



Consanguinity Marriage and Inbreeding

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In **Uppada coast** villages in Andhra Pradesh, [consanguineous marriages](#) are causing conditions like [cerebral palsy](#), **Dandy-Walker Malformation (DWM)**, [albinism](#), and other deformities.

- A consanguineous marriage is a **union** between two people who are **related by blood**, usually as **second cousins or closer**.
 - It is different from incestuous marriages (a marriage between **direct descendants** like between father and daughter, mother and son, brother and sister).
- Practices like the '**Voni**' **promise**, an **oral agreement** made at a girl's birth, enforce consanguinity in the above case.
- [Inbreeding](#) is the **genetic outcome** of consanguineous marriage. Inbreeding increases the degree of **homozygosity** to the **offspring** and also the expression of **recessive traits**.
 - **In homozygosity**, an individual inherits the **same alleles** for a particular gene from both parents leading to [genetic disorders](#).
 - **Alleles** are **different versions of the same gene**. E.g., the gene for eye colour may have alleles for **blue, brown, or green eyes**.
- Inbreeding increases the **genetic load**. Genetic load measures the **rate of damage** caused by the presence of certain **deleterious or disadvantaged genes** in the population.
- The [Hindu Marriage Act](#) prohibits Sapinda marriage between **two Hindus** unless there is an **established custom**.
 - A **sapinda marriage** involves individuals who share a **specific degree of familial closeness**.

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