



Perki Community — 300 Marriages through WhatsApp: A New Era of Digital Unity

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Introduction

A new chapter in the unity and progress of the Perki community began in 2020 — through a simple WhatsApp group. This group became a bridge for connecting eligible boys and girls for marriage within the community, fostering transparency and communication. Today, this digital initiative has successfully helped over **300 marriages** and brought together thousands of community members.

The Beginning and Functioning of the Group

The idea was initiated by a dedicated community member who started the group with the mobile numbers of around 150 known individuals. Initially, participation was low, so nearby members were personally encouraged, and their biodata were shared to set the example. Gradually, the initiative gained traction, and profiles started coming in from distant regions.

Today, the group has grown to over **1,700 members**. More than **400 biodata** have been received, resulting in approximately **300 successful matches** so far.

Importance and Benefits of the Initiative

- **Connecting distant community members:** People from various villages of the Perki community, previously unaware of each other, could finally connect directly.
- **Saving time and money:** By reviewing biodata on the group, members can make informed decisions before meeting, saving travel and unnecessary expenses.

- **Reduction in dowry practices:** Transparency through digital sharing has reduced unnecessary financial burdens.
- **A boon for families with limited mobility:** Especially helpful for families where parents cannot travel or maintain wide social connections.
- **Increased community unity:** The group has encouraged interaction and cooperation among members, strengthening social bonds.

Challenges and Experiences

Like every initiative, this group also faced criticism and misunderstandings:

- Some members complained about receiving too many calls.
- A few refused to share their children's biodata but continued to view others' posts to find matches.
- In the early stages, some disagreements occurred regarding group rules. However, mature members later ensured discipline and order were maintained.

Through patient communication and understanding, the group gradually became more organized and respected.

Community Feedback

The group has received overwhelming appreciation from members. One emotional testimony came from a girl who said, *"Shailesh dada, I found a good life partner because of your group. My father never traveled or interacted much, and this group made it possible for us."* Many such success stories highlight the real impact of this effort.

Members from Nanded, Bhandara, Gadchiroli, and other districts expressed that the group helped them realize how large and connected the Perki community truly is.

The Way Forward — Suggestions

1. **Establish clear rules** – Restrict posts only to marriage-related information.
2. **Respect privacy** – Do not share any biodata without prior permission.
3. **Provide technical assistance** – Offer guidance to members unfamiliar with smartphones or biodata creation.
4. **Form a guiding committee** – Include experienced members to ensure smooth functioning and discipline.

Conclusion

This initiative is not just about arranging marriages — it is about uniting the community. Through the right use of technology, the Perki community has set an inspiring example of cooperation, progress, and togetherness.

Going forward, this initiative should expand further, become more organized, and reach every member of the community — ensuring that unity continues to grow digitally and socially.

Call to Action: If you have any success stories or suggestions related to this group, please share them. Together, we can strengthen this digital movement and contribute to the bright future of the Perki community.