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stops me from going out and dating now. But when the time comes to settle down, I'd like to have someone my parents chose."

Eastern views of dating promote the stereotypes of women that western societies are trying to break. Eastern culture still perceives women as the epitome of purity.

To be pure, women have to practice chastity and maintain their virginity. This same standard does not apply to men, who can be promiscuous without having to worry about damaging their reputation.

Often, many East Indian men, after living in a western society and indulging in a western lifestyle, return to India in search of a prospective wife.

This mentality keeps the tradition of arranged marriage alive.

Although arranged marriages are less common than in the past, there are still a large number of marriages being arranged.

Many single men and women are seeking spouses through marriage brokers. The broker can be located in the western country or in the home country.

Suitors can consider their marriage options by sampling photographs and descriptions of the prospects. Marriage brokers perform very much like dating services that exist in North America.

Women, too, can sometimes select their husbands. Many parents allow both their daughters and sons to choose their suitors. In addition, some parents even allow their children to assimilate freely into western culture, and consequently do not interfere in their children's choice of a spouse. However, this is still not very common.

In Indian villages, and in many large cities, there is still the perception that a male child is more valuable than a female one. With the availability of technology to determine the sex of a child before birth, there has been a large number of abortions and murders of baby girls upon birth. This has resulted in a rapid decrease in the number of girl babies in comparison to boys.

"This problem of sex-selection technology has also made its way into Canada," says environmentalist Andil Gosine. "In Vancouver, doctors who are often white have advertised the technology in the South Asian community. So it's an outside community that is reaping the benefits of a misguided practice."

Much of the older generation sees assimilation as a compromise of their culture. By abandoning tradition and allowing their children to date and associate freely with the opposite sex, many feel that eastern culture is being left behind in favour of blind assimilation.

Youth see it very differently. They are living in western societies, constantly surrounded by western culture and lifestyles, and it is difficult to not apply this mentality to all aspects of their lives.

Their community expects them to be very competitive economically and professionally, and yet socially they prevent from following the goals they see other western youth enjoying.



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