

P R E F A C E

Selected papers presented at the Seminar on the Hindu Marriage Act, 1956 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954 convened by the Indian Law Institute at Delhi in February 1975 are strung together in this volume. *The Fifty-ninth Report* of the Law Commission on both the Acts formed the basis of discussions at the Seminar which was represented by a varied group comprising judges, lawyers, law teachers and social scientists.

It was not feasible within a short duration of three days to have detailed discussions on all the aspects of marriage law contained in both the Acts, yet endeavours were made to include important provisions in the realm of discussions.

Subsequent to the Seminar, the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Act, 1976 was passed. Some of the important suggestions of the Seminar were adopted by the amending Act. It was considered worthwhile to publish this volume even after the passage of the amendment Act owing to the mine of information contained in the papers both in respect of the existing provisions and the suggested amendments, enabling the reader to better appreciate these provisions and to know the background against which the new amendments were made. Further, marriage laws require constant overhauling and adjustment to meet the varying social attitudes and the valuable suggestions advanced by the contributors of papers would serve to stimulate further discussion and provide materials for considering future amendments. An Epilogue has been added highlighting the recommendations of the Seminar (with relevant references to the Law Commission's recommendations) and the amendments made by the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Act, 1976.

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