

Indian Society

Q.8 Do you think marriage as a sacrament is losing its value in Modern India?

Introduction

- Begin with defining Marriage

Body

- Explain the factors or reasons behind change in perception for marriage as sacrament institutions
- Like legal factors, social factors
- Give Recent Examples and Facts
- Mention counter arguments why Marriage is Sacrament in India

Conclusion

- Highlight the rise of individualism led to change in marriage as institution
- This gradual shift helping society to evolve

Introduction

Marriage is a legally recognized union between two people, **typically characterized by mutual commitment, and emotional bonding, and often involving social, religious, or cultural ceremonies.** While it retains its cultural and religious significance for many, there is a growing perception that marriage as a sacrament is losing some of its value in contemporary Indian society.

Body

Changing Dynamics of Marriage in Modern India

1. Individual Autonomy

- Younger generations increasingly **prioritize compatibility, love, and shared values over traditional considerations** like caste and religion in their choice of partners.
- **Example:** The rise of inter-caste and inter-faith marriages reflects the changing attitudes towards traditional norms associated with marriage.

2. Love Marriage over Arranged Marriages

- More individuals are opting **for love marriages or semi-arranged marriages** where they **have greater agency in choosing their life partners.**
- The **influence of social media and dating apps** allows individuals to explore relationships and connections outside traditional social circles.

3. Changing Economic Realities

- **Women Empowerment:** Women are now more likely to **seek equality in their relationships**, challenging traditional roles and expectations.
 - **Example:** Women pursuing careers and financial stability before marriage is a growing trend, impacting marital dynamics.
 - **According to the World Bank**, the global female labor force participation rate has increased from 48.4% in 1990 to 56.3% in 2020.
- 4. Growing acceptance of live-in relationships**
- Live-in relationships are becoming increasingly common in India, **especially in urban areas**.
 - A recent survey by the **Pew Research Center** found that **27% of Indians aged 18-34 years** said that **they had lived with a romantic partner without being married**.
- 5. Delayed Marriages**
- Many individuals, particularly in urban areas, **are focusing on higher education and career development**, leading to delayed marriages.
 - This delay can result in **more mature and thoughtful decisions about marriage**.
 - According to the **National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5)**.

Gender	Average Age of Marriage (2014-2016)	Average Age of Marriage (2019-2021)
Men	24.4 years	25.3 years
Women	20.8 years	21.6 years

- 6. Divorce Rates**
- The increasing divorce rates indicate a **shift towards viewing marriage as a contractual rather than purely sacramental institution**.
 - The divorce rate in India is increasing. In 1991, the divorce rate was 1.1%. In 2011, the divorce rate had increased to 1.3%.
- 7. Legal Reforms**
- Legislative changes, such as the **decriminalization of adultery and the introduction of divorce laws, Triple Talaq**, have made it easier for couples to exit unhappy marriages, potentially diminishing the sanctity associated with marriage.
 - **For example**, the **Hindu Marriage Act** was amended in 1976 to allow divorce by mutual consent.

Counterarguments Upholding the Value of Marriage as a Sacrament

- **Social Stability:** Traditional marriages are often seen as providing social stability, especially in rural areas, and serve as a framework for family structures and community cohesion.

- **Economic Security:** Marriage is perceived as providing economic security, and joint families often **pool resources to support their members.**
- **Family Expectations:** Social and familial pressures to marry persist, and many individuals still **adhere to traditional values and expectations.**
- **Legal Commitment:** While divorce rates may be rising, a significant number of marriages remain intact, indicating that the **sacramental commitment still holds value for many couples.**
- **Sacred Union:** Marriage continues to hold immense cultural and religious significance in India. It is seen as a sacred union that strengthens family bonds and maintains societal traditions.

Conclusion

In modern India, the concept of marriage as a **sacrament** is undoubtedly **evolving**, Traditional views of marriage, cultural significance, and legal frameworks continue to uphold its importance in Indian society. The evolving nature of marriage in India reflects a **complex interplay between tradition and modernity.**

Q.9 Explain Why Suicide among Young Women is increasing in Indian Society?

Introduction

- Can begin with mentioning the recent report by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) or WHO.

Body

- Mention the reasons why the suicide rate is increasing among Young women.
- Use the latest examples and reports.
- Mention the steps taken by the government.
- What more needs to be done to address the Problem of rising suicide.

Conclusion

- Need for a multifaceted approach to tackle rising suicide among young women in India.

Introduction

The '**Global Burden of Disease Study 2019**' revealed that India has one of the **highest female suicide rates worldwide**, highlighting a concerning public health issue. Several complex factors contribute to this distressing trend.

Body

Factors Contributing to Increased Suicide Rates among Young Women are

1. Gender Discrimination

- **Societal Pressures:** Gender discrimination perpetuates societal pressures on young women related to marriage, family roles, and career choices.

- These expectations and inequalities contribute to heightened stress levels.
- In **2020, a 17-year-old woman in Maharashtra** committed suicide after being forced into marriage.

2. Economic Stress

- **Unemployment and Financial Instability:** Economic stressors such as unemployment, financial instability, and **limited job opportunities** exacerbate stress, particularly during events like the **COVID-19 pandemic**.

3. Education Pressure

- **Academic Expectations:** High academic expectations and intense competition in the education system place immense pressure on young women.
- The **pressure to excel in exams** and secure promising careers can lead to mental distress.

In 2021, a 22-year-old woman in Kerala committed suicide after failing to clear a competitive exam.

4. Social Isolation

- **Changing Family Structures:** Changing family structures and urbanization have led to limited social support networks for young women.
- Social isolation, **loneliness, and depression can ensue**.
- **NCRB 2021 report: The suicide rate among young women in India aged 15-29 increased by 33% between 2011 and 2020.**

5. Online Harassment and Cyberbullying

- **Prevalence of social media:** The prevalence of social media exposes young women to online harassment and cyberbullying, negatively impacting their mental well-being.
- **In 2020, India recorded 28.8 suicides per 100,000 women, a significant increase from previous years.**

6. Relationship Issues

- **Family and Partner Problems:** Problems within relationships, including **family and partner conflicts**, contribute to emotional distress and suicidal thoughts among young women.

7. Access to Lethal Means

- **Easy Access to Self-harm Methods:** Easy access to lethal means such as pesticides or medications poses a significant risk, particularly in rural areas with ready availability.

8. Lack of Mental Health Support

- **Shortage of Professionals and Facilities:** A shortage of mental health professionals and facilities results in limited access to care and treatment for those in need.
- **Latest Reports:** The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that suicide is the **second leading cause** of death among young people **aged 15-29 globally**.

The Indian government has launched various schemes and programs to address mental health and well-being among women. Initiatives like **Sakhi One-Stop Centres, SHE guidelines, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, and Nari Shakti Puraskar** aim to provide support, financial security, and recognition to women.

Addressing Rising Suicide Rates Among Young Women in India

- **Mental Health Awareness:** Launch comprehensive campaigns to de-stigmatize mental health issues. Encourage open dialogues on emotional well-being.
- **Gender Equality Promotion:** Promote gender equality in education, employment, and family dynamics. Alleviate societal pressures faced by young women.
- **Online Safety Measures:** Implement stricter regulations against online harassment and cyberbullying. Create secure online environments for young women.
- **Crisis Helplines:** Establish toll-free mental health helplines. Provide immediate support and connect individuals with professional help.

Conclusion

Ministry of Women and Child Development's 2023 report on gender equality in India found that gender discrimination is a major problem in India. A multifaceted approach encompassing these measures is crucial for preventing and supporting young women facing mental health challenges and reducing suicide rates in India.

Q.10 Child cuddling is now being replaced by mobile phones. Discuss its impact on the socialization of Children.

Introduction

- Can begin by mentioning the gravity of the issue, using the latest reports

Body

- Mention the Positive and negative impact of using Mobile phones
- How it is impacting Child's development
- Mention the latest reports and data

Conclusion

- Mention the need for balanced use of mobile phones. Can conclude by quoting latest report, highlighting the need for concentrated efforts.

Introduction

A recent report by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** found that the average screen time for children and adolescents has increased by 50% in the past decade.

Body

This transformation has both positive and negative impacts on the development and interaction of child which are-

- 1. Emotional Development:** Cuddling and physical affection are essential for a child's emotional development, helps in building trust, bonding, and a sense of security. Excessive screen time can lead to a **lack of emotional connection with caregivers**, potentially affecting a child's emotional development.
- 2. Communication Skills**
Cuddling and face-to-face interactions with caregivers promote the development of communication skills, including **language acquisition and non-verbal communication**. Excessive use of mobile phones can **limit opportunities for real-time communication**, potentially hindering meaningful conversations.
- 3. Social Interaction**
Physical contact and interactions with caregivers **help children learn about social interactions, empathy, and cooperation**. Excessive screen time may lead to **isolation and reduced face-to-face social interactions, Cyberbullying, leading to emotional distress**.
2022 report by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the number of cyberbullying cases in India has increased by 46% in the past three years.
- 4. Cognitive Development**
Cuddling can **stimulate a child's brain and enhance cognitive development**, especially during **storytelling or shared reading sessions**. Excessive screen time **may replace valuable learning experiences**, potentially affecting a child's cognitive development.
- 5. Attention Span and Impulse Control**
Interactions with caregivers can help children **develop attention span** and impulse control. **Immediate gratification** through digital content may **affect a child's ability to wait and develop patience**.
- 6. Parent-Child Bond**
Physical affection **strengthens the bond between parents and children**, creating a **secure attachment**. Excessive screen time can lead to **disconnection within the family** and impact the parent-child bond.
- 7. Health Concerns**
Excessive screen time can lead to health issues like **eye strain, poor posture, and disrupted sleep patterns**.

8. Physical Inactivity

Children may become **sedentary, leading to obesity and related health problems.**

9. Privacy and Security Risks

Children may be vulnerable to **online predators and inappropriate content.** Data Privacy: Sharing personal information on social leads to privacy risks.

10. Academic Distraction

Mobile phones can distract children from their studies, impacting academic performance. Easy access to information can lead to **academic dishonesty, such as plagiarism.**

Positive Impacts

1. **Enhanced Learning Opportunities: Access to Educational Content:** Learning apps, online courses, and educational videos can supplement traditional education.
2. **Digital Literacy:** Early exposure to mobile technology can enhance digital literacy skills, preparing children for the digital age job market.
3. **Language Skills:** Educational apps and games can help improve language skills, including vocabulary and pronunciation.
4. **Global Connectivity:** Mobile phones can connect children to a global audience, exposing them to diverse **cultures, languages,** and perspectives.
5. **Virtual Travel:** Through **virtual tours and video calls,** children can explore different parts of the world, **promoting cultural understanding.**
6. **Skill Development:** Problem-Solving: Some mobile games encourage critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
7. **Creativity:** Apps for drawing, music, and storytelling can foster creativity.
8. **Coding and Programming:** Some apps and resources teach children the basics of coding and programming, potentially fostering interest in STEM fields.

Conclusion

A recent study by the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) found that children who spend more time on mobile devices are more likely to **have problems with social skills and emotional regulation.** While technology has its place in modern life, it is essential to **strike a balance between screen time and meaningful physical interactions.** Parents should prioritize cuddling, and quality time, and limit screen exposure.

Q 19. Why is caste identity in India both fluid and static?

Introduction

- Discuss the status of caste system in India.

Body

- First show how caste system in India is static or rigid.
- Then write about fluidity or dynamic attributes of caste system in India.
- Mention steps to be taken to remove rigidity in caste system.

Conclusion

- Conclude on the basis of above parameters.

Introduction

- The caste system in India is a **complex social hierarchy** that has traditionally determined the social and economic status of individuals within Indian society.
- There are **four main castes** in the traditional Hindu caste system: the Brahmins (priests and scholars), the Kshatriyas (warriors and rulers), the Vaishyas (merchants and landowners), and the Sudras (artisans and laborers).

Body

Caste as a rigid or static system

- **Lack of enforcement and implementation of laws and policies** to address this issue. Additionally, caste-based discrimination is often subtle, making it difficult to detect and address.
- **Lack of awareness about the caste system** and its impacts on individuals, which can make it difficult for individuals to recognize and challenge discrimination.
- **Poverty and lack of education** can exacerbate the problem, as individuals from lower castes may have limited opportunities and be more vulnerable to discrimination.
- Many **people continue to hold caste-based biases and prejudices**, which leads to caste-based discrimination.

Caste as Fluid or Dynamic system

- **Caste system in business:** Certain castes dominate certain industries and control access to resources and opportunities.
- **Caste in governance and politics:** Certain caste have been provided reservation in government jobs and political representation.
- **Inter-Caste Marriages** According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4, 2015-16), the percentage of inter-caste marriages in India has risen to 11.1%, indicating a breaking down of traditional caste boundaries.
- **Caste association:** Formal organizations often encompass several endogamous castes or jatis of a similar name, occupation, and rank.

- **Demand for reservations:** Various communities across India, including the **Jats in Haryana, the Marathas in Maharashtra, and the Kapus in Andhra Pradesh**, have demands for reservations in the form of quotas in education and employment.

These are steps that can be taken to placate the ill effects of the caste system

- **Spread of Education:** Caste feelings should be discouraged in educational institutions, and the students should be taught to resist these feelings whether they experience them in daily social interactions.
- **Proper implementation of the law:** Ensure strict implementation of the Atrocities Act as regards victims of violent abuse and other atrocities.
- **Economic empowerment:** Economic empowerment can help those who have been marginalized due to their caste by providing them with opportunities to improve their economic status.
- **Public awareness campaigns:** Public awareness campaigns can help raise awareness about caste-based discrimination. These campaigns should promote social harmony, a message that everyone is equal, regardless of their caste or social status.

Conclusion

Therefore, with stringent laws, regulations and awareness campaigns regarding caste-based discrimination we can limit the prevalence of such menace in the society and can make society just and equal to avail the benefits for all thus fulfilling the objectives of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'.

20. Discuss the impact of the post-liberal economy on ethnic identity and communalism.

Introduction

- Discuss LPG reforms in terms of ethnic and communal conflicts.

Body

- Discuss the impact on ethnic identity.
- Discuss the impact on communalism.

Conclusion

- Conclude accordingly.

Introduction

Post-economic liberalization in 1991, India has undergone significant shifts in **its socio-economic landscape**. These changes have affected its diverse ethnic and communal fabric in several ways. The following points provide insights into the various impacts.

Body

Impact on Communalism




- **Crisis Diversion:** Economic crises can be diverted by communal conflicts, shifting attention away from pressing economic issues. Such as Muzaffarnagar riots 2013.
- **Youth Radicalization:** Experiences of societal instability and uncertainty can initiate radicalization processes of gradually accepting extremism and perhaps the use of violent and illegal means.
- **Political Exploitation:** Certain political factions have capitalized on communal divides for electoral gains, a notable example being the Babri Masjid incident.
- **Religious Polarization:** This period has witnessed a rise in religious polarization, underscored by the emergence of movements like Hindutva politics.
- **Impact on Minority Groups:** Minorities, especially Muslim communities, have felt increasingly marginalized, nurturing a sense of alienation.
- **Fragmentation of Social Cohesion:** The economic shifts have fragmented societal unity, leading to phenomena like the ghettoization of specific communities.

Impact on Ethnic Identity

- **Rise in Migration:** Liberalization has sparked rural-to-urban migration, enhancing interactions between diverse ethnic groups. Cities like Bangalore stand as epitomes of this national integration through cosmopolitanism.
- **Formation of identity and Globalization:** As global influences permeate India, there's a noticeable resurgence in regional languages and cultural practices, like the revival of Kerala's traditional arts.
- **Ethnic Inclusion and Exclusion:** Liberalization's benefits have been unevenly distributed, causing disparities among communities. Tribal groups in mineral-rich zones, for instance, have felt marginalized.
- **Rise of Ethnonationalism:** The period post-liberalization has seen the rise of regional parties like Maharashtra's Shiv Sena, championing regional and ethnic pride.
- **Identity Politics:** The era has been marked by increased identity politics, with parties like Uttar Pradesh's Bahujan Samaj Party mobilizing caste-based support.

Conclusion

Therefore, it is crucial for **Indian society and policymakers** to address these challenges and promote inclusivity, social cohesion, and economic justice to ensure that the benefits of economic growth is shared by all communities, **fostering harmony and unity in the nation.**

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