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Subject: Patrilocal Marriage

Posted by [vhudson](#) on Sun, 14 Apr 2013 06:09:50 GMT

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Hi, I am hoping to ask your users some questions about the prevalence of patrilocal marriage in the societies they are studying. Is it possible to request this new topic?

Sincerely, Valerie Hudson  
Texas A&M University

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Subject: Re: Patrilocal Marriage

Posted by [Liz-DHS](#) on Tue, 23 Apr 2013 13:30:13 GMT

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Here is a response from one of our experts, Fred Arnold, Senior Fellow:

Although there are no specific questions on patrilocal marriage in standard DHS surveys, it is possible to find some related information in the household files in DHS datasets. All DHS surveys include a household listing of all usual residents and all visitors who stayed in the household the night before the household interview. One of the questions for each person in the household listing is the relationship to the head of the household. In a household, if there is both a son and a daughter-in-law who are both usual residents of the household head, you can infer that it is a patrilocal marriage. On the other hand, if there is both a daughter and a son-in-law who are both usual residents, you can infer that it is a matrilocal marriage. This is not entirely foolproof since the daughter-in-law may not necessarily be married to the son. However, if the daughter-in-law was interviewed, you can find her husband's household listing line number in the marriage section of the woman's questionnaire. Additional information is available if the household head is married and his or her parent or parent-in-law is a usual resident of the household. If a female head of household is living in a household that also lists a parent-in-law as a usual resident and her husband as a usual resident, then she is probably in a patrilocal marriage. Similarly, if a male head of household is living in a household that also lists a parent-in-law as a usual resident and his wife as a usual resident, then he is probably in a matrilocal marriage. If a married couple is living together and none of their parents is a usual resident, then their current living situation is neither patrilocal nor matrilocal. Unfortunately, you will not be able to determine the type of marriage if a married couple are both listed as "other relatives" or "not related." In a few other complex household situations, it may not be possible to tell for sure whether all married couples are in patrilocal or matrilocal marriages. However, in a substantial majority of cases, it will be possible to identify the type of marriage from the household listing and the information on spouse's household line number in the marriage section of the individual questionnaires. Since this information is not available in the DHS country reports, special tabulations will have to be run to obtain the results.

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