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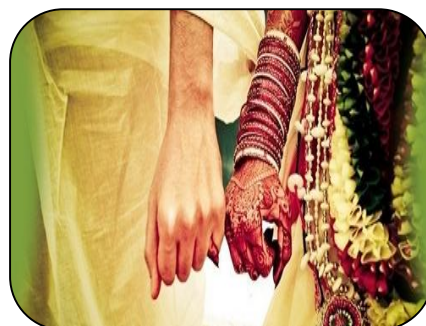
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**INTER-RELIGIOUS AND INTER-CASTE MARRIAGES IN INDIA****Ms. Bansude R. V.****Assistant Professor , Department Of Commerce.****ABSTRACT:**

*In South Asia and Middle Eastern nations, the term "inter-caste marriage" refers to a union between people who come from two social groups, such as different races, clans, or castes. In contrast to endogamy, which prohibits marriage outside of a social group, it is related to exogamy.*

*Since ancient times, caste and religion have been a part of Indian society. These two systems divide communities and foster division, animosity, and conflict among various social groups by creating a watertight compartment between them. In Indian society, marriages between people of the same caste and religion are the norm.*

*It is difficult and socially unacceptable to imagine marriages between people of different castes and religions. Indian society has undergone numerous positive transformations in recent years as a result of modernization, democratization, and development. Understanding the spatial patterns and determinants of inter-caste and inter-religious marriages in India is one of the primary goals of this study. The data used in this study come from the third round of the National Family Health Survey (2005-2006), which included 43102 married couples. It is found that about 10% of the all out relationships in India happens between various positions while only 2.1 percent relationships are between strict.*



**KEY WORDS:** *Marriage, caste, religion, and India.*

**INTRODUCTION**

Love drives the majority of intercaste marriages. Because of the many different religious faiths and sects of the Hindu faith in India, it has been on the rise. In India, religions each have their own guidelines connecting with marriage, as rules exist for the lead of marriage itself. An inter-caste marriage occurs when two people from different social groups get married.

Politicians like C. N. Annadurai, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, and social activists like Periyar E. V. Ramasamy, Raghupathi Venkataratnam Naidu, and Manthena Venkata Raju publicly supported inter-caste marriages in India.

Sri Lankan Tamils are known to be against intercaste marriage out of all traditions. The East London Brawl in 2011 was caused by a higher caste marrying a lower caste Indian.[citation needed] Only the current generation can save this increasing stereotype by eliminating the caste system and marrying different castes. For instance, in Tamil society, a member of a higher caste may never marry a member of a lower caste without causing the slightest amount of havoc.[citation needed] This is becoming an increasing issue in the West, including the UK, Germany, Canada, Castes can mix as a result.

The caste system and religious discrimination are a constant hindrance to India's development. According to Malhotra et al. (1977), the caste system and religion have long divided Indian society. The Indians took years to come to terms with the caste system because it was so deeply ingrained in their culture. Indeed, even today likewise India is battling to emerge from this social hazard. Various social reformers and individuals whose names do not appear in history have attempted to free India from the sway of the caste system, untouchability, and racial discrimination, according to history. The majority of people also perceive Indian marriages as taboo because they are inter-caste and inter-religious. However, inter-caste and inter-religious marriages are essential if the caste system and racial discrimination are to be eradicated. Marriages are considered to be the most significant social custom and the most effective means of breaking down the caste system. Even though there are inter-caste marriages in Indian society today, most of them are part of city culture and make up a small percentage of all marriages. In terms of accepting inter-castemarriage, the rural areas of the country still have a long way to go. The majority of the country is dominated by the same caste marriage.

In the city of Bombay, 149 inter-caste marriages were studied by Kannan (1963). He discovered that intercaste marriage has only recently been steadily increasing, and that it has assumed a significant role since 1956. Some of the important factors that influence inter-caste marriages in Bombay are the age of the women when they get married, the freedom they have to choose their partner, and the variety of female education (Kannan, 1963). According to a study based on data from matrimonial advertisements, people are coming forward for inter-caste marriages in a portion of families. Most of the time, friends and family will use any means necessary to stop such unions; However, the number of people who oppose intercaste marriages in West Bengal has grown from 700 in 1955 to 5800 in 1969. Intercaste marriages are most strongly opposed by Brahmins, who are at the top of the caste hierarchy. Hindus, including Kayasthas, Baidyas, and others, are increasingly accepting of intercaste marriage. Additionally, postgraduates are more open to intercaste marriage than graduates and undergraduates (Sarkar, 1970).

**The following are the primary goals of the study:**

1. To look at how many inter-caste and inter-religious marriages there are in India, how they are done, and where they are spread out.
2. To talk about the determinants of between rank and between strict relationships in India.

**DATA AND METHODS**

The current study relies on data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-III, 2005–2006), which was recently completed. The NFHS-3 was a sample survey of 99260 women between the ages of 15 and 49 who had been married before. It was held in each and every one of India's 29 states. Data about rank of the couple were additionally gathered during the survey. Caste information for 32160 Hindu couples is looked at in this study. Although this data was also gathered from other religious groups, the caste system is most prevalent among Hindus. Although their caste information is also available, couples

from other religious groups have been excluded from the analysis. Scheduled Caste (SC), Other Backward Classes (OBC), and Others (which includes all higher castes) are the three categories that comprise the collected data on caste. SC, OBC, and Others make up India's Class Hierarchy, but Schedule Tribe (ST) is not included in this hierarchy. ST is not included in this study because it is more like a community than a caste. Inter-caste marriage occurs when a woman of a higher caste marries a man of a lower caste, and when a woman of a lower caste marries a man of a higher caste, To put it another way, an inter-caste marriage occurs when a woman marries a man from a caste other than her own. In a similar vein, each religion is subdivided into five groups: Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, and Other.

**Table 1: Percent distribution of inter-caste marriages in India and states**

State	Women marry men			Total inter-caste marriages	Total
	of same caste	of lower caste than her caste	of upper caste than her caste		
<b>India</b>	90.1	5.1	4.8	9.9	30601
<b>North</b>	91.0	5.2	3.8	9.0	3177
Delhi	88.4	5.6	6.0	11.6	536
Haryana	82.7	11.0	6.3	17.3	526
Himachal Pradesh	89.4	6.0	4.7	10.6	537
Jammu and Kashmir	98.1	1.9	0.0	1.9	162
Punjab	77.5	11.9	10.5	22.5	285
Rajasthan	97.7	1.4	0.9	2.3	654
Uttaranchal	91.6	4.3	4.1	8.4	439
<b>Central</b>	92.2	4.4	3.4	7.8	7391
Chhattisgarh	96.8	0.7	2.4	3.2	535
Madhya Pradesh	96.5	1.9	1.7	3.5	1132
Uttar Pradesh	91.4	5.0	3.6	8.6	4968
<b>East</b>	91.4	4.7	3.9	8.6	2710
Bihar	95.3	2.1	2.6	4.7	617
Jharkhand	87.9	5.5	6.6	12.1	346
Orissa	86.1	7.5	6.4	13.9	670
West Bengal	90.5	5.9	3.7	9.5	1040
<b>North-East</b>	82.8	10.0	7.1	17.2	1976
Arunachal Pradesh	81.8	13.1	5.1	18.2	99
Assam	83.2	9.3	7.4	16.8	376
Manipur	82.2	12.7	5.1	17.8	1006
Meghalaya	75.0	10.7	14.3	25.0	28
Mizoram					
Nagaland	84.3	5.1	10.7	15.7	178
Sikkim	86.1	7.7	6.2	13.9	209
Tripura	81.6	10.9	7.5	18.4	293

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<b>West</b>	83.0	6.4	10.6	17.0	4592
Goa	71.6	15.8	12.6	28.4	278
Gujarat	86.3	6.3	7.4	13.7	672
Maharashtra	82.3	6.4	11.3	17.7	3157
<b>South</b>	91.9	4.3	3.8	8.1	9236
Andhra Pradesh	92.4	3.3	4.4	7.6	3487
Karnataka	83.5	9.8	6.7	16.5	2138
Kerala	78.7	14.6	6.7	21.3	356
Tamil Nadu	97.4	1.3	1.2	2.6	2991

**Table 2: Percent distribution of inter-religious marriages in India and stat**

State	Inter-religious marriage		Total
	No	Yes	
<b>India</b>	<b>97.9</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>42183</b>
<b>North</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>4469</b>
Delhi	97.8	2.2	634
Haryana	98.1	1.9	591
Himachal Pradesh	98.5	1.5	583
Jammu and Kashmir	99.3	0.7	445
Punjab	92.7	7.3	682
Rajasthan	99.3	0.7	881
Uttaranchal	98.1	1.9	534
<b>Central</b>	<b>98.8</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>9354</b>
Chhattisgarh	99.4	0.6	859
Madhya Pradesh	99.2	0.8	1655
Uttar Pradesh	98.7	1.3	6067
<b>East</b>	<b>98.7</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>3814</b>
Bihar	98.8	1.2	733
Jharkhand	94.4	5.6	607
Orissa	99.0	1.0	970
West Bengal	99.7	0.3	1589
<b>North-East</b>	<b>96.8</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>4581</b>
Arunachal Pradesh	90.8	9.2	357
Assam	97.9	2.1	746
Manipur	92.4	7.6	2048
Meghalaya	93.3	6.7	330
Mizoram	98.8	1.2	330
Nagaland	98.5	1.5	1846
Sikkim	91.9	8.1	406
Tripura	97.3	2.7	403
<b>West</b>	<b>96.6</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>6623</b>
Goa	98.7	1.3	541
Gujarat	98.2	1.8	842

Maharashtra	96.3	3.7	4697
<b>South</b>	<b>96.8</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>11650</b>
Andhra Pradesh	95.3	4.7	4452
Karnataka	97.2	2.8	2983
Kerala	97.9	2.1	620
Tamil Nadu	98.4	1.6	3347

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Table 1 shows that in India the level of between position relationships is around 10% out of which in 4.97 percent cases ladies wed to men of lower rank and in another 4.95percent cases, the ladies have a place with lower standing yet spouses have a place with higher stations. It is generally accepted that the influence of caste will weaken as a result of increased development and education, leading to an increase in the number of inter-caste marriages. India's southern region has a higher level of socioeconomic development than other parts of the country. Consequently, using the same logic, it is anticipated that inter caste marriage will occur more frequently in the southern region of India than in other regions. Yet, our examination shows that between station marriage is only9.71 percent in southern piece of India. Found between position marriage is most noteworthy in western district (17%). A few states are showing in excess of 20% between caste marriages. For instance, the rate of inter caste marriage is 22.36 percent in Punjab, 25.00 percent in Meghalaya, 26.67 percent in Goa, and 21.35 percent in Kerala. Jammu and Kashmir (1.67 percent), Rajasthan (2.36 percent), Chhattisgarh (3.38 percent), Madhya Pradesh (3.57 percent), Bihar (4.60 percent), and Tamil Nadu (2.59 percent) are the states with the lowest rates of inter-caste marriages. Haryana (17.16 percent), Manipur (18.33 percent), Tripura (17.81 percent), Maharashtra (17.79 percent), and Karnataka (16.47 percent) are the states with moderate-to-high rates of inter caste marriage.

**CONCLUSION**

Most of the time, India is still a traditional society with a strict caste system. Choosing a spouse in a marriage is heavily influenced by caste. The majority of Indians find it difficult to consider marriage outside of one's own caste. However, it is encouraging to note that about 10% of marriages in India are reported to be inter-caste unions, indicating that the influence of caste in marriage selection is gradually diminishing over time. This is a good start toward eliminating the caste system completely in India. The impact of modernization, socioeconomic development, and globalization on the Indian economy has resulted in this recent shift in the pattern of marriage. The pattern of inter-caste marriages in India is also influenced by a number of socioeconomic and demographic factors. The pattern of inter-caste marriages exhibits little spatial variation. In contrast to the economically backward states of northern India—Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Rajasthan—inter-caste marriages appear to be more common in states with higher socioeconomic development, such as Punjab, Haryana, Assam, Maharashtra, and Karnataka. With increasing levels of modernization and socioeconomic development, it is anticipated that the number of such inter-caste marriages will rise. In order to break down the caste divide that exists in Indian society, such marriages must be praised, the media should cover them, and they should be encouraged. When the marriage system in India is completely free of caste discrimination, it will take a long time.

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