

# **MARRIAGE SYSTEMS: FORM AND SIGNIFICANCE**

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# MARRIAGE

- In Hinduism, marriage is considered a sacred union between two individuals, and is viewed as a lifelong commitment. The Hindu definition of marriage is based on the principles of dharma, or duty, and the concept of karma, which is the belief that actions have consequences in this life and the next.
- According to Hindu beliefs, marriage is not just a union between two individuals, but also a union between two families. It is a socially and culturally important event that involves elaborate rituals and ceremonies.
- In Hinduism, marriage is seen as a way of fulfilling one's duty to the family and society. It is believed that marriage helps to create a stable and harmonious family structure, which is essential for the well-being of the community.
- The Hindu definition of marriage emphasizes the importance of mutual respect, understanding, and commitment between the partners. It also recognizes the roles and responsibilities of each partner within the marriage, with the husband traditionally being responsible for providing for the family and the wife responsible for managing the household.

# MARRIAGE

- Islam defines marriage as a legal contract between a man and a woman, with the aim of establishing a partnership based on love, trust, and respect. The purpose of marriage in Islam is to fulfill one's religious obligation, to have children and to build a family, to establish a peaceful and harmonious relationship between spouses, and to protect one's chastity.
- According to Islamic teachings, marriage is a mutual agreement between two consenting adults who are committed to building a strong and lasting relationship based on the principles of love, respect, and mutual understanding. In Islamic tradition, the husband is considered the head of the household, responsible for providing for his family, while the wife is considered the caregiver of the family and the home.

# MARRIAGE

- In Christianity, marriage is considered a sacred and lifelong union between one man and one woman. It is viewed as a covenantal relationship that reflects the relationship between Christ and the Church.
- According to Christian beliefs, marriage is established by God and is intended to be a lifelong commitment between two individuals who have made a public vow before God and witnesses to love, honor, and cherish each other for better or worse, richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do them part.
- In Christian tradition, marriage is seen as a way of creating a family unit that is based on love, mutual respect, and commitment. It is believed that the purpose of marriage is to build a strong and lasting relationship that reflects the love and grace of God, and to support and nurture each other as partners in life.

# PROHIBITIONS ON MARRIAGE

- In India, there are certain prohibitions on marriage that are based on various cultural, social, and legal factors. Some of the common forms of prohibition of marriage in India are:
  - 1. Age Restrictions:** The legal age for marriage in India is 18 years for women and 21 years for men. Marriages that take place before the legal age are considered child marriages and are prohibited by law.
  - 2. Consanguinity:** Marriage between close relatives is prohibited in India. The Hindu Marriage Act specifies that marriage between a sapinda and a sapinda is prohibited. Sapinda relationship is defined as a blood relationship within five degrees of ascent, which includes the lineal ascendants and descendants, as well as the collateral relatives up to the third degree.
  - 3. Religion:** Inter-religious marriages are not prohibited by law, but there may be social and cultural barriers that discourage such marriages in some communities.

# PROHIBITIONS ON MARRIAGE

4. **Mental and Physical Health:** Marriage with a person suffering from mental or physical disorders that may affect the health of the other partner is prohibited under the law.
5. **Bigamy:** The Hindu Marriage Act prohibits a person from marrying again while the first marriage is still subsisting. Marrying again while the first marriage is still valid is considered to be a criminal offense in India.
6. **Same-sex Marriage:** Same-sex marriage is not recognized by law in India, and it is still considered a taboo in many communities.

# MARRIAGE LAWS IN INDIA

- In India, marriage laws differ depending on the religion and personal laws applicable to different communities. Here is a brief overview of the marriage laws in India:

**1.Hindu Marriage Act, 1955:** This act governs marriage and divorce among Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains. It specifies the conditions for a valid marriage, including age, consent, and prohibited degrees of relationship.

**2.Muslim Personal Law:** Muslim personal law is based on Sharia law, and governs marriage, divorce, and inheritance among Muslims. Polygamy is allowed for Muslim men, subject to certain conditions.

# MARRIAGE LAWS IN INDIA

3. **Christian Marriage Act, 1872:** This act governs marriage and divorce among Christians in India.

4. **Special Marriage Act, 1954:** This act provides for civil marriage for people of all religions and communities in India. It allows inter-caste and inter-religious marriages and requires a 30-day notice period for registration.

5. **Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936:** This act governs marriage and divorce among Parsis, and is based on English law.



# FORM OF MARRIAGE

- According to Smriti texts, there are eight different forms of marriage that are recognized in Hindu society:

1. Brahma Marriage.
2. Daiva Marriage.
3. Arsha Marriage.
4. Prajapatya Marriage.
5. Asura Marriage.
6. Gandharva Marriage.
7. Rakshasa Marriage.
8. Paishacha Marriage.

# **BRAHMA MARRIAGE**

- In this type of marriage, the father of the bride approaches a learned man or priest and requests him to accept his daughter in marriage. The groom is expected to be educated and possess good character.

# DAIVA MARRIAGE

- This type of marriage is similar to the Brahma marriage, but the difference is that the groom is selected by the father from among the eligible suitors who offer themselves.

# ARSHA MARRIAGE

- In this type of marriage, the groom pays a bride price to the father of the bride in the form of cows or horses. This form of marriage is common among rural communities.

# PRAJAPATYA MARRIAGE

- This is a simple form of marriage where the bride and groom exchange vows in front of a priest and their families.

# ASURA MARRIAGE

- This form of marriage involves the groom paying a large sum of money or gifts to the father of the bride. It is considered to be a marriage of lower social status.

# **GANDHARVA MARRIAGE**

This form of marriage involves the bride and groom falling in love and getting married without the consent of their families.

# **RAKSHASA MARRIAGE**

This form of marriage involves the groom abducting the bride against her will and forcing her to marry him.



# PAISHACHA MARRIAGE

This form of marriage is considered to be the most barbaric and involves the groom seducing the bride while she is intoxicated or asleep. It is condemned by Hindu society and is not considered a valid form of marriage.

# WHAT IS MONOGAMY

- Monogamy refers to a form of marriage in which an individual has only one spouse at a time. In a monogamous relationship, both partners are committed to each other and engage in a romantic or sexual relationship exclusively with each other.
- Monogamy is a common form of marriage in many societies around the world, and it is often considered to be the norm in modern Western societies. In many cultures, monogamous marriages are seen as a sign of love, commitment, and respect between partners, and are associated with stability and emotional security.

# WHAT IS SERIAL MONOGAMY

- Serial monogamy is a form of monogamy in which an individual engages in a series of exclusive romantic or sexual relationships throughout their life, but only one at a time. In this form of monogamy, individuals may have several long-term partners over their lifetime, but only one partner at a time.
- For example, an individual may have a monogamous relationship with one partner for several years, and then end the relationship and enter into another monogamous relationship with a new partner. This pattern may repeat itself several times over the course of their lifetime.

# WHAT IS STRAIGHT MONOGAMY

- The term "straight monogamy" is not commonly used to describe a specific form of monogamous relationship, as the concept of monogamy itself already implies that the individuals involved are straight (i.e. heterosexual).
- However, the term "straight monogamy" may be used to distinguish monogamous relationships between heterosexual individuals from other forms of monogamy that may exist, such as same-sex monogamy or polygamous monogamy (where an individual is married to only one person at a time, but may have multiple spouses over their lifetime).

# WHAT IS POLYGAMY

- Polygamy is a marriage practice in which an individual has more than one spouse at the same time. It is a form of polyamory and can take different forms, including polygyny (where a man has multiple wives) and polyandry (where a woman has multiple husbands).
- Polygamy has been practiced in various cultures and religions throughout history, although it is illegal in many countries today. In some societies, polygamy was traditionally practiced as a means of consolidating family and economic resources or as a way of expanding one's family lineage.

# WHAT IS POLYANDRY

- Polyandry is a form of marriage in which a woman has multiple husbands at the same time. This is a relatively rare form of marriage that exists in a few societies around the world, particularly in parts of South Asia, Tibet, and certain indigenous communities.
- In polyandrous marriages, the husbands may be brothers, or unrelated men who share a wife. This form of marriage may have developed as a means of dealing with limited resources, such as land or food, where the division of resources among multiple sons would have been difficult. Polyandry may also have developed as a way to limit population growth in societies where resources were scarce.

# WHAT IS POLYGyny

- Polygyny is a form of marriage in which a man is married to more than one woman at the same time. It is the most common form of polygamy, which is the practice of having more than one spouse at the same time.
- In polygynous marriages, the man is the head of the household and each of his wives has a separate and distinct role in the family. The wives may or may not live together in the same household, and may or may not have equal status and rights within the marriage.

# WHAT IS ENDOGAMY

- Endogamy is a social practice in which individuals are required to marry within their own social group, such as their family, caste, tribe, or community. This is in contrast to exogamy, which is a social practice where individuals are required to marry outside their own social group.
- Endogamy is common in many cultures around the world and serves to maintain social and cultural boundaries between different groups. For example, in some societies, endogamy may be used to preserve cultural traditions and values, as well as to ensure the continuation of family lineage and the passing down of wealth and property within a particular social group.



# WHAT IS EXOGAMY

- Exogamy is a social practice in which individuals are required to marry outside their own social group, such as their family, clan, tribe, or caste. This is in contrast to endogamy, which is a social practice where individuals are required to marry within their own social group.
- Exogamy is commonly practiced in many cultures around the world as a means of creating alliances and maintaining social and economic ties between different groups. For example, in some societies, exogamy may be used to establish relationships with neighboring tribes or clans, or to ensure that resources such as land or livestock are distributed fairly among different groups.
- Exogamy may also serve to reduce inbreeding and genetic disorders, as marrying outside of one's own social group helps to increase genetic diversity in the population.

# WHAT IS HYPERGAMY

- Hypergamy is a social practice in which an individual marries someone from a higher social or economic class than themselves. The term is usually used to describe a woman who marries a man who is of a higher social or economic status than herself, but it can also be applied to men who marry women from a higher social or economic class.
- Hypergamy has been a common practice throughout history in many cultures, but it is often seen as problematic because it reinforces existing social hierarchies and can lead to unequal power dynamics within relationships.

# WHAT IS HYPOGAMY

- The term hypogamy is not commonly used in social sciences or in everyday language, but it can be understood as the opposite of hypergamy. Hypogamy refers to a social practice in which an individual marries someone from a lower social or economic class than themselves. For example, if a person from an upper-class background marries someone from a lower-class background, they would be said to have engaged in hypogamy.

# THANK YOU

