

**Shantilal Muttha,**  
Founder, BJS**eBULLETIN**

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Dear Friends,

I am happy to release our e-bulletin, which conveys a message for strengthening marriage & eventually family. Friends, it's high time to pull up our socks by leaving behind the age old conservative mindset and to cultivate a progressive mindset for embracing the new face of business, family and social changes with an open heart.

This issue specially covers the spectrum of transforming family structure, marriage related problems and the present community mindset.

Family is the basic unit of a society and that's why family happiness has a large impact on collective happiness of the society. Marriage is a social institution that allows people to create families and eventually societies. We know that changes are part & parcel of the Mother Nature. Same goes with marriages, relationships and societies.

The changing time has created a deep influence on marriage & family. Consequently, it is crucial to understand the emerging situations & problems in these areas. It is also an important question whether our families stand out on the cornerstone of "Happy Families" and will it help in creating an ideal society?

Through marriage we pass responsibilities of continuing the "creation" to the next generations.

What is the significance of marriage? What is an ideal marriage? Are there any changes required in the traditional marriage fixing processes to initiate an ideal marriage?

We are trying to give a good analysis on marriage and its contemporary aspects in the article "Marriage: A modern Indian Perspective". We have also mentioned various BJS programs related to marriage & family along with the article.

Friends, BJS is a progressive social organization which not only functions with the changing time but also benefits the society by bringing changes in its programs or initiatives for the welfare of the community. We have encountered the changes that have come due to dynamic time in the past few decades. This is nature's rule that time waits for none. Old times pass and new times takes its' place. This is eternal. But the passing time gives us message to fully utilize the upcoming time, because, past never come back. The storm of changes also gives us signals to change ourselves first before changing others. If we don't change ourselves, the time will leave us at the same old place. History has proofs that many civilizations disappeared in the time due to their stubborn nature of being not progressive.

I am very happy to announce that BJS has decided to work upon the plans that were determined in the successful BJS national Convention held in Chennai on 5th & 6th November, 2016. The Government of Maharashtra has accepted the BJS program, Empowerment Of Girls (EoG) as pilot project for all its schools. As a part of this initiative, the empowerment of 1,03,000 students from 8th to 10th standard in 903 govt. schools has started. We have transformed 72 teachers to Master Trainers of EoG program through organizing workshops in Ahmednagar & Sangamner of Maharashtra. Definitely, the year 2017 is going to be a step further towards contribution of BJS for nation building.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year...2017.

**Prafulla Parakh,**  
National President, BJS

From the desk of National President

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# BJS Programs on Marriage related issues and Family Happiness

BJS was commenced with the sole aim to solve the problems of costly marriage affairs in the community long back in 1985. When the organization was working to solve such problems, other ancillary issues like complication in getting marriage alliances, increasing divorce rates, etc. were discovered. To tackle these issues and for creating happy families we have generated logical solutions and implement them through the following programs:

## **Lectures on Reforms in Marriage Fixing Process:**

The root cause of the rising cases of disharmony in couples' lives and increasing rate of divorces is the basic lack of compatibility within the couple. Compatibility is one of the top most priorities for a happy married life. BJS believes that nobody apart from the candidates themselves can decide on right type of options suitable for them given the frame of selection by their families. With the aim to sensitize the community about this new paradigm shift in handing over the ownership in initiating the marriage fixing process to the candidates, BJS organize lectures and interactive sessions.

## **Parichay Sammelan**

These are traditional Meets on BJS platform with candidates and their families coming together to consider multiple options under one umbrella. These meets are organized for categories such as Highly Educated, Educated, Rural and Re-marriage candidates.

## **Matrimonial Get-Together & Meets:**

BJS invites highly educated candidates from across country to interact with each other, exchange thoughts and views and also spend time with each other to know each other better. These are activity based meets, where BJS conducts several activities during the program to help the candidates understand and know each other's likes, dislikes, qualities, future plans, aspirations, talents and outlook towards life in a better way so as to short list the options to be considered for further process of marriage fixing.

## **Empowerment of Couples (EoC):**

It is a two-day workshop attempts to repair the understanding, communication, acceptance and adjustment gaps among both the life partners and the in-laws. Moreover, the workshop tries to reinforce the values & meaning of marriage, post-marriage adjustment from both sides for a happy family bonding.





# Marriage: A modern Indian Perspective

A third world country and as small a country as Bhutan has led the world with a pioneering approach. Since 1971, Bhutan has rejected Gross domestic product (GDP) as the measurement of progress. It emphasizes on Gross National Happiness (GNH) for measuring the wellbeing of the citizens instead of material growth. Following the step of Bhutan, Madhya Pradesh becomes the first state in India to create a "Happiness Department".

Happiness is the core element and major sign of a healthy nation.

The happiness of a nation starts with the basic element called family and a family comprises people who are related to each other by birth, relationship and marriage. India is known worldwide for its joint family structure, bonding and culture. Due to various factors, the family structure of India is gradually shifting from joint family to nuclear family. Mainly, these factors are economical and psychological. Economic factors are the need for financial independence and individualistic rights on funds, resulting in the distancing from the burden & responsibilities of a joint family.

But more important is to understand the psychological factors to get a glimpse of modern Indian perspective of marriage. Marriage is a social

institution that gives an opportunity to strangers becoming families. But the whole calculation of fixing relationship of marriage is done on the basis of some materialistic and utopian grounds. So, sometimes the candidates themselves don't look after whether their psychological needs will be fulfilled or not during taking hasty decisions attracted by materialistic status. This is also one of the reasons, why most of the girls are terrified with post marital adjustments. It also contributes fuels in transforming joint family into nuclear family.

Individual space is another and most of the misquoted issue of families in India. Asking for individual space is not a crime as everybody needs it, so thus maintaining a career even also after marriage. Happiness breaks down into pieces when everybody needs personal space to grow and understand oneself in families after marriage.

So, it is need of the hour to change our mentalities and overwhelming expectations from our daughter-in-laws. It is a high time to change ourselves, our age-old thoughts and conservative minds for creating a happy country that begins with a happy family.

Rather than "happily married", "married and happy" is more rational!





# Personality of the Month

## Astitva and Rehana: Changing the notion of Bad Woman



India can never become a developed country only on the basis of its high GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and economic growth rate. Having liberal mindsets and democratic thought processes are also very importance to be in the list of the developed countries. These changes are indispensable in places where still caste based & Khap panchayats decide what women should wear. To create respect for woman is very much necessary in some areas where still in this 21st century; women cannot go outside homes without purdah, ghunghat, burka & hijab and cannot talk to men or raise voice against any domination or exploitation.

India has two contradictory faces, one of which talks about modern, self-conscious & independent women and another still believes that dresses, activities, timing and venues decide the moral characters of women.

Rehana is a bright ray of hope in this deteriorating society, who is empowering women in backward area of Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh.

This place is known for its caste based

panchayat which is fully supported by the political interest. Rehana sensitize people against 'purdah system' and domestic violence of the area through efficient communication mediums like dialogues, meetings and street plays.

**"Rehana started her work by talking to women about their problems & discussing patriarchy as well as feudal mindsets that influences and control our beliefs and perpetuate various practices that dominate women."**

This brave woman along with like-minded people established an organization called Astitva and collectively they are fighting against fundamentalists. Apart from addressing gender issues, Rehana and her team is striking to shut down all liquor shops in the area as these shops are ruing the family happiness.

We salute the brave step of Rehana and Astitva who are fighting against political interest and bigger than that a patriarchal society for giving equal rights to woman.

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We would appreciate your feedback and comments

Please write to us on [info@bjsindia.org](mailto:info@bjsindia.org) for your feedback

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