



Leaving Cert Home Economics

Free Notes

Types of Marriages

Types of Marriages:

The variety in marriages can be attributed to a number of factors with religious belief being the most dominant.

There are two basic types of marriages and these are determined by the number of partners allowed.

(1) **Monogamy** (Mono = 1).

(2) **Polygamy** (Poly = Many).

(a) **Polygyny** = 1 man + 2 or more wives.

(b) **Polyandry** = 1 women + 2 or more husbands.

1. Monogamy:

- Most **common marriage in western society**.
- One can have a **husband or wife**.
- This legally binding contract exists until death/divorce.
- People have entered into a second marriage while still legally married to another. This is known as **bigamy** and is a criminal offence.
- Serial monogamy is when a person marries and divorces many times.

2. Polygyny:

- A man has **two or more** wives.
- This marital arrangement exists in countries where there are more women than men.
- The man in **polygyny is the man authority and breadwinner**.
- Some Islamic countries permit polygyny as the Qur'an states a Muslim man can have up to four wives.
- The Mormons, a religious group from Utah, USA, practice polygyny illegally.

3. Polyandry

- A woman has **two or more** husbands.
- This arrangement is very rare and only occurs when a man is unable on his own to provide for a wife and kids
- Usually practiced in agricultural societies where land is scarce e.g. Tibet, Nepal.
- **Fraternal polyandry** is the most common where the husbands are brothers.

Patrilocal = When married the woman moves and lives in the area of her husband's family

Matrilocal = When married the man moves and lives in the area of the wife's family

Neolocal = When married the couple live where both their families reside

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