

SOCIO LEGAL PERSPECTIVES IN CHANGERS OF MARRIAGE CUSTOMS IN SRI LANKAN SOCIETY (WITH REFERENCE TO NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCE)

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Introduction

This paper attempts to present Sociological perspectives in changers in marriage customs in Sinhalese society. Marriage is a universal phenomenon that gives a legal permission for the sexual life between male and female in society. There is no any universal definition for Marriage. Because marriage patterns and marriage customs are changing from country to country and culture to culture. Kathleen E Gough has given a definition to the marriage "Marriage is a union between a men and women such that children born to the women are recognized legitimate offspring of both parents" (Gough, 1993, 237p). Specially this paper discuss about what kind of marriage patterns and marriage customs are in North Central Province and it's legal background. During past 60 years (1950-2013) there was various marriage forms can be seen in Sinhalese society. Those can be divided as follows,

On the basis of the nature of residence
- Deega marriage and Binna Marriage.

On the basis of the size or number of wives and husbands - Monogamy, polygyny and polyandry.

On the basis of the nature of kinship - cross cussing marriage

J.B. Dissanayake in his book "Gamaka Suwanda siw siya gaw aseya" has mentioned Sinhala "Kasada bandinnata pamak nowa kasada katugannatada huru wiya" (Dissanayake, 1999, 121p). In the present society Roman Dutch law is affected to the Sinhalese marriage. But before introduced to the general Law marriage bond was depended on confidence and dependence. The main purpose of this study was to identify what are the changers of marriage customs and forms after and before the legalization of marriage. Basically this study attempted to compare patterns of marriage, main considering factors when selecting a partner, nature and attitudes of dowry, marital age ect.....among the modern and traditional society.

Objectives

The objective of the study was threefold.

First was to identify Legal background of the Sinhalese marriage in present and past Sinhalese society.

Second the study wanted to observe nature of changing marriage customs and patterns.

Third was to identify Social agents which are affected for changing Sinhalese marriage customs.

Research problem

Are there any outstanding changers among marriage customs and patters in north central Province Was the main research problem of this study.

Methodology

Methodologically Comparative method was used. The study sample was 100 married couples by representing various age limits through random sampling method. Both Qualitative and Quantitative data were collected through primary and secondary information sources. The Observation, Questioners, interviews and focus group discussions were data collecting techniques of this study. Quantitative data analyzed the using SPSS software and qualitative data were analyzed through "Frame work" analysis method which five key stages namely: familiarization, identifying, thematic frame work, indexing charting and interpretation.

Findings

Various and vast changers have been founded through the research under patterns of the marriage, customs of marriage, selecting a partner,

Economic validity of dowry and marriage.

- In the contemporary Sinhalese society first priority is given to the wealth and sound education background when selecting a partner for their marriage.
- Proposed marriages are less than Love marriages in the present. But there is a trend to proposed marriage during near past 20 years.
- Separate marriage can be seen as a trend during last 10 years.

Conclusion

Long term agents of Social Changers like modernization, urbanization and westernization has directly affected to the changers of marriage customs and forms in Sinhalese society. Like that types of marriages have been taken various orientations on the basis of some ones wealth power and prestige.

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