

DEVADASI & BRAHMAKUMARI



- The **Devadasi** is a Sanskrit term which means servant of Deva (GOD) or Devi (GODESS).
- Girl in her pre puberty period was dedicated to worship and service of deity or a temple for the rest of her life by her parents. They would be 'married' to the deity
- After the ceremony they are required to perform useful functions at temples like cleaning of temples, lighting lamps, dressing the deities etc. They were also involved in singing devotional songs, dancing in devotion to the deities, teaching music and dance to the girls and to carry on and develop the tradition of classical music and dance.
- Devadasi's were respected member of the society and it was believed that they are eternally married **suhagan** who is never widowed.
- The system of devadasis was misunderstood by the Mughal rulers and Europeans as because they were totally unaware about the idea of art as an offering to God. As per their understanding girls dancing and singing in temple are doing that for the purpose of entertainment of rich people and they were not better than prostitute.
- The devadasis were exploited by the rich, powerful and upper class people and in the other side their economic needs were not permitted them to leave this practice and ultimately they were driven to the valley prostitution.
- The first Law which declares this system illegal was enacted in the year of 1934 in the name of Bombay Devadasi Protection Act. Further the Madras Devadasi (Prevention of Dedication) Act, 1947 outlawed this practice in Madras. In 1988, the devadasi system was completely outlawed all over India. What needed to be done is to think serious about the rehabilitation of devadasi's in society so to allow them to lead their life with human dignity.



- The **Brahmakumari** is a hindi term which means daughter of Brahma.
 - Girl in her early young age is dedicated by her parents to follow the BK guidelines, which involves the service at the BK Centres for the rest of her life They would be married to 'God Shiva'
 - After the ceremony a Brahmakumari is required to perform the same duties as that of a Devdasi at the BK Centres, which includes cleaning of centre, lighting lamps, dressing in whites, covering up of complete body including hands up to wrist. They are not allowed to often visits to their parents. No personal or emotional talks is encouraged. Use of TV, News-paper, mobiles are also restricted up the level of Godly Service only.
 - Brahmakumari are respected members of society and it is believed that they are eternally married to God Shiva and who is never widowed. The owe of remain virgin, and never leaving the BK rules are taken at the samarpan ceremony by the senior BK.
- Are we awaiting for such things to happen?**
- Though many cases are discovered of making relationship in the BK centres, sexual abuses, suicides etc. The splinter group leader Virendra Dixit is absconding from the Law and hiding himself owing to be charged under rape cases of many minor girls.
 - The Brahmakumaris are being used by the BK-leadership to chase the VIPs, politicians, celebrities and other elite class, to promote their practices. Being a committed member of the organizations the young girls are bound to do such services in the name of GOD even if they not willing to do so.
 - The same is required to be done with Brahmakumari organization also.

Thanks
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