



## ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

English

### EXPLORING THE INTRICACIES OF MARRIAGE: SHOBHAA DE'S SPOUSE TRUTH ABOUT MARRIAGE

KEY WORDS:

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#### INTRODUCTION:

Marriage exists to bring a man and a woman together as husband and wife to be father and mother to any children their union produces. At its most basic level, marriage is about attaching a man and a woman to each other as husband and wife to be father and mother to any children their sexual union produces. When a baby is born, there is always a mother nearby: That is a fact of reproductive biology. The question is whether a father will be involved in the life of that child and, if so, for how long. Marriage increases the odds that a man will be committed to both the children that he helps create and to the woman with whom he does so. Marriage connects people and goods that otherwise tend to fragment. It helps to connect sex with love, men with women, sex with babies, and babies with moms and dads. Social, cultural, and legal signals and pressures can support or detract from the role of marriage in this regard.

Margaret Gallagher, better known by her working name Maggie Gallagher, is an American writer and socially conservative commentator. She captures the insight with a pithy phrase: "Sex makes babies, society needs babies, and children need mothers and fathers." Connecting sex, babies, and moms and dads is the social function of marriage and helps explain why the government rightly recognizes and addresses this aspect of our social lives.

Marriage as the union of man and woman is true across cultures, religions, and time. The government recognizes but does not create marriage. Marriage is the fundamental building block of all human civilization. The government does not create marriage. Marriage is a natural institution that predates government. Society as a whole, not merely any given set of spouses, benefits from marriage. This is because marriage helps to channel procreative love into a stable institution that provides for the orderly bearing and rearing of the next generation.

#### INTRICACIES OF MARRIAGES AND ITS INSTANCES

Intricacy means detail that is part of something complicated. Marriage has many complicated things. It has both painful and happiness. Sometimes it gives happiness and sometimes it gives pain but most of the time, it gives both. Some few writers explore the theme of intricacies of marriage in their novels. For example Emily Liebert's *Some Women*, Lauren Groff's *Fates and Furies* novels examines the intricacies of married life.

There are few Indian writers have written about intricacies of marriage in their novels. The writers are Manju kapur, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni and sobhaa De. In particularly Shobha Rajadhyaksha, also known as Shobhaa De is an Indian columnist and novelist. De is best known for her depiction of socialites and sex in her works of fiction, for which she has come to be known as the "Jackie Collins of India". And she also deals about feminism and struggling of marriages through her novels. Some of her other highly popular novels include *Second Thoughts*, *Sultry Days*, *Speed Post*, *Uncertain Liaisons*, *Snapshots*, *Small Betrayals* and *Strange Obsession* (1992), she has also been the writer of many admired soaps on television, including second daily serial *Swabhimaan*. In *Spouse; the truth about marriage* is Shobhaa de's one of the favorite book. *Spouse* is part biographical and part- marriage manual.

Shobhaa De's advice on marriage is insightful and intelligent. And she also tells about how and why marriage works. So I liked her examples and how she has covered almost every aspect of Indian marriages. That's why, I have chosen this novel.

#### EXPLORING THE INTRICACIES OF MARRIAGE:

##### SHOBHAA DE'S SPOUSE: THE TRUTH ABOUT MARRIAGE

Shobhaa De's novel *Spouse*, a hard-edged, hard-nosed insight on marriage, was released on Valentine's Day when Cupid and commerce come together to celebrate love, romance and conjugal bliss. In married life, Healthy communication needs clarity and honesty. Healthy communication is also a habit of worth cultivating. Many marriages fail to invest in the very basic practice, till one day both partners wake up to discover they have got out the habit of speaking freely to each other. There is no point in being self-conscious in a marriage. It wastes a lot of time.

Our society advises brides to go to any lengths to 'save' a marriage. Popular culture reinforces the sentimentality behind marriage symbols and rituals by making constant references to the power of the 'mangalsutra' and the 'sindoor'. Women without a red dot on her forehead used to be considered a most unfortunate women either a spinster or a widow. Green bangles, bright colored sarees, flowers adorning the hair, toe-rings for centuries little girls have been raised to value these very visible signs of 'marriage hood'.

"Even to this day, mothers advise their daughters to 'hang in there, no matter what' fathers turn back daughters in abusive marriages, when they return to the maternal homes seeking shelter. Why? "Because your place is now in your husband's home, that's where your destiny lies." (*Spouse: The Truth about Marriage*- 56)

De says about unsuccessful marriage. In the urban states, where the parents are themselves working, desire to have one child only. Those who have one child, pamper their child exceedingly. Even when the child gets grown-up, it does not effect to their love towards the child. The difficulty begins when the girl is pampered extraordinary after the marriage also. Adoring the child is ordinary, but pampering him when not requisite makes the difference. Presently girls are so much dependent psychologically on their parents that instead of facing the post-marriage conflicts, they prefer to run to their maternal homes for ease. They share even the very small things with their parents. And parents know even a single thing occurring in their daughter's life or marriage. Unintentionally parents are becoming one of the chief reasons of girl's disastrous marriage.

There is no such thing like 'perfect marriage', unless one deposits all the labours to make it ideal. Love does not occur sometimes in relations. One has to develop it with patience and commitment. Not all the marriages begin with love. But the end of marriage is in our hands. The words like compromise and adjustment loses its significance when love and commitment take over any relation. Respect, time, tolerance, tenderness are the foundation of any civilized relationship.

"Marriage is a permanent and stable union. Marriage is not a temporary contract to serve the momentary physical demand or to enjoy good company for some time and then to lapse at the slightest inconvenience. It is a permanent union which stands various vicissitudes in life only to grow stronger and more stable" (*Spouse: The Truth about Marriage*-210)

According to Shobhaa De, '3T' theory should be followed by a couple to make their lives happy and adventurous. '3T's' theory is of Time, Tolerance, and Tenderness. In the marriage where the three unities exist, those marriages are sure to sail on happily, peacefully and of course successfully.

Let's first discuss these three keys to a happy married life. Time is very important for the foundation of a relationship as well as for its flowering. A husband and wife though unite through love or arrangement need time to understand each other. Couples who have affair between them before marriage claim to have given enough time to each other to understand the likes and dislikes of each other.

Actually, before marriage they were lovers while after marriage, their status, change into husband and wife who have to cohabit with each other through thick and thin. Conditions of life do not remain the same. Time takes its toll and a subjects each to such situations where their patience is tried to the extreme. It is then that the couples prove the firmness of their relationship by adhering to each other and facing the buffets of tough time. A couple that stands the ground and is successful in the test of time will be the happiest couple on this earth. A marriage is all about time. Both should take out time from their busy schedule and spend it on each other for a happy future.

In our society, it has been seen that it is mostly the women, who are tolerant and overlook the mal-treatment meted out to them by their husbands and in-laws. They have been fed by their parents that a married woman's right place is with her husband and in-laws and therefore she should tolerate and adjust with them. This attitude of the parents, not only encourage the bad elements to torture the poor girl but also result into their death. Here we are discussing about tolerance, time and tenderness which may be accepted and followed by a certain section of society but then there are also such couples and houses, where these magic words are unknown and flagrantly overlooked and violated. My appeal is for such couples, who are married but do not observe the basic norms of a married life.

Tolerance also denotes consideration and observation of the norms of marriage under strenuous situations. Besides emotional and mental tolerance towards each other, there should be physical tolerance too. The demanding hours of work might leave a couple drained of any desire for sex, which may create a rift between the two. Here again, if the couple show tolerance towards each other by both, not forcing the other against his/her will and showing annoyance but rather easing the tension by a loving hug or an affectionate squeeze, they can go a long way in melting the ice tending to settle between the two. Nonetheless, the couples should sort out this problem between themselves to save a long term disaster. Though not frequent, the demand of sex between the couple, remain and should be catered to or the consequences may be horrifying by giving rise to the chances of straying.

The third and vital key to a successful marriage is tenderness. Tenderness is required in almost all types of relationships to make it a success and so does it play an important role between a husband and wife. This type of relationship irrefutably entails responsibilities, which have the power to shake a man. A tender word, a touch of tenderness or a look of tenderness between a husband and wife can go a long distance in strengthening the bond between them and relieving the strenuousness of the responsibilities. The wife who leaves her parents' house and enters an unknown territory of a new family, require patience and tenderness from the in-laws and mainly the husband on whom she banks for all her problems and happiness. The new bride should be given time and space to realize where she has landed and what her in-laws want, from her. Instead of loading her with a horde of demands, they should be polite and instructive.

Most of the couples would definitely choose their married life as nothing can be more important than they themselves to each other. The wise thing would be to strike a balance and decide a way out of the quagmire. They can attend to the friends unacceptable to each other at a time when the other partner is not there but of course within his/her knowledge or there will be the chance of being labeled as unfaithful. This way both can avoid unpleasant encounters. There is another twist in this matter. The boyfriends of a wife may not be acceptable to a husband and vice-versa. In this case, both have to have faith in each other but

remember the limits of their relationship. The wife must tell her man-friend not to call her after work when she is with her family and the same prevails with the husband. This way, each will not feel deprived and can happily adjust with their unknown friends. Current scenario of Indian marriages shows the hideous face of modern marriages where the marriage is based either on financial securities, family, society or the children instead of plain emotions called "love" and "commitment".

"Marriage is memory. If the good memories outnumber the bad ones, it's fair to declare the marriage a success. Marriage is also about moments. It depends entirely on which ones are cherished. Anybody who is married, or has ever been married, will recognize the truth of this deceptively simple sentence marriage is for those who believe in it, who actively want it, who enjoy it."

*Spouse: truth about Marriage-xii)*

## SUMMING UP:

There is no doubt about the fact that 'Marriages are made in Heaven' but they are fulfilled on the earth. This is a bond which is holy and permanently bound on the grounds of truth and love. Nevertheless, this trust and love has to be observed by both man and woman which alone will put their life on tracks leading to an even and satisfactory culmination. Shobhaa De has touched almost all the aspects of a married life and tried her best to balance the content on the rails of justification. She has not sat back and preached at the couples, rather practically put herself on the altar of marriage and opened up her mind and delves deep into her life and tried to instruct and convince us through the nitty-gritty of her own life.

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