

Ideals of Hindu Marriage

(i) Marriage among the Hindus is a religious sacrament. It is not a social contract. It is mainly intended for the fulfillment of Dharma.

(ii) Pre-marital chastity and marital fidelity of both husband and wife are the most valued ideals of Hindu marriage.

(iii) Hindus believe that marriage is a bond that binds a man and his wife not only in this life but also in their future lives.

(iv) Hindu marriage is indissoluble. Hindu couple wants to live together till their death.

(v) Hindus like to adopt monogamy form of marriage although polygyny is permitted under certain circumstances like sterility of the wife, absence of a male issue etc.

(vi) Marriage for the Hindus is a sacred institution because it is the source of not only Dhanna, Artha and Kama but also of moksha (liberation)

(vii) Marriage it-self is an ideal for the Hindus to attain because a man is considered incomplete unless he is married.

(viii) Finally though Dharma, procreation and sexual pleasure are the main aim of Hindu marriage, observance of Dharma is primary and sexual pleasure is secondary.