

# Marriage Culture in the Santal Society

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## **Abstract:-**

Marriage culture is one of the other cultures of Santal society. According to the proverbs of the ancestors of the Santal community, parents are absolved from sins by giving their children in marriage. This applies not only to Santal society but also to world society. Marriage is a social culture for every human being in the world. The married life of two strangers begins with the marriage ceremony. Legitimate children are born after marriage. This is exactly how happiness and sadness pass in social life. And this is how the culture of marriage continues to be carried on in society from generation to generation. In this way, marriage continues to be a human creation through culture. Finally, family is the smallest institution in society, and family groups are the most valuable things in society. Marriage culture in Santal society is a pure practise, a religious affair like the marriage of the goddess of happiness and heaven. Santal society is only an institution of unity with all. Rich and poor all have the right to live, so the marriage culture is divided into various parts according to the customs of the Santal ancestors. Santal society is the best culture and society, where marriage is done for both rich and poor. As there is happiness in society, there is also sorrow; happiness and sorrow are the definition of life. If, for any reason, the husband and wife are ever separated, then there is a custom to separate the two from each other or live independently through Sakam Orech. There is a custom of remarriage for married men and women in case of divorce. Even in Santal society, widow marriage has been practised for thousands of years and is still alive. That is why marriage is a traditional religious practise in Santal society.

Key Words: Santal,Society,Marriage, Culture

## **Introduction:**

According to the custom of Santal society, when their children reach puberty in the family, they are given in marriage. Even if they love and marry according to their own choice, society will accept it according to its norms. According to the rules and regulations of the society, the custom of marriage in Santal society is that the young men and women of two families of different titles of their own community will get married. Marriage is a great religious culture in society. Children are born into the social family only through marriage. A legitimate child is recognised by the society. Protecting the next generation. Moreover, children will be made like human beings in the future so that they can enjoy the benefits of being children. Creating a happy family through marriage, having children, and repaying the debt between parents and children is integral. Parents are freed from sin when their children get married. This is the culture of a civilised society.

According to the structure of Santal society, Santal society is a cultured society. And the village of "More Ko" is entrusted with the responsibility of the entire village. According to the functioning of society, it is assumed that in Santal society, people of all strata, rich and poor, have equal rights. So that everyone in the society can live a family life through the marriage systems, the fathers of the society have formed the marriage system in a similar way. So that the rich and poor can marry according to their financial capacity, the fathers of society have divided the marriage system into different categories. Therefore, people from all strata of Santal society can perform marriage ceremonies. And that's why even if there is a problem in the family, they can be solved very easily.

## **Concept of Marriage:**

Marriage and family are closely related. The smallest institution of society is the family, and the joint family is a large unit of human society. There are various institutions within society. Marriage is the best among them. New

family pillars are created through this marriage ritual. And it is through marriage that new families are created. That is why marriage is a family institution.

### **Definition of Marriage:**

The definition of marriage is, in short, a very complex matter. Differences in matriarchy or socialism and differences in marriage customs can be observed in different states or regions at different times. Differences in the definition of marriage are natural due to regional and time differences. To be honest, it is very difficult to say that one definition of marriage is absolutely correct. Differences arise according to variations in assumptions about marriage customs. That is why different social scientists have given different definitions of marriage. ----

Rupchand Murmu said in the book "Saonta Sanresh" about marriage, "When we Santals enter youth, we are married privately or we are married by love as we like." According to Lakshmicharan Murmu (Champa Baha), "Marriage is the union of a boy and a girl (husband and wife) to create and organise a new family through cultural purity recognised by one's own national society's spiritualism (belief in God and Goddess) religiousism." According to social scientist Rameshwar Murmu (Adim Santarh), "when a boy and girl are tied together as husband and wife, it is called marriage." In addition to that, Gobinda Mandi sir says that marriage is when a boy and a girl come together in the form of gods and goddesses for the sake of enjoyment or initiation of gods and goddesses.

According to the reformers and social scientists mentioned above, it can be said that marriage is a socially accepted form of physical and emotional union between husband and wife. Even in human social life, marriage is a recognised and principled institution. In a developed society, the main goal is to bring about close relationships and marriage between men and women through rules and regulations.

### **Creation of Santal marriage, or "Bapla" word:**

How the Santali word BAPLA (marriage) came about is very difficult to say exactly. However, few sociologists or linguists have an opinion about the creation of the Santali word "BAPLA" (marriage). About the creation of the word 'BAPLA', Lakshmicharan Murmu Gomke, in his book 'Mahapuran Kherwal Saonta" (Religious Text, Part-I), says, "Marriage means equality between man and woman. That's why the words BALA BALA (equal) and BAPLA (marriage) have been used." Social worker Haram Badal Soren, in his book 'Santal Kowak' Fedat' (Root of the Santals), says about marriage, "Pilchu parents applied turmeric paste to the will, which they used to shoot the Haas-Hasil birds as a medicine, and it was cured. That turmeric Pilchu father had LA (dug). Hence the origin of the word BAPLA (BAP+LA=BAPLA) is derived from the man's father and digging, as Pilchu's father was dug up. This marriage is created from turmeric, and for that, in Santal society, oil-turmeric puja is performed for three days to anoint the new bride and groom, and their auspicious marriage is completed. And the people of Kherwal society therefore give at the wedding house. This BAPLA word was coined by Pilchu parents. This word is a compound word for young men and women who have attained youth. Since then, it has been customary to apply turmeric oil in the marriage house, and from that time on, the tradition of giving yellow cloth to the relatives started. From that day, Pilchu parents have introduced the practise of marriage." More about the origin of the word BAPLA (marriage), linguist Dr. Ratan Hembram wrote in his book 'Literature and Culture in Santali Folk Songs.' The word BAPLA is formed by adding the middle suffix 'P' to the word BALA. And the word BALA also became BALAYA by adding the suffix 'YA'. BALA+YA=BALAYA means son and daughter-in-law having paternal relations.

### **Classification of the Santal marriage:**

First of all, it should be said that according to the structure of Santal society, equal rights are recognised for people of all strata of society. That's why marriage ceremonies are done for both the rich and the poor. Due to necessity, the ancestors have divided the marriage system into various categories in Santal society.

Dr. Dhirendranath Baskey, in his book "Hor Bapla Seren' Puthi "( Book of Santal Weeding Songs), has divided the Santal marriage into eight (8) parts. Such as (i) Sadai or Duwar sindur Bapla (expensive wedding or wedding at the bride's house), (ii) Tumki dipil Bapla (low-cost wedding or marriage by bringing the bride to the groom's house), (iii) Nir bolok' Bapla (marriage by intrusion), (iv) Orh Aader Bapla (marriage by capture), (v) Ghor Janwai Bapla (if there is only a girl, the groom will stay in the bride's house for life), (vi) Ghardi Janwai Bapla, (vii) Eplitid' Bapla, and (viii) Caodal Bapla. Mr. Lakshmicharan Murmu (Champa Baha) in 'Mahapuran Kherwal Saonta' has divided Santal marriage into seven (7) categories. Such as (i) Kondel Napam Etud' Sindur Bapla (love marriage), (ii) Baryat Aate Orh Etud' Bapla, (iii) Baryat Aate Duwar Sindur Bapla, (iv) Baryat Aate Tumki Dipil Bapla, (v) Ghardi Janway Bapla, (vi) Sangha/Baha Saonha Bapla (widow marriage), and (vii) Hirom Bahca Suluk Bapla. Moreover, he mentioned six other types of marriage. Such as: 1. Seta Bapla; 2. Ul dare Bapla, 3. Dak' Bapla, 4. Kaera dare Bapla, 5. Danhiya dare Bapla; and 6. Hasa Putra Bapla. Social worker Mr. Rameshwar Murmur ( Aadim Santarh), in his book 'Jaher Bonga Santarh Ko," has divided Santal marriage into seven categories. Like (i) Duwar Bapla, (ii) Tumki Dipil Bapla, (iii) Orh Itud' Bapla (marriage by capture), (iv) Kondel Napam Bapla (love marriage), (v) Ghardi Janway Bapla, (vi) Sangha Bapla, and (vii) Kirin' Janway Bapla. In the same way, Dr. Ratan Hembram states in his essay book 'Santali Lokgitome Sahitya aur Sanskriti'( Literature and Culture in Santali Folk Songs) that there are thirteen (13) types of marriage in Santal society. Such as (i) Kondel Napam Bapla, (ii) Duwar Itud' Sindur Bapla, (iii) Dol Bapla, (iv) Tumki Dipil Bapla, (v) Seta Bapla, (vi) Golayti Bapla, (vii) Ghardi Janway Bapla, (viii) Sangha Bapla, (ix) Hirom Cetan Bapla/Chhutkijong Bapla, (x) Janwae Kirin' Bapla, (xi) Embolo Bapla, (xii) Aahar/Pukhr/ Kun'/Orak'/Hasa/Dare/Dak' Bapla.

### **Conclusion:-**

Marriage is the best culture in human civilization. Because marriage binds two strangers for life. Marriage is devoted to family institutions. This is exactly how people are being created in the village, country, and global society. Among all the animals in the world, human beings are the best creatures. That is why human beings have so many differences from other animals. By virtue of their virtue, intelligence, and knowledge. Food, clothing, taste everything is their best. It is difficult to determine exactly when they formed the society. It seems that the family is created only after entering into conjugal life through marriage. And after the creation of the family, society is also created.

In Santal society, Pilchu couples first married and started married life, and they formed the first family. And they had seven sons and seven daughters. Then they had seven sons and daughters by marriage. In this way, the Santal community is now spread all over the world. Analysing Santali Binti or Puran, it can be concluded that marriage culture in Santal society started in Pilchu's (the parents of the creation of the Santal nation's) age. Marriage in Santal society is pure culture. Marriage is done within one's own community. This is the tradition of Santal society. Marriage rituals are done in Santal society with faith in gods and goddesses. In the early days, many types of marriage customs were prevalent in Santal society. That's why people in Santal's society, regardless of whether they are rich or poor, all marry according to the rules of marriage. At present, most of the three (3) types of marriage are prevalent in Santal society. Such as (i) Duwar Sindur Bapla (expensive wedding or wedding at the bride's house), (ii) Kondel Napam Bapla (love marriage), and (iii) Sangha Bapla (widow marriage). There are many differences between the past and present in the marriage customs of Santal society. Human society flows like the water of a river. The flow continues to change according to the rules of time. It is natural that Santal society will have its influence as it keeps pace with the modern age.

Finally, it can be said about the "marriage culture in Santal society' that the influence of Hindu marriage is also seen in Santal society at present. From the time of the primordial Santal parents, the Pilchu couple, until now, the marriage customs in Santal society have changed drastically. It is natural that there will be a change in marriage customs in Santal society. But it is not right that there will be unnecessary changes. Santal society is suffering much more than it is growing. Change is needed, but she judges the good and bad. Otherwise, a time will come when the Santal race will disappear from this world forever. That's why it is better to have confidence in yourself without accepting the unnecessary marriage customs of other religions and societies. Only then will the Santals survive in this world as a race for ages.

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