



Hindu Samskars

Main aim of Marriage

- Dharma
- Praja or Progeny
- Rati, Kama or Sex Gratification
- Rina or Debts
- Socio-Cultural Continuity

Hindu Samskars

- Action/thoughts -> Samskar -> Character -> Direction of Life
- *The net sum total of the samskars at the end of this life is the force which gives a person the next direction after this life.*
- In Hindu way of life, 16 major milestones are identified.
- Activities/procedures are prescribed to be done at each of these milestones and these are called 16 samskars.

16 Samskars

➔ Before birth

1. **Garbhadan:** *The first coming together of the husband & wife for bringing about conception.*
2. **Pumsvan:** *Ceremony performed when the first signs of conception are seen, and is to be performed when someone desires a male child.*
3. **Seemantonnayan (Seemant + Unnayan):** *Performed during the seventh month of pregnancy. By this time the heart, mind and brain of the baby are formed and functional. The parents to be and their relatives offer prayers to the Almighty for mental & intellectual growth of the child.*

16 Samskars

➔ After birth in childhood

4. **Jatakarma:** After the birth of the child, the child is given a secret name, he is given taste of honey & ghee, mother starts the first breast-feeding after chanting of a mantra.
5. **Nama-karana:** In this ceremony the child is given a formal name. Performed on the 11th day.
6. **Nishkramana:** In this the formal darshan of sun & moon is done for the child.
7. **Annaprashana:** This ceremony is performed, when the child is given solid food (anna) for the first time.
8. **Chudakarana:** Cuda means the 'lock or tuft of hair' kept after the remaining part is shaved off.

16 Samskars

➔ After birth in childhood

9. **Karna-vedha:** Done in 7th or 8th month. Piercing of the ears.
10. **Upanayan & Vedarambha:** The thread ceremony. The child is thereafter authorized to perform all rituals. Studies of Vedas begins with the Guru.

➔ Adulthood

11. **Keshanta:** Hairs are cut, guru dakshina is given
12. **Samavartan:** Returning to the house after acquiring education
13. **Vivaha:** Marriage ceremony

16 Samskars

➔ Old age

- 14. Vanprastha:** *As old age approaches, the person retires for a life of tapas & studies.*
- 15. Sanyas:** *Before leaving the body, a Hindu shed all attachments to awake & revel in the timeless truth.*

➔ After Death

- 16. Antyeshthi:** *The last rites done after the death.*

Thank you for your
participation

