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Sologamy: A Failure to the Legality and Sanctity of Marriage as an Institution

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ABSTRACT

Sologamy, or the act of marrying oneself, is a modern social trend that redefines traditional ideas of marriage and self-commitment. Emerging prominently in the 21st century, sologamy involves individuals holding formal ceremonies, complete with vows, rings, and sometimes receptions, to symbolize their dedication to self-love and self-care.

The growth of sologamy is linked to various sociocultural changes, particularly the increasing focus on personal growth, self-empowerment, and mental health. In a society where adult milestones like marriage, career success, and parenthood are often prescribed, sologamy offers an alternative that emphasizes personal happiness and self-validation. It challenges the traditional belief that romantic relationships are the primary source of fulfillment, suggesting instead that one's relationship with oneself is equally, if not more, important.

Critics argue that sologamy trivializes the institution of marriage and represents a narcissistic culture preoccupied with self-gratification. However, supporters see it as a significant expression of self-acceptance and resilience. They believe sologamy can be a powerful tool for individuals recovering from trauma, navigating life changes, or seeking deeper self-awareness.

Though sologamy is not legally recognized and does not offer the legal benefits of traditional marriage, its symbolic significance is notable. It highlights a growing acceptance of diverse life choices and the importance of mental and emotional well-being. As society continues to evolve, sologamy may foster broader discussions about the nature of love, commitment, and personal fulfillment in the contemporary world.

Keywords: *Sologamy, same-sex marriage, LGBTQ.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Marriage is widely considered a fundamental element of social organization, offering a legal and social basis for dedicated partnerships. Nevertheless, in recent years, the notion of marriage has experienced substantial transformation, mirroring shifting societal standards and personal beliefs. An emerging phenomenon is sologamy, which refers to the practice of marrying oneself.

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Although generally seen as unorthodox, sologamy has become increasingly popular as a means of self-validation and empowerment. This article aims to analyse the impact of sologamy on the legal and sacred aspects of marriage as a social institution, by studying its legal standing, societal attitudes, and wider consequences. Sologamy, the practice of entering into a marriage with oneself, is uncommon but not unfamiliar to us. A self-marriage ceremony closely resembles a conventional wedding, complete with attendees, a wedding cake, and a reception. In the 21st century, it has gained significant popularity, particularly among wealthier ladies.

Sologamy is the act of committing oneself, without necessarily committing to a life of being single or celibate. The concept has gained widespread recognition in recent years as many individuals perceive a sense of self-estrangement amid today's hectic lifestyles, prompting a desire to cultivate self-love. Sologamy is the act of solemnizing one's marriage in a public ceremony, also known as self-marriage or autogamy.

Although this type of marriage does not possess any legal recognition or standing, it serves as a symbolic ceremony for individuals to highlight their self-love and autonomy. Some individuals perceive it as a fantastic means of commemorating affection; however, others regard it as a mere public ploy.

Kshama Bindu's self-marriage in June 2022 has become quite contentious in India. Kshama Bindu, a 24-year-old lady from Vadodara, made a public declaration on June 2nd that she intends to marry herself later this month as a demonstration of self-love. Bindu's statement sparked a flurry of memes on social media and ignited a substantial discussion over sologamy, which also dominated a significant social media platform. A BJP politician prohibited her from being married within a temple.

She expressed her desire to become a bride and decided to marry herself. She stated that self-marriage entails dedication and unwavering affection towards oneself. Furthermore, it might be regarded as an expression of self-acknowledgment.

She consistently advocated for the acceptance of sologamy and held the belief that individuals should marry people whom they genuinely love, regardless of gender or oneself. She had also decided to marry with the approval of her parents. This is the first instance of sologamy in India. While this notion may be unfamiliar to many, it is already gaining popularity. Marriage has traditionally been a fundamental aspect of social organization, providing a legal and cultural basis for close relationships and family ties. Marriage, deeply rooted in history and with symbolic importance, has historically been defined as a partnership between two consenting adults, connected by legal, social, and frequently religious obligations. Nevertheless, with the

progression of society standards and the modification of human values, the notion of marriage has been susceptible to reassessment and reinterpretation. There has been a reevaluation known as sologamy, which involves the act of marrying oneself. Although first seen as uncommon and even strange, sologamy has become a significant manifestation of self-love, empowerment, and personal satisfaction. Advocates of sologamy aim to defy society norms and change traditional partnership boundaries by openly declaring their dedication to themselves.

However, the increasing popularity of sologamy brings up essential inquiries regarding the essence and objective of marriage as a social establishment. The concept of self-marriage challenges established norms and customs in a legal landscape that traditionally acknowledges marriage as a union between two individuals. Furthermore, the increasing popularity of sologamy encourages contemplation regarding its wider consequences for the institution of marriage, encompassing its influence on marital entitlements, responsibilities, and cultural perspectives. Sologamy, delving into its legal standing, sociological viewpoints, and impact on the institution of marriage. This study seeks to provide a thorough examination of current research, legal structures, and cultural depictions to better understand the intricate nature of sologamy and its importance in today's society. This essay aims to enhance comprehension of the legal and sacred aspects of marriage by examining sologamy from many viewpoints and considering its complex nature.

II. HISTORY OF SOLOGAMY: A MODERN RITUAL WITH ROOTS IN SELF-LOVE

Sologamy, a contemporary trend in which individuals enter into matrimony with themselves, has garnered widespread interest as a unique manifestation of self-affection and personal empowerment. Although sologamy has gained popularity in recent times, it is based on historical and cultural traditions that honor individualism and personal independence.

Although self-marriage is not legally recognized in the United States, some women are nonetheless engaging in this practice. The tradition originated in 1993 when an American woman named Linda Barker married herself. The event is largely regarded as the initial publicized instance of self-marriage, with approximately 75 of Baker's acquaintances in attendance. Where the bride solemnly affirms her commitment to herself, promising to support and care for herself through both sickness and health, until the day she is no longer present.

Last year, there was a reported case of sologamy divorce involving a Brazilian model, Cris Galera (33). She proclaimed the termination of her solo marriage after only 90 days because she had developed feelings for another person.

People who have entered into self-marriage include writer Erika Anderson, author Sasha Cagen,

and Brazilian supermodel Andriana Lima.

In Western countries, firms have also emerged that cater to this trend by providing wedding kits that include rings, vows, and affirmation cards. "Marry Yourself" in Canada provides consultancy services and wedding photographs, whereas IMarriedMe.com is based in San Francisco. In 2014, a tourism business in Kyoto began providing self-marriage packages only for women.

Marriage is incapable of defining self-respect, independence, and feminism. These concepts encompass a wide range of ideas that hold significant importance and uphold the principles of human worth and respect. Moreover, the practice of sologamy is not exclusive to women; there are even scattered instances of men engaging in this activity. British man who gained attention for his self-marriage as a proud sologamist.

III. LEGALITY OF SOLOGAMY

According to Krishnakant Vakharia, a senior advocate of the High Court, it is not legally permissible to marry oneself under Indian laws. A marriage must consist of two individuals. Sologamy is not legally recognized. According to eminent lawyer Chandrakant Gupta, the Hindu Marriage Act specifies that marriage requires the presence of two individuals, as indicated by the usage of the term "either of the spouse."

In Hinduism, marriage is regarded as a sacrament. A fundamental requirement for a Hindu marriage is that both parties must be Hindus. The case of Gullipilli Sowria Raj Vs. Bandaru Pavan was held.

The Hindu Marriage Act of 1955 has established certain essential prerequisites for a legally valid Hindu marriage. This provision is stipulated in Section 5 of the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955.

IV. CONDITIONS FOR A HINDU MARRIAGE

Section 5 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 outlines the requirements that must be met for a Hindu marriage to be legally recognized. These elements are necessary to guarantee the legality and sacredness of the marital relationship within the Hindu community. The major conditions specified in Section 5 are as follows:

The Hindu Marriage Act adheres to the principle of monogamy, which stipulates that neither partner should have a live spouse at the time of marriage. This requirement guarantees that a Hindu marriage is a legally enforceable partnership exclusively between two individuals.

Mental competence: Both individuals involved in the marriage must possess mental soundness

during the marriage ceremony. This need guarantees that consent is offered voluntarily and that both parties can comprehend the importance of the marriage commitment they are entering into.

The Act establishes a minimum age requirement for marriage, with different age limits for males and girls. The groom must be at least 21 years old, while the bride must be at least 18 years old. This provision is intended to prohibit child weddings and ensure that persons only engage in marriage when they have reached an age at which they are considered sufficiently mature to make well-informed choices.

Prohibited ties: The Hindu society considers some ties to be forbidden, therefore marriage between those who are related within certain forbidden degrees is not allowed. The identification of these forbidden ties is based on the principles of prohibited degrees of kinship as recognized by Hindu law.

The Act prohibits marriage between people who are closely related according to Hindu law, namely within the banned degrees of sapinda kinship. Sapinda relationship denotes consanguineous relatives within a specific degree of closeness, and any matrimonial union within these degrees is deemed incestuous and thus forbidden.

By complying with the stipulations stated in Section 5 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, Hindu marriages are guaranteed to be legally binding and socially acknowledged partnerships that maintain the sanctity of the marital institution within the Hindu community. The purpose of these criteria is to protect the rights and interests of the parties involved and uphold the stability and sacredness of Hindu Marriage.

V. THE REPERCUSSIONS OF SOLOGAMY

Narcissus, a figure from Greek mythology, gained fame for his intense fascination with his own reflection in the water. This story has beyond ancient legends to become a representation of extreme narcissism and emotional disconnection from others. Narcissus, in Freudian psychoanalysis, represents an archetype of extreme self-absorption, disregarding the needs of others. In the field of psycho-sexual research, individuals with chronic narcissism may display a proclivity for engaging in sexual activities exclusively with oneself, completely avoiding any form of external relationships.

Introducing Kshama Bindu, a modern individual who has stirred up debate by openly declaring her intention to enter into a self-marriage. Bindu's objective is to question established social conventions and promote the acceptance of sologamy as a common practice in India. Bindu's choice, however uncommon, aligns with the prevailing trend of individualism among the

younger generation. This tendency emphasizes personal autonomy and self-expression over traditional communal norms. Nevertheless, Bindu's decision has encountered disapproval from several sources, with some categorizing it as an eccentric and self-centred action. Critics contend that sologamy embodies an extreme manifestation of self-admiration that disregards the sacredness of marriage as a social construct intended for collaboration and reciprocal assistance. Furthermore, there are concerns regarding the psychological ramifications of sologamy. Some individuals argue that it could be a sign of underlying conditions like borderline personality disorder (BPD), which is characterized by a fear of abandonment, trust issues, and a reluctance to commit.

These concerns, proponents of sologamy contend that individuals possess the autonomy to select their route to contentment, whether it entails marrying oneself or engaging in a traditional partnership. They stress the significance of human autonomy and self-determination in matters of love and marriage, affirming that societal conventions should not dictate individuals' decisions.

Nevertheless, the discussion regarding sologamy goes beyond personal independence and raises broader concerns about its societal implications. Many people perceive sologamy as an indication of the decline of societal unity and the disintegration of conventional principles. They contend that the acceptance of sologamy signifies a refusal of established cultural and social standards, disintegrating societal cohesion, and a decline in collective identity. Opponents of sologamy caution against uncritically embracing Westernization and the gradual destruction of traditional Indian cultural norms. They contend that sologamy signifies a divergence from conventional Indian principles toward family and community, and its endorsement could potentially result in significant ramifications for social unity and stability. The matter of sologamy is intricate and controversial, characterized by a wide range of viewpoints and opinions. While certain individuals perceive it as a commemoration of self-affection and individual empowerment, others regard it as a self-centred and asocial behaviour that contradicts the sacredness of matrimony and conventional principles. It is uncertain whether sologamy will become more widely accepted in Indian society, but its advent has certainly prompted significant discussions around love, marriage, and personal independence. Regardless of opposing perspectives, it is evident that the discussion on sologamy is still ongoing, and its societal consequences are expected to have a lasting impact.

VI. CONCLUSION

Ultimately, sologamy signifies a divergence from conventional perspectives on matrimony and

prompts inquiries over the legality and sacredness of the institution. Advocates assert that individual autonomy and self-love are important, while opponents claim that these ideas weaken the core values of marriage as a social and legal institution.

sologamy poses a challenge to the legal structure of marriage, which typically mandates the joining of two individuals. Through the act of self-marriage, individuals can take advantage of legal advantages and privileges that are specifically designed for couples, which may result in issues in areas such as taxation, inheritance, and healthcare decision-making. Furthermore, the lack of a legally recognized spouse could potentially undermine the legal safeguards put in place to protect persons during times of crisis or incapacity.

sologamy gives rise to philosophical and ethical considerations regarding the essence of marriage. The concept of marriage has traditionally been regarded as a partnership between two individuals founded on affection, dedication, and reciprocal assistance. Sologamy, on the other hand, redirects attention towards oneself, giving greater importance to personal satisfaction and self-validation rather than to a partnership or companionship. This societal development poses a challenge to the established conventions and ideals around marriage, sparking discussions about its interpretation and importance in modern society. sologamy could potentially have wider ramifications for societal unity and communal principles. Throughout history, marriage has played a crucial role in establishing the foundation of family structure and maintaining social stability. It has provided a structure for raising children and promoting interdependence among individuals. Through the adoption of sologamy, individuals may place a higher importance on their own individuality rather than the overall welfare of the society, which could potentially lead to the deterioration of social cohesion and the weakening of familial and communal ties. sologamy connects with wider discussions regarding gender parity and societal fairness. Traditional marital conventions have frequently faced criticism for perpetuating patriarchal power structures and constraining individual autonomy, especially for women. On the other hand, sologamy can be viewed as a means of asserting one's authority and autonomy, enabling individuals to defy conventional norms and establish their own routes to personal satisfaction. Nevertheless, some contend that sologamy could prolong individualism and undercut endeavours to attain enhanced equality and togetherness in society.

Ultimately, sologamy challenges conventional perspectives on marriage by advocating for personal autonomy and self-expression. However, it also gives rise to notable legal, philosophical, and social issues. The practice may challenge the limits of current legal frameworks and societal conventions, sparking discussions about the definition and importance of marriage in modern society. In essence, the emergence of sologamy highlights the intricate

and adaptable nature of human connections, prompting us to reassess the essence of love, dedication, and social bonds in contemporary society. Indeed, let us further explore the ramifications of sologamy on the legal and sacred aspects of marriage as a societal institution.

Sologamy, although still a relatively infrequent practice, poses difficulties to the legal underpinnings of marriage in several ways. Marriage, in legal systems, primarily serves to construct a structure for the allocation of rights, obligations, and advantages between two individuals. These issues encompass aspects such as ownership of property, rights to inherit, financial assistance for a spouse, and authority to make decisions regarding healthcare and finances. Through the act of marrying oneself, individuals might potentially obtain legal advantages without the need for a spouse, which raises inquiries on the intentions and objectives of marriage from a legal standpoint. Sologamy adds complexity to conventional concepts of matrimonial responsibilities and obligations. In a traditional marriage, it is customary for spouses to give priority to the welfare and concerns of their partner, often sacrificing their own personal aspirations. Sologamy, in contrast, prioritizes self-love and self-care, potentially redirecting attention from interpersonal relationships and mutual assistance. This change in viewpoint could have substantial consequences for legal interpretations of conjugal rights and obligations, as well as the wider community comprehension of the function of marriage. Sologamy poses a threat to the sacredness of marriage, which is deeply embedded in societal, religious, and cultural customs. Throughout history, marriage has been seen as a sacred union between two people, sanctified by religious rituals and formalized through a legal agreement. The institution of family acts as a fundamental and essential element of family life, offering a secure and consistent setting for the nurturing and development of children, as well as the fostering of emotional closeness and companionship. Sologamy, by prioritizing self-affirmation and personal fulfilment, deviates from the conventional concept of marriage and challenges its inherent worth and importance. Detractors of sologamy contend that it weakens the sacredness of marriage by diminishing it to a manifestation of self-gratification or self-obsession. They argue that a genuine marriage needs selflessness, flexibility, and dedication to the welfare of another individual, characteristics that are lacking in the act of marrying oneself. Furthermore, they contend that sologamy undermines the gravity of marital commitments and lessens the cultural and theological importance of the institution. Nevertheless, advocates of sologamy argue that it signifies a profound reinterpretation of marriage in the modern era, including a wide range of love and self-expression. They contend that conventional marriage rules have frequently been repressive and discriminatory, especially towards marginalized communities such as LGBTQ+ folks, those with disabilities, and those who opt for voluntary singlehood.

Proponents of sologamy contend that it provides a different route to achieving satisfaction and personal growth, unencumbered by the limitations imposed by conventional standards and expectations. Sologamy disrupts traditional notions of marriage as a legally and socially recognized union, prompting intricate inquiries over its legitimacy and sacredness. Although it provides individuals with a greater sense of independence and self-empowerment, it also presents substantial obstacles to current legal structures and cultural conventions about marriage. The increasing recognition and acceptance of sologamy prompts us to reevaluate the essence and objective of marriage in contemporary society and to examine fresh prospects for individual and interpersonal satisfaction.

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