



DNA Profiles and Levirate Marriages

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Recently, during [DNA profiling](#) for an [organ transplant](#), it was discovered that a father was not the biological parent of his son, revealing a case of **levirate marriage**.

- The exposed sensitive family information, raising concerns about **genetic privacy** and the unintended consequences of [DNA analysis](#).
- **DNA profiling:** [DNA profiling](#) is a technique to **identify individuals** based on unique variations in their **DNA** sequences.
 - While 99.9% of human DNA is identical, the 0.1% variation, especially in [Short Tandem Repeats \(STRs\)](#), forms the basis of DNA profiling, enabling precise identification.
- **Levirate:** Levirate marriage is a custom where the **brother of a deceased (or physically incapacitated) man** can marry to **his brother's widow**, ensuring the continuation of the family line.
 - It has been practiced in India by several tribes, including the [Santhal](#) and [Munda](#).
 - During [Vedic times](#), [niyoga](#), the practice of a younger brother or kinsman marrying the **widow of an elder brother**, was practiced but **later disallowed** during the [Gupta](#) and earlier periods.
- **Sororate** is the custom of a man marrying his wife's sister if his wife dies.

Read More: [DNA Profiling in the Justice System](#)

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