

Indian Conception of Hindu Marriage

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ABSTRACT

Marriage is defined as a socially recognized and sanctioned sexual relationship between two adults. Marriage has always been seen as a sacrament in most countries. Marriage, on the other hand, has taken the form of a contract and is governed by legal norms and regulations. Marriage can take several forms, the most frequent of which are monogamy and polygamy. Marital ideology has been predicated on the notion of female subservience and male dominance all throughout the world. Domestic violence, including marital violence, is a tragic reality of the institutions of marriage and family and can take many forms. Divorce is now legal in practically all societies. However, in India, the debate over women's rights inside marriage and family is complicated and contentious. Divorce is now legal in practically all societies. However, in India, the debate over women's rights inside marriage and family is complicated and contentious since it is connected with religion and other social identity politics problems. Marriage is an institution that welcomes both men and women into family life. It is a solid partnership in which a man and a woman are socially allowed to bear children, which implies the right to sexual interactions.

Keywords: concept, characteristic, various patterns, family problem, institution, mate.

INTRODUCTION

Marriage is a crucial social institution. It is a socially acceptable connection. Custom and law define and sanction the connection. Children born of marriage are considered the married couple's legitimate progeny. This legitimacy is critical when it comes to inheritance and succession. Marriage is thus more than just a sexual institution. In India, it is more or less a universal social institution.

No culture provides its individuals complete freedom in choosing their life partners. The two fundamental rules that govern marital choice are endogamy and exogamy. Without marriage, both a man and a woman are considered incomplete.

THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE

There is no single description that effectively encompasses all varieties of human marriage. It has provided a number of definitions and explanations, including the following. Marriage is defined by Edward Westmark in his 'History of Marriage' as "the more or less durable connection between male and female lasting beyond the mere act of propagation until after the birth of offspring." According to Malinowski, marriage is a "contract for the production and maintenance of children." "Marriage is a relatively permanent bond between permissible mates," writes Robert H. Lowie. "Marriage is the public joining together, under socially specified regulations, of a man and a woman as husband and wife," explains Alfred Mc Clung Lee.

Marriage is one of human society's most significant institutions. Marriage is a socially sanctioned union of a man and a female for the goal of (a) establishing a household, (b) engaging in sexual intercourse, (c) procreating, and (d) caring for the kids.

Marriage is an exclusive relationship between a man and a woman that indicates they will live in harmony and mutual trust with each other. Adultery, cruelty, and desertion thereby undermine the basic basis of marriage, needing both social and judicial action.

MARRIAGE IN INDIA

Marriage is considered a sacrament. Marriage is a sacrament in India, not a civil contract, according to ancient Hindu law. Every Hindu performs a 'sanskara' or purificatory ceremony. Marriage is considered an obligation in Hindu religious texts because an unmarried man cannot execute some of the most essential sacred rites. As a result, marriage in India is considered a holy performance of religious duties. The union is sacred and indissoluble in life and endures even after the husband's death. Parents have a moral obligation to find mates for their children, and children must accept the parental choice. The marriage is regarded as a partnership between two combined families rather than between two young people. As a result, romantic love cannot serve as the foundation for a Hindu marriage. Because the young people seldom meet before marriage, courting is impossible. Marriage could be the result of romantic love, but it couldn't be the cause.

HINDU MARRIAGE: A SACRAMENT

Being primarily performed for dharma and not for pleasure, Hindus considered marriage to be a sacrament. There are many justifications for considering Hindu marriage sacred. The religious ceremony included rites like havan, kanyadan, etc. that were performed in front of Agni, the most sacred God, by reciting mantras from the Vedas, the most sacred books, (ii) the rites were performed by a Brahmin, the most sacred person on earth, (iii) the union was considered indissoluble and irrevocable, and husband and wife were bound to each other; and (iv) Though a man underwent a number of sacraments throughout his lifetime, a woman only underwent the sacrament of marriage once the focus was placed on a woman's chastity and a man's faithfulness, (vi) her life, making it of the utmost significance to her, (vii) marriage was seen as a "social responsibility towards the family and the community, and there was little concept of individual desire and aspiration. Hindu marriage has changed over the past few decades; is it still considered sacred or should it be handled more like a contract?

The Hindu scholars considered dharma to be the marriage's highest goal. The sacred fire was lit at marriage, and it was the householder's responsibility to perform "panchamahajani" everyday in his wife's presence. If the wife passed away, the householder would need to take a second wife to fulfill duties. Thus, the primary goal of marriage was dharma, or performing one's religious obligations. As a result, the Hindu wedding is known as "Sarira Sanskara," which literally translates to "body purification." If the couple does not marry, the person will not be saved. In society, man does not live by himself. He has a large group of individuals surrounding him from birth to death. Being primarily performed for dharma and not for pleasure, Hindus considered marriage to be a sacrament. Hindu marriages are regarded as sacred for a number of reasons, including the fact that dharma was the highest goal of marriage, the execution of religious ceremonies like havan, kanyadan, panigrahana, etc., and the fact that dharma was the highest goal of marriage, which, because they were based on the sacred formula, were regarded as sacred; (iii) the rites were performed before Agni (the most sacred God) by reciting mantras from the Vedas (the most sacred books) by a Brahmin (the most sacred person on earth); (iv) the union was regarded as indissoluble and irrevocable, and husband and wife were bound to one another not only until death but even after the death. Hindu marriage has changed over the past few decades; is it still considered sacred or should it be handled more like a contract? The Hindu scholars considered dharma to be the marriage's highest goal. The sacred fire was lit at marriage, and it was the householder's responsibility to perform "panchamahajani" everyday in his wife's presence. If the wife passed away, the householder would need to take a second wife to fulfill duties. Thus, the primary goal of marriage was dharma, or performing one's religious obligations. As a result, the Hindu wedding is known as "Sarira Sanskara," which literally translates to "body purification." If the couple does not marry, the person will not be saved. In society, man does not live by himself. He has a large group of individuals surrounding him from birth to death. Some of these folks are his family members, friends, and neighbour's; the remainder are strangers to him. All of these people who are linked to him through marriage or blood are obligated to him.

MARRIAGE'S IMPORTANCE

A crucial social institution is marriage. Marriage is the institution that establishes the social standing of a man and woman's relationship. "Animals mate, but men marry." It implies that whereas marriage is social and cultural, mating is biological. Marriage entails a ritual that both parties to a partnership agree to. Every human society throughout history and the world has valued marriage as essential to the health of the community. In contemporary society, the institution of marriage is a fundamental element.

Marriage serves a variety of significant social roles. Marriage creates a new social connection, adding to its strength. When a couple marries, their two family networks are connected, and additional, farther-flung networks are also engaged. Both family lines have a place in the hierarchy, whose stability is influenced by who they marry. Marriage

ensures that members of a community will continue to expand and establishes who will be responsible for raising children by controlling sexual desire among its members. The social position of the kid is determined by marriage by establishing the roles and responsibilities of parents to their offspring. Nowadays, marital happiness and companionship are given more priority.

Marriage is significant from an individual's point of view. Since sexual desire is a natural urge, it should be easy and natural to satiate. That means is provided by marriage. However, marriage is more than just a man and woman's relationship created to legitimize desire. Additionally, it is a relationship between parents and children intended to uphold and support the community if it had been a private matter rather than a social one. It would not have been given top priority in human laws and customs. The most essential social institution and the one that protects and refreshes the stream of life is marriage. Marriage is still valued and required in today's society, and only a small number of people are single. However, marital goals are evolving, particularly for urban and educated segments of the population. The inclination for small size families is replacing traditional ideas about large families. It is also becoming common to marry for one's own fulfilment rather than solely for offspring or community prosperity.

ATTRIBUTES OF MARRIAGE

- **Universality:** Marriage is a fairly common institution in the world. Both illiterate and preliterate peoples possess it. In some of the societies, it is upheld as a societal norm.
- **Man and Woman Relationship:** Marriage is a union of men and women. It denotes a relationship between a man or men and a woman or women.
- **Marriage signifies an enduring relationship between the husband and wife :** As a result, it does not extend to sexual life. Even after obtaining sexual fulfilment, it continues. Hindus consider marriage to be a sacred covenant that even death cannot sever between a husband and wife.
- **Marriage requires social acceptance :** Union between men and women becomes a marital union only with the approval of the community.
- **Rights and obligations :** Marriage imposes specific rights and obligations on both the husband and wife. This is known as mutual obligation. Both must provide for one another and their kids.

INDIA'S MARRIAGE AND FAMILY PROBLEM

Given the current lower position of women, we must first take into account how women are treated in Hindu families while thinking about marriage and family issues in India. Indian women, according to critics of the Indian family structure, are mistreated and denied any claim to the family's assets, and they do not have the same rights as men in the social, political, religious, and economic spheres. A lady depends on her father before marriage, her husband after marriage, and her sons when she is older. She is forced to live according to the wishes of her clients rather than having an independent life based on her preferences. She must endure degrading treatment and insults from birth to death, and if her spouse passes away when she is still young, she must lead a widower life with no chance of getting married again.

The commercial part of the marriage—specifically, the dowry system—is another issue that must be taken into account while analysing marriage-related issues in India. It doesn't need to be mentioned how corrupt the system is. The girl's father takes his own life since he was unable to pay the dowry that the parents of the other boy had requested. On account of that, the girl occasionally kills herself. The dowry system often forces the parents to force the girl's marriage to a man who is hardly suited to be her husband. The parents frequently engage in theft, forgeries, or misappropriation to secure dowry. After realizing the flaws in the system, the Indian government passed the Dowry Prohibition Act into law. However, the Act by itself would be unable to accomplish its goals unless public discontent with the system is stoked.

THE CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT ACT , 1929

It became effective on April 1st, 1930. Although the marriage itself is not ruled void, it restricts the marriage of a child. As a result, it was illegal to approach, carry out, and facilitate the marriage of boys under the age of eighteen and girls under the age of fourteen. Later, the minimum age for girls was raised to fifteen. The age for boys was raised to twenty-one years old and for girls to eighteen years old by the 1978 amendment. Although the Act imposes a penalty, the



marriage itself is still legal. The Act's non-cognizable offense carries a three-month sentence of simple imprisonment as well as a fine for the groom, his parents, guardians, and the priest. However, no woman is subject to incarceration under this act. The act also addresses the possibility of issuing an injunction order that forbids child marriage. But if more than a year has passed from the supposed marriage date, no further action can be taken for the offense.

CONCLUSION

In India, marriage is seen as a social institution. It is a "sanskara," or purification ritual, that every Hindu must perform. Due to the fact that an unmarried man cannot participate in some of the most significant religious events, Hindu holy texts encourage marriage as a duty. In our nation, there are many different kinds of marriages that are practiced, with monogamy being the most common.

Hindu marriage has undergone numerous changes as society has developed. Even the values attached to have undergone significant modification. Nowadays, people choose their partners based on their own criteria. Many people are avoiding marriage because of certain issues. Hindu Marriage Act and Special Marriage Act, which regulate marriages, are in force in India. As a result, Hindu marriage is no longer inseparable as once believed.

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