of female respondents said they are not likely to marry a man who merely has a diploma (18.82%). Only 11.78% of women said they would marry a man with a diploma, and 12.94% held neutral views. Marrying a partner who has an academic diploma is to men, however, an issue of very high preference (15.29%). Besides those most likely to marry, those generally likely to marry a woman with a diploma are almost as high at 14.12%. this is in comparison with 4.71 who say are highly unlikely and 5.88% who suggested neutrality to the issue of marrying a woman who has a diploma. Men more than women are most likely to marry a partner who has a diploma.
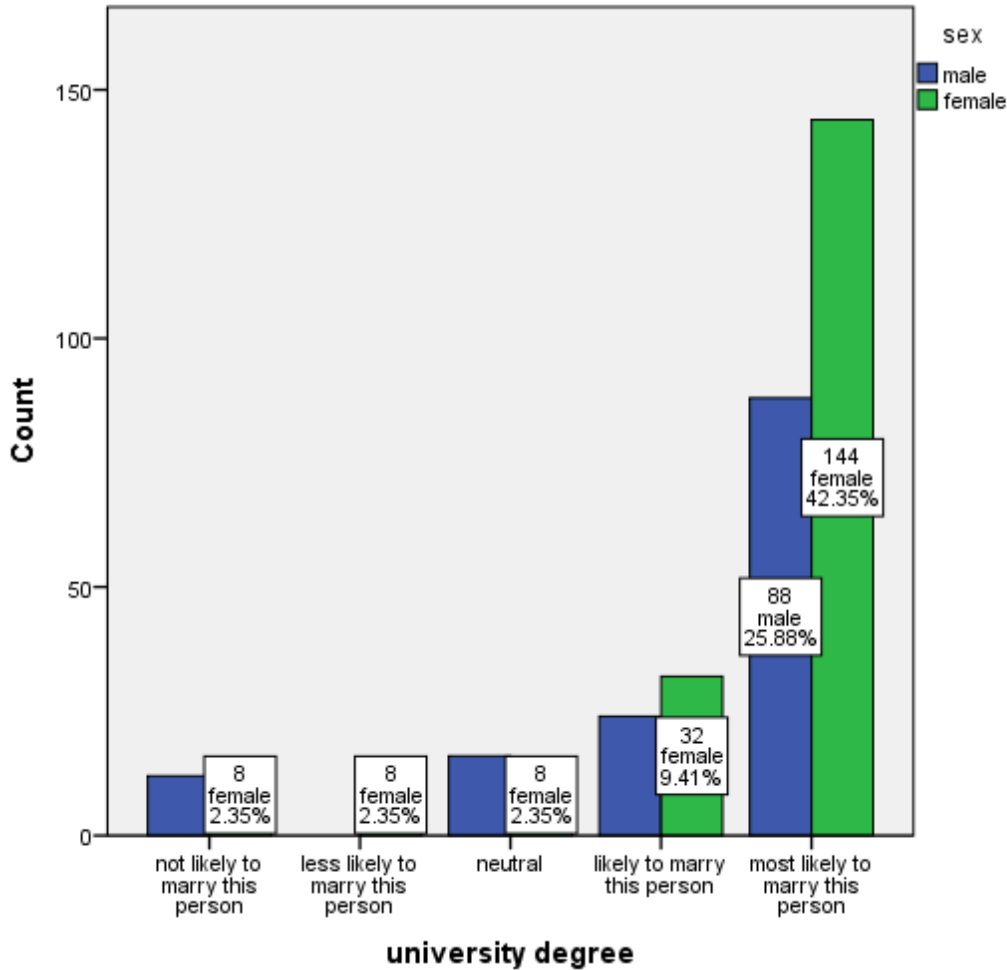
Figure 54: Preference for partners who have a university degree

A most likely to marry preference gains gender consensus at the level when a partner in consideration has a university degree. Both males and females have a very high preference for a partner who has a university degree. 25.88% males and 42.35% females have a very high preference for a partner with a university degree. Notable is that more women than men are most likely to marry a partner who has a university degree. This is in comparison with almost 4.00% of males and 2.35% of females who said they may have a very low preference for partners with a university degree.
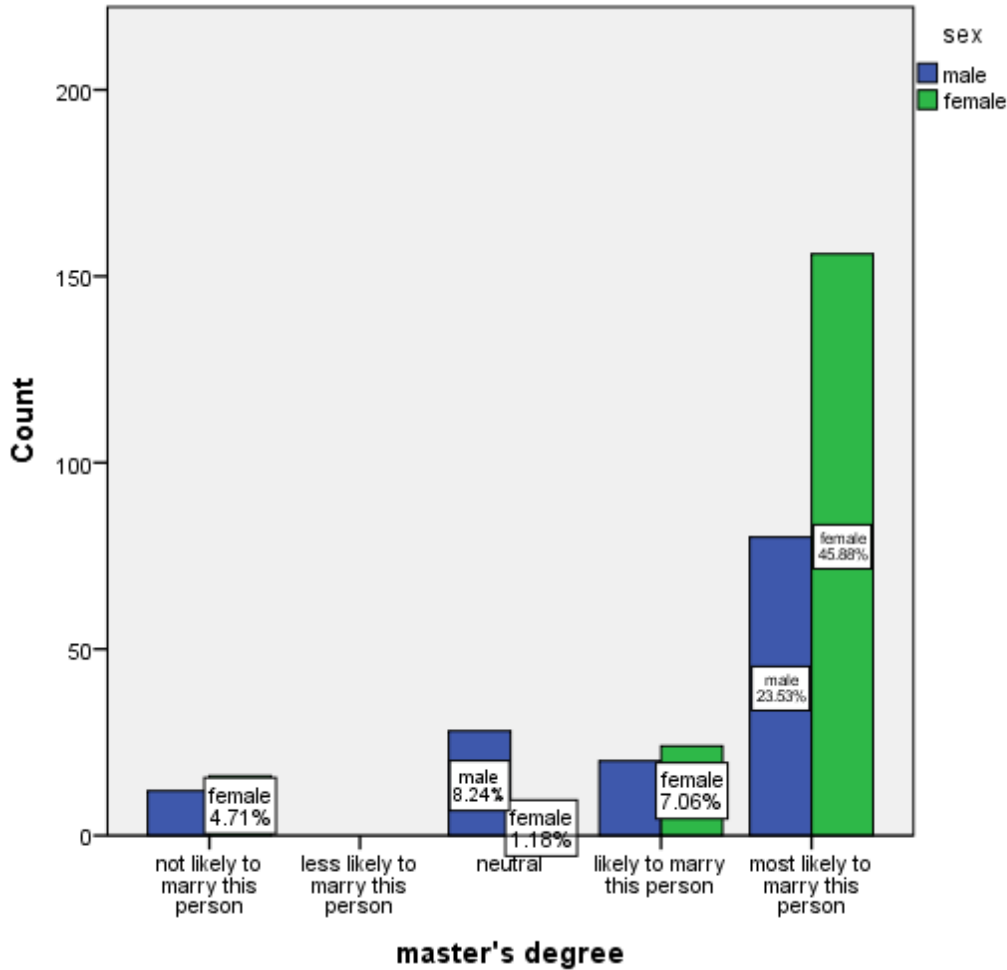
Figure 55: Preference for partners who have a masters' degree

A master's degree is an added advantage for men and similarly for women. Both males and females have are most likely to marry a partner who has a masters' degree. 45.88% males and 23.53% females have a very high preference for a partner with a university degree. Notable is that more women than men are most likely to marry a partner who has a masters' degree. This is in comparison with almost 4.00% of males and 4.71% of females who said they may have a very low preference for partners with a university degree.
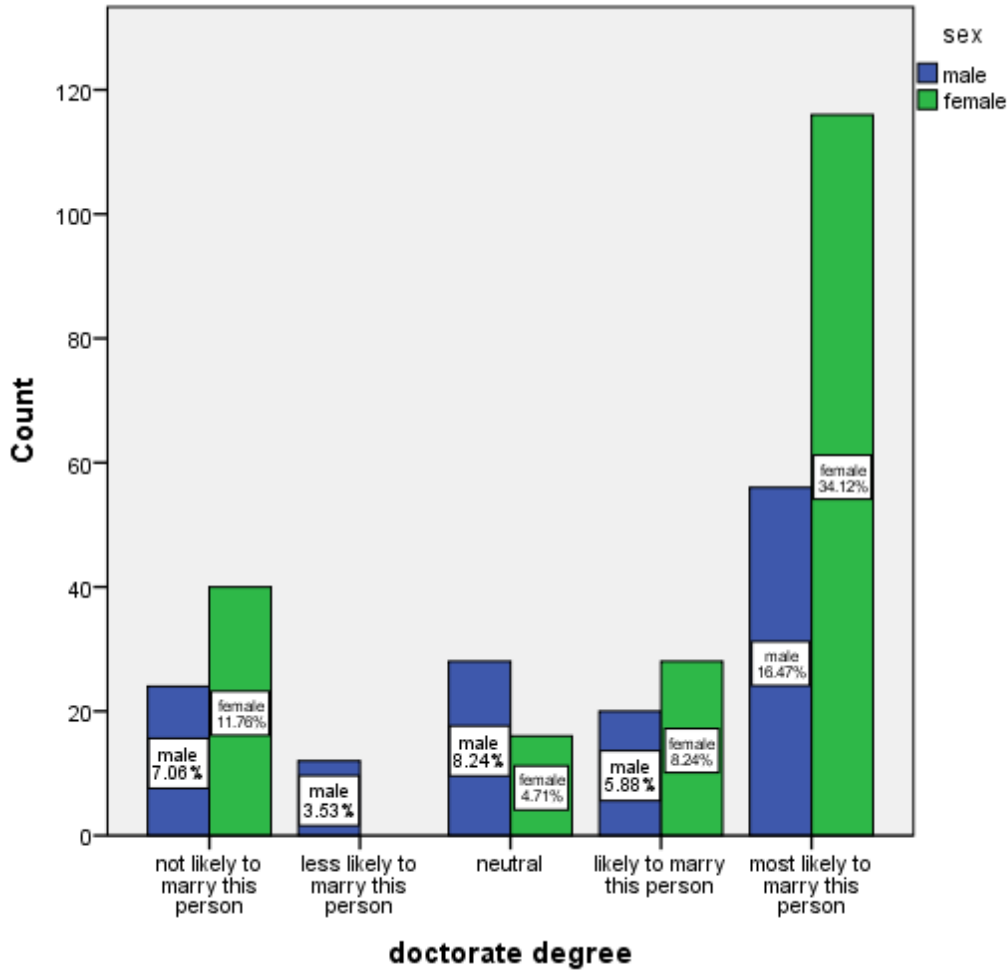
Figure 56: Preference for partners who have doctorates

A doctorate degree is an added advantage for men and similarly for women. However, the fraction of males and females not likely to marry someone with a doctorate degree also increases. 16.47% males and 34.12% females have a very high preference for a partner with a doctorate degree. Notable is that twice more women than men are most likely to marry a partner who has a doctorate degree. This is in comparison with almost 7.06% of males and 11.78% of females who said they may have a very low preference for partners with a university degree.
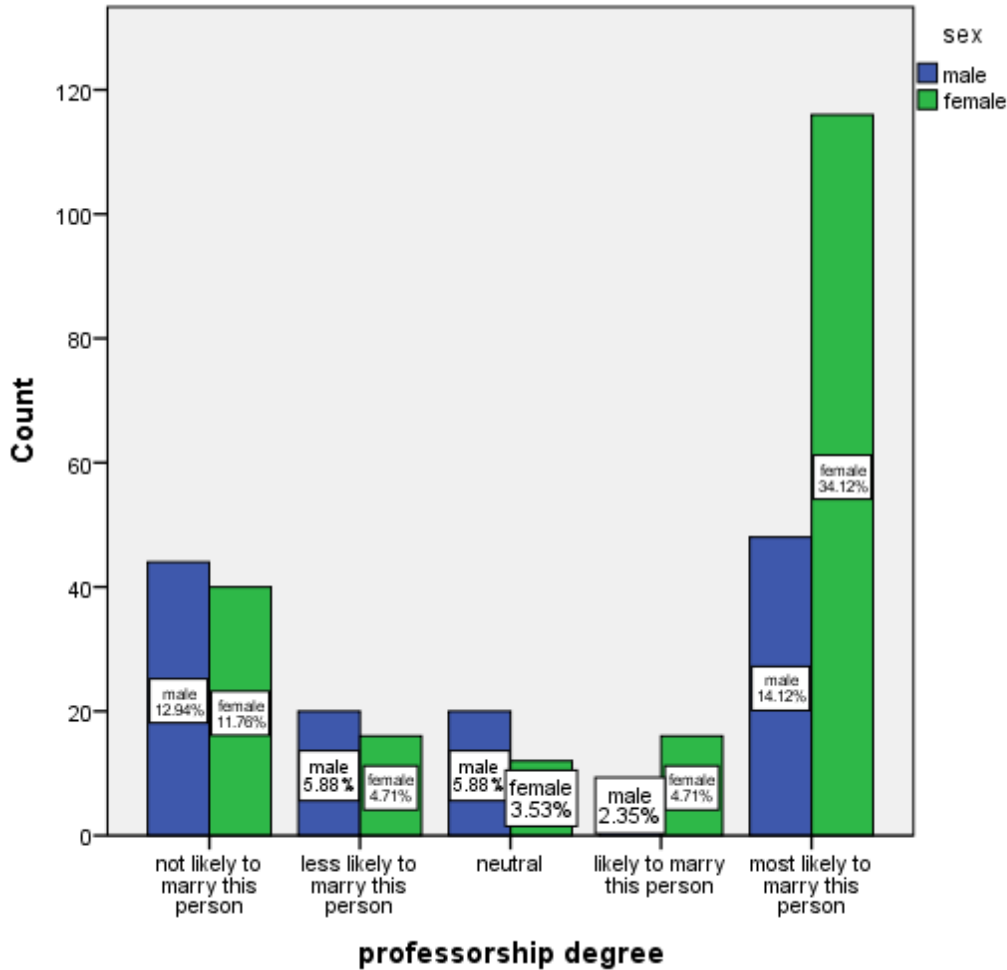
Figure 57: Preference for partners who have preofessorships

A professorship degree is an added advantage for men and similarly for women. However, the fraction of males and females not likely to marry someone with a professorship degree is higher than those not likely to marry someone with a doctorate degree. 14.12% males and 34.12% females have a very high preference for a partner with a professorship degree. Notable is that approximately twice more women than men are most likely to marry a partner who has a professorship degree. This is in comparison with almost 12.94% of males and 11.78% of females who said they may have a very low preference for partners with a professorship degree.

4.3.7 The affluence levels expected for suitable marriage partners by male and female students
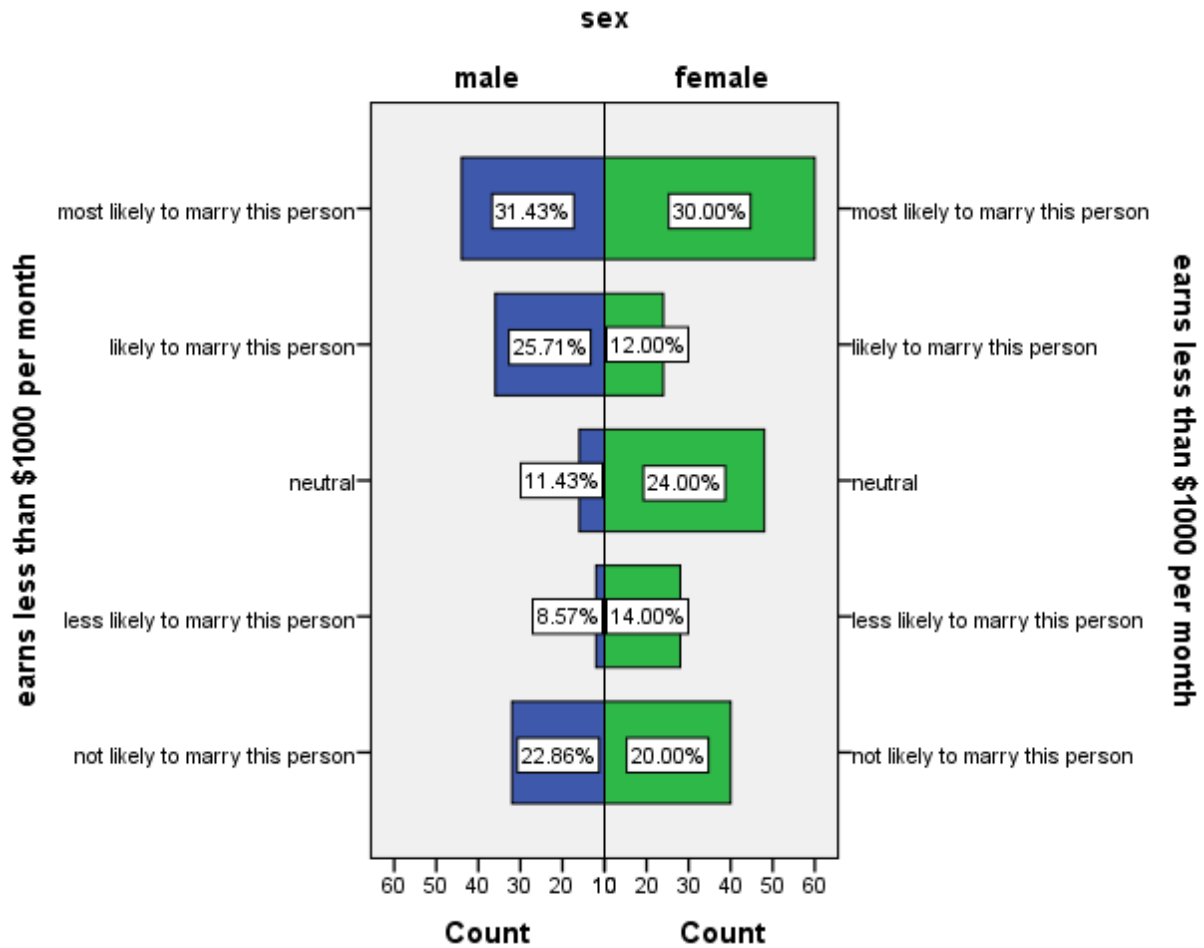
Figure 58: Preference for partners who earn below $1000/month

Earning less than a $1000/month is a high preference characteristic when it comes to the selection of a life partner. 31.43% of males expressed they were most likely to marry a woman who earns less than a $1000/month whilst 30.00% of females said they were most likely to marry a man earns less than a $1000/month. Males more than females would marry someone who earns less than a $1000/month. On the other hand, 22.86% males and 20.00% females are not likely to marry a person earns less than a $1000/month.

Figure 59: Preference for partners who earn between $1000 to $4000 per month

Earning between $1000 and $4000/month is a high preference characteristic when it comes to the selection of a life partner. 28.57% of males expressed they were most likely to marry a woman who earns between $1000 and $4000/month whilst 62.00% of females said they were most likely to marry a man earns between $1000 and $4000/month. Twice more females than males would marry someone who earns between $1000 and $4000/month. On the other hand, 20.00% males and 6.00% females are not likely to marry a person earns less than a $1000/month.
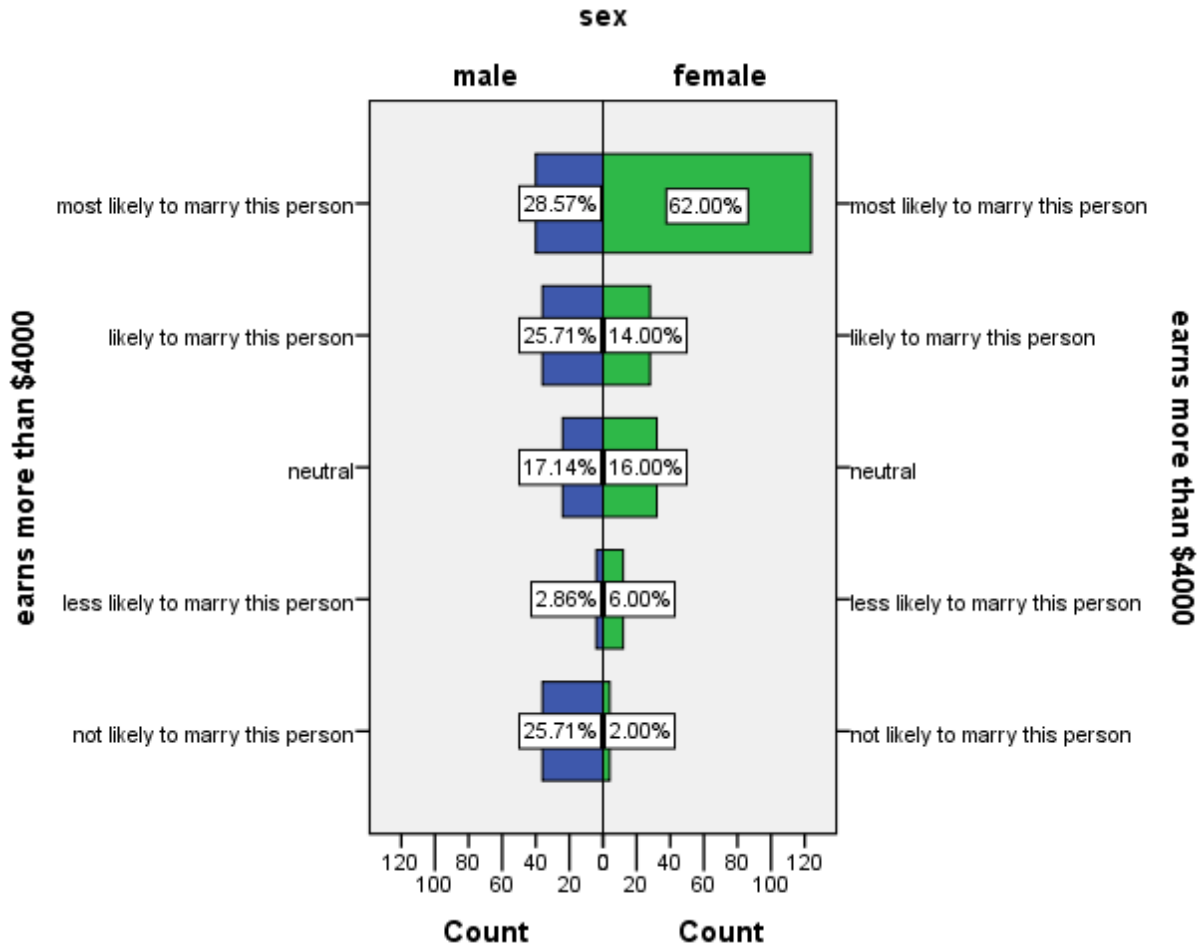
Figure 60: Preference for partners who earn above $4000

Earning above $4000/month is a high preference characteristic when it comes to the selection of a life partner. 28.57% of males expressed they were most likely to marry a woman who earns between $1000 and $4000/month whilst 62.00% of females said they were most likely to marry a man who earns between $1000 and $4000/month. Twice more females than males would marry someone who earns between $1000 and $4000/month. On the other hand, 25.71% males and 2.00% females are not likely to marry a person who earns less than a $1000/month.
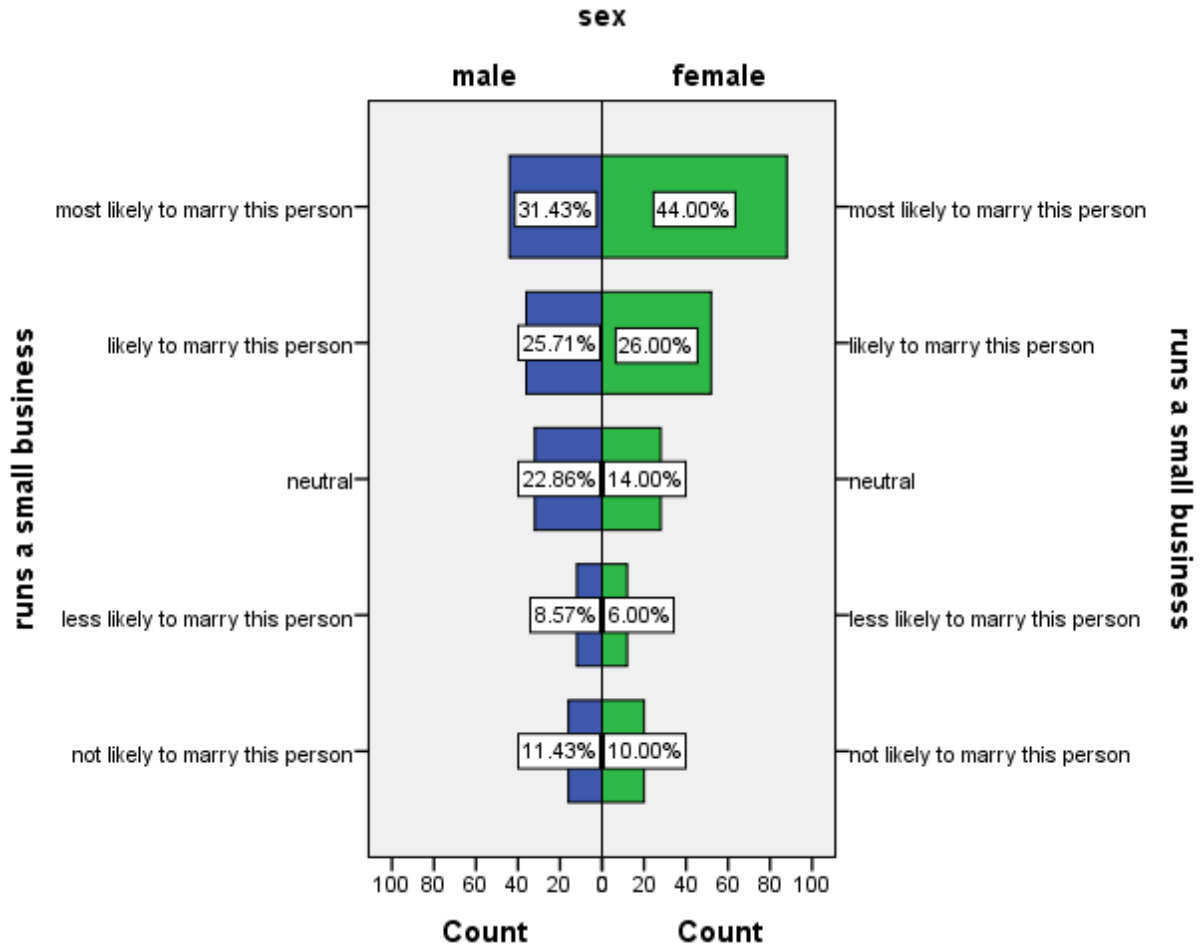
Figure 61: Preference for partners who runs a small business

Running a small business is a high preference characteristic when it comes to the selection of a life partner. 31.43% of males expressed they were most likely to marry a woman who runs a small business whilst 44.00% of females said they were most likely to marry a man who runs a small business. Twice more females than males would marry someone who earns between $1000 and $4000/month. On the other hand, 11.43% males and 10.00% females are not likely to marry a person who runs a small business.
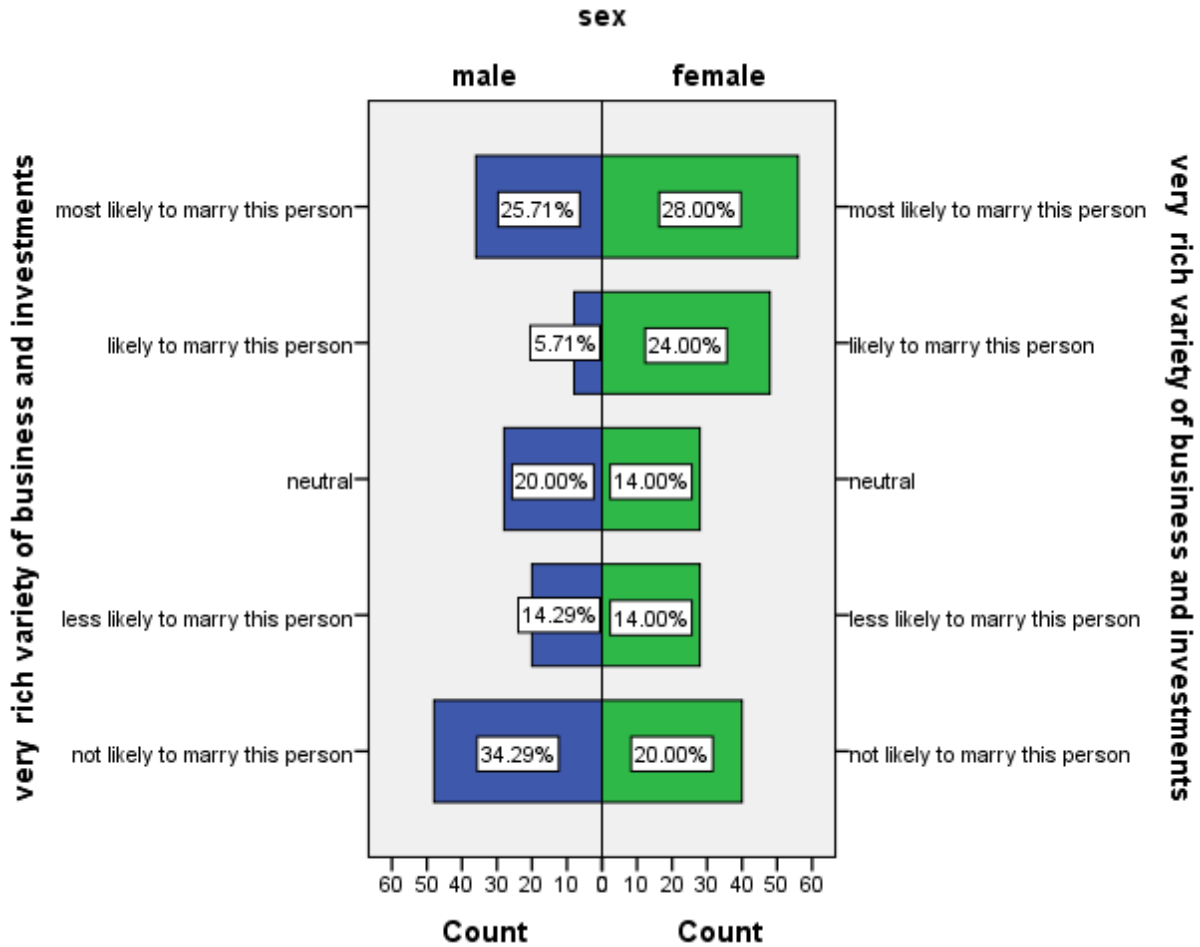
Figure 62: Preference for partners who is very rich

Being very rich, running a variety of business and investments is to man a low preference characteristic and to women a high preference characteristic. 34.29% of men said they were not likely to marry a woman who is a business tycoon compared to the 25.71% of man who said the most likely would. 24.00% of women expressed they would most likely marry a business tycoon compared with the 20.00% males who expressed they likely would.
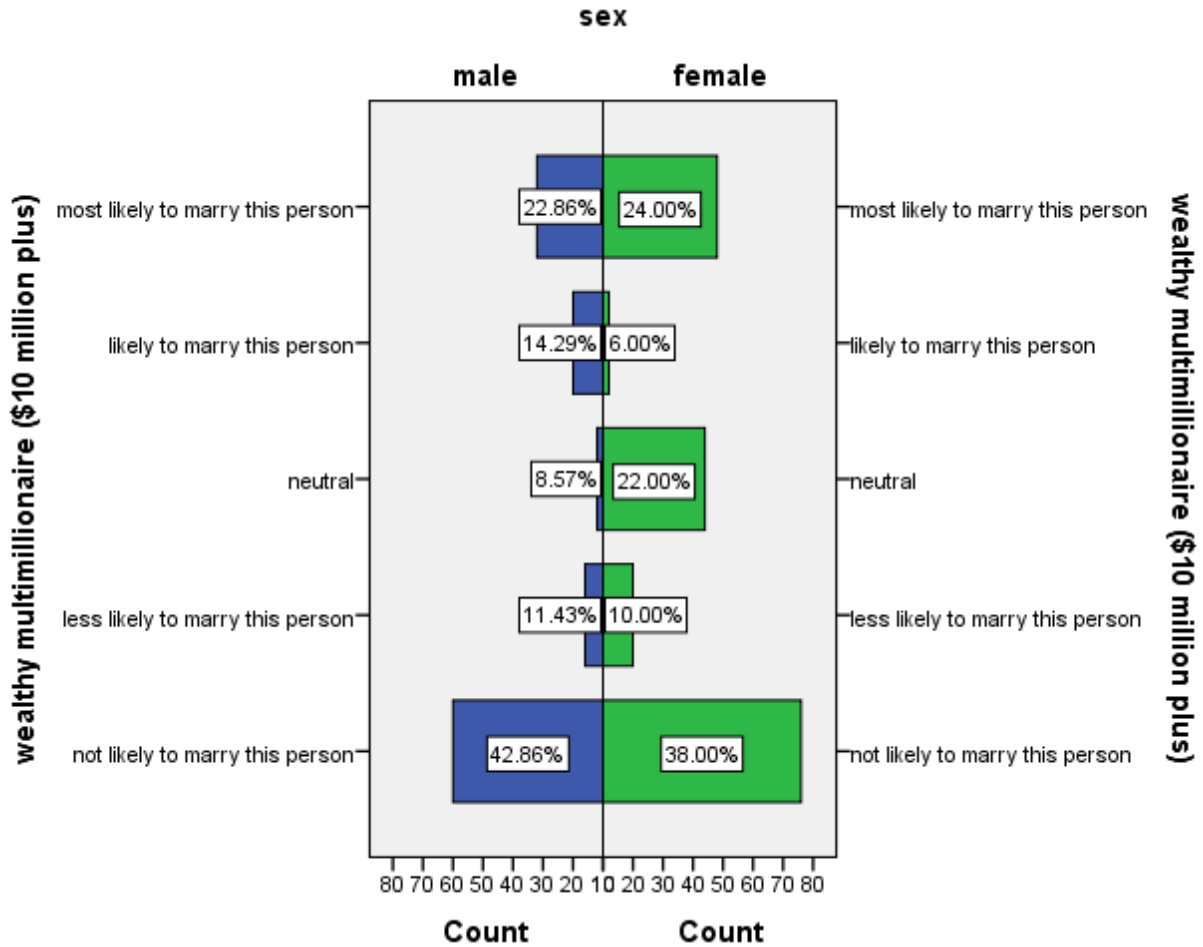
Figure 63: Preference for partners who has $10 million plus

Being a wealthy multimillionaire (with $10 million plus networth) is a low preference characteristic when it comes to the selection of a life partner for both males and females. 42.86% of males expressed they were not likely to marry a woman who is a multi-millionaire whilst 38.00% of females said they were unlikely to marry a man who is a multi-millionaire. On the other hand, 22.86% males and 24.00% females are likely to marry a person who is a multi-millionaire.
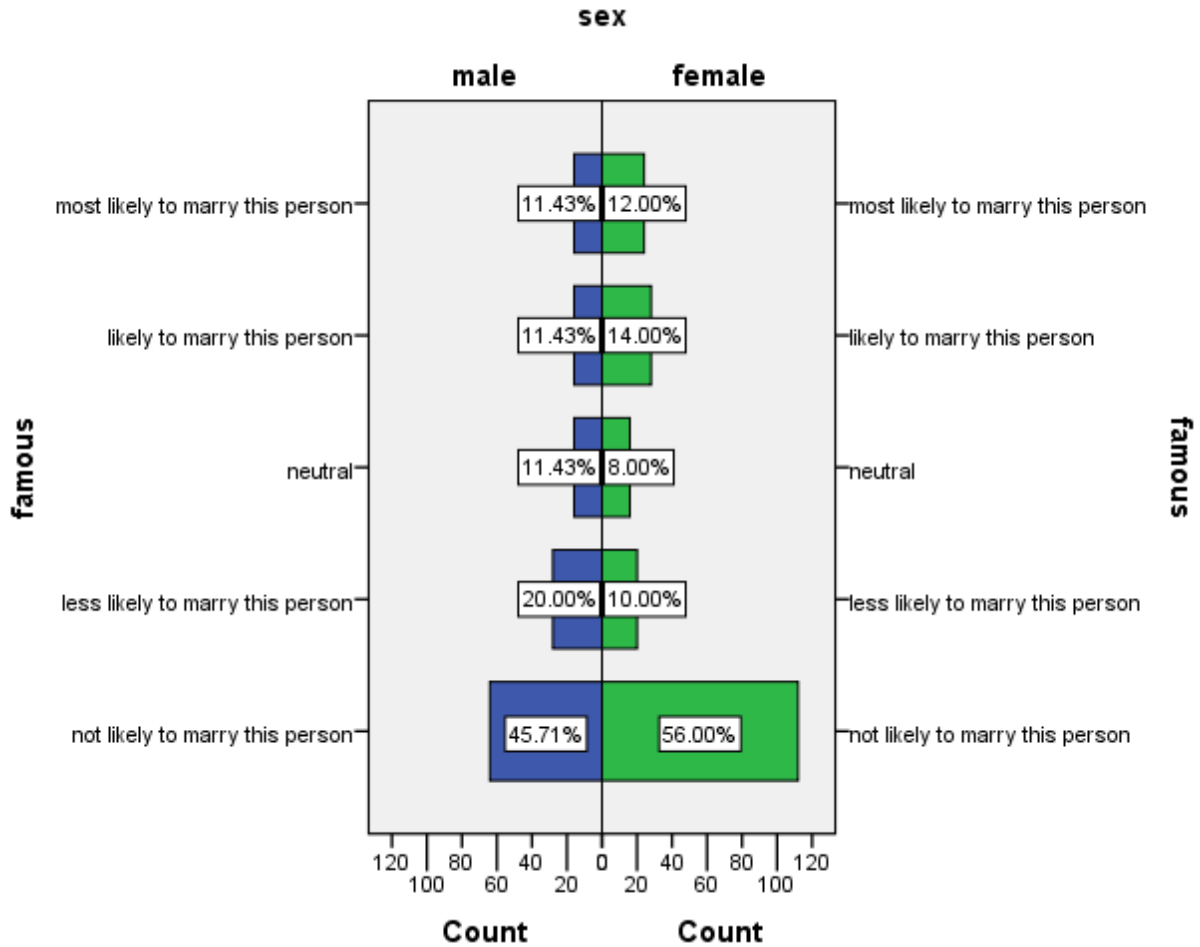
Figure 64: Preference for partners who is famous

Being famous is a low preference characteristic when it comes to the selection of a life partner for both males and females. 45.71% of males expressed they were not likely to marry a woman who is famous whilst 56.00% of females said they were unlikely to marry a man who is famous. On the other hand, 11.43% males and 12.00% females are likely to marry a person who is famous.
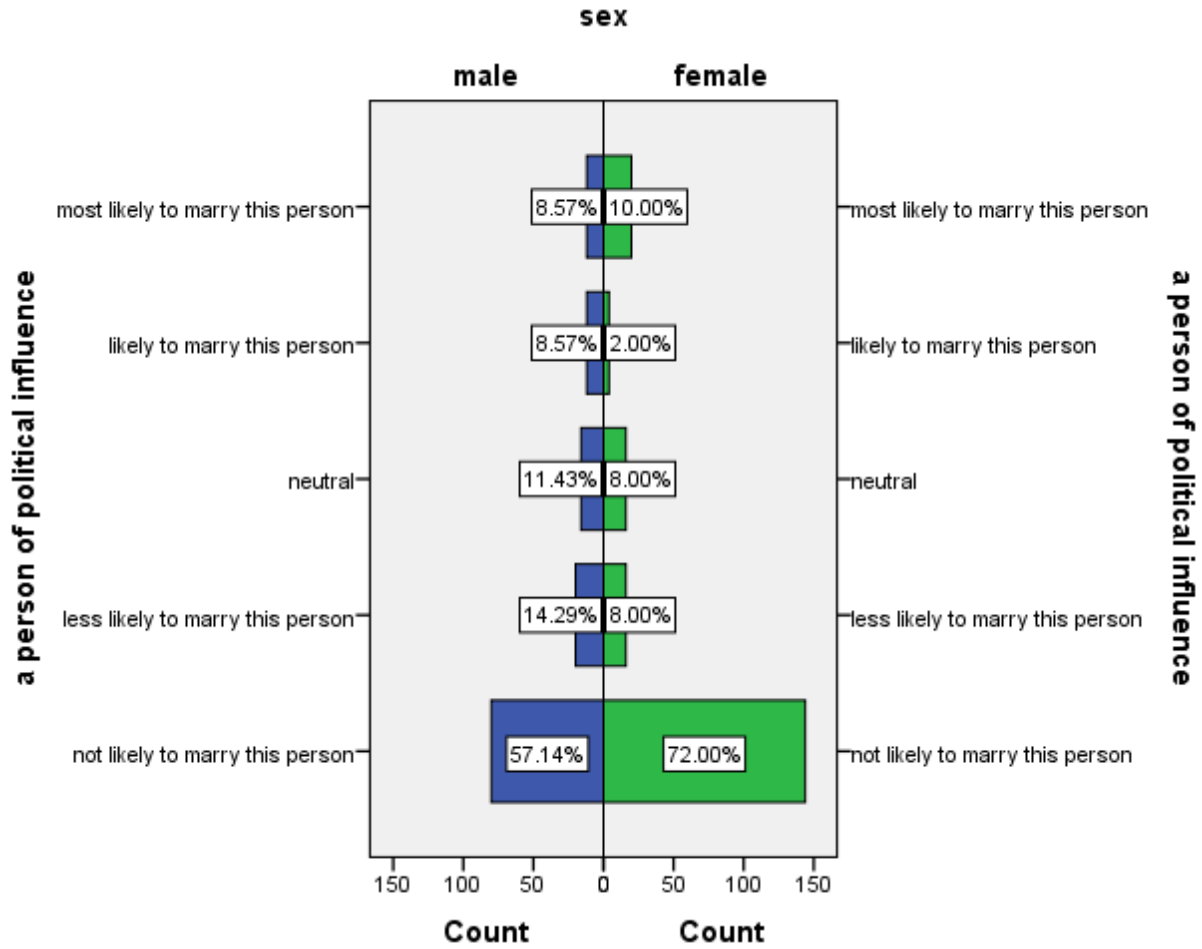
Figure 65: Preference for partners who has political power

Being a person of political power s a low preference characteristic when it comes to the selection of a life partner for both males and females. 57.14% of males expressed they were not likely to marry a woman of political power whilst 72.00% of females said they were unlikely to marry a man of political power. On the other hand, 8.57% males and 10.00% females are likely to marry a person of political power.

4.3.8 The importance of the values of monogamy, abstinence and virginity to the current students' selection of life partners
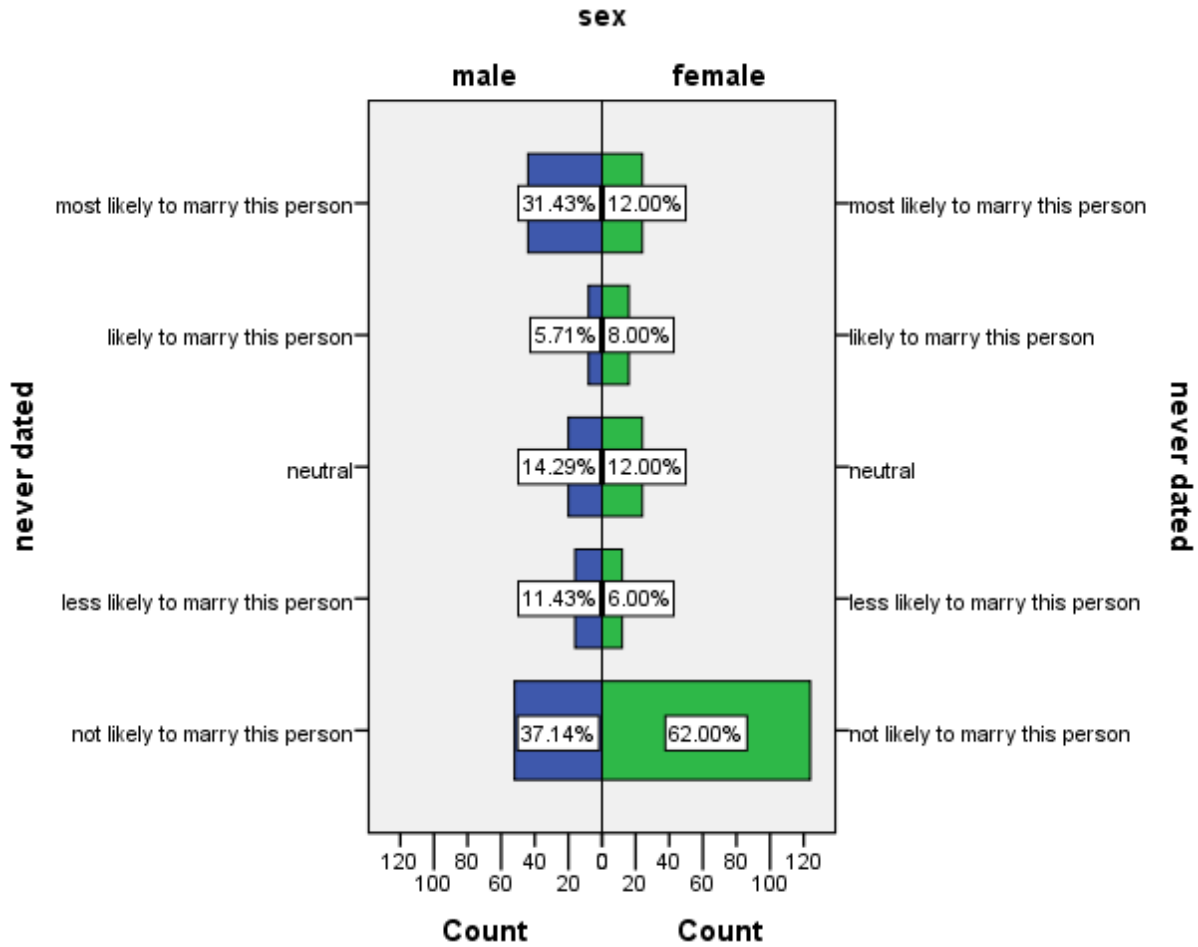
Figure 66: Preference for partners who has never dated

Students responded that they are not likely to marry a partner who has never dated. 37.14% of males expressed not likely to marry a woman who has never dated whilst 62.00% of females said they were not likely to marry a never dated man. More women than man are most unlikely to marry a partner who has never dated. On the other hand, 31.43% males and 12.00% females are most likely to marry a person who has never dated. That means men, more than women, are most likely to marry a never dated person.
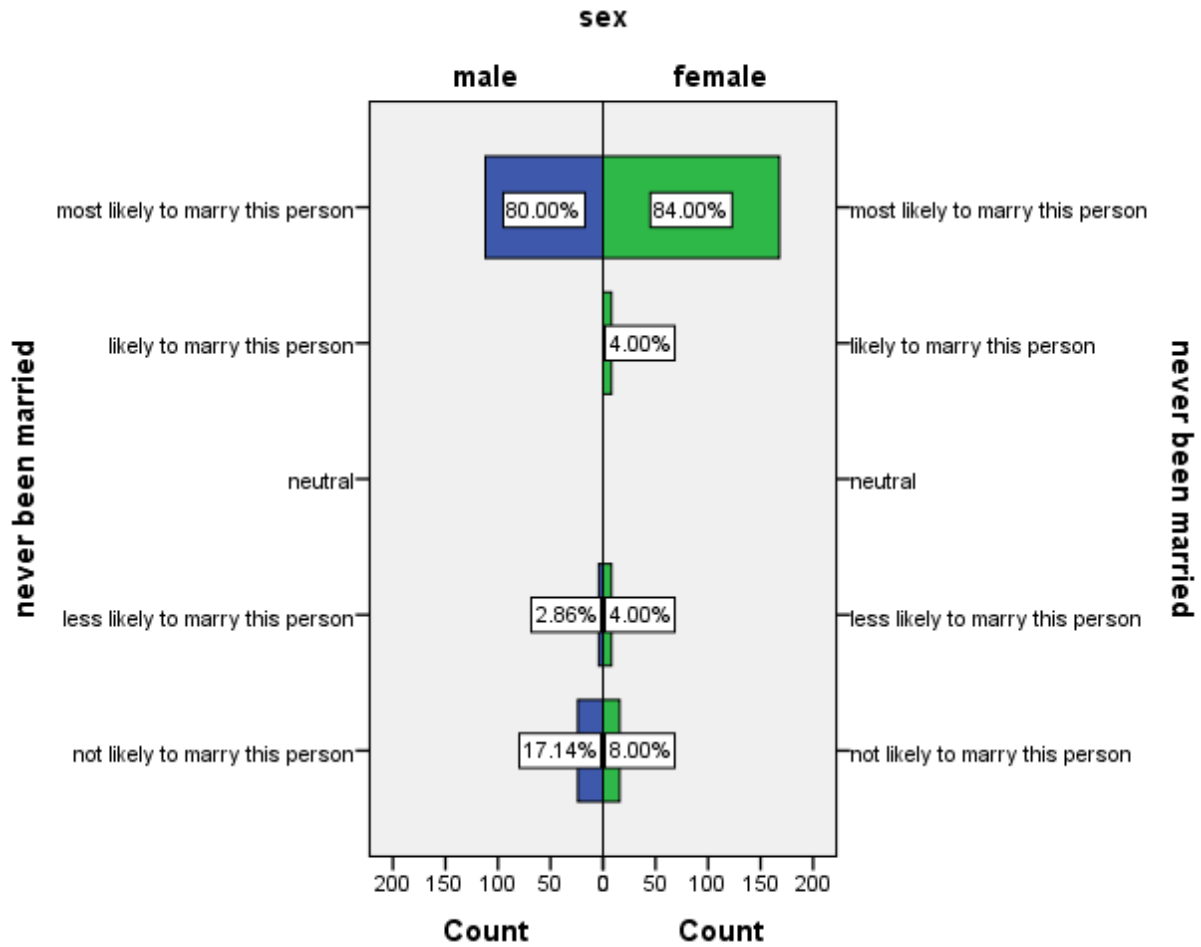
Figure 67: Preference for partners who has never been married

Being never been married is a high preference characteristic when it comes to the selection of a life partner. 80.00% of males expressed they were most likely to marry a woman who has never been married whilst equally 80.00% of females said they were most likely to marry a man who has never been married. Both males and females have an equal "most likely to marry" preference for a partner who has never been married. On the other hand, 17.14% males and 4.00% females are not likely to marry a person who has never been married before.

Figure 68: Preference for partners who has divorced more than once

Students responded that they are not likely to marry a partner who has divorced once. 74.29% of males expressed not likely to marry a woman who has divorced once before whilst 72.00% of females said they were not likely to marry a man divorced once before. More men than women are most unlikely to marry a partner who has divorced. Only 5.71% of males and 6.00% of females said they may find a partner who has been once divorced most likely to be marriageable again.
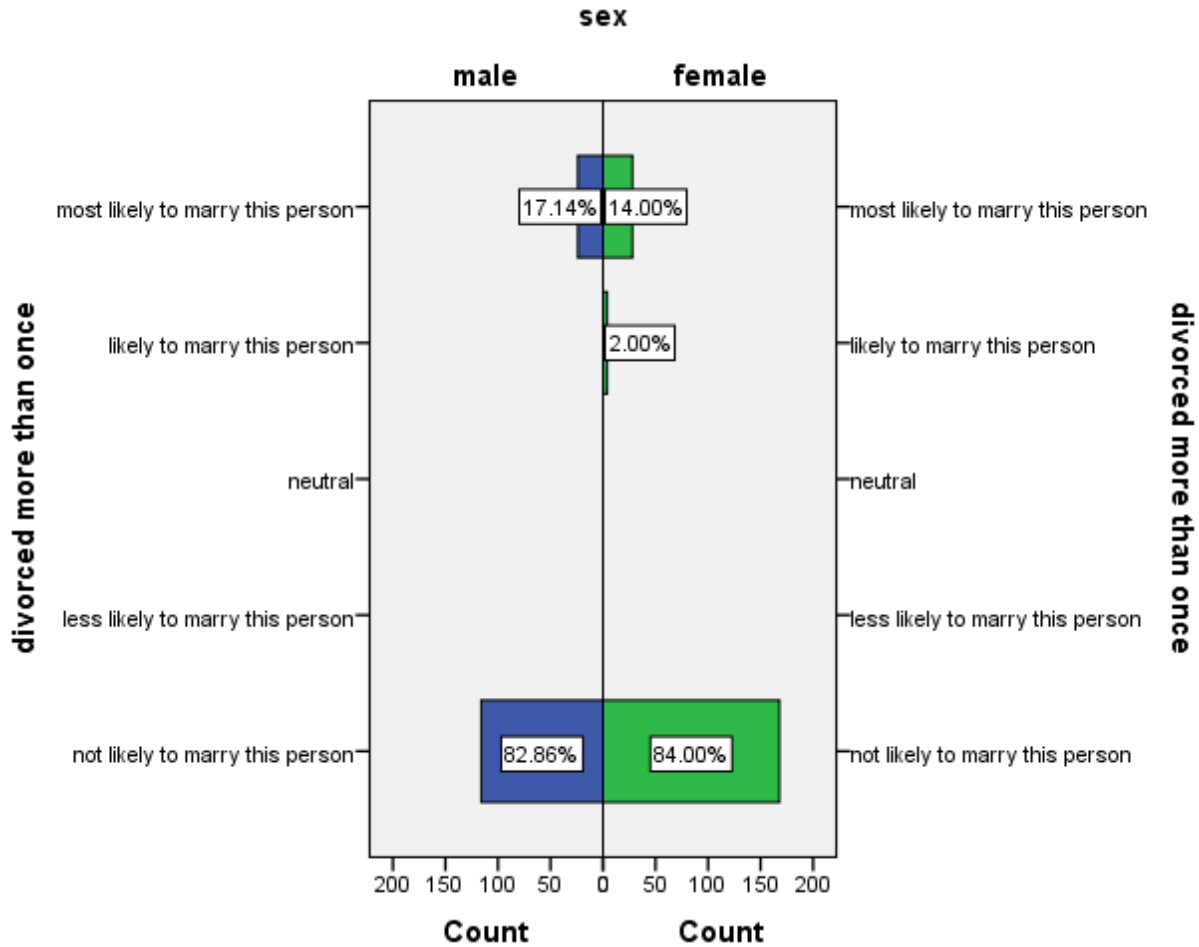
Figure 69: Preference for partners who divorced more than once

It can be said that among the least preferred characteristics of all is someone who has been divorced more than once. 82.86% of males expressed not likely to marry a woman who has divorced more than once before whilst 84.00% of females said they were not likely to marry a man divorced more than once. More women than men are most unlikely to marry a partner who has divorced more than once. However17.14% of males and 14.00% of females said they may find a partner who has been divorced more than once most likely to be marriageable again.
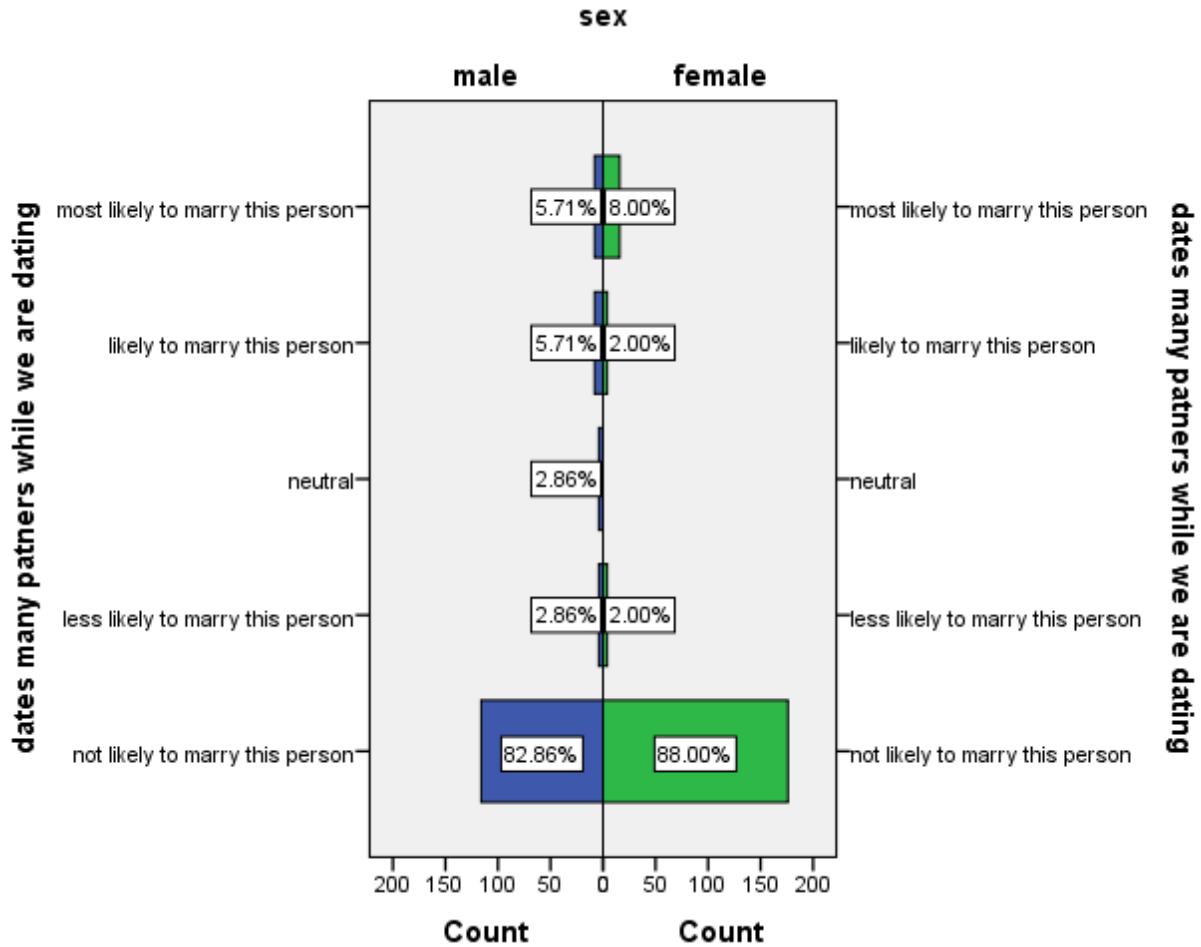
Figure 70: Preference for partners who date many partners

Among the least preferred characteristics of all is someone who dates more than one partner. 82.86% of males expressed not likely to marry a woman who dates more than one partner whilst 88.00% of females said they were not likely to marry a man who dates more than one partner. More women than men are most unlikely to marry a partner who dates more than one partner. Only 5.71% of males and 8.00% of females said they may find a partner who has been divorced more than once most likely to be marriageable again.
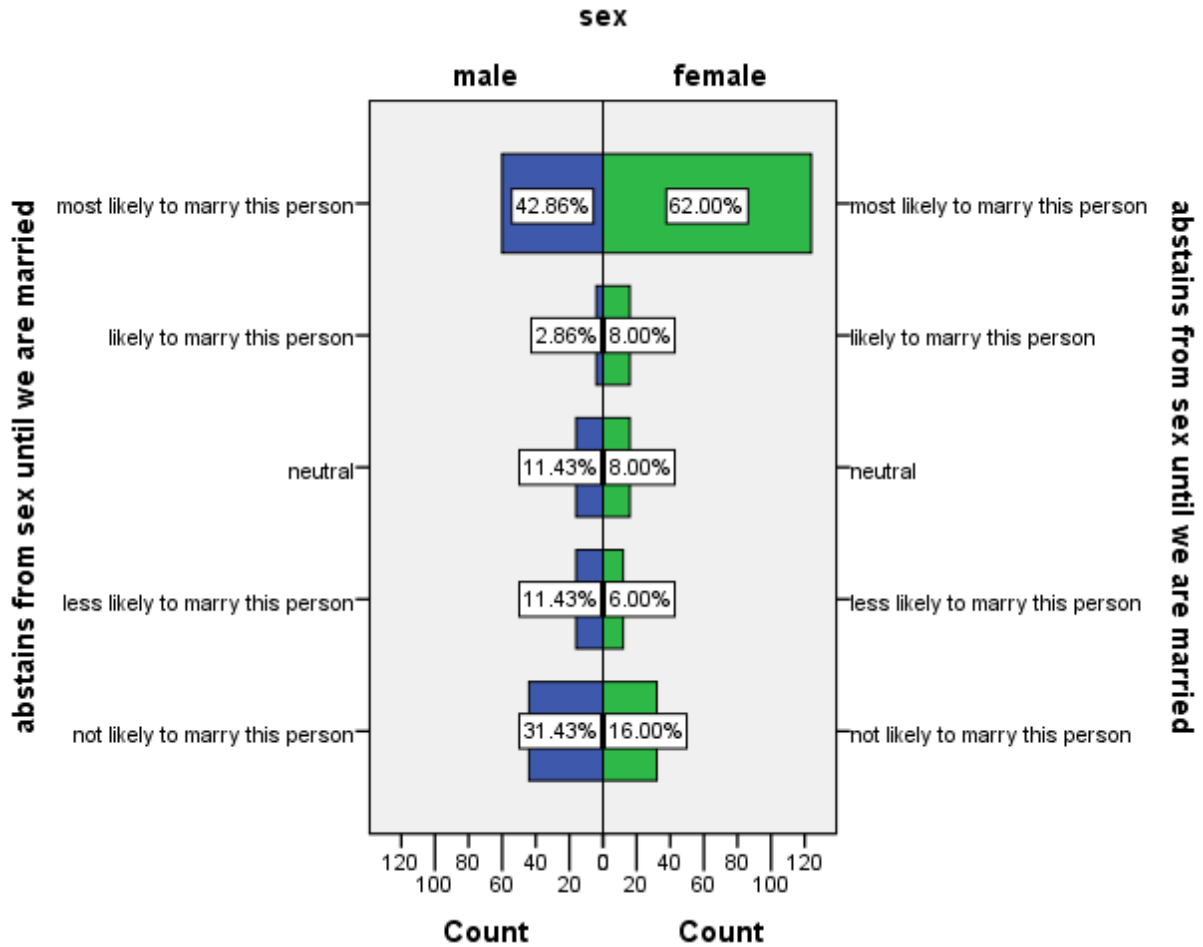
Figure 71: Preference for partners who abstains from sex

Abstinence from sex is a high preference characteristic when it comes to the selection of a life partner. 42.00% of males expressed they were most likely to marry a woman who abstains from sex till marriage whilst 62.00% of females said they were most likely to marry a man who abstains from sex till marriage. Women more than men, are most likely to marry a partner who abstains till marriage. On the other hand, 31.43% males and 16.00% females are not likely to marry a person who abstains till marriage.
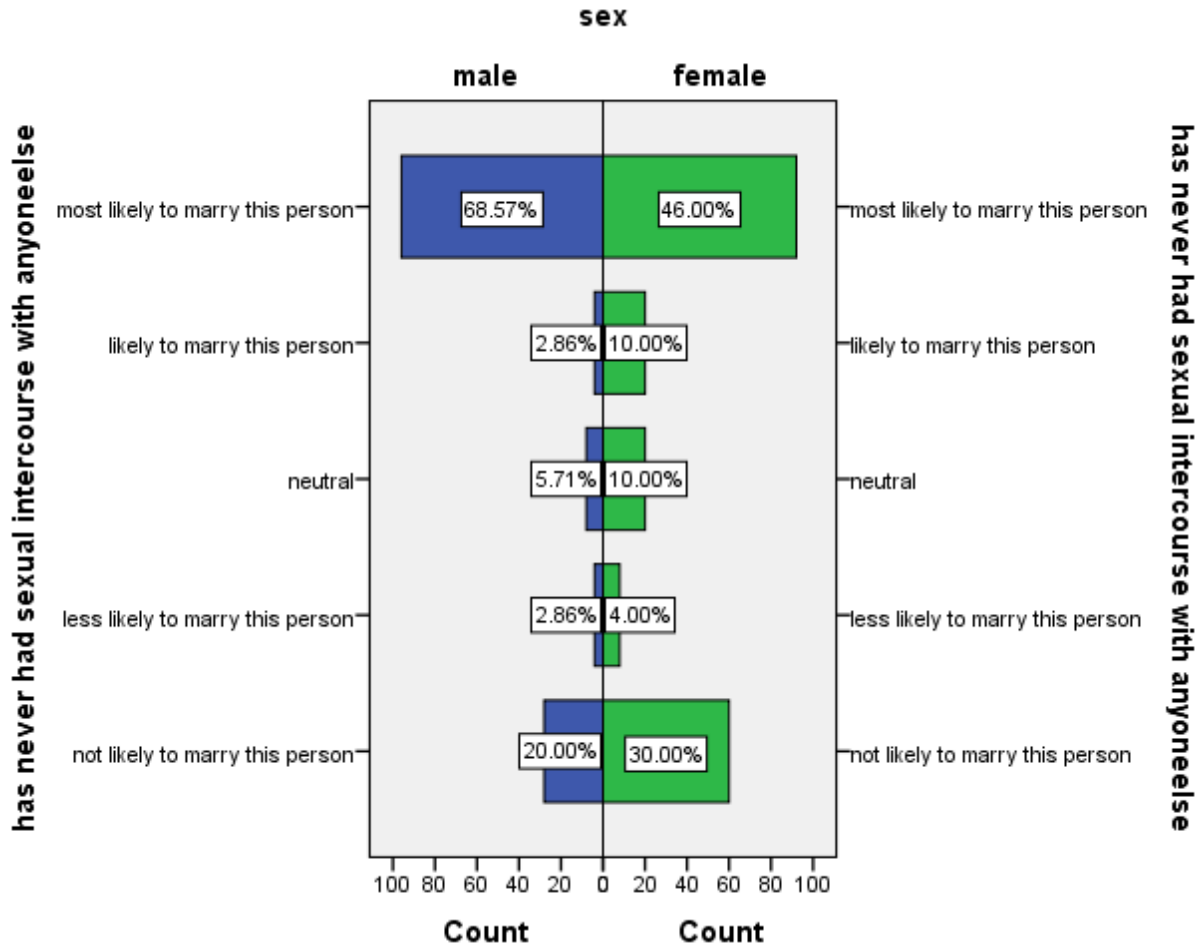
Figure 72: Preference for partners who is a virgin

This is actually the question of virginity asked in subtle ways. This research defines virginity as a state of never having had sexual intercourse with anyone. The study shows that virginity is a high preference characteristic when it comes to the selection of a life partner. 68.57% of males expressed they were most likely to marry a virgin whilst 46.00% of females said they were most likely to marry a man who is still a virgin. Men more than women, are most likely prefer to marry a virgin. On the other hand, 20.00% males and 30.00% females are not likely to marry a virgin.
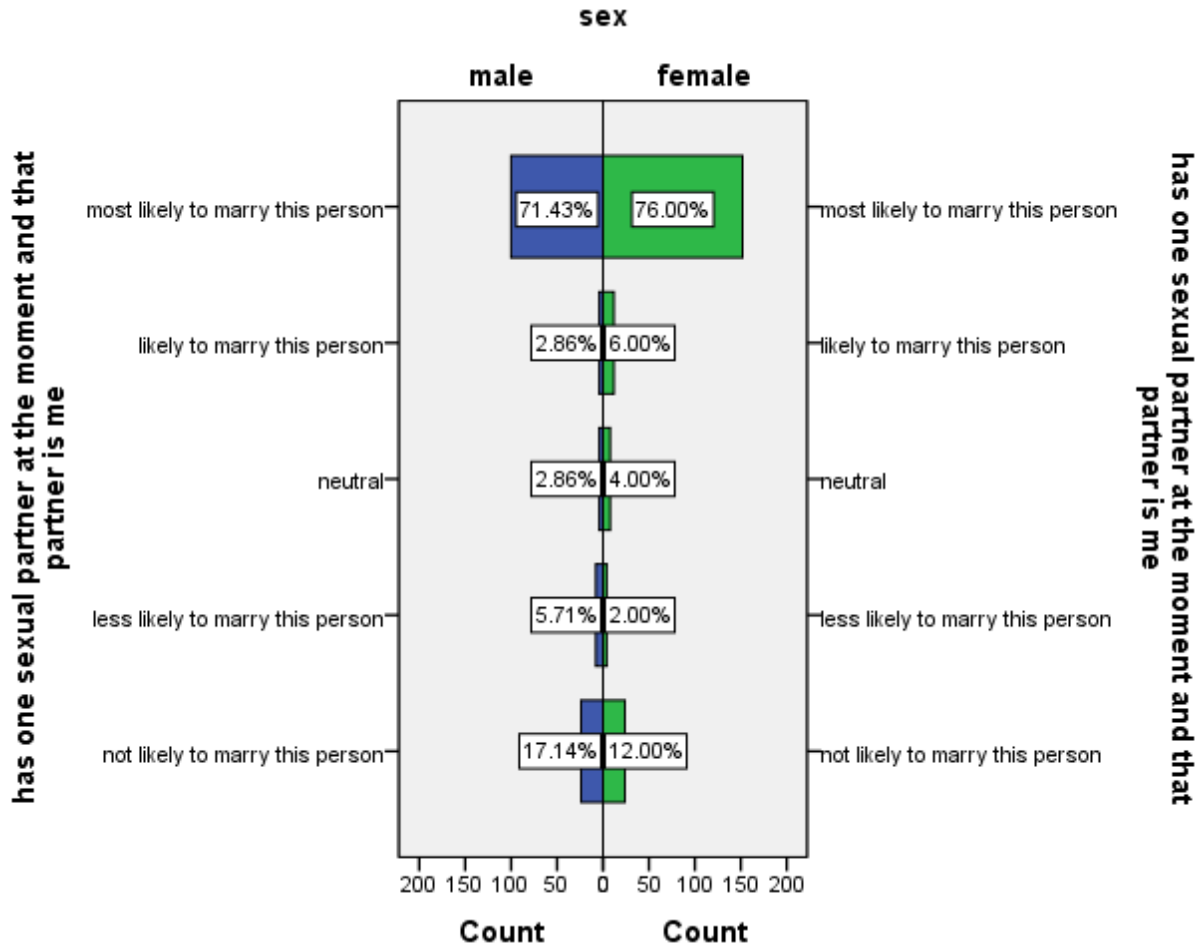
Figure 73: Preference for partners who sticks to one sexual partner

The study shows that sticking to one sexual partner is a high preference characteristic when it comes to the selection of a life partner. It is scoring higher than abstinence. 71.43% of males expressed they were most likely to marry a partner who sticks to only themselves as a sexual partner than and 76.00% of females said they were most likely to marry a the same kind of person. Women more than women, are most likely prefer to marry a person who is their faithful sexual partner. On the other hand, 17.14% males and12.00% females are not likely a person who has one sexual partner who would be their own selves.
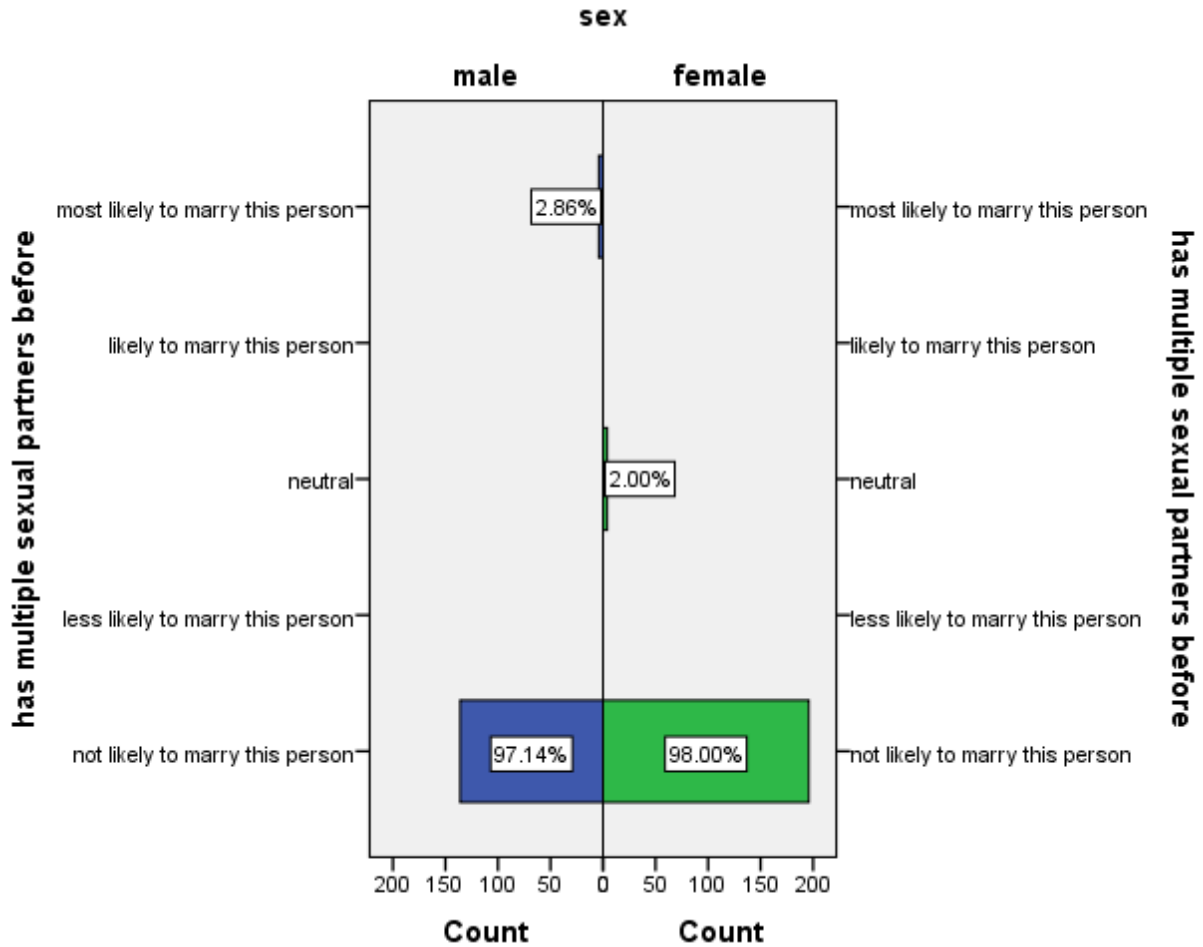
Figure 74: Preference for partners who has multiple sexual partners

The least preferred of all characteristics in the study was a partner who has multiple sexual partners. 97.14% of males and 98.00% of females express they are not likely to marry a partner who has multiple sexual partners before the relationship. Only 2.86% of men said they would marry such a partner. 00.00% of women were found saying they could prefer such a partner.

CHAPTER 5

DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.2 DISCUSSION OF RESEARCH QUESTIONS

5.2.1 Physical Characteristics Held Most Ideal In the Selection of a Life Partner According To University Students.

Through this research the physical aspect of the portrait of a suitable marriage partner has been painted for both male and female students:

Most student males very highly prefer a partner who is firstly younger, shorter, middle bodied and mild in complexion (that means being in between light and dark complexioned). Those that are the least preferred by most men are women who are above all fat, taller than the man himself, or older than the man accosting. Being dark is a disadvantage for a woman to most men. Also notable is that being same age puts a man off as much as being the same height makes a woman very lowly preferred to most men. In not being fat, women should remember being slim is also a put off for the majority of men in the selection of a life partner. Let women be younger, shorter, middle bodied and mild complexioned that is what men are saying.

A typical female student very highly prefers a man who is first and foremost older than her, taller than her, mild in complexion (that means being in between light and dark complexioned) and middle bodied. The following qualities make a man to be of low preference to most women on campus – the most detestable being shorter than the woman. Being younger than the woman is also a put off for most women followed by being fat. Another put off is simply being the same age as the woman might be, being dark in complexion, being light in complexion and or being the same height. The researcher being a slim man, was quiet terrified to find that slimness is also among one of the put-offs women can ever meet in a men. Yet for objectivity, such finding is

herein communicated anyway despite the researcher's discomfiture to face the truth. Let men be older, taller and middle bodied that is what women are saying.

The study agrees with the research says the preference for slim or middle bodied varies with cultural backgrounds and locations (Myers, 2010). The preference for a middle bodied women is in contrast to western research findings that pose the most attractive women in movies and advertisements as slim and thin, this being partly contrary to Arab ideals that being fat and large bodied is a characteristic of attractiveness(Feldman, 2011). This shows that body size is culture variant.

This implies that in commercial advertising, using a slim woman who is affirmed by western ideals could be an unpopular image branding technique. Furthermore, being carried away by western values could result in dieting practices which after they work, could only cause alienation of oneself from the African setting that surrounds them.

Women prefer older and taller men than themselves. According to the evolutionary theory this is because women seek security in relationships more than men (Myers, 2010). Older age implies chronological security, the trust in someone for the reason that he has lived through developmental life crises one is yet to live, and being taller is a sign of physical security related to being able to reach and protect one from those things and circumstances that are to a female individual unable to be reached (Feldman, 2011). For that reason, being same age implies disrespect and feelings of security will be held towards the man.

In the Stimulus Value Role theory physical attractiveness is a second level filter. It screens out all other considerations that can be made of a life partner. Hence it is crucial for one to maximise on physical characteristics if there be possibility.

5.2.2 Gender preferential differences for personality characteristics deemed suitable in the selection of a marriage partner among university students

Through this research the personality aspect of the portrait of a suitable marriage partner has been painted for both male and female students. Of note is that both males and females agree on similar personality characteristics, however, they differ in terms of the order of priority granted to those characteristics. The study presents the preferences in their order of priority for both males and females.

A typical male student has very high preference a woman who is first of all thoughtful i.e. considers his needs in his absence. A woman should also be self confident and ambitious toward life. Fourthly she should be sweetly romantic towards her man and by nature a generous person. Towards other people a most preferred ideal woman is one who is sociable. She should be also submissive and yet in the world a leader. An ideal woman for most male students is one who then possessiveness assertiveness, competitiveness towards life yet is affectionate toward the partner.

The following three characteristics are agents to being lowly preferred as woman. She should not be first of all dominant. Secondly she should not be a shy girl and lastly being emotional puts men off.

Most women have a very high preference; first of all, for a man that is thoughtful i.e. a person who thinks about her needs in her absence. Above that a man should be ambitious, confident and at the same time generous. A man should also be sweet (romantic) and sociable in the company of others. To maintain high preference a man should also be gently affectionate towards the woman, competitive towards life in general and being a leader could also be an added advantage in being selected for a life partner. A man should exhibit loyalty to the relationship and it is highly preferable that he too like the woman be submissive.

The following personality characteristics put women off. A man who is first and foremost shy is a put off, neither should a man be dominant personality in a relationship for most women it is ill-preferable. Another sin against being preferred is being an emotional (easily aroused to anger or

irritable) person. Lastly, and just as important, women are not that much into an athletic man when it comes to preferring him for the selection of a life partner.

The highest ranking preference was that of a partner who is thoughtful, that means a person who is able to consider and figure out a partner's needs in their absence. However, it should be noted that one of the barriers to effective communication in romantic relationships is a belief that a partner should know what one needs without being told (Myers, 2010). Thus being thoughtful in this definition is an overstated characteristic. It should be advised therefore that love relationships do not bring along mind reading or telepathic powers – but that if any wants a thought in his/her partner's voice, the best way to plant it there is through open communication.

Most personality characteristics seemed popular with both men and women. Here-in should the assortative versus convergence means to personality similarity be discussed. Studies show that even a space of twenty years may not be enough to create similarity of values of personality characteristics. Personality similarities should therefore be products of selection not socialisation of life partners. For that sake it is recommendable that recognition of personality characteristics in others be taught, lest one lands into a relationship with a discrepant personality.

In the stimulus value role theory, personality characteristics come into consideration in the engagement and value filters. In engagement it is more than about who one gets along with into how one gets along with that person. The value filter is linked to personality in that human behaviour tendencies are a result of attempts to protect or preserve what they value the most. Thus implying all major human conflicts occur on the bedrock of their values. Personality is behaviour to preserve values. Therefore discrepancy in personality is a result of discrepancy in values.

5.2.3 The Social Roles Expected of Each Sex Differ from the Studied Traditional Role Expectations.

Through this research the social role aspect of the portrait of a suitable marriage partner has been painted for both male and female students:

To men a most highly preferred woman should be equally a good cook, child loving and able to deal well with children. For most student males today, an ideal woman is one who works. The one role that can make a woman put off a man is staying at home. Women go to work that is the new paradigm.

To women a man should first all be able to deal well with children, secondly be child loving and thirdly a good cook. Lastly an ideal man to the typical woman is one who works. A most lowly preferred is a man who stays home.

Prior research has mainly observed that the influx of women into the labour market has influenced changes in social gender roles such that more women are spending time at work while men are compensating the feminine transition through engaging in less "masculine" jobs, as traditionally defined (Forste & Fox, September 2012). This current study however, goes on to show that the shift in gender roles has become ingrained in the expectations of both males and females such that it has become a portrait defining attraction and marriage partner selection in the contemporary academically enlightened generation.

Furthermore, even though the relegation of the women to the household labour has been attributed to a male means to consolidating dominance over the economic resources of the family (Fox, 2009), the current study reveals a male generation that is more inter-sexually collaborative than sexually discriminative. Men are preferring their spouses to work than stay at home and females are expecting their spouses to cook as well as love and deal well with children.

Linking back to the Stimulus Value Role theory, it is critical to note that change of roles should result in change of partner preference. If partner preference remains the same, then women who

have taken new social roles like bread winning shall fall into the arms of partners who will relegate them to traditional roles. If not successfully relegated, conflict to such regression would remain inevitable. Hence it is important that social role expectations be revised as critical to how one gets along. The revision of social role expectations should be headed towards unification of labour than division of labour of human relationships are to survive in the contemporary anti-sexist and globalising generation.

In chapter two, it was hinted how marriage partner selection lies beyond interpersonal attraction. The chapter hinted on loneliness as a result not of absence of relationships, but a result of relationships failing to meet the desired expectation that they should meet. Lack of awareness of the new gender roles that the contemporary generation is slowly beginning to find ideal, could result in marriages and love relationships that are filled with loneliness. This is because the other partner will be performing as the traditional parent who only stays at home or goes to work rather than perform as desired by the other partner. Such conduct that is alienated from the demands of the contemporary generation might result in relationships that suffer conflict, dissatisfaction, break-ups or divorce.

5.2.4 The ideal geographical boundary in which students' most suitable life partners are being preferred to be found

Through this research the geographical boundary as an aspect of the portrait of a suitable marriage partner has been painted for both male and female students:

Most males expressed very high preference for a woman who is first of all in the same country, and best if from the city one grew up at. Failure to that the woman may still be preferred if in the southern region (SADC region can still be appropriate). The next preferable woman can then be someone within the same city one learns or lastly, the same university one learns at. In other words most men would rather marry in another country in southern Africa than marry within their own university.

Geographical characteristics of very low preference for men include first of all a woman who is in Asia, Australasia or Europe in that order. Marrying from the same street follows in the order of very low preference. Marrying anyway in Africa beyond the southern region was also observed to be an unpopular ideal. Lastly, marrying within the same university is quiet detestable for many, though those in detest cannot exceed those who affirm the ideal.

Most females expressed a very high preference for marrying within the same country they grew up, and this should be within the same city they grew up. Being in the Southern region of the continent follows as an advantage as well. The next ideal place would be marrying within the same city one learns, and lastly within the same university. Generally, both men and women would rather marry from the same city they learn than marry from the same university.

Females expressed very low preference for partners that come as far as Asia, Australasia, Europe and America in that order of detest. Very lowly preferred is also marrying someone from the same street one grows up, marrying someone who comes beyond the southern region or someone within the same university. Though there are people who want to marry within the same university, there are many women who are against the idea too.

These results show that the traditional ideals of marrying close to home (Gombe, 1998) are still at the heart of most students. Though the advent of social networks like Facebook, Whatsapp, Twitter, Skype and many others should link the individual to the wider world and thereby increasing geographical boundaries – it is clear that the proximity suitable for marriage partner is delimitated to the boundaries of those prospective suitors can physical see.

This implies, as the Stimulus Value Role theory shows, that life partner selection is a process beyond interpersonal attraction. It is a hands-on process that demands accurate and direct observation of the prospective suitor in natural setting.

It is further implied by research findings that students might be multicultural in their mainstream education however, they are still far from importing such multicultural diversity into their homes. The low preference for marrying within the same university is also worthy to be noted, and with further research be explained.

5.2.5 How close an ideal marriage partner lies to a student's own level of education

Through this research the academic levels aspect of the portrait of a suitable marriage partner has been painted for both male and female students:

Most men at the university have a very high preference for a woman with a bachelors' university degree, a masters' degree and a doctorate in that order. Next in preference would be a woman with a diploma. A professorship also places a woman to a considerable advantage to university students.

Of very low preference to men the study found that these are women who are illiterate, ended in primary school or never been to school. Ending in secondary school also makes a woman of very low preference to most university students.

Women have a very high preference for man with a masters' degree then followed by bachelors' university degree. The next in very high preference are a doctorate and a professorship in that order.

Of very low preference to student women is a man who ended in primary school, never been to school and or illiterate. Having ended in secondary school is also another put off, followed by attaining merely a diploma.

It can be observed that most students want to marry close to their own level of education (Maliki A. , 2011). This is because to some extent education can be a stimulus for attractiveness with regard to the security and prestige that it gives in a relationship. For men however, it can be a means to loss of control as the woman finds independence. Yet on the other hand the preference for marrying along the same levels of education (and consequently career success levels) is that it creates companionship though in life. The reasons for being together become deeper than economic dependence into needs for belongingness, companionship and satisfying the urge to merge.

5.2.6 The affluence levels expected for suitable marriage partners by male and female students

Through this research the affluence levels aspect of the portrait of a suitable marriage partner has been painted for both male and female students:

Males very highly prefer a woman who earns less than a thousand dollars per month. She would be preferred if she runs a small business. The next in preference would be a woman who earns above four thousand dollars.

Of very low preference to men is a woman of political power, famous or a wealthy (ten million plus net worth) woman. Being very rich i.e. owning big businesses and investments could disadvantage a woman for marriage selection.

To females, of very high preference is a man who earns between a thousand to four thousand dollars. The next preferred would be someone earning beyond four thousand dollars. A man who runs small business is also highly preferred followed by a man who may earn below a thousand dollars. Running a small business is the ceiling for preference from most student women.

Of very low preference by women are man of political power, who are famous, wealthy (ten million plus) and lastly the very rich who are simple millionaires running big businesses and successful investments.

The decline in preference for the rich and famous implies the students community as non-materialistic as one may be tempted to think especially in view of their earlier discussed preferences. It is for companionship. The rich and famous might lose popularity for the very sake that work and celebrity stage robs relationships of quality time. Furthermore, in line with studies that women more than men prefer financial security in their partners, this research confirms those findings as true (Gould, 2008). However, there is a line at which financial security ends to matter for most women.

However, with such a paradigm, there is an implication that the marriage ideals in this contemporary generation are ill-accommodative of ideals and pursuits for financial success, fame and political power. Thus meaning upholding such noble pursuits for prosperity could result in relationship conflict and or break-up and divorce. In this regard, the society confirms itself unready for raising multimillionaires, political successes and social divas, for those who aspire so risk losing their life partner selection preferences.

5.2.7 The importance of the values of monogamy, abstinence and virginity to the current students' selection of life partners

Through this research the values aspect of the portrait of a suitable marriage partner has been painted for both male and female students:

Student males expressed a very high preference a woman who has never been married before, has only one sexual partner who is the man in question himself. The next in preference would be a virgin (defined as someone who has never had sexual intercourse with anyone) and a woman who is abstinent from sex till marriage. Abstinence and virginity are still high preference, however sticking to one partner is observed a higher preference than the former two.

Of very low preference, and the worst characteristic of the whole portrait combined is a patner with multiple sexual partners. The next in low preference is someone who dates many partners at once, divorced more than once, even divorced once before and or never dated.

Women expressed very high preference for men who have never been married, maintains one sexual partner or abstains from sex. Being a virgin is also among the high preference characteristics though preferred lastly.

Of very low preference is a partner who has multiple sexual partners, dates many partners, divorced more than once and divorced at least once. Women highly disregard a man who has never dated before.

The study shows that monogamy, abstinence and virginity are of importance to the student community. Yet it should be noted that having sex with one faithful partner is the most preferred above abstinence and virginity. This in contrast to the upcoming American and British ideals of abstinence, virginity and asexuality. These are nations which received sexual freedom in the 1960s, and today, after having suffered the fangs of liberal sexual activity in terms of a critical baby boom crisis and 50% divorce rates, are beginning to self moderate sexual activity with astounding automaticity.

It should be noted that if there are any who hold monogamy, abstinence and virginity as a filter in the Stimulus Value Role theory template – they should know there are many like them. These are traditional ideals that have crossed over into modernity. Furthermore, it is sad how many times African societies mistake westernisation for modernisation. While the nation is gradually adopting westernisation in the name of modernisation, America is learning from her mistakes and using the lessons to create real modernisation. When a nation learns to predict the outcomes of its values through the historical development of other nations that is the only point at which it

begins to create a modernity. By upholding abstinence and virginity, Zimbabwe will have create a modernity that can be exported cross continentally and cross culturally around the globe.

5.3 CONCLUSIONS

The observable shift in gender roles and the consistence of expected marriage partner characteristics across sex and age implies that marriage partner selection it is beyond what person one gets along with into how one gets along with that one person. The interchange of roles implies a transition of human relationships into collaborative functions that demand flexibility and breaking off from past traditions. The division of labour is dissolving into unification of labour.

The ideals of abstinence, virginity and monogamy are growing around the world and Zimbabwe should beware of losing it in exchange of an American past that America herself is struggling to eradicate.

Men and women are seeking to marry close to their place of upbringing and close to their own levels of education and affluence. People of vast economic muscle and political power are proving unpopular with most students.

Ideals of feminine and masculine attractiveness among the studied correspondents are different from the western ideals. Students preferred mild complexion to light complexion and middle bodied to slim individuals.

5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

In relation to findings and conclusions, it is recommended that:

The human society transcends from the division of labour to the unification of labour within the home and consequently school and work. The working woman is expecting a man who can help

her with household chores and the working man is expecting a woman who can help him place bread on the table. Man and Women must be taught to play all roles with somewhat similar alacrity and pride.

For Further Research 1: Study Individual Portraits

For further research is important to study the extent of portrait diversity from individual to individual. The study of individual portraits among each other has been an overlooked issue in the study of characteristics that influence selection of life partners. However, the diversity of portraits becomes crucial in that it insinuates the level of conflict and/or harmony the society is undergoing when it comes to the selection of a life partner.

Similar portraits for example, reflect societal accord whilst strongly diverse portraits reflect societal discord. In Societal Accord it is when individual's expectations of life partners are to a greater extent identical to the expectations upheld by others of the same society. In this society divergence in selection of life partners is easily noticeable and subject to correction – for better or for worse. In Societal Discord, individuals' expectations of life partners are to a greater extent fraternal to the expectations of any other members of the society. This is a society in which one cannot decipher what is expected of oneself, and cannot objectively measure the suitability of a life partner. It is a wilderness, a moratorium of selection.

Thus upcoming research may seek to study the diversity of portraits from individual to individual. As similarity encourages attraction, such research can identifies people of similar portraits and group them. This is with the intent to, according to even further research, explain the causes of each portrait and attempt to predict the consequences of upholding specific portraits.

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Questionnaire for A Survey Of Midlands State University Students' Portrait Of An Ideal Marriage Partner

* * * * * * *

What kind of Person to Marry???

Hie!

I'm Moffat Machingura studying psychology here on Midlands State University. Am running A survey of Midlands State University students' portrait of an ideal marriage partner as my final year research.

Please feel free to contribute your views in this research by simply responding to this questionnaire. For the purpose of preserving your Privacy I omitted requesting personal details.

Level of Education

☐1st Year

☐2nd Year

☐3rd Year

☐4thYear

☐5th Year

Background

☐Rural Background

☐Urban Background

Demographic Information

Program …………………………………………

Sex

☐Male

☐Female

Age ....

Relationship Status

☐Single – and Searching ☐Single – Not Searching

☐Dating Casually (Nothing serious, Just to while up time)

☐Dating Steadily (Getting serious with one person)

☐Engaged

☐Married

Physical Attractiveness

1 being "very low preference" and 5 being "very high preference" tick how strongly you prefer each given characteristic in the selection of your life partner.

	1	2	3	4	5
Light in Complexion					
Mild Complexion (In-between light and dark skin colour)					
Dark in Complexion					
Taller than Me					
Shorter than Me					
Same Height as Me					
Fat					
Slim					
Middle Bodied (In between fat and slim)					
Older than Me					
Younger than Me					
Same Age as Me					

Personality Characteristics

1 being "very low preference" and 5 being "very high preference" How strongly do you prefer each of these personality characteristics in the selection of your life partner?

	1	2	3	4	5
Affectionate (gentle, loving and kind)					
Emotional (easily angered or irritated)					
Loyal (dedicated, devoted to this love relationship)					
Shy					

	1	2	3	4	5
Submissive (obedient)					
	1	2	3	4	5
Sweet (romantic person)					
Ambitious (strongly driven by big dreams for the future)					
Assertive (gentle but always gets what he/she wants)					
Athletic (sporty)					
Competitive (strongly desiring to be more successful than others)					
Dominant (is in charge and declares the directions in a relationship)					
Leader (is a leader among people whether church, community, school etc)					
Generous (generally enjoys sharing with others)					
Supportive (encouraging)					
Thoughtful (thinks about your needs in your absence)					
Confident (believes in his or herself)					
Sociable (easily creates conversation with other people)					

Social Role

Would you marry someone who plays the following roles? Value 1 for "Less likely to marry this person" and 5 for "Most likely to marry this person."

	1	2	3	4	5
Good Cook					
Deals Well with Children					
Loves Children					
Stays at home					
Goes to work					

Geographical Location

Using 1 for "Less likely to marry this person" and 5 for "Most likely to marry this person."

Would you marry someone living in the following given **geographical area**?

	1	2	3	4	5

	1	2	3	4	5
Within same university					
Within same city where I learn					
In the same city where I grew up from					
	1	2	3	4	5
In the same street where I grew up					
In the same country					
Within the SADC region					
In another country in Africa no-matter how far					
In America					
In Europe					
In Asia					
In Australasia (Australia, New Zealand & surrounding countries).					

Academic Qualifications

Would you marry someone with the following academic qualifications? Value 1 for "Less likely to marry this person" and 5 for "Most likely to marry this person."

	1	2	3	4	5
Illiterate (Unable to read or write)					
Never been to school but can read or write					
Ended in Primary School					
Ended in Secondary School (O' Level)					
Ended in High School (A' Level)					
Diploma					
University Degree					
Master's Degree					
Doctorate Degree					
Professorship Degree					

Affluence

Would you marry someone with the following levels of wealth? Value 1 for "Less likely to marry this person" and 5 for "Most likely to marry this person."

	1	2	3	4	5
Earns Less than US$1000 per month					
Earns between US$1000 to US$4000 per month					
	1	2	3	4	5
Earns between more than US$4000 per month					
Runs a Small Business					
Very Rich, with a variety of business and investments					
Wealthy multimillionaire (US$ 10million and above)					
Famous					
A person of political influence					

Sexual Lifestyle

Would you marry someone with the given sexual lifestyle? Value 1 for "Less likely to marry this person" and 5 for "Most likely to marry this person."

	1	2	3	4	5
Never dated					
Never been married					
Divorced at least once before					
Divorced more than once					
Dates only one partner at a time					
Dates many partners while we are dating					
Abstains from sex till we are married					
Has never had sexual intercourse with anyone else					
Has one sexual partner at the moment, and that partner is me.					
Has multiple sexual partners					

Congratulations

you have successfully completed this interesting questionnaire!!!

You are free to access the results of this study as soon as they are published at Midlands State University Institutional repository.

Thank you!

APPENDIX B-LETTER FROM ORGANISATION

APPENDIX C: LETTER FROM MSU

APPENDIX D: AUDIT SHEET

MIDLANDS STATE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

A GUIDE FOR WEIGHTING A DISSERTATION

Name of Student…………………………………………..REG No………………………

	ITEM	Possible Score	Actual Score	Comment
A	RESEARCH TOPIC AND ABSTRACT clear and concise	5		
B	PRELIMINARY PAGES: Tittle page, approval form, release form, dedication, acknowledgements, appendices, table of contents.	5		
C	AUDIT SHEET PROGRESSION Clearly shown on the audit sheet	5		
D	CHAPTER 1 Background, statement of problem, significance of the study, research questions, objectives, hypothesis, assumptions, purpose of the study, delimitations, limitations, definition of terms	10		
E	CHAPTER 2 Addresses major issues and concepts of the study. Findings from previous work, relevancy of the literature to the study, identifies knowledge gap, subtopics	15		
F	CHAPTER 3 Appropriateness of design, target population, population sample, research tools, data collection, procedure, presentation and analysis	15		
G	CHAPTER 4 Findings presented in a logical manner, tabular data properly summarized and not repeated in the text	15		
H	CHAPTER 5 Discussion (10) Must be a presentation of generalizations shown by results: how results and interpretations agree with existing and published literature, relates theory to practical, implications,	20		

	conclusions (5) Ability to use findings to draw conclusions Recommendations (5)			
I	Overall presentation of dissertation	5		
J	References	5		
	TOTAL	100		

APPENDIX F: TURNITIN REPORT