

# Some Tamil Marriage Culture(TMC) Influences That Cannot Be Accommodated In Tamil Marriage Christian Education (TMCE)In Medan.

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**Abstract.**Some Tamil marriage Culture influences that cannot be accommodated in the world of Christian education In Medan. There are various understandings of Indian Marriage culture practices that cannot be used in Christian education. The purpose of this study is to explain that there are things that Christians should not do or practice. This learning only focuses on marriage cultural influences that are not permitted in Christian religious education. The research method used is qualitative method and quantitative method. This research was held at the Pelita Community Church in examining the influences of marriage Tamil culture in the city of Medan, Indonesia. The results show that the use of Tamil marriage culture is very socially and culturally influential for Christian education in the city of Medan. Coming Changes from the teaching of Christian Religious Education about what may not be done according to the teaching of the scriptures. This Article of course will bring benefits to the Tamil Christians specifically in the city of Medan

**Keywords:** Tamil Marriage Culture (TMC), Tamil Marriage Christian Education (TMCE),

## 1 Introduction

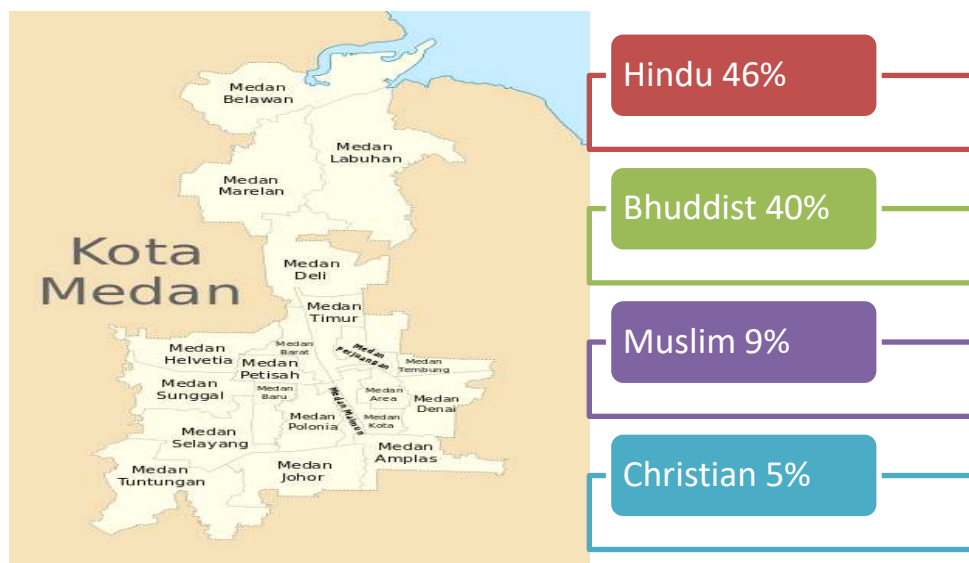
Culture is central to all of us. A well known sociologist Anthony Giddens states that while culture is popularly focused on art, literature, music, and paintings it is far more than these[1]. Culture is a way of a life for given group or people. Society is a people, but culture is what people do. Culture is representative of the way of life of community and not individual in society. Some component of culture would include food, kinship system, art forms, and language.

Approximately 325 tribes in India, ranging from North to South, West to East, of course, such conditions will make the pattern of the custom of the tribes in India diverse and very rich. As an example we talk about marriage custom, of course the Marriage Customs carried out by North Indians and South are different, each of them has unique rules according to their habits. As Tamil people who are in the city of Medan originated from southern India, the culture prevailing in southern India is also carried away and applies in the city of Medan. There are different marriages costum and there are those contradict the teachings of Christianity. Why is

it said to be contrary to the teachings of Christianity, because the customs contain rituals to their gods/ spirits as their belief: The heart of Tamil Culture derived from Spritual scripture of Vedas.

**Some Tamil Marriage Culture Context.** Christian education cannot accept or adopt some forms of Tamil marriage culture in it. There are certain things that are offered by Tamil marriage culture that can cause tension among Christian if Christian accomodate it, so that the implementation of some Tamil marriage culture cannot be used because it can cause discomfort in it. Christian teaching forbids it.

Map of Medan City, concentration area of the tamil community in the city of Medan and chart of the percentage of Hindus, Christians, Buddhists and Muslims Follower in Medan.



There are thought to be between 40,000 and 75,000 Indian-Indonesians living in North Sumatra, although firm data is difficult to come by as census documents no longer list ethnicity in Indonesia. Most Indian-Indonesians are Tamil. According to Tamilnation, a website dedicated to providing information about the Tamil diaspora in Indonesia, “The Tamils were brought by the Dutch in the early build-up of the plantation industry, probably in the 1830s.”[2]

The majority of the population is Hindu (46%), The second is Buddhist (40%), The Third is Muslim (9%) and the fourth is Christian (5%).

These are some Pictures of Tamil Marriage Culture which can not be accomodated in The Christian Education in Medan generally.



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In Tamil Christian education in the city of Medan, Being a Christian does not mean you have to turn into a Westerner, Tamil Christians cannot discard all existing cultures and traditions, because culture itself is the identity of a particular tribe or nation, Refusing all cultural identities makes a person becomes a stranger especially in the midst of his own tribe or nation. The tribe or the nation itself will isolate the person who rejects all existing cultures and considers the person as a foreigner who is not from a tribe or nation.

Therefore, as Christians, we must make careful observations in order to separate what can do and what can't to do. What should not be done must be removed because it brings sin according to the Christian Education. But we have to pay attention about not all the customs of Marriage in Tamil are contrary to the teachings of Christianity, so we do not need to erase all parts of these customs. Hopefully this article can benefit many people who read it.

## 2. Research Methods.

This Study focused on cultural and Christian education. it change from some of the original Tamil Marriage Culture (TMC) to the Tamil Marriage Christian Education (TMCE). This research was a qualitative descriptive reasearh which aimed to describe and explained in detail change in cultural patern and education patern of Tamil Marriage Christian Education The Qualitative study has particular function to discribe and interpret the Tamil Marriage Cultural (TMC) of Tamil Marriage Christian Education (TMCE). Another technique used interview techniques with some Bible School lecturers who came from India and Singapore.

## 3. Result and Discussion

I will only discuss a number of cultures in Tamil marriage that should not be done in Christian education

**Wedding** Hinduism has at its core the Vedas, the spiritual scriptures that are the heart of India's culture. The Vedas divide life into four distinct stages, or ashrams: studentship (brahmacharya ashram), householder (grahstha ashram), retirement (vanprastha ashram), and self-realization (sanyas ashram)[3]. Tamil Marriage culture cannot be separated from Hinduism, therefore there are several steps in preparing for a Christian tamil marriage to carefully pay attention to a number of specific matters relating to the custom itself Several stages must be passed before a wedding is held. These stages are steps that must be carried out, can't miss it, because the perfection of a marriage will be realized if all these customs are carried out carefully and full of wisdom.

### 3.1 Caste system.

If we talk about the classification of humans according to caste system, we can find it in the Indian State only. There is a group of people who feel superior and call themselves high caste and consider a group of others to be inferior to them. As we know the classification of castes is as follows: Brahmin Caste, Knights Caste, Vaishya Castra and Sudra Caste. Those who claim to be of high caste will not marry low-caste ones, on the contrary. They will marry the same caste class as their class. It is not uncommon for bloodshed to occur due to cross-marriage between castes, and some can even be killed because of this. **Reviewing from the Christian faith.** Of course this is contrary to the Christian Faith, Because God Created Man is a picture and similar to the Image of God (Gen. 1: 26, 27)[4]. Caste is a source of embarrassment and controversy in middleclass India. Is it relevant to talk about caste in modern times?[5]. No one should demean others, because if there is something that demeans others, then they are actually demeaning to God who is the creator.

### 3.2 Jatagam ( Seeking Horoscope)

Before the engagement day, the bride's and groom's family will look for conformity and affirmation based on horoscope / Astrology, the date and time of birth of the two brides to determine the success of a marriage proposal. Six out of 10 stars match. 3 are considered superior, namely: 1. Mangaliya or profit, 2 Thali or marriage match, 3. Mismatch for having offspring. This is very important for them to do considering that men and women who are going to get married must live as a suitable/harmonious partner. After seeing harmony through astrology, the next step they will enter is the engagement ceremony. **Reviewing from the Christian faith:** It is not practiced in Christianity, because that kind of practise is not relevant to the Christian faith. God governs all seasons and times. God will punish everyone who forecasts. [5] (Dt 18: 9-14)

### 3.3 Nalunggu/ Go Around Mile stone.

Three days before marriage, oil baths were held, 3 oils: Sudam brilliance, Kunguman Mangala, Ammi (milled stone), all these elements became important things in the Nalungu. Basically the sanctification held by the bride is cleansing. Also to maintain the pair from the e "Evil Eye"(Kantisti). (Antidote to Evil Eye) to get rid of the aura surrounding the bride and groom. They are made to be suitable. **Reviewing from the Christian faith:** For us Christians, only Christ can give protection and be able to sanctify, practices like this will become meaningless practices.

### 3.4 Thaali/ Yellow String

Points to a man's bravery when he can use tiger's teeth or nail to tie around a girl's neck. Later wealth was signified when a man could make a small castle and wear it on a girl's neck. Denotes the male and female sexual organs. This is the brahminic distortion. A Symbols of marriage union. **Reviewing from the Christian faith:** we use this to signify marriage union, it is link to the covenant that is made. Christian don't use a symbol which denotes to sexual organs but a cross. A string is preferred then it shouldn't to be replaced with a chain.

### 3.5 Dowry/ The groom's party demands that the bride's party give in cash.

For most Indian parents the cost of a daughter's marriage is the single largest expense of their lives (the average cost: six times the parents' annual income. This expense is often labeled a "dowry." [6]. South Indians still follow the tradition of marrying their daughters to their close relatives to ensure that the inherited social network takes care of the daughters if married closer to the family.[7]This was not done in Christianity.

Table below will show us what marriage culture is permissible and not to be used in Christian religious education.

No.	Discription	Hindu Religion	Christian Religion
1	Caste system.	√	x
2	Jatagam (seeking horoscope)	√	x
3	Nalunggu/Go Around Mile stone.	√	x
4	Thaali/ Yellow String	√	√
5	Dowry/ Demands	√	x

√= Permissible, x= Not Permissible

## 4. Conclusion.

Tamil Christian Marriage Education (TMCE) will follow all the rules in the scriptures, but there are things that can still be used from tamil customs. There are many customs that do not contradict the Scriptures,Tamil Christian marriage would not lose its identity as a Tamil tribe if it did not throw away all the prevailing customs, but only those which opposed the scriptures. Becoming a Tamil Christian does not mean changing its identity into something different.we can become Tamil Christians without becoming Westerners.

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