

## Difference between Hindu & Muslim Marriages

(i) Aims and ideals Hindu marriage is a religious sacrament, wherein religious sentiments play an important role. Dharma is considered the primary aim of Hindu marriage; a son is desired to offer pinda-dan to pitras. On the contrary, the Muslim 'nikah' is a contract for the satisfaction of sexual appetite and procreation.

(ii) The endogamy rules restrict the Hindus to marry within their own caste. But among the Muslims, marriage takes place between kiths and kins.

(iii) As regards the rules of exogamy, the Muslim community applies it to very near relatives. But among the Hindus several types of exogamic rules prevail such as gotra exogamy, pravar exogamy and sapinda exogamy which stipulate that the relatives of seven generations from the paternal side and five generations from the maternal side cannot marry, each other.

(iv) As regards the features of the marriage system, in Muslim marriage, the proposal comes from the boy's side and it has to be accepted in the same meeting by the girl, in the presence of two witnesses. The Muslims also emphasize on the capacity of a person to contract marriage. They practise polygamy and have the consideration of irregular or void marriages. They also have a preferential system in mate selection. On the other hand, the Hindus do not have the custom of proposal and acceptance and they do not believe in the capacity of making a contract. The Hindus do not favour polygamy and do not have irregular or void marriages or a preferential system in mate selection.

(v) Hindu and Muslim marriages differ from each other in the very nature of marriage. Among the Shia community of the Muslims there prevails a system of temporary marriage, called 'muta'. In the Hindu society, there is no provision for temporary marriage. Furthermore, the Hindus do not observe 'iddat' for contracting marriage.

(vi) The Hindus believe that in marriage, the wife and the husband are united together for seven lives. As such, the Hindu marriage is indissoluble which comes to an end only after the death of the spouses of course, at present the decision of the court is required for a dissolution of marriage. On the other hand Muslim male can divorce his wife

according to his whims. Dissolution of marriage among the Muslims does not necessitate the intervention of the court.

(vii) Hindus look notwithstanding the enactment of laws for widow remarriage, the fact remains that the Hindus look down upon widow remarriage and socially reject it. But the Muslims do not. Muslim widow is allowed to remarry after waiting for the period of 'Iddat'.

(viii) The dowry system prevails in the Hindu society, but the Muslims practise dower or 'mehr'.