

# **Marriage**

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## Definition:

Different scholars and sociologists have tried to define it. They differ from each other.

- According to Gillin and Gillin, "Marriage is a socially approved way of establishing a family of procreation."
- According to Malinowski, "Marriage is a contract for the production and maintenance of children."

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- According to Encyclopedia Britannica, “Marriage is a physical, legal and moral union between man and woman in complete community life for the establishment of a family.”
- According to Lowie, “Marriage is a relatively permanent bond between permissible mates.”
- Radcliffe-Brown states that Marriage is a social arrangement by which a child is given a legitimate position in the society determined by parenthood in the social sense.

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- According to Horton and Hunt marriage is the approved social pattern whereby two or more persons establish a family.
- According to H.M. Johnson, “Marriage is a stable relationship in which a man and a woman are socially permitted without loss of standing in community to have children.”

# Characteristics of Marriage:

Marriage may have the following characteristics.

- Marriage is a universal social institution. It is found in almost all societies and at all stages of development.
- Marriage is a permanent bond between husband and wife. It is designed to fulfill the social, psychological, biological and religious aims.

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- Marriage is a specific relationship between two individuals of opposite sex and based on mutual rights and obligations. Relationship is enduring.
- Marriage requires social approval. The relationship between men and women must have social approval. Without which marriage is not valid.
- Marriage establishes family. Family helps in providing facilities for the procreation and upbringing of children.

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- Marriage creates mutual obligations between husband and wife. The couple fulfill their mutual obligations on the basis of customs or rules.
- Marriage regulates sex relationship according to prescribed customs and laws.

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- Marriage is always associated with some civil and religious ceremony. This social and religious ceremony provides validity to marriage. Though modern marriage performed in courts still it requires certain religious or customary practices.
- Marriage has certain symbols like ring, vermilion, special cloths, special sign before the house etc.



# Types of family:

The main types of marriages are:

## **Monogamy**

- Monogamy is a form of marriage in which one man marries the woman. It is most common form of the marriage found among in the societies around the world. According to Westermarck monogamy is as old as humanity. Monogamy is universally practiced providing marital opportunity and satisfaction to all the individuals.

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- It promotes love and affection between husband and wife. It contributes to family peace, solidarity and happiness. Monogamous marriage is stable and long lasting.

There are two types of monogamy.

## **Serial monogamy**

- In many societies individuals are permitted to marry again often on the death of the first spouse or after divorce but they cannot have more than one spouse at one and the same time.

## **Straight monogamy:**

- In straight monogamy the remarriage of the individuals is not allowed.

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## **Polygyny**

- Polygyny is a form of marriage in which one man married more than one woman at a given time. Polygyny is more popular than polyandry but not as universal as monogamy. It was a common practice in ancient civilizations. At present it may be present in primitive tribes like Crow Indians, Baigas and Gonds of India. Polygyny is of two types:

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## **Sororal polygyny**

- It is a type of marriage in which the wives are invariably the sisters. It is often called sororate. The Latin word Soror stands for sister. When several sisters are simultaneously or potentially the spouses of the same man the practice is called sororate. It is usually observed in those tribes that pay a high bride price.

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## **Non-sororal polygyny**

- It is a type of marriage in which the wives are not related as the sisters.

## **Polyandry**

- Polyandry is the marriage of one woman with several men. It is practiced among the Marquesan Islanders of Polynesia, The Bahama of Africa and tribes of Samoa. In India among tribes of Tiyan, Toda, Kota, Khasa and Ladakhi Bota it is still prevalent. Polyandry is of two.

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## **Fraternal polyandry**

- When several brothers share the same wife, the practice can be called fraternal polyandry. This practice of being mate, actual or potential to one's husband's brothers is called levirate. It is prevalent among the Todas in India.

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## **Non - fraternal polyandry**

- In this type the husbands need not have any close relationship prior to the marriage. The wife goes to spend some time with each husband. So long as a woman lives with one of her husbands, the others have no claim over her. Polyandry has its own implications.



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## **Group Marriage**

- Group marriage means the marriage of two or more women with two or more men. Here the husbands are common husbands and wives are common wives. Children are regarded as the children of the entire group as a whole.

**THANKING YOU**