

# Do we need to perform Samskaras?

What is need of Vedic rituals/Samskaras , they are not "mandatory" esp in today's day-age of Kali yuga ?

Yes, its "not mandatory " , unless the responsible members of the family wish to have good progeny.

In the purport BG 16.1-3 , SP mentions about the importance of Samskaras - "If the parents want a child in the godly qualities they should follow the ten principles recommended for the social life of the human being".

These ten principles /samskaras are given in the book "Saṁskāra-tattva" by Raghunandan Bhattacharya :

- 1) vivāha
- 2) garbhādhāna
- 3) puṁsavana
- 4) sīmantonayana
- 5) jāta-karma
- 6) nāma-karaṇa (also included with anna-prāśana)
- 7) cūḍā-karaṇa
- 8) vidyārambha
- 9) upanayana
- 10) dīkṣā

Samskara means impressions. Just, as a computer operates based on programming, similarly our consciousness also operates based on its programming.

And performing Samskaras means writing new program over an old one. It's a purificatory process to uplift the consciousness, to create auspicious impressions and also as a shield to ward off evil influences.

In SB 10.5.4, Sukadeva Goswami while mentioning the various ways of purification says to Parikshit Maharaj, that by purificatory ceremonies, birth is purified.

By birth everyone is a Sudra, only by performing samskaras one becomes a dvija (Janmanā jāyate sūdraḥ saṁskārād dhi bhaved dvijaḥ). Out of many samskaras, Srila Prabhupada stressed that grahastas must follow the most important samskaras of Vivaha and garbhadhana (begetting a good child).

SP mentions in his purport SB 3.21.15, "not more than twenty-five years ago, and perhaps it is still current, parents in India used to consult the horoscope of the boy and girl to see whether there would be factual union in their psychological conditions. These considerations are very important. Now a days, marriage takes place without such consultation, and therefore, soon after the marriage, there is divorce and separation. Formerly husband and wife used to live together peacefully throughout their whole lives, but nowadays it is a very difficult task."

Vedic culture teaches us how one can beget a good child. Otherwise, it is like gambling, one does not know what to expect.

SB 4.22.53, "How one can beget children according to one's own desire is practically unknown in the present age (Kali-yuga). In this regard the secret of success depends on the parents' acceptance of the various purificatory methods known as samskaras".

SB 3.14.38 that, "Before engaging in sexual intercourse, both the husband and the wife must consider their mental condition, the particular time, the husband's direction, and obedience to the demigods. According to Vedic society, there is a suitable auspicious time for sex life, which is called the time for garbhādhāna."

We see the example of Diti and Kashyapa Muni. She requested Kashyapa Muni to unite with her at an inappropriate time (her mental condition was neither sober, nor devotional). Kashyapa Muni warned her that she would meet with proper punishment by giving birth to demoniac child.

SP in his purport SB 3.16.35 mentions, "It is to be concluded that while conceiving a child one's mind must be very sober and devotional. For this purpose, the Garbhādhāna-samskāra is recommended in the Vedic scriptures. If the mind of the father is not sober, the semen discharged will not be very good. Thus, the living entity, wrapped in the matter produced from the father and mother, will be demoniac like Hiranyaksha and Hiranyakashipu. The conditions of conception are to be carefully studied." In SB, King Prithu and Arca show the positive way of mental condition. They underwent the garbhādhāna purificatory process before begetting children, and thus they begot all their sons according to their desires and purified mental states.

So actually, we can see all these happening now a days, the faithful/obedient to vedic scriptures live a peaceful/contented life as compared to the faithless who are always disturbed /unhappy.

—  
[Blank line]  
[Blank line]

[Blank line]

[Blank line]

[Blank line]

1) [Blank line]

2) [Blank line]

3) [Blank line]

