

DOWRY: THE CANCER OF SOCIETY

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“Several lives sacrificed for dowry, stop this sacrilege”

Since a long time the harassment and the violence against the brides revolves around the demand for more dowry which often culminates in the death of the bride. Many questions can be raised about the recent increase in killing and burning of young brides for non-fulfilment of demands or insufficient offer of dowry. The young married women are not only the victims of burns but also they are the victims' strangulation, poisoning, injury inflicted by heavy weight weapons and being compelled to commit suicide and so on. Although Indian laws (Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961) against dowries have been in effect for decades, they have been largely criticized for being ineffective. The practice of dowry deaths and murders keeps on occurring unchecked in numerous parts of India and this has added to the concerns of enforcement. Dowry is illegal only on paper in judiciary or legislative benches but the reality is the complete opposite. For all intents and purposes daughter in law is for most part is regarded as the goose that lays golden eggs. Once they stop laying egg, they are tortured both mentally and physically. Also those victims are driven out to leave the house or to commit suicide. It is a disgrace that coming to at present day age the society. Like untouchability and caste system, dowry system is not as it were a simple fiendish but too a criminal offence. One of the worst evils of our society is dowry system. The custom of dowry is prevalent in all the section of our society in one form or the other. At the beginning it was voluntary, but later on the social pressure was such that very few could escape from its clutches.

There are many reasons why dowry system is existing in the Indian society. Firstly, there is the greed factor which is treated by the major sector of the society as an event for extortion from bride's family. Demands of dowry are put forward shamelessly are expected to be met with silence. When the dowry demands are not met, either the marriage is called off, or the bride is exploited leading to domestic violence. Secondly, illiteracy plays a major role as women are

deliberately kept from schools either due to certain superstitions or from the belief that educating girl will take away from their eligibility as good wives. At the end they are left with little or no choice and have to meet the demands of the groom's family, which when not met, prompts misuse of the ladies. The dowry system is to great extent the manifestation of the patriarchal nature of the Indian society where men are considered superior to women in aspects of physical and mental capabilities. And it is very clear that the status of woman in an Indian society isn't an equivalent one. Or maybe, the society owes its infrastructure build-up to the effective contribution of both genders alike. Nonetheless, it is significantly ignored and the definitive sufferers are the women in such setup. The dowry system is the brainchild of such outlook and is the primary reason behind the plight of women in the country. Thirdly, the urge to show off dowry is often a means of flaunting social stature in our society. One's worth in society is often estimated by the amount one spends in daughter's wedding or how much gold one gives to the groom's family. This viewpoint vigorously justifies the dowry demands. The boy's family in turns increases new statures of social standing in view of the measure of dowry their new bride brings in which is indicator of how alluring their boy was in marriage grandstand. Lastly, lack of willingness to adhere to laws by people increases the crime pertaining to dowry. The government of our country has drafted a few enactment to neutralize the dowry system. However, after the decades of drafting, these laws are still insignificant and his social evil still resides in our society. Apparently, the primary reason behind the failure is absence of mass participation. People pay no heed to such laws and make sure to abuse the dowry system to gain material advantages under the cloak of proposition to be engaged. Hence, the demands are made and owing to ignorance of anti-dowry laws, the bride's family suffer at the hands of the groom and his family.

This curse of dowry system should be eradicated at any cost. Yes, undoubtedly dowry system has becoming as a status symbol among general public and it's very unfortunate that even the educated people also feel proud when taking dowry. Even though the Indian law state that dowry system is punishable under the law still we have public involved in the give and take of dowry. We have been witnessing plenty of deaths and assaults of women for dowry but no justice is for the victims. I strongly feel that dowry system has been increasing and even the educated should bring awareness about the evils of the dowry system and thus the need should be felt to eradicate this evil from Indian society. Another act should be introduced by the

government, both for who give dowry and take dowry should be made equally punishable, it is only then that we will witness decrease in dowry problem. We should think that if other parents are giving their daughter to us, we should take care of her. Just for money we should not torture her or push her to end her life. We need to take this thing upon ourselves that if our daughter or sister is going to marry someone and the boy's family tortures her only for monetary benefits or for property, at that point what would we feel. So we should think about this from today itself and try to eradicate this dowry system from our society. Men should not think that the dowry as the easiest way to get rich or get property. If men decide not to take dowry then it will be a long way in supporting the women and also help to raise their voice against inequality.

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