

Review Article

## The Choice of Spouses for the Test of Morphological Changes: Challenges for Women's Buttocks in the Construction of Spouse Relationships in Abidjan (Cote D'ivoire)

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**Abstract:** This study analyzes the social stakes of women's bounced buttocks in the construction of conjugal relationships. The study is essentially qualitative, using appropriate investigation tools in this case, documentary analysis and semi-structured interviews administered to a category of actors in Abidjan. On the basis of this methodological approach, we came up with the following results: The singularity of the construction of differentiated relationships to the body takes into account the socio-cultural positions that are particularly found on the silhouettes of the skin and face. Thus in Abidjan, the body, which produces identity through its appearance through buttock enlargement, occupies an important place in the process of capturing the attention of the spouse and integration into the future home. On this basis, the actors construct an identity through their relationship with the body from the visible dimension of beauty that is the rounded buttocks, enabling them to perceive, move and communicate.

**Keywords:** Choice, Changes, Stakes, Construction, Marital relations, Côte d'Ivoire.

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### INTRODUCTION

Marriage, despite its banality or frequency, appears not only as a long thought-out act, but often difficult. Society has set very strong barriers between the sexes, and it must be lifted in order for unions to be possible. The ball, in all its forms, appears in particular as a specific institution intended to promote marriages, under the vigilance and almost with the complicity of adults. It fulfills a double function: to allow young people of both sexes, belonging to the same backgrounds, to meet and get to know each other, to allow others who already know each other from afar, to approach, even to please each other and to say it (A. Girard, 1964, PP.730-731).

Indeed, this dimension of reality implies symbolic values such as the morphology of the woman in the objectified choice of this one. It is about the attraction of the man in the context of this study by the bouncing of the buttocks of the woman. This part of the woman's body appears as a pole of attraction and maintenance of the woman in the construction of the future couple.

It seems possible to argue that marriage remains, in French society today, a social phenomenon, although individual psychological concerns have become increasingly important. It always obeys, in principle, collective, fixed and lasting norms, which help to maintain the previous structures and traditions, in a society which could not change too quickly without serious dangers. Choosing a profession, choosing a residence and choosing a spouse are the three aspects which express, in a personal story, the passage from childhood and adolescence to adulthood (A. Girard, 1964, P.732).

Consequently, the normative system surrounding the constitution of the couple, most often in the institutional framework of marriage, must therefore also be located in time and social space if we want to establish the relationship with different phenomena, in particular behaviors breeders. From this point of view, considering nuptiality only in terms of its relation to the evolution of fertility risks leading to an underestimation of the extent of changes in marital behavior in the wider field of sexual behavior and breeders (N. Mondain, 2004, P.15).

The choice of spouse tends to be made in a certain geographical proximity. An individual man or woman, marries a relative, a neighbor or a spouse from the same region. This marital choice relates more readily to a partner of the same socio-economic level, creating a certain social immobility. This is a certain geographic endogamy, which could lead to an increase in inbreeding. Such a tendency to endogamy has the consequence of constituting groups in the population where there is a greater chance of uniting gametes carrying the same genetic information than in the case of the entire population and in this way., inbreeding increases rapidly as a consequence (Jakobi, L., and Jacquard, A., 1971 cited by L. Ben M'Rad1 and N. Chalbi, 2006, P.64).

In Côte d'Ivoire, a sociological study of the challenges and social norms of female buttocks enlargement conducted by Jean-Louis Lognon and Armelle Tania Andoh (2019) showed that: "Today it is a truism to assert that the body is a social construct. To be convinced of this, it suffices to observe the variety and extent of ancient and contemporary means and practices in order to have a body of one's own and / or a body that conforms to dominant standards. This constructed dimension of the body means above all that the ways of conceiving, feeling and representing the body vary according to historical and cultural contexts. One of the manifestations of this reality is the practice of buttock enlargement. Having big buttocks is now a fashion phenomenon in African capitals and particularly in Abidjan in Côte d'Ivoire. Indeed, women from all walks of life race for the development of the posterior. This tendency to want to have curves and prominent buttocks curves, the birth of which is located in the early 2000s, goes hand in hand with the development of a lexicon, clothing, musical rhythms, songs, dances and dances advertising posters highlighting the projection buttocks " .

Let us retain from this study that the desire of women to make their posterior fatter is determined by social and cultural factors. However, these approaches centered on socio-cultural determinants widen the intervention and the responsibility of the actors in the development of their posterior on the one hand and on the other hand, the stakes of the choices of the partners are tested by morphological changes. With regard to literature, socio-cultural constraints and the minimization of "Goumin [1]" actually influence the choices of men to women with plump buttocks. Consequently, at present, with the demographic evolution in Côte d'Ivoire according to the structures by sex and by age, the distribution of the population living in Côte d'Ivoire as of May 15, 2014 by sex indicates a male population of 11,708,244 individuals (51.7%) and a female population of 10,963,087 individuals (48.3%). We thus note a sex ratio (RM) of 107 men for 100 women. This national situation varies

from one region to another. Thus, the RMs vary between 98 in N'zi in the center and 126 in Cavally in the west of Côte d'Ivoire. Relative to the age structure, the population of Côte d'Ivoire according to the results of the RGPH 2014 is still very young. Children (0-14 years old) numbering 9,481,351 individuals represent 41.8% of the total population and Young people (15-34 years old) numbering 8,048,341 individuals constitute 35.5% of the population. Total Thus, 77.3% of the total population, that is to say a little more 3 people out of 4 people are under 35 years old. The extreme youth of the population results in a pyramid with very broad-based, which, however, has changed very little between 1998 and 2014 (see Chart population pyramids in 1988 and 2014) .We can be noted a bulge of the middle part of the 2014 pyramid, resulting from an increase in people of working ages in the population (RGPH, idem). These statistics show that the demographic curve of men is higher than that of the category of women.

To this end, men of the race to choose their joint appears also to be a matter founded mental and crutiale. Thus, the choice of the spouse constitutes in many respects an issue for men on the one hand and on the other hand for women with plump buttocks which constitute a major asset for them to draw the man's attention to their morphology. The made for women to have buttocks are symbolic goods purposely the hen women are an element of attraction or amusement of men and constitute a pole building a relationship that could lead to marriage. Let's agree in this vein that some women engage in therapeutic practices to develop their posterior.

Faced with this situation of having a woman in the buttocks, many among the e s men in Abidjan prefer to marry women favoring certain values in the selection of the joint other than the buttocks. These women are mostly young girls, with a slim figure. Some men go so far as to testify to the risk involved [2] to have a woman with plump buttocks , which sometimes discourages some men from building a relationship with women with plump buttocks . However, we see every day in social spaces of consumption and food, men who do not stop advocating women with plump buttocks going without restraining themselves to ask for sexual services from women with plump buttocks without however ignoring that these men are very often accompanied by women whom they ignore in the face of women with plump buttocks. The desire of these men being to obtain to appropriate plump buttocks at any cost.

In view of the risks of " Goumin " that could engender the quest for whatever value of men with plump buttocks and the fragile situation of men faced with the desires and curiosity to have sex with women with plump buttocks of on the one hand and on the other hand from the choices of women with slender

shapes that they have already married or as a couple, we see a manifest desire on the part of men to sexually discover women with plump buttocks in Abidjan. Thus, the research question that guides this study is: Why do men show so much a desire to have sex with women with plump buttocks compared to women with thin figures? What is the impact of plump buttocks on the choice of a man for his wife? Do socio-cultural constraints influence the choice of men to women with plump buttocks? This study analyzes the social issues of plump buttocks in the construction of marital relationships. These are: ( I ) Identify the social factors influencing the choice of men from women with plump buttocks ; ( II ) To determine the impact of the buttocks rounded by the choice of man s ; ( III ) Determine the ideologies that legitimize the choice of plump buttocks in the construction of marital relations. .

### 1. Theoretical and methodological approach

Based on the theory of social constructivism, a stream of contemporary sociology popularized by Peter L. Berger and Thomas Luckmann in their book *The Social Construction of Reality* (1966) considers social reality and social phenomena as being “constructed”, that is, created, institutionalized and, subsequently, transformed into traditions. Thus “social reality” always appears to be doubly constructed: objectively, through experiences, and subjectively from categories, types, propositions, in short, the languages which put them into words. Investigations were carried out with the actors in the city of Abidjan made up of the actors involved in the process of building attraction and capturing the spouse through the visible dimension of the beauty that are the plump buttocks allowing the actors to perceive, to move and communicate.

Methodologically, this study is based on a qualitative approach. She fled conducted January 11, 2021 February 13, 2021 included in the ville Abidjan, specifically in the town’s Yopougon and Marcory. Our choice was pre cisely on these two commons because these towns have substantially the same social space and power consumption with an influence of women in visible beauties through the twists and turns of the buttocks on the one hand and on the other hand, these social spaces are the meeting places for men during the weekends to share a drink with friends. Moments during which the object of the talks of the men relates to the admiration and the choice of the spouses. This exchange ratio between actors creates both the positions dilemma in choosing joint-proof beauties are visible skin silhouettes and visage who tends trust influence the relationship between the actors v living within the same community and favors a categorization between the actors through the symbolic beauty that is the plump buttocks of the women. It is therefore essential to understand the impact of the plump buttocks in the choice of the spouse. To do this, accidental sampling and sampling by snowball effect have made it possible

to test our interviews in order to collect the information up to saturation, according to the criteria of (B. Glaser & A. Strauss, 1967). This sampling method resulted in the field of study by the application of certain selection rules such as the status and role of the actors in the practice of sexuality. To this end, we interviewed: men (30) and women (30). In total, we interviewed sixty (60) people. With these actors, semi-structured interviews were carried out to understand the process of the construction of the beauty visible through the plump buttocks and the criteria of selection of the spouse. But above all, to highlight the ideological productions that guide the actors' sexual practices.

## 2. RESULTS

The results of this study are broken down into three main areas:

First, the social factors influencing the choice of men of women with plump buttocks; Second, the impact of the buttocks plumped up by the choice of men; Third, the ideologies legitimizing the choice of plump buttocks in the construction of marital relations.

### 2.1. Social factors influencing men's choice of women with plump buttocks

#### 2.1.1. Environmental dimension

The mate choice model can serve as an indicator of social change. It is based on the idea that society is made up of a number of different social groups and that people look for their spouse within their own social group. The weakening or strengthening of the boundaries between social groups influences the choice of mate and gives an indication of social change (Dr. Wets, J., Dr. CLycq, N., & Prof. Dr. Timmerman, C., 2009, P.29). This comment illustrates:

I am a man of cultural affiliation from the Western Region of Côte d'Ivoire. We have beauty criteria in the choice of women. Among these criteria of beauty, there is the posterior of the woman. The well rounded posterior of the woman captures the attention of the man. In my opinion, this shows a differentiation between the morphology of women and that of men. But above all, I get enormous sexual pleasure when I make love with a woman with plump buttocks. It should also be noted that: " The criteria for choosing women relate to the culture of belonging on the one hand and on the other hand, the ideal type of woman sought by men " (TPN, Yopougon / Abidjan, January 11, 2021 at 10 a.m. GMT)

#### It is in this vein that explains:

There is a Miss “Awoulaba” contest in Ivory Coast. It's good, a competition that values the posterior of the woman. Is admitted to this competition, the woman who has a very well rounded posterior. That said, the environment in which we operate bequeaths us values to consume. Such is today my case for the admiration of women with plump buttocks. I am very

happy to have a woman with plump buttocks by my side, however I am doing a little blooming outing. Added to this is the sexual pleasure it gives me during sexual exercise or intercourse. In addition, you never go unnoticed when a woman with plump buttocks is by your side during a walk. For me, it is a sign of human appreciation (GY, Marcory / Abidjan, January 11, 2021 at 3 p.m. GMT)

It emerges from these remarks that the actors assert their masculine identities through the choice of women with plump buttocks. There is therefore a stake in having a wife with plump buttocks. Indeed, the environment in which the actors evolve influences them in the choice of women with plump buttocks.

As a result, a study conducted by Dr. Wets, J., Dr. CLycq, N., & Prof. Dr. Timmerman, C. (2009), has shown that: "The choice of a certain partner does not depend solely on personal preference. The possibility of meeting someone in fl uences the likelihood of a marriage occurring. The possibility of concluding a marriage within one's own social group therefore depends on the representativeness of each sex within the group and on the relative size of the group compared to other groups"( P.30). Continuing in the same logic, the authors ( Dr. Wets, J., Dr. CLycq, N., & Prof. Dr. Timmerman, C. (2009) ) have also shown that : " A system of partner choice varies according to the freedom the individual has. to choose one's partner and based on the involvement of others in that choice. In the West, free choice of partner based on love is the norm, while in most of the world it is not. the case "( P.30).

#### **This statement rightly supports:**

I think the time for families to impose a choice of wife on their children is over. We are in a modern society where individual freedoms must be taken into account in the choice of values, especially those which engage the development of the individual. We are all unanimous that the family lays the foundations for the socialization of the child, but at some point it is up to the child to make a choice of what is good for him. For my part, I really like women with plump buttocks. My parents can no influence my choice of wife (K. S, Marcory / Abidjan on 12 January 2021 to 9 pm GMT).

This statement confirms the idea according to which the influence of the environment in the choice of the spouse or the sexual partner results from the low level of knowledge of the freedom of the actors. The elementary rules which contribute to the preservation of the freedom of the actors in the choice of their spouses are often influenced by the environment in which the actors emerge. To this end, the environment therefore constitutes an operational diagnostic framework for the choice of the partners' spouse through the existential

rules to which the actors should comply in the choice of the spouse or sexual partner.

#### **2.1.2. Structural or relational dimension**

Family structures are often characterized using the dichotomy between "nuclear family" and "extended family". The dichotomy between collectivist or individualist groups occupies a central place. Collectivist groups are characterized by the fact that they place a higher value on the collectivity than on the individual. The social networks to which they belong are also based more on family relationships than on individuals chosen individually. As a result, the marriage will take place within the social network (Hooghiemstra, E. (2001) cited by Dr. Wets, J., Dr. CLycq, N., & Prof. Dr. Timmerman, C. , 2009 , P .30). This comment illustrates:

For me, the egocentric look of the man on the choice of his wife is not objective. We all belong to families and these by experience of endogamic or exogamic marriages could help their son on an enlightened or optimal choice of the future wife. It should not be based only on the physical aspects of the woman to form a couple. It is true that I really like women with developed buttocks but, in my case, I could say, it was lucky for me, that my parents accepted my girlfriend with developed buttocks and today, us-us. are married. I say that it was lucky for me, because it was not easy for my parents to accept my proposal for a future wife (DM, Yopougou / Abidjan, January 18, 2021 at 11 am GMT ).

On analysis, it must be mentioned that the relationship of the individual with his entourage or his family counts in the choice of the spouse. In effect, the family framework represents the environment by ease of validation of the choice of the future bride. It is therefore a therapeutic clinical framework to provide assistance to any disease of a social nature such as "Goumin [3]" and other factors that could weaken the couple's relationship. That said, the man's taste for the woman with the rebounded buttocks is not enough to make an objective choice of the spouse. The family makes it possible to reassure the man on the quality of his choice of the spouse.

#### **2.1.3. Symbolic dimension influencing the choice of actors**

It is the set of codification and language systems. This dimension is reflected in the set of signs that allow us to grasp the reality studied. As part of this study, it is manifested through the observation of traditional texts (the habits and customs) and interests (Pour bridewealth or dowry to the parents of the future e bride). You can't just rely on a woman's physical appearance to make a choice. It is true that the physical aspect of the woman constitutes for certain actors a pole of attraction of the man to operate a choice of the spouse or the sexual partner, but, beyond this

primary aspect of motivation of man in the choice of his spouse or his sexual partner, we should know that we live in a society where there are standards of life. And, these norms participate in the making of sexual relations. This is the dowry to be paid to the parents of the future bride. It is therefore a symbolic action that secures any sexual relationship. Here, the choice of the spouse depends on the culture to which the individual belongs. In such a context, the physical values such as the visible beauty which are the plump buttocks of the woman, are based in the collective conscience that is to say, the family which has its opinion to give if any sexual relation. This argument illustrates:

I sincerely like women with plump buttocks. But, it is not obvious that I can marry a woman with plump buttocks. Just loving the woman with the plump buttocks is not enough to have a relationship that can lead to marriage. Because the parents of the future wife could refuse that you pay the dowry for their daughter for several reasons that I am careful not to mention. So, in a context, man would have to build his love on an existent which does not exist. That is to say, this love of the man to this woman with the plump buttocks would be a mere illusion. Because, it is the dowry which confirms and secures the objective choice of the spouse's man (TK, Marcory / Abidjan, January 20, 2021 at 4 p.m. GMT).

## **2.2. Impact of plump buttocks on the choice of man for his wife**

### **2.2.1. Quest for a Valuable Male Identity**

The information gathered reveals that in Abidjan, the phenomenon of buttocks enlargement is a major issue for women to capture the attention of men. This behavior is justified by the quest for a social identity crystallizing around the symbolic dimension of the body which is to have plump buttocks. From then on, around this phenomenon of buttock enlargement revolves an ideology of the man which is expressed in terms of a quest for a rewarding masculine identity by the choice of the woman with plump buttocks. This comment illustrates:

I do not go unnoticed when my girlfriend with big buttocks is in my company. As a result, I feel a sense of pride but above all, I am very often told when I am with my girlfriend: "You taste good. We could send you to buy a valuable loincloth without our suspecting the quality". This to say, that the man is valued through the choice of his wife in general but above all, when a man of small size and shape like me, chooses a woman with a developed posterior, the latter is very valued by his entourage (D. O, Marcory / Abidjan on 21 January 2021 to 10 pm GMT).

These ideologies correspond to men's aspirations to express their dignity and assert their family stability.

## **2.3. Ideologies legitimizing the choice of women with plump buttocks**

### **2.3.1. Ideologies relating to personal preferences as an objective choice of the spouse**

When two people meet for the first time, the outward appearance and the information received indirectly play an important role. One of the components of a woman's "beauty" is her age. She is almost always younger than the man. The scale of the age difference varies from region to region but verified everywhere. It is rare that this relationship is reversed, that the woman is older than the man (Hooghiemstra, E. (2001) cited by Dr. Wets, J., Dr. CLycq, N., Prof. Dr. Timmerman, C., 2009, P.31). It is from this perspective that this interviewee illustrates:

When I met my wife, I was seduced by her big buttocks. In all seriousness, her big buttocks captured my attention to her. So I immediately took the first step to invite her to have a drink in order to talk to herself. And, that's how our relationship started. For my part, I think that the physical aspect is really an issue in forming a couple relationship. Because, we are very fulfilled when we marry the one we truly love (AK, Yopougon / Abidjan, February 8, 2021 at 10 am GMT).

## **3. DISCUSSION OF RESULTS**

Today, the relationship to the body has become a major concern for the female category. We are witnessing a transformation (mutation) of the body through the enlargement of the buttocks in Abidjan. Indeed, men in their quest for the ideal type of woman are confronted with the phenomenon of buttocks enlargement by women. The present study undertaken on the choice of spouses to the test of morphological mutations, sheds light on the stakes linked to the visible dimension of the body in the construction of marital relations. In fact, the sociological analyzes presented here make it possible to take into account the ideological referents for legitimizing the choice of actors of women with plump buttocks. First of all, the environmental dimension makes it possible to build a model of choice of the spouse through the process of socialization. This perspective can be compared to the results of the study by Dr. Wets, J., Dr. CLycq, N., & Prof. Dr. Timmerman, C. (2009) from which any choice of partner is a social action which can be interpreted and determined by the influence of the cultural social groups of individuals. Individuals choose their partners from home groups. Thus the choice of the spouse is akin to a rational action in finality of an instrumental nature and of a utilitarian goal. It implies the adequacy between ends and means. Then the ideology of the quest for the ideal woman through the size of the visible beauty as the buttocks is mobilized by men as prior Equipments to conform construction a relationship. In addition, the plump buttocks constitute a pole of

attraction and capture of the attention of the man. The choice of women with plump buttocks is a behavior that is justified by the quest for a rewarding social identity crystallizing around the symbolic dimension of the body.

## CONCLUSION

All in all, this study is intended to be a contribution to the sociology of sexual and reproductive health. It was essentially qualitative with appropriate data collection tools in this case, the documentary review and semi-structured interviews with a category of actors. From this methodological approach, we reached the following results: the choice of the joint by man is an operation determined by the interaction between the factors individual or the personal motivations of the choice of joint and institutional actors are the members of the family who help the man to make an optimal objective choice of the spouse. To this end, the family constitutes a cultural therapeutic clinical framework that can help the actors to be resilient in the event of marital breakdown. Moreover, we can stress that are human perceptions of women's beauty also play a role in determining the informed choice of the joint. Therefore, each man finds his ideal type of woman through a magnet as the buttocks of women. Consequently, the family breakdown occurring just during the choice of the spouse allows the actor to redefine himself socially and to assert his identity and his masculine power. Thus, the social renaissance he demonstrates is described on a scale going to making the choice of the desired woman on the one hand and this, through the entourage on the other hand.

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[1] Here, we mean by "Goumin", a word used in popular language in Côte d'Ivoire which explains the resilience of a man or a woman following a love disappointment or following a marital breakdown. This situation could psychologically affect the individual and even deconstruct the individual's relationship with his socio-cultural or family environment. In addition, this situation of "Goumin", if it is not attenuated or mastered could lead to the suicide of the individual or to a depression of the latter in certain societies or even lead to the dislocation of relations between families.

[2] Women with plump buttocks are the targets of many men who desire them sexually. So there is a real problem of trust in the marital relationship. Because, the plump buttocks of the women constitute a pole of capture of the attention of the men in permanent search of sexual pleasures. Thus was born -it jealousy. This could lead to a marital breakdown on the one hand and on the other hand, expose the couple to a risk of sexually transmitted disease through the phenomenon of spouses' infidelity.

[3] Op cit, P.4

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