

B.C. | An Indo-Canadian psychology graduate set out to study whether arranged marriages brought happiness. The results surprised him



Surjit Singh and Joginder Kaur Kalsi (above and below) have been married five decades in a union orchestrated by his neighbour at the time in a Punjabi village. Their marriage has been a success, they say, and they believe an arranged marriage is best.

WEEKEND
EXTRA

HAPPY WITH THE ARRANGEMENT



BY KIM BOLAN
VANCOUVER SUN

Fifty years ago in a tiny Punjabi village, Surjit Singh and Joginder Kaur Kalsi met on their wedding day after a neighbour decided they would be a good match for each other.

Five decades of wedded bliss have proven to the loving Surrey couple that arranged marriage is the best route for young people seeking a partner in life.

Surjit was just 18 at the time; Joginder a couple of years younger.

What did two teens from different villages know about the necessary qualities in a good mate? Surjit asked.

"The old man, my neighbour, he had experience in these things," he said. "If you have a problem with your car, you go to somebody with experience to find the problem."

The same should be true for the vital decision of marriage, said Surjit, who is now 68.

"It is a very good tradition. I am very happy with my wife. She supports me in every way."

But young Indo-Canadians are



PETER BATTISONI/VANCOUVER SUN

not as accepting of arranged marriages as their parents and don't believe that love will necessarily grow after the wedding ceremony, according to a new study.

Young people value an "exciting personality" over the more traditional qualities their parents are seeking for them in a mate such as being from a "good family," says the study by Jagmeet Singh Dandi-

wal, who recently graduated from Kwantlen University College.

Women in both generations were more skeptical of the success of arranged marriages than the men who were part of the study, Dandiwal found.

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