



## From the desk of National President

Friends,

This month, though just because of the delay in getting this issue out, gives me an opportunity to talk about the experience I could go through three consecutive Sundays. The last two being an experience of conducting Remarriage Matrimonial Meets at Indore and Nagpur respectively.

It is wrong and I really don't wish to say that both the events were "quite successful" because the organizers could attract sizable number of prospects looking forward hopefully to the event for their 2nd marriages. Very few of them were those unfortunates who had lost their spouses untimely. Few more were those who had genuinely had gone through un-resolvable traumatic conflicts. But I was wondering as I was interviewing many of them if they were perhaps the cases who had undeservingly gone through the decision of divorce.

What could be the reason that there are increasing numbers of couples hastily reaching to the decision of divorce? Many of them convincingly spoke about non-compatibility. Who is going wrong in not ensuring the basic compatibility while bringing to young vibrant souls together for a life time dream?

Many of them spoke about elderly interventions. When the undeniable objective of parents' intervention is the

happiness of their children, why such interventions are ultimately resulting their children go through a painful decision of divorce? That too so early in their married life? Friends there are definitely many things going wrong from all of us involved in such cases.

It would be unfair to not narrate a very touching experience from Indore. A young beautiful girl, an unfortunate widow in the eyes of many, appeared to me one of the luckiest persons. She was blessed, encouraged, and was brought to the event by reviving the dreams of her happy married life by none other than the parents of her departed husband. My salute to those parents who have strength to overcome the sorrow of their son's death because they want to see their daughter-in-law as happy as she would have been with their son.

Friends, the first Sunday of this month was another unique experience. I attended a Mass Marriage event in Jamnagar and was very happy to see the popularization of an event that was conceptualized by our beloved leader Shri. Shantilal Muttha. He had seen a solution in such a concept for the issues arising out of extravaganza in weddings, bridal deaths, dowry issues, girl child discrimination and female feticide.

I am sincerely hope that this special issue on marriage, relationship and happy families will open up our thought process for the change in alarming situation of unhappy marriages.

-Prafulla Parakh  
National President, BJS



Side by Side, Heart by Heart,  
Together Strong. That's A Family!

Role  
Interchange  
in Marriage  
Fixing

Empowering  
couples to  
build stronger  
families

Gender roles  
in modern  
families



# Role Interchange in Marriage Fixing

The youth today are constantly leaping forward in the race of globalization in order to fulfill their rising ambitions. Their self-dependence and technological advancements due to higher education have led to alteration of family dynamics. The age-old family system that has been the real identity of India through ages is in trouble and familial bonds are deteriorating at an alarming rate causing divorces and break-ups. The mounting instances of broken engagements and difficulty in finding suitable matches for highly educated girls and boys may lead us to more complicated social situations.

With his 30 years of research and experience on marriage related subjects BJS Founder Shri Shantilalji Muttha had predicted four years ago that every alternate marriage would culminate into divorce in coming 15 years and the first signs of trouble have already begun surfacing in our society. After organizing mass marriages, matrimonial meets; family and marriage counseling for years, Shri Muttha found that the whole process of marriage fixing needs to be reviewed. He found that in today's context the traditional matchmaking process is faulty and outdated and needs immediate reconsideration. In a revolutionary approach to solve all marriage related issues Shri Muttha suggested role interchange in the marriage fixing procedure, showing us the right path to be traversed.

The world has evolved new and we have shunned numerous conservative beliefs. Yet, even today we stick to the age old method of finding suitable life-partners for our children. In the traditional approach the parents initiate the matchmaking process for their children seeking help from relatives, friends and acquaintances to search for suitable proposals.

In present times, the relatives hesitate in referring profiles for marriage. The parents get proposals from their limited sources of information. They scan the profiles with their own fixed parameters in mind; never even making efforts to map thoughts with their son or daughter. In most cases parents are unaware of the preferences or choices of their son or daughter. The girls they have to constantly go through the embarrassment of presenting themselves before families of suitable boys'. Our society has a notion that a boy's family must not make the first approach for marriage purpose and therefore boys have to wait for initiative or reply from girls' family.



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- **The parents mainly look out for family background, wealth, education and social reputation while the youth emphasize on the compatibility factor.**
- **Maintaining pace with the speedy advancements, the elders must now allow the youngsters to initiate the marriage fixing process. Young boys and girls can find matches with the help of their social circles, technology and other mediums of information but with all necessary caution. The parents must guide the children properly about finding the match from within the community and using the technology safely to avoid unwanted incidents.**



The parents mainly look out for family background, wealth, education and social reputation while the youth emphasize on the compatibility factor. The highly educated girls and their families wish for highly educated life partners and a freedom to pursue their respective careers along with a free lifestyle. Despite all the information on family background gathered by parents, the boys' or girls' individual behavior and information remain inaccessible. Also the consent of the boy and girl is asked only at the very final stage of matchmaking and that too amidst the family pressure.

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In the new approach the highly educated girls and boys can check the compatibility factor through interchange of thoughts on family, education, career and all significant matters. This could prevent them from choosing life partners from outside their respective community. The parents can make the final decision in agreement with the candidates after reviewing all the proposals brought to them by the latter. This would reduce substantially the chances of divorce or marital problems as the candidates will come to terms with each other's nature and behavior even before marriage.

With 96.4% of community members present in BJS National Convention 2014 favoring the new proposal we further plan to take this proposal to the masses. BJS has begun with introducing this initiative to the Jain community in tier-I and tier-II cities through lectures and open discussions. BJS will also outreach common masses with this proposal through print and visual media. Inevitably we must stress on the ways to infuse stability in relationships and families, in turn assuring solidarity for the human societies as envisioned by our Founder Shri Shantilalji Muttha.

**marriage4ever@bjsindia.org**

# Empowering couples to build stronger families

Childhood sweethearts Meera, 23, and Rohan, 27, tied the knot last year in May, and everybody had then said it was a match made in heaven. But, it was not long before the sociable young girl started feeling “trapped” in the marriage. After just five months of married life, none of it blissful, a disillusioned Meera ran away from the man she wished she had never fallen in love with.

With economic prosperity and rising incomes, with increased ego between the partners and professional competition, the number of divorce cases is increasing in India. With the leap into a cosmopolitan culture, relationships are taking a knock and marriages are breaking at a faster rate. This is evident from the number of cases of marital disputes being lodged with the family courts in the country.

While getting married is typically associated with high levels of satisfaction and expectations of long-term happiness, but such positive sentiments might in some marriages give way to feelings of dissatisfaction, even despair. Research suggests that children do better when raised by both of their parents in healthy environments.

Empowering the couples is the only solution to these problems as it also guarantees better upbringing for the next generation. There are lots of things parents can do to ensure family life is as harmonious as possible. “Making sure quality time is spent with all children, reminding them how lucky they are to have siblings and

creating family rituals such as eating and playing together can all help everyone to get the most out of family life together.”

Sociologist Navneeta Rath said growing independence of women, who were educated, and ego clashes led to poor adjustment between couples, leading to divorce. “The decline of the joint family system, which was a cementing factor earlier, is another reason.

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- **Psychologists claim that lack of communication is the root of most problems and leads to unnecessary complications.**

Women no longer tolerate any sort of assault. Nor do they consider divorce taboo these days,” said Rath.

An Indian psychologist who was not associated with the study but has herself explored marital relationships in India said the findings were relevant to this country where there was increasing emphasis on “wavelength matching” in the process of finding partners. Many young Indian couples are struck with post-nuptial depression. They can opt for reconciliation sessions under the guidance of counsellors.

People with high incomes have more job stress and this stress creeps into marriage, causing depression.

Psychologists claim that lack of communication is the root of most problems and leads to unnecessary complications. “The problem with most couples these days is that they don’t discuss things among themselves,”

Discord in marriage suggests poor understanding of each other, different viewpoints in

come from different backgrounds with individual identities. Each has to ensure the physical, psychological/social well-being of the other with mutual respect. Healthy two-way communication bridges all the gaps.

There are numerous ways to safeguard peace and affection of the family. Be supportive and helpful of your partner’s interests/tasks. Help the partner with household tasks, baby sitting etc. Encourage and teach the other to drive, use a computer, etc. Take time off to be exclusively with your spouse. This is the time with no intrusions. Enjoy each others company and do things that warm the heart. Take a vacation; visit the gym or a health spa, together.

The Empowerment of Couples (EoC) Program by BJS focuses in an in-depth manner on these issues and helps couples find their way to happiness, thus contributing to building stronger families and society at large.

perception of things and situations around, attitudinal dissimilarities, behavioral differences and various forms of incompatibilities such as good, life-styles, clothing preferences, likes/dislikes and orientation to life.

Most problems in marriage center on respect for each other money, freedom, space and issues regarding child-rearing. Some times traditions also come into play to make matters difficult. The husband and wife are two separate individuals. They



# Gender roles in modern families



A girl riding a motor bike in Indian cities is a common sight now! A man with eyes full of tears is a regular image we encounter in Hindi Movies and popular TV shows! When the society is changing so fast and with liberalization, privatization, and globalization having its effect on social and cultural fabric of India, such changes in gender stereotyping are not surprising anymore.



Gender includes a complex mix of beliefs, behaviors, and characteristics shaped by culture. Gender is more of society's expectations about how a boy or a girl, a man or a woman should think and act. It is more social than our biological and legal identity. It is more about how we



think, talk, and act. It is about how we feel about ourselves and how we express our gender in terms of clothing, personal appearance and behavior. These are the aspects that are



shaped right from the early age of two or even slightly before that age based on what the child sees and learns.



The society has associated words that commonly describe each of the genders and the individual is implicitly influenced by these descriptions to start thinking, talking and acting in compliance with those. For example, typically a feminine gender is described with words such as emotional, dependent, sensitive, quiet, graceful, weak,



nurturing, soft, accepting, etc. The masculinity is described with words such as independent non-emotional, aggressive, tough-skinned, competitive, strong, hard, rebellious, etc. In reality, all men have some so-called feminine traits, and all women have some so-called masculine traits.



And we may show different traits at different times. The truth is that we are more alike than different. However, it's our cultures that teach women and men to be the opposite of each other in many ways.

Children learn gender roles from an early age — from their parents and family, their religion, and their culture, as well as the outside world, including television, magazines, and other media. With the advent of changes, young boys and girls who are raised in last two decades with modern education, exposure to global media, and invasion of advertising for the marketing of

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global brands have their gender identity fortified beyond the traditional cultural influence. Now, the distinctly given traditional identity is somewhat unrealistic to many. For example, boys and young men are quite expressive about their emotions. Girls and women are also aggressive in their behavior, language, and career choices.

For these youngsters, the newly-wed couples, and toddlers in modern families the imprints of personality traits, physical appearance, behavior at home, career choices and behavior at work have remarkably changed. There is a natural acceptance of inner feelings

and unpretentious expression of those feeling in overt behavior. Young men are comfortably offering a glass of water to their working wives when they come home or make sure to prepare and serve morning tea as mark of their love. They are changing nappies with ease and availing a full-fledged paternity break to take care of their newly born babies after a thorough formal training for parenting. Celebrities like Chetan Bhagat are loved for their image of home maker along with their success in different fields. Children are getting used to their moms being working women and are learnt to share home responsibilities whether they are boys or girls. Occupational choices are no more a constraint. We can see male nurses as well as female postmen, plumbers, pilots, police and defense staff. We see many girls and women giving excellent performance in wrestling, boxing and other traditionally male dominated sports. As a result, at home, the functional distribution of work around the "gender" is no more hard and fast.

In this changing scenario, the older generation is at times lagging behind a bit to adjust their perspective of the freedom exercised in gender role re-orientation. The traditional expectations both from men and women are being in conflict of what they see in practice. The said-unsaid discomfort paves way to minor conflicts to begin with and then grows in to something that leads to undesired disharmony. The small children see these conflicting signals and are at the risk of confused identity of gender roles. If we all understand, that the gender role is a personal choice, also it is an understanding between the loved ones, if we are aware that we all must change with the changing time, and the gender role is not something that we have to live by which comes as generations old traditions and expectation, perhaps the transition to modern life style will be smoother and especially non-conflicting and natural for the coming generation.



February 2015

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Program	Date	City	State	Trainer/ Resource Person	Organiser
Minority (Community Awareness Lectures in Khandesh Region )	15th Feb	Muktai Nagar	Maharashtra	Adv. Khushal Baldota	Mr. Ramanji Bagrecha
	15th Feb	Bodwad		Adv. Khushal Baldota	Mr. Abhay Bardiya
	16th Feb	Chopda		Adv. Khushal Baldota	Mr. Latish Jain
	16th Feb	Amalner		Adv. Khushal Baldota	Mr. Arun Kochar
	21st Feb	Bhusawal		Dr. Sanjay Achliya	Mr. Premchand Kotecha
	21nd Feb	Dondaicha		Dr. Sanjay Achliya	Mr. Abhay Kucheria
	22nd Feb	Dhule		Dr. Sanjay Achliya	Mr. Dilip Bhatwara
	22nd Feb	Jalgaon		Dr. Sanjay Achliya	Mr. Vijay Surana
	21st Feb	Sindkheda		Mr. Sameep Indane	Mr. Chandrakant Daga
	21st Feb	Shirpur		Mr. Sameep Indane	Mr. Navneet Rakhecha
	22nd Feb	Shahada		Mr. Sameep Indane	Mr. Bhavarlal Jain
	22nd Feb	Nandurbar	Mr. Sameep Indane	Mr. Bhushan Desarda	
Empowerment of Girls Workshops	30th, 31st Jan - 1st Feb	Dimapur	Nagaland	Mr. Dilip Jain	Mr. Ajay Sethi and Mr. Manoj Chhabra
	2nd-4th Feb	Ganjbasoda	Maharashtra	Ms. Rajshree Choudhary	Ms. Alka Oswal
	20th-22nd Feb	Ganjbasoda	Rajasthan	Mr. Abhishek Oswal	Ms. Alka Oswal Mr. Pradeep Jain
	20th-22nd Feb	Tikangarh	Uttar Pradesh	Dr. Vimal Jain	Ms. Asha Jain in association with Bharatiya Mahila Jain Milan
	13th-15th Feb	Mumbai	Maharashtra	Ms. Shilpa Nahar	Shri. MD Shah Mahila College of Arts & Commerce & Ms. Jyoti Shaparia
	19th-21st Feb	Salem	Maharashtra	Mr. Ramesh Patawari Mr. Vikas Golecha	Mr. Mahendra Ranka
Empowerment of Girls Trainers' Training Program	14th-17th Feb	Hasan	Karnataka	Ms. Amita Jain	BJS Mysore & Dept of Collegiate Education
	14th-17th Feb	Mysore	Karnataka	Mr. Rajendra Lunker	BJS Mysore & Dept of Collegiate Education
	18th-21st Feb	Chandrapur	Maharashtra	Mr. Sanjay Singhi	Gondwana University
	18th-21st Feb	Chandrapur	Maharashtra	Mr. Dilip Chopda	Gondwana University
Empowerment of Girls Introductory Session	6th Feb	Mumbai	Maharashtra	Mr. Prafulla Parakh	Shri MD Shah Mahila College of Arts & Commerce & Ms. Jyoti Shaparia
	6th Feb	Mumbai	Maharashtra	Mr. Prafulla Parakh	Dr BMN College of Home Science. Seva Mandal Education Society & Ms. Jyoti Shaparia
Parichay Sammelan (Remarriage)	15th Feb	Indore	Madhya Pradesh	Mr. Prafulla Parakh	Mr. Ramesh Kochar and Mr. Vijay Udupurkar
	22nd Feb	Nagpur	Maharashtra	Mr. Prafulla Parakh	Ms. Hemlata Ajmera & Mr. Rakesh Jain
Plastic Surgery (Recheck-up Camp)	20th Feb	Pune	Maharashtra	Sancheti Hospital	Shri. Shashikant Munot

# BJS iBuD Calling!



IGNITING BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ▶ iBuD



**Atul Chordia**  
Panchshil Realty



**Vallabh Bhansali**  
ENAM  
Financial Consultants



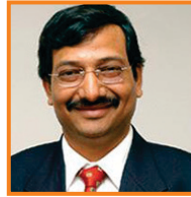
**Bhavarlal Jain**  
Jain Irrigation Systems



**Mrs. Mazumdar**  
Biocon



**Chenraj Jain**  
Jain Group of Institutions



**Arun Jain**  
Polaris  
Consulting & Services



**Lawrence Adaikalam**  
FAST TRACK Call Taxi

BJS iBuD Igniting Business Development has added 10 more seats to the upcoming program in April 2015. With the rising demand from the youth, we have now extended the seats limit. It's your last opportunity to meet business luminaries who have built their empires from scratch! Visit 7 cities to hear them and see their success!

**For additional information contact BJS Head Office: 020 41280011/12/13**

## BJS is on a high Note!



Bharatiya Jain Sangathan in association with Department of Collegiate Education, Department of Pre University Education and Department of Public Instruction organised a presentation on Empowerment of Girls Program on 12th January 2015 at Mysore. The program "EOG Presentation to Education Departments" at MMC Platinum Jubilee Hall, J K Grounds saw more than 550 Principals and Headmasters from schools and colleges in and around the city. Shri. Rajendra Lunkar introduced EoG to the audience.

Smt. C Shikha, Dy Commissioner of Mysore District (Collector) inaugurated the program. She stressed on the seriousness of the issue and about women empowerment. She appreciated the efforts of the Education Department and BJS for conducting this program. She also emphasised the role of teachers in educating the girl child and nurturing their personality to become the future citizens of the nation. Smt C Shikha, Deputy Commissioner; Sri Rooparaj Chandan, Joint Director of Collegiate Education, Mysore Region; Sri C Chamegowda, Joint Director of Public Instruction, Mysore; Shri. K M Puttu, Deputy Director of Pre-University Education; Dr Kanta, Education Officer; Dr Krishnamurthy, Dean and Director, Mysore Medical College & Research Institute graced the occasion. Office bearers and members of BJS Karnataka were present on the day.

## Other Update:

### Parichay Sammelan goes Online

The Multi-national Professionals' Matrimonial Meet organized at Pune was broadcasted online across several cities like Nashik, Kolhapur Jalgaon, Ujjain, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Jodhpur and Bhilwara on 25th January 2015. Taking advantage of this online facility, parents will now be able to access a wider range of choices for choosing partners for their boys and girls of marriageable age.



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We would appreciate your feedback and comments on the E- Bulletin.

Please write in to [bjspune@gmail.com](mailto:bjspune@gmail.com) for your feedback



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