



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TRIBAL STUDIES
EXPLORE THE TRIBAL WORLD OF INDIA

A Case study on Toda Marriage

CURRICULUM FOR

CERTIFICATE / DIPLOMA / RESEARCH COURSES

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Course Introduction and Manual

1. Intro to the Toda marriage practices

The institution of marriage among the tribes is different and the rituals involved make it more interesting. The forms of marriage, the ceremonies, the taboos and the laws of dissolution of marriage are different and strictly followed among the tribes.

2. Child Marriage

The Toda tribe also had a custom of Child-marriage and at the same time it is prevalent with the actual consummation being delayed until maturity. It also happens that the girl who is in obligation to get married has her husband's name tattooed over her left hand.

3. Negotiation Marriage

Popularly, marriage happens through alliance by which a female of any age, preferably a mother's brother's daughter or father's sister's daughter, is incorporated into the patrician of a male, who is thereafter considered her husband, whether or not they live together.

4. Marriage by capture

Sometimes marriages do happen by the way of capture which enables the man to take the wives of others and have their union regularized by payment of compensation in buffalo to the former husband. Though the relatives apparently try to revenge for the capture of the girl but in 99% cases the capture is regularized by means of marriage.

5. Bow and Arrow Ceremony

When the girl is pregnant we come across the 'bow and arrow' ceremony in which the girl is presented with the bow and the arrow. The groom goes to the forest and makes a bow and arrow from the tender stems of the tree and presents it to his bride. If the bride accepts it, that confirms that the baby in her womb is his and she accepts him as her husband.

6. Remarriage

In certain occasions, despite of the commitment shown by the girl towards her husband and the marriage does not produce children is dissolved and the girl remarries. Also a man can also return his wife to her father's home, proclaiming the union terminated and it is considered as a very rare event that brings disgrace to a woman and insults both her father and her children.
