



# A Study On Changing Trends In The Hindu Marriage With Special Reference To Bengaluru City

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**Abstract** — This article describes the changing trends in Hindu marriage in India, emphasizing the effect of modernization, globalization, and advancing societal behaviors. It delves into the historical background of Hindu marriage, emphasizing their deeply rooted in ancient literature and traditions. The influence of various factors such as urbanization and globalization are discussed, leading to shift in marriage practices, including smaller ceremonies and the adapting the new and modern wedding trends. The role of women is examined, noting increased agency and a re-evaluation of traditional gender roles. Changes in the marriage pattern, such as the decrease of polygamy and a delay in the age of marriage, are explored. The article moreover addresses transformational changes in the concepts of endogamy and exogamy, as well as rising trends like homosexual marriage, cohabitation, one individual family units, DINK Disorder (Dual Income No Kids). Despite positive shifts towards individual independence and inclusivity, the article recognizes the challenges in balancing tradition and modernity in the evolving institution of Hindu marriage in Bengaluru city.

**Index Terms** — Cohabitation, DINK, Emerging Trends, Gender Roles, Hindu Marriage, Relationship, Transformation.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Marriage is undoubtedly a personal relationship and a private affair between two people, but it is a complex social affair. Marriage creates new social relationships and mutual rights between spouses. It establishes a child's rights and status at birth. Each society recognizes specific procedures for creating such relationships and rights. Society dictates prohibitions, priorities, and regulations when making decisions about marriage. Through this system, people maintain the continuity of their race and achieve happiness in a socially acceptable way.

Defining marriage in a watertight compartment or any framework is very difficult because it involves sacredness. Marriage can generally be described as a legal bond/commitment between a man and a woman. Also, this bond is strongly associated with love, tolerance, support, and harmony. Starting a family also means entering a new stage of social progress.

Changing trends in Hindu Marriages in India have been a subject of immense interest and debate over the years. The institution of marriage in India holds significant cultural, social, and religious significance. However, with the changing times, various aspects of Hindu marriages have transformed, leading to a shift in traditional norms and practices. However recent years, there has been a noticeable shift in the traditional practices and customs associated with Hindu marriages in India.

## II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The concept of marriage in Hinduism has its roots deeply embedded in ancient texts, scriptures and traditions. The institution of marriage is considered a sacrament and is perceived as a lifelong commitment between the individuals involved. It is seen as a duty and a necessary aspect of life to ensure the continuity of family lineage and the preservation of cultural and religious traditions. The traditional Hindu

marriage is characterized by a series of rituals and customs, such as the exchange of garlands, the seven steps around the sacred fire, and the chanting of Vedic hymns.

Over the centuries, Hindu marriages have been influenced by social, political, and economic changes. The introduction of various laws and reforms, such as the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955, has played a significant role in shaping the institution of marriage in India. Additionally, globalization and modernization have also had an impact on changing trends in Hindu marriages, leading to the adoption of new practices and approaches.

Significant societal shifts have a profound effect on marriages and families. Certain societies—especially the more contemporary agrarian societies—view marriage as a partnership in which both parties share equal responsibility for the family's financial survival. The separation of work and home was the biggest alteration brought about by industrialization in the family structure. The division of labour and the institution of marriage is impacted by home in numerous ways. First, the family is now a tiny core home instead of a large family system. The change in culture from producer to consumer has also been aided by the rise of the industrial economy. Everything a family required, including home, food, and clothes, was produced under the early family system. The regulation of marriage has been significantly impacted by this producer-to-consumer shift.

**The impact of modernization and urbanization on marriage trends** are reshaping the way people perceive and practice marriage in contemporary India. India's rapidly growing economy and urbanisation have resulted in a noticeable shift towards more modern and straightforward marital rituals. Smaller, more personal weddings free from strict traditions and formality are becoming more and more popular among younger generations. It's fascinating to watch how Indians reinterpret what it means to be married, a part of a family, and connected through kinship ties in this dynamic world where tradition and progress dance delicately together.

**The impact of globalization on marriage trends** has reshaped marriage in India by altering family dynamics, delaying marriage age, and encouraging a more inclusive and open-minded approach. It's a fascinating journey where tradition meets modernity, and love transcends borders.

**The role of women in changing marriage trends in India** is significant and multifaceted. Here are some key aspects: **Education and Career Aspirations** which includes Increased Education, Career Focus. **Legal and Social Reforms** which includes Legislative changes, and Social Awareness. **Changing Family Dynamics** which includes Equal Partnership, and Parental Support. **Urbanization and Globalization** which includes Urban Influence, and Global Exposure. **Economic Factors** which include Financial Independence.

These factors collectively contribute to the evolving landscape of marriage in India, highlighting the crucial role women play in this transformation.

### III. CHANGING TRENDS IN HINDU MARRIAGE

**Changing patterns of marriage in India:** The family has largely been **changed** from joint to nuclear one, the institution of **marriage** in **India** has undergone vast **changes** like age at **marriage**, spread of divorce, reduction in times of **marriage** and extravagant expenditure on it, etc. Some **changes** are considered good for society while some are felt in negative term. The technological, economical, new educational patterns and changes in lifestyles, are major factors playing profound role in this change. As the time goes on, the age at marriage, process of mate selection, aims and the purposes of marriage, trends of divorce rates and the economic aspects of marriage have undergone a tremendous change. There are definitely serious consequences of the changing marriage patterns as the increasing age at marriage makes a considerable difference in lowering the fertility rates. The various factors such as the social, economic, psychological, technological and the legislative play a great role in the change of marriage institution.

**Change in the age of marriage:** The Indian government has proposed raising the minimum legal age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years. This change is part of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Amendment Bill, 2021 12. The bill aims to align the marriage age for women with that of men, promoting gender equality and allowing women more time for education and career development. The bill is currently under consideration and, if passed, will come into effect two years after its notification. This period is intended to give citizens ample time to prepare for the change.

**Changes in the concepts of endogamy and exogamy marriages in India** have undergone significant changes over time, influenced by various social, cultural, and legal factors.

#### Endogamy:

Endogamy refers to the practice of marrying within a specific social group, caste, or ethnicity. Traditionally, Indian society, particularly within the Hindu caste system, strictly adhered to endogamous practices to maintain social hierarchy and purity of lineage. However, several changes have occurred:

- **Legislative Changes:** Laws such as the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955 have made caste-based restrictions on marriage illegal.

- **Social Movements:** Movements like the Arya Samaj have promoted inter-caste marriages, challenging traditional endogamous norms.
- **Urbanization and Education:** Increased urbanization and higher education levels have led to more liberal attitudes towards marriage, with many young people choosing partners based on personal compatibility rather than caste.

#### Exogamy:

Exogamy involves marrying outside one's social group. In India, this often meant marrying outside one's gotra (clan) or village. Changes in exogamous practices include:

- **Relaxation of Gotra Rules:** Traditional restrictions on marrying within the same gotra have been relaxed, especially in urban areas.
- **Inter-Caste Marriages:** There is a growing acceptance of inter-caste marriages, which were previously rare and often frowned upon.
- **Legal Support:** The Special Marriage Act of 1954 allows for civil marriages irrespective of caste, religion, or community, further promoting exogamy.

#### Current Trends:

- **Increased Autonomy:** Individuals now have more autonomy in choosing their partners, often prioritizing personal compatibility over traditional norms.
- **Changing Rituals:** The rituals and ceremonies associated with marriage have also evolved, with many couples opting for simpler, more inclusive ceremonies.
- **Higher Divorce Rates:** With changing attitudes towards marriage, there has also been an increase in divorce rates, reflecting a shift towards viewing marriage as a partnership based on mutual respect and compatibility.

These changes reflect a broader shift towards more egalitarian and flexible social structures in India, influenced by legal reforms, social movements, and changing cultural attitudes.

#### Emerging trends of homosexuals, DINK and live-in relationships in India

In recent years, India has seen significant changes in attitudes towards homosexuality and live-in relationships. Here are some key trends:

##### Homosexuality:

1. **Legal Progress:** The decriminalization of same-sex relationships in 2018 was a landmark moment. The Supreme Court's decision to strike down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code allowed LGBTQ+ individuals to express their love and intimacy without fear of legal repercussions.
2. **Social Acceptance:** While legal recognition has improved, social acceptance is still evolving. A 2023 Pew Research Center poll found that 53% of Indians supported the legalization of same-sex marriage. However, conservative attitudes persist in many communities.
3. **Cultural Roots:** Historically, same-sex relationships were not uncommon in ancient and medieval India. Depictions of homosexuality can be found in the temples of Khajuraho and Mughal chronicles. This historical context is often cited by activists to argue for greater acceptance today.

##### Live-in Relationships:

1. **Legal Recognition:** Live-in relationships have gained legal recognition over the years. The Supreme Court has ruled that adult couples have the right to live together without being married, and such relationships are protected under the Domestic Violence Act.
2. **Changing Norms:** Younger generations, especially in urban areas, are increasingly open to live-in relationships as a step before marriage or as an alternative to it. This shift reflects broader changes in societal norms and attitudes towards marriage and relationships.
3. **Challenges:** Despite growing acceptance, live-in couples often face social stigma and legal challenges, particularly in more conservative regions. Issues related to property rights, inheritance, and child custody remain areas of concern.

These trends indicate a gradual but significant shift towards more inclusive and diverse relationship norms in India

## IV. CONCLUSION

Marriage has transitioned from a sacred, indissoluble union in Hindu law to a modern respectful contract, reflecting societal shifts towards freedom and balance. The study on changing trends in Hindu marriages, with a focus on Bengaluru city, reveals several significant shifts influenced by modernization, urbanization, and evolving societal attitudes. Key findings include **Shift from Arranged to Love Marriages, Inter-caste and Inter-religious Marriages, Delayed Marriages, Influence of Western Culture, and Legal and Social Reforms.**

Overall, the study highlights a dynamic transformation in the institution of marriage, reflecting broader social changes in Bengaluru city.

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