



IMPORTANCE OF MEDIATION IN GLOBAL SCENARIO

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Abstract--Marriage and family are India's two main pillars of society. The most essential societal building block is marriage. In every community, marriage has served as the cornerstone of stability. The Indian family is a complex network of connections, feelings, and sentiments. Family, the smallest social unit, is frequently impacted by breakdown, separation, and all kinds of conflicts. In a court case involving family issues, a distinctive strategy is required. All relationship problems stem from poor communication. Family or marital issues are thought to be too sensitive to be subjected to the vagaries or confrontational jurisprudence of the existing legal system, which by its very nature involves a large degree of mudslinging on both sides. Modern matrimonial dispute resolution methods, particularly mediation, which saves time and money, are essential to preserving the family structure. This article discusses the idea of mediation and its function in settling matrimonial conflicts while taking into account the varied cultural heritage of the nation and the contemporary political, social, and legal climate.

Key Words: *Matrimonial disputes, Traditional Courts, Consensual decision making, Mediation*

INTRODUCTION

A secure, lasting relationship between two people who have benefited from one another's support is marriage. It is characterized by six social roles, including the control of sexual behaviour, succession, child care and protection, socialization, growth, and consumption, as well as the transmission of ascribed statuses like race. The foundation of marriage and family life, inheritance, is the most problematic of these beliefs. Both a social occasion and a legal requirement, marriage.

A happy marriage is built on tolerance, flexibility, and respect for one another. In life, there are significant differences between and among people, social classes, and countries. Cultural variances, individual characteristics, point of view variations, and contextual variations all exist. Conflicts develop as a result of unresolved differences. Issues might arise from disagreements. Conflicts develop when disagreements go unresolved.

When a couple disagrees on the meaning of marriage, it becomes a matrimonial dispute. A dispute could develop into a fight. The family is frequently the focus of breakdown, separation, and other forms of conflict since it is the smallest unit of society.

Insecurity is on the rise, husband and wife roles are changing, and there are demands from a fast-paced lifestyle, which have created new obstacles, especially for the younger generation. All of this has caused the marital peace to deteriorate. Worldwide, divorce rates are dangerously high and follow a geometric pattern. Marriages that are in trouble require assistance and care. They exhibit a limp and need medical attention. Family or marriage disputes are regarded as being too delicate for the pity or unfavorable jurisprudence of the current court system. Some people refer to evaluative mediation as "rights-based mediation" since it affects the process in favour of so-called "rights-based approaches."¹

MATRIMONIAL DISPUTE IN INDIA

Nowadays, the majority of individuals view marriage as a partnership built on respect and understanding. Couples in India are no different from other couples in that not every marriage is flawless. Misunderstandings frequently arise between couples, which causes issues in the marriage. Matrimonial conflicts then enter the picture. There are currently more divorces than marriages in our time. But you shouldn't stop you from getting married. Before making this major decision together, it's important to know your spouse well and how much you can trust them. In light of this, it's critical to be

¹ Alan Stitt, *Alternative Dispute Resolution for Organizations* (Ontario, Canada: John Wiley & Sons, 1998) 126 and Goldberg et al., eds. *Dispute Resolution: Negotiation, Mediation and Other Processes* (New York: Aspen, 2003)



aware of some marriage disputes in India in order to address any possible problems at home before they spiral out of control. It has also been recognized increasingly that human dignity requires the empowerment of individuals to manage their lives, welfare and destinies, within the appropriate constraints of others' human rights and of society²

In India, all legal conflicts involving married couples are referred to as marital disputes. These may have to do with the property division or child custody, among other aspects of the marriage. Any disagreements between the couple may be brought before the court, where the judges will decide how to proceed. If you believe your spouse or partner is not abiding by the terms of the marriage, you may initiate a matrimonial dispute. For instance, if you believe your partner is not providing you with enough money to cover household expenditures, you might register a disagreement.

Infidelity and Desertion: These are two of the most typical causes of marriage conflicts in India. Desertion refers to a situation where one spouse leaves the other without a good reason, whereas infidelity refers to when one partner cheats on the other. You can file a matrimonial dispute against your spouse if either of these things occurs. You might also register for a marriage dispute if your spouse keeps betraying your trust despite your repeated requests for them to stop.

Defamation: A false charge of someone's reputation or character is considered defamation. In a marriage, this can have place when one spouse levelled unfounded allegations against the other. When this occurs, the other spouse may file a matrimonial conflict lawsuit. When one spouse spreads untrue information about the other in public, this occurs. In extreme situations, a spouse who falsely accuses their spouse of domestic violence may file a matrimonial dispute against the other spouse. This occurs when one partner makes up allegations of physical abuse against the other.

Maintenance and Property Rights: The dependent partner is the one who is responsible for taking care of the other physically or financially. The independent partner, on the other hand, is the one who looks after the dependent. The other partner must provide for the other partner if they become physically or financially unable to do so. We call this maintenance. One partner must split their money with the other if their source of income is greater than the other's. As a result, you have property rights. The other spouse may petition for a matrimonial dispute if one spouse refuses to pay support or divide their income equally. Similar to this, one partner may petition for matrimonial conflicts if they wish to obtain a portion of the other partner's income.

By giving finances and working to create stronger regulations for their renewed and fair operation, the Indian government is continuously attempting to revive these indigenous justice delivery ways as part of its response to these issues.³

ROLE OF MEDIATOR

A lack of communication is the root cause of every relationship issue. Through the use of a third-party neutral mediator, mediation is a way to encourage communication, understanding, and resolution. Because the parties are likely to keep in touch, especially if there are little children involved, mediation is especially suitable for divorce and other family law disputes. Many divorced wives choose mediation to avoid the significant costs associated with divorce litigation. Costs are lower since settlements typically occur more quickly. Additionally, mediation reduces stress, protects confidentiality, and helps couples avoid trial uncertainty. Couples can avoid the potential of a lawsuit, maintain privacy, and lessen tense arguments through mediation. The agony of parental dispute may be spared the children of the

² "United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development" A/RES/41/128 (4 December 1986), Article 1

³ Madhu S, Mediation in India, available at <http://cppradr.blogspot.in/2008/07/mediation-in-india.htm>



new arrival by mediation. Due to the fact that each party signs their own agreements, couples who mediate their divorce settlement are significantly happier than those who go to trial. Couples also learn how to settle conflicts in the future.

The essential considerations for a mediator are neutrality and impartiality. While he is deciding a case, he must always be wholly impartial. He is not required to support any particular party. His main responsibility is to mediate between the parties that are at odds with one another. He must take the required actions to set up the discussions between the parties in conflict and serve as a compass while aiding them in finding a resolution. He is not permitted to share his personal views on the situation.

There are following some advantages of Mediation are as follows:

1. Informal Communication
2. Confidential Process
3. Quick and Inexpensive
4. Greater degree of party control
5. Preservation of Relationship
6. Mutually Satisfactory Results
7. Comprehensive and customized Agreements
8. Foundation for future problem solving

Given this ruling, it is expected that mediation would gain greater popularity as a dispute resolution mechanism in India. In fact, it has been noticed that the Chief Justice of India himself has intervened to enable mediation between the opposing parties throughout the hearings of significant cases like the one relating to the demolition of the Babri Masjid.⁴

PRINCIPLE OF MEDIATION

Like any other procedure, mediation has a set of guiding principles that aid in resolving conflicts. Indeed, mediation is a more efficient process than litigation, and as a result of its guiding principles, it has been gaining favour.

The following are the fundamental five guidelines that a mediator must adhere to when mediating a dispute:

Participants must voluntarily participate: In contrast to other processes, mediation is one in which the parties voluntarily agree to engage. Such efforts will only be more successful when they are made voluntarily. Therefore, there won't be any discord or lack of collaboration on the part of the parties.

Confidentiality: Any information revealed to the mediator must be kept private and must not be used in court proceedings, either by the mediator or by the courts.

Mediators are impartial: The mediator works as a facilitator rather than an adjudicator or advisor; he or she must maintain objectivity and refrain from pressuring either party to adopt his or her point of view able to come to a compromise or solution. A mediator's objectivity should guarantee that the parties accept him as someone who genuinely wants to settle the conflict.⁵

Time: As of 2018, the Indian courts are overburdened with litigation. On the other hand, mediation ensures that issues are resolved quickly, helps parties to resolve disputes in a simpler fashion, and enables them to let go of their past and go forward. Two-thirds of mediated disagreements are resolved

⁴ Dr M. Ismail Frauqui And Ors. vs Union Of India (Uoi) And Ors AIR 1995 SC 605

⁵ Basic principles of mediation, available at <http://www.posredovanje.me/en/posredovanje/osnovna-nacela-posredovanja>



quickly and effectively, proving the effectiveness of mediation. 2015 saw a median resolution time of 173 minutes per case.⁶

Reducing Court Burden: Multiple problems make litigation a challenging way to resolve already-existing issues. These issues include the high cost of court and attorney fees, as well as additional costly and time-consuming aspects.

As a procedural intervention in the legal system, mediation provides other essential and inherent purposes. From reducing the pressure of courts⁷

Emotional Stability: Multiple court appearances and intense questioning can be stressful for a person. As a result, mediation is preferable because it is conducted privately and away from curious eyes.

Privacy: The mediation process is totally confidential; neither may it be recorded or seen by the general public. In addition to lowering psychological inhibitions, seclusion serves as an excellent trigger for open communication, speeding up the process.

MANDATORY MEDIATION

Mediation is mandatory in case of matrimonial cases

There are provisions for mediation or conciliation in marriage disputes in the Civil Procedure - Alternative Dispute Resolution and Mediation Rules, 2003 and the later Rules adopted by the High Court. The reference court is required by Rule 4 of the Model Rules to assist parties in choosing ADR procedures. Earlier than when a party elects to use alternative dispute resolution (ADR), the court assists the parties by pointing out important considerations that they must make before using the option,⁸ Clause (b) of Rule 4 treats matrimonial dispute as a dispute where relationship between the parties should be preserved¹⁴. Therefore, when the party opts for ADR under Rule 4(b), it could be either conciliation under Section 89(b) or mediation under 89(d), CPC. Further, Rule 5 states the procedure to be followed in cases where in one party may not agree to arbitration. On the other hand, the mediation process is comparatively easier since, with one party's consent, the other party is notified after the hearing and, if there is a chance of settlement, the court sends the matter for mandatory mediation. The required reference required by the Rule is an effort to maintain the relationship. involving the parties. Before establishing such a recommendation, the court must determine if the parties' connection can be sustained.

Due to the nature of the disputes involved in matrimonial disputes, mediation becomes required; however, there are instances where the courts simply refer cases to mediation centres without determining whether there is a possibility of settlement, which has led to an increase in the number of

⁶ VIDHI CENTRE FOR LEGAL POLICY, Strengthening Mediation in India: Interim Report on Court Annexed Mediations, 42, (July 29, 2016), available at <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/551ea026e4b0adb21a8f9df/t/579ee7be5016e10ca2ae65f0/14700319>

⁷ Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud; Mediation- Realizing the Potential and Designing Implementation Strategies available at http://lawcommissionofindia.nic.in/adr_conf/chandra_chud3.pdf

⁸ The Civil Procedure-Mediation Rules, 2003, r. 4 reads: "Court to give guidance to parties while giving direction to opt (a) Before directing the parties to exercise option under clause (b) of Rule 2, the Court shall give such guidance as it deems fit to the parties, by drawing their attention to the relevant factors which parties will have to take into account, before they exercise their option as to the particular mode of settlement, namely... (iii)that, where there is a relationship between the parties which requires to be preserved, it will be in the interests of parties to seek reference of the matter to conciliation or mediation, as envisaged in clauses (b) or (d) of subsection (1) of section 89"



"no mediation cases" while also making mediation more difficult to complete. Results in time being wasted for the courts and the mediators. Thus, emphasising the Rule is imperative at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

Following a discussion of the benefits and problems associated with mediation, the following suggestions may aid in changing how society views mediation.

Regulatory Framework: Mediation suffers from a lack of a framework to effect changes and achieve the objectives, unlike the other ADR processes. The establishment of a central authority, enforceability of settlements to boost public confidence, training and standards for mediators, and other issues must be addressed by a board. Establishing a set of rules for required mediation before seeking legal assistance.

Role of Law School and the Bar: According to BCI regulations, training sessions for drafting, mock trials, moot courts, and conveyancing are frequently required of law students. However, it still doesn't appear that mediation training is part of the curriculum; students of law would only consider it as a career option if it were made a part of the curriculum.

In addition, as they are in charge of boosting public confidence, lawyers, advocates, and judges all play significant roles. Attorneys themselves must recommend mediation as the initial step.

Training: It is important to explain the very role of mediation and why it is necessary. It should be an essential part of the judiciary's training.

Public Awareness: Only after the public is made aware of the value and advantages of mediation through various media and is given the choice between mediation and litigation, the public will choose the latter.

Suljhao Magar Pyaar se!

Mediation is the need of the hour, to improve the efficiency of the judicial system. Mediation is not a means to improvement but the very end to it. Thus, suljhao magar pyaar se.