

# LOVE COMES LATER

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Bangalore, Indien  
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Arranged marriages were common in many cultures until the last century, and they are still practiced today in some regions, such as India. In most cases, the bride and groom are given the opportunity to meet before the wedding and decide whether to accept their families' proposal. However, forced marriages still exist, where dowries and economic considerations play a significant role, often leading to substantial financial burdens for the bride's family while benefiting the groom's family economically. In parallel, love marriages, which take place without familial consent, are increasing, particularly within the urban middle class.

Weddings in India are known for their lavish staging: a vibrant spectacle with choreography, elaborate decorations, and numerous guests. Weddings with up to 500 guests are considered small; at large weddings, 1,000 to 10,000 guests are typically present. The wealthy have their celebrations meticulously planned, with halls or tents transformed into magnificent Indian dreamscapes through set architecture – sometimes even resembling famous temples or palaces.

Many industries benefit from this wedding culture. The annual turnover of wedding service providers is estimated to be between 120–130 billion euros (around 10 Lakh Crore Indian Rupees), with approximately 8–10 million weddings taking place annually in India. The market continues to grow steadily.

Indian weddings thus become a spectacle in a world of backdrops, where the bride and groom, along with their guests, celebrate the union of marriage. The photographs in the Love Comes Later series capture the venues before or after the celebrations. Additionally, portraits of married Indian women, taken months or years after their own weddings, show them wearing their former wedding saris and jewellery, representing various religious and social backgrounds. All live in marriages where love has sometimes become part of life, and sometimes, it has not.