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City youth opt for 'instant' weddings

By By Our Correspondent

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Kasi yatra, Oonjal, Muhurtham... are just some of the few rituals that complete a traditional wedding, not only are these rituals elaborate but they're also time consuming and leave the couple and their family extremely exhausted in the end. However, things seem to be changing these days as an increasing number of young couples have chosen to do away with these complex ceremonies and are instead opting for just the most important rituals like tying the thaali. In fact this trend has caught on to such an extent that some youngsters are even choosing to incorporate faster muhurtham rituals followed by other communities or in some cases other religions too.

City-based model Sneha Shekar who got married to Nandhakumar, an entrepreneur, in August at the famous Guruvayur temple in Kerala says that they chose to get married at this temple as it was simple and fast and the fact that neither of them are from the state didn't stop them. "Since the ceremony here doesn't involve intricate rituals and is done quickly, we realised that it would be the best option for us." Nowadays couples are also keen on including just a small number of people who mean the most to them during their wedding ceremonies. "We wanted this day to be memorable so we invited only our immediate families and close friends to Guruvayur," she adds. Youngsters who opt for these quick weddings make up for the simplicity by throwing huge parties for their friends and acquaintances later on. Take for example, Pavithra Ramaswamy and Naveen Gopalakrishnan from Evam, the theatre group, who adapted this trend to their engagement as well — the two had a small engagement ceremony at a temple where only family and very close friends were invited and later they announced their engagement by throwing a fun, Hawaiian themed bash. Inspired by the success of this, Pavithra and Naveen are doing the same for their wedding on October 23. "A detailed wedding can be exhausting for both the couple and the families, and weddings are a reason to celebrate that's the whole idea behind throwing a party after a quiet ceremony."

While for some couples opting for these instant weddings are dictated by the lack of time or restricting the number of guests, for others this comes as the most amicable solution in cases of inter-caste or inter-religion marriages. Wedding planner Lakshmi Krishnaswamy explains "In cases of inter caste weddings, the concerned families go for quick and very basic ceremonies."

A popular option is to also combine just the most important ritual of each community together so that both the sets of families are happy in the end. Veejays Pooja and Craig who are tying the knot in January say, "We are having our wedding ceremony in a church and we intend to exchange promissory vows and rings. We would like only our families and close friends around. Even our reception is going to be a simple affair. Later on, we'll have our first party as a newly married couple for our friends need to celebrate on a more informal note."

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Sneha and Nandhakumar

As they belong to two different religions, veejays Pooja and Craig are planning to combine the best of both wedding ceremonies. Pooja, who will be tying the knot in January says, "We are having our wedding ceremony in a church and we will exchange promissory vows and rings. We would like only our families and close friends around. Even our reception is going to be a simple affair. Later on, we'll have our first party as a newly married couple for our friends, to celebrate on a more informal note."

Pooja and Craig

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