

## Examrace

# Marriage: Definitions, Introduction and Different Types of Marriages

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## Definitions

- According to Malinowski, “Marriage is a contract for the production and maintenance of children.”
- 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.”
- According to Lowie, “Marriage is a relatively permanent bond between permissible mates.”
- According to Horton and Hunt, “Marriage is the approved social pattern whereby two or more persons establish a family.”

## Introduction

- Universal social institution
- Bearing and rearing of children
- Regulating human reproduction
- Legitimacy to child
- Helpful in matters of inheritance and succession
- Marriage gives rise to family
- Family cares for and trains the children
- In modern society, marriage is synonymous with companionship

## Different Types of Marriages

- Monogamy: One partner marriage
- Polygyny: one husband with two or more wives
- Polyandry: one wife with two or more husbands
- Fraternal polyandry: females marry husband’s brother
- Sororal polygyny: males marry the wife’s sister

## Note:

Serial monogamy: multiple partners, but not at the same time

### Rules of Marriage

- Every society has rules about who to marry and who not to marry
- Eligibility or ineligibility of mates
- Few inter-caste marriages

Endogamy	Exogamy
marriage within the group	marriage outside the group
culturally defined	Eg. Gotra system
Caste and class basis	

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### Anuloma and Pratiloma Marriages

- Anuloma or hypergamy - Lower caste woman marries higher caste man
- Pratiloma or hypogamy - Higher caste woman marries a lower caste man

### Forms of Marriage

#### Marriage as a Contract in Muslims

- It is known as Nikah
- A contract or sacrosanct
- Procreation and legalization of children

#### Marriage as a Sacrament

- Sacred duty for Hindus to obtain Moksha
- To perform rituals

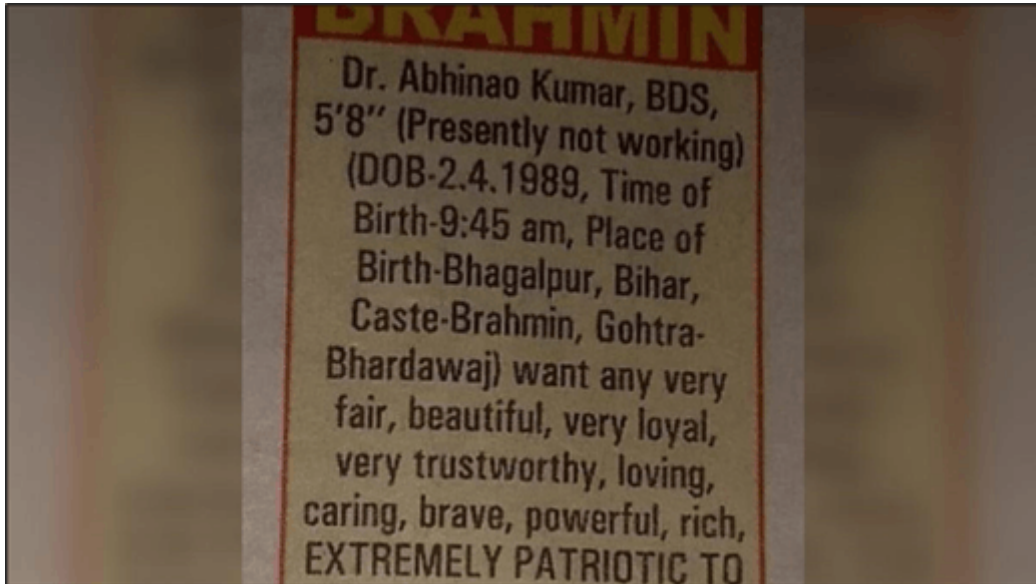
- To have male descendants
- Man is considered to be incomplete without wife and children

### **Mate Selection**

- Choosing marriage partners
- Some societies do not give the freedom to individuals to choose the partner they wish to marry
- Social pressure
- Cultural pressure
- Pressure of a good match
- Family background
- Girl as housewife
- Earning potential of groom



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### Preferential Marriage

- Between particular categories of relations or Kins
- Marriage across cousins are approved
- Arabs and Muslims in India- parallel cousin wedding

### Why?

- Wealth is not disposed and remains with the related family
- Group relations do not fade away

### MCQs

Q. 1. The prohibition of sagotra marriage among the Hindus is an example of marriage

- (A) Taboo
- (B) Clan exogamy
- (C) The rules of caste endogamy
- (D) The incest taboo

Answer: (B)

Q. 2. Mohammedan societies permit polygyny, but Christian ones do not. From this which of the following can be deduced?

- (a) Mohammedans are conservative people
- (b) Christians have a healthy conception of marriage
- (c) A social norm operative in one social system may not be operative in another
- (d) In Mohammedan societies, the ratios of girls are higher than boys

Ans. (c)

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