

Exercise: Explore the cultural logic of the following marital practices that are observed in many cultures worldwide:
→ In other words, why do people in this culture engage in this behavior? Why might a person in this culture say she likes this practice?
* This is a brainstorming exercise. I will collect these sheets, but you will not be graded on their content

Arranged Marriage

- Financially in control if you arrange the marriage.
- Parents make better judge than for husband. (hard to see inexperienced)
- Prevents teenage pregnancy and ~~premarital sex~~ premarital sex.
- Doesn't require love to be viable but that it will cure later
- No warms, stress of dating or being single.
- The involvement of parents gives more motivation to make the marriage work.
- Union of two groups (families) not just two individuals
- Reproduction is very important
- Select a spouse from a wealthy group
- Solidifies parent-son/daughter ties
- A way to increase social status

Bridewealth

- Compensation - exchange of goods for wife and to bride's family for losing a laborer.
- Prevents husband's divorce because one would have to return the goods - stabilizes the marriage
- Hinder teenage pregnancy, ~~premarital sex~~ premarital sex
- If publicly virginifies the worth of the bride
- Grants security to bride in case husband dies (his family has invested in her and will continue to support her and her children) - (levirate)

Polygyny

- Limited amounts of land/labor
- Husband has more offspring
- Wives may have to endure neglect
- Men are dominant, - have more wives
- Prevents premarital sex & pregnancy
- If wife is barren, - companionship