

Marriage

Lesson No.	Title	Activity
12	Marriage	Outline different changes in the system of marriage as a result of industrialization and modernization.

Summary

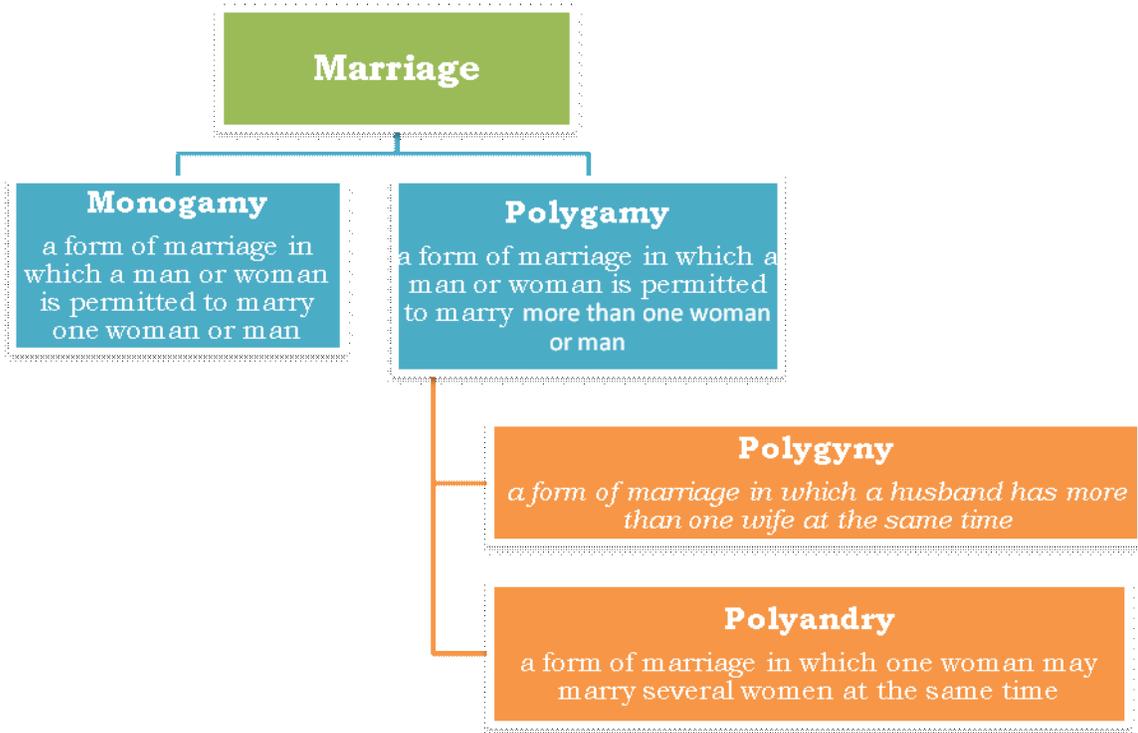
Marriage is an important social institution. It is a stable relation and excludes sexual relations which are viewed as causal and not sanctioned by law, custom or religion. In India, the two most dominated communities are Hindus and Muslims and we see differences in their marriage in terms of rules and forms. There are different factors that have gradually influenced change in the norms, forms and customs involved in marriage.

Concept of Marriage

- Marriage is an institution for admitting men and women into family life, legitimating off-springs and establishing other rights and obligations of husband, wife and children.
- Society gives its approval to the marital relationship between a man and woman generally in a civil or religious ceremony.
- After the ceremony is over, the husband and wife begin to live with each other, thereby forming a family. They give birth to children who are legally accepted by society.
- Married couples have to fulfill many obligations towards each other and society in general. In turn, they get many rights and privileges.

Types of Marriage

1. Marriage on the basis of Number of Mates are as follows:



Functions of Marriage

Satisfaction of Sex

- Marriage allows them to have sex with each other in a socially approved manner.
- Marriage regulates sexual relations

Procreation and nurturance of children

- Marriage fulfills the functions of producing children and bringing them up according to social norms and help them to become physically and mentally strong and ensure survival of the child.

Economic cooperation and security

- Marriage provides valuable and reliable help to an individual in economic activities. For e.g. -The husband and wife work together
- Taking care of family's economic needs

Companionship and emotional support

- Marriage provides a constant companion, a life partner in form of husband and wife.
- They help each other

Rules of Marriage

There are certain rules of marriage. They have to be abided by Prohibitive and prescriptive rules of marriage.

Prohibitive Rules of Marriage

- ◇ **Incest Taboo:** Incest is prohibited in all societies. Incest implies sexual or marital relation between two persons who are related by blood. Eg. marriage among cousins
- ◇ **Exogamy :** individual marrying outside a specific group of which he is a member such as Kinship group, a family
- ◇ **Endogamy:** marriage within one's own social group. The social group may be one's own tribe or caste or religious groups.
- ◇ **Hypergamy(Anuloma):** boy from an upper caste marries a girl from a lower caste. Eg. A brahmin boy marrying a girl from lower caste
- ◇ **Hypogamy(Pratiloma):** boy from a lower caste marries a girl from a higher caste.

Prescriptive and Preferential Rules

There are some rules which give preference to certain types of alliances over others. These customs which prescribe or direct implicitly as to whom one should marry or prefer to marry are called prescriptive rules. Based on these prescriptive rules, marriages are classified as: **Parallel cousin marriage; Cross cousin marriage,**

Levirate and Sororate

Parallel cousin marriage: It is the marriage between the children of either two brothers or two sisters. It is more prevalent among Muslims.

Cross cousin marriage: It is the marriage of a man with his maternal uncle's daughter (mother's brother's daughter) or paternal aunt's daughter (father's sister's daughter). This form of marriage is more preferred among Gonds of Madhya Pradesh and Oraon and Kharia tribes of Jharkhand.

Levirate: Levirate is the custom in which a widow marries her husband's brother. This practice is more prevalent among Toda of Nilgiri hills.

Sororate: It is a custom in which a widower marries the younger sister of his deceased wife. It is mostly found among tribes of central India such as the Gond or

Hindu Marriage and Muslim Marriage

- ◇ In India, the two most largely populated communities are Hindus and Muslims. There are differences in their marriage rules and forms.
- ◇ Hindu marriage is considered as a religious duty i.e. Sanskar. In Hindu marriage, the marital rites are performed before the most sacred God Agni. The bride and the groom exchange many promises to remain dutiful and faithful to each other.
- ◇ Muslim marriage or Nikah is a civil contract between a man and a woman. Muslim marriage is solemnized in the presence of witnesses including the priest (*Maulvi*). Dower or Mahr is paid by the husband to the wife.

Changes in Marriage

- ◇ Changes in the form of marriage from plurality to monogamy
- ◇ Process of selection of partner has undergone changes. Inter-caste marriages are being accepted by society and families.
- ◇ The Special Marriage Act 1954 has legally recognized inter-caste and inter-religious marriages.
- ◇ Modernity and various laws have also influenced the emergence of same-sex couples (LGBT relationship),
- ◇ Live-in relations, single-parent households, many who got divorced living alone or with their children.

Evaluate Yourself

1. What are the various functions of marriage
2. Discuss the salient features of Hindu Marriage
3. Describe different factors that have contributed in changing the practices of marriage in modern times.