

Changing Dimensions of Marriage and Divorce in Indian Society : A Socio-Legal Study

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Abstract: *Marriage has traditionally been considered a sacred and indissoluble institution in Indian society, deeply rooted in religious, cultural, and moral values. However, with the passage of time, modernization, urbanization, and constitutional developments have significantly transformed its meaning and practice. The evolution of marriage from a sacrament to a contract, the rising incidence of divorce, and the changing gender roles have redefined family structures and social relationships. This research paper analyses these changing dimensions of marriage and divorce in India through a socio-legal lens. It studies constitutional guarantees, personal laws, judicial interpretations, and socio-economic influences shaping modern marital relations. The study also examines recent amendments, landmark judgments, and the impact of globalization, feminism, and individualism on Indian matrimonial law. The paper concludes that while marriage continues to hold emotional and cultural importance, the growing acceptance of divorce and live-in relationships reflects the dynamism of Indian society, balancing tradition with modern values.*

Keywords: Marriage, Divorce, Family Law, Gender Equality, Personal Laws, Judicial Interpretation, Modernization, Indian Society

