

Changing Facets of Indian Wedding

The kinds of weddings that we see today were not how weddings were celebrated in yesteryears. The various social customs and rituals, which were associated with marriages, played a very vital role in deciding the marriage between two families. That time the consent of the family and parents were more important than the consent of the bride and bridegroom. The custom of arranged marriages have been a part of Indian culture since the fourth century. The practice of arranged marriages began mainly to maintain and unite the upper caste families.

For maintaining their family traditions the system of arranged marriages

started. Along with the concept of arranged marriages the dowry system became prevalent in medieval India. Today this custom of dowry is one of the major social menaces in the path of India's growth. It is a burden to the bride's family and it has gone up to such an extent that ever year reports of thousands of dowry deaths of newly wedded wife are heard every year.

Like dowry the custom of sati, which used to prevail earlier was another such social hindrance. Sati was self-immolation by a widow today the practice of sati is illegal but still there are places in India where cases of sati have



Today when we see the wedding celebrations in the cities it reminds of the gloss and glamour of Bollywood movies. Even the middle class families celebrate their weddings in Bollywood style. Today just like any other commodity in the market weddings have also become commercialized.