

EMERGING CHANGES IN MARRIAGE INSTITUTION Dr. Arti S Thale

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Marriage is an institution that admits man and woman to family life. It is a stable relationship in which a man and a woman are socially permitted to live together without losing their status in the community. Marriage is not merely concerned with the couple; rather it affects the whole society and future generations. In some cultures, marriage is recommended or considered to be compulsory before pursuing sexual activity. Westermarck has remarked, marriage is rooted in the family rather than the family in the marriage. Specially in India there is a unity in diversity. There are many religion and their own way / methods of marriage. Marriage is one of the universal social institutions which admit men and women to family life. It is a stable relationship in which a man and a woman are socially permitted to have children implying the right to sexual relations. Marriage is closely connected with the institution of family. In fact, family and marriage are complementary to each other.

Characteristics of Marriage

- 1. Marriage is found to be more or less a universal institution. All societies adopt some form of rules for the union of male and female. The pattern or form might differ but it is universal. For example, in Japan, celibacy is publicly condemned. In Korea, unmarried individuals are called "half persons". Among the Hindus, marriage is considered as a sacrament which is regarded as more or less obligatory to procreate and attain salvation by a person in his life.
- 2. Marriage is a union of man and woman. It indicates a long lasting bond between the husband and wife.
- 3. Social approval is required for a man and woman to become a husband and wife to exercise the functions.
- 4. Marriage gets its social recognition through some form of civil or religious

ceremony. The ceremony has its own rites, rituals, customs, formalities etc. that might differ from society to society.

5. Marriage units the man and woman as husband and wife. It permits them to perform certain rights, duties and support each other and their children.

Functions of Marriage

- 1. Marriage is a powerful instrument in regulating the sex life of man. It prohibits certain types of sex relations also. For example, father and daughter, mother and son, brother and sister etc. This kind of prohibition is called incest taboo.
- 2. Marriage is a social approval / hallmark for getting involved in sexual relations of procreation and thus leads to the establishment of the family.
- 3. Marriage creates mutual understanding and cooperation between the husband and wife as a couple to perform the household tasks.
- 4. Marriage provides economic cooperation.
- 5. Marriage contributes for emotional and intellectual support.

Types of Marriage is an institution of society which can have very different implications in different culture. Based on the culture and nature of economic activities the marriage type varies. Monogamy and polygamy are the main forms of marriage found around the world. Monogamy refers to one man marrying one woman at a time. Polygamy is the type in which a man or woman has more than one spouse. There are two main forms found in polygamy. They are (i) Polygyny and (ii) Polyandry

Companionate marriage The term companionate marriage is used to refer the marriage of two persons on the understanding that as long as there are no children they live together. In this form, the marriage may be dissolved simply by mutual consent.

In modern marriages people expect more gratification from marriage than they had in

the past. It is not enough for the husband to be a decent man providing livelihood for his wife and children but also be an educated person, good home maker and share love with the wife. Similarly, the husband expects his wife not only to be a good home-maker but also be educated, share economic burden and share love. Both married partners want their own special interests and activities are continued and respected.

According to Psychology now a day there are many types of marriages are existing. There are so many reasons which are responsible for breaking old or traditional types of relationships goals.

- 1. **Starter Marriage** A starter marriage is a first marriage that lasts five years or less and ends without the couple having any children together. In this marriage most probably chances of love marriage are increased due to coeducation system or working profession like corporate world or the world of acting profession there is agreement condition to not to have child for some period, workplaces are far away from ones or partner's place. As today's youth is less patient this marriage breaks later. In this marriage due to workload, demands of professions the doesn't conceive child.
- 2. **Companionship Marriage** is based on two spouses having mutual interests, and each believes in the equality of each partner. They see their roles as interchangeable. In the Indian cultural from long period this kind of marriages are existing.
- 3. **Parenting Marriage** is a marriage in which you and your spouse no longer have a romantic connection (so, according to our traditional love-based marriage model, you'd want to split up), but you choose to stay together to raise your children together

Safety marriage one where each partner feels safe to be who they are, to say what they need, and knows deep down that they are respected by their partner. Safety does not mean there will never be conflict in a relationship – there will be as we are all human and none of us are perfect.

- 4. Living Alone Together Marriage Couples living apart together (LAT) have an intimate relationship but live at separate addresses. It includes couples who wish to live together but are not yet able to, as well as couples who prefer to (or must) live apart, for various reasons
- 5. **Open Marriage** Open marriage is a form of non-monogamy in which the partners of a dyadic marriage agree that each may engage in extramarital sexual or romantic relationships, without this being regarded by them as infidelity, and consider or establish an open relationship despite the implied monogamy of marriage.
- 6. **Covenant Marriage** A covenant marriage is an arrangement where marrying spouses agree that their marriage will last for the rest of their lives. However, it does provide for a divorce in a limited number of situations.

As now a day many changes takes place in the family institution. There are so many reason behind it. Youth is at the place where they think that they should live together in the form of live in relation instead of getting married. Means they are considering marriage is as a compulsion or restriction. Due to that compulsion marriages break. Because everybody wants freedom, males and females both are earning so they are economically independent. And when there is a sense of independency everybody in the marriage is thinks responsibility as a restriction. This is one of the reason of changing marriage institution. Secondly education then job then promotion or transfer for high packages or separate living due to job is one of the reason of delayed pregnancy or not to having kids. As we see youth is blindly following glamourous world or TV star. If these stars are not getting married or not having kids and yet they are happy then why not, we. For example, in Marathi film industry Umesh Kamat and Priya Bapat, Prarthana Behere, in Bollywood Salman Khan etc. This is how family or institutions marriage has been changed gradually.



Reference: -

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- Religion and Marriage In Indian Society Edited By Usha Sharma