



## Mains Practice Question

**Q.** Do you think marriage as a sacrament is losing its value in Modern India? (Answer in 150 words, UPSC Mains 2023)

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### Approach

- Begin the answer by briefly describing the term 'marriage'.
- Provide arguments for diminishing value of marriage and arguments supporting marriage's value.
- Conclude by highlighting the significance of marriage.

### Introduction

**Marriage, a legally and socially recognized partnership** aiming to form families and follow social norms, is deeply rooted in **Indian culture and religion**. However, in modern India, its value as a sacrament is evolving.

### Body

#### Arguments for Diminishing Value:

- **Changing Norms:** Society now accepts **diverse relationships**, reducing the emphasis on traditional marriage. Recent data shows an increase in the '**never married**' youth population to **26.1% in 2019**.
- **Individual Autonomy:** Personal freedom leads to **autonomous choices in partnerships**, challenging arranged marriages through **Live-in relationships** and fostering single lifestyles.
- **Rising Divorce:** Escalating divorce rates suggest a decline in the sanctity and permanence of marriage.
- **Economic Independence:** Call for **women empowerment extends choices beyond traditional marriage**, challenging patriarchy and reducing sanctity of marriage .

#### Arguments Supporting Marriage's Value:

- **Social Stability:** Marriage continues to be a cornerstone for social stability by providing a **structured framework for family life**.
- **Legal Protections:** It offers crucial legal rights in **inheritance, property, and medical decisions**.
- **Religious Significance:** Many **view marriage as sacred, tied to their religion**, instilling moral values.
- **Psychological Security: Marriage reduces isolation**, offering psychological security, vital for addressing mental health challenges.

### Conclusion

In sum, while marriage adapts to modern needs, it **remains significant in contemporary India**, serving evolving **societal aspirations**.

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