

Patricia Murthy – EDE 9806
Semi-Structured Interview Protocol

Purpose:

The purpose of this study is to analyze perceptions of family members, at the Indian pre-wedding celebration, *Sangeet*, affects the future relationship between the families of a newly married couple.

Background:

Indian weddings are several days long, with many pre-wedding day parties that maintain cultural significance to people of Indian heritage. The party in which the families of the bride and groom meet for the first time is the *Sangeet*, and is generally the day before the wedding.

The word “sangeet” has its origins in Sanskrit meaning *singing together*. Sangeets were often for women only but over time has become a celebration and introduction with the men as well. This has developed into an introduction of extended family members on both sides of the couple. The highlight of the party is when various important (or talented or brave) family members have a kind of “sing-off” and/or “dance-off” in an attempt to out-perform the other family.

Other rituals include fetes of ingenuity on behalf of each family in which if the other is outwitted, it will be a prediction as to who will dominate the relationship. Examples are a search for a ring in a large vat of milk with rose pedals and a search for the groom’s shoes after they have been captured by the bride’s female family members if the groom’s male members are duped.

There are also moments in which teasing, joking and provoking between families is encouraged and enjoyed. There is also a good deal of gossiping and meddling done by both the men and women.

*Regional differences exist between celebrations.

Research Question	Interview Questions
<p>1. What is the cultural significance of the <i>Sangeet</i>?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are you married? • Did you have a <i>Sangeet</i>? In what ways was it traditional? What celebration elements are considered crucial to a <i>Sangeet</i>? • What is the platform with the fabrics in the middle of the gathering used for? Is that used in all <i>Sangeets</i> or just this one? • What are some of the rituals connected with a <i>Sangeet</i>? Are there differences according to families, subgroups or regions of India? What have you seen? •
<p>2. How does the <i>Sangeet</i> impact the future relationship between the families of the wedding couple?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this the first time the families meet? • Do family members prepare for the “show” of skills? • Do family members assign a value on the performance? • Have you ever based your assessment of a family member based on a <i>Sangeet</i> event?
<p>3. Why is banter/teasing/cajoling used as a means for communicating between families at the <i>Sangeet</i>?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did you feel about the bantering between families? • Do feelings ever get hurt? • Did you ever think back on the banter from a <i>Sangeet</i> and become resentful? • How is teasing internalized?