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Attitude of a Woman Towards Dowry

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Abstract

The Purpose of the Present research was to study the attitude of women towards dowry. The sample consisted of 200 women from Ferozpur City, Survey method was used for collection of data. Dowry Attitude scale by Dr. R.R Sharma (1990) was used Results revealed that the there is no significant difference between attitude of educated and uneducated, married and unmarried women towards dowry.

Introduction

Dowry defined as a blessed gift by the parents to a newly wedded couple, has a historical background. It prevails from the very ancient period of Rama and Krishna. There is reference of this practice in Manusmriti. Even the Dharma Shastra speaks of the gifts at the time of the marriage There is no word for dowry in Sanskrit. The Hindi word 'Dahej' is a corrupted and perverted decipher of the Arabic word 'Jahez'. It was not a forcible practice, but parents gave ornaments and presents to their daughter in marriage willingly. The aim of dowry was to help the couple to start their home. That not only the husband was responsible for his wife, but her father shared her responsibility.

According to Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences, the most general terms used to describe presentations entailed the marital contract are those of 'bride wealth' (or bride price) and 'dowry'. The former refers to gifts presented by the groom's kin group to that of the bride, and the latter-

describes gifts made by the bride's kin group to that of the groom. The dowry is more familiar to the westerners since for centuries, it has been a part of the marriage contract in Europe.

But the scenario of this concept has completely transformed itself and is in contemporary times, reiterating newly as well as negatively Indian philosophical beliefs. Dowry was earlier a humble custom of assistance, but now though the fact may lead to grimace of distaste is a crime. "Good Match". Dowry has one time souvenir of affection but now has become a tool to exploit. The society suffers greatly from the evils of dowry. It has engulfed the society like a devastating fire. It is amazing that even well educated parents of young men do not hesitate to resort extortions.

Frustrated parents o bride believe that an evil spell befall on them. When a girl child is born, parents watch their daughters grow with great agony rather than pleasure. Many grown up girls put an end to their agony by committing suicide. Some of them burn themselves to ashes in their in-laws-

house. Many homes are broken and several families are driven to run only because they are too poor to afford a rich dowry.

The price of the bridegroom is increasing just as the price of everything else. Rates have been fixed for getting well-established bridegrooms like IAS and the state civil services officers, doctors and engineers settled within the country or abroad. Burning of bride, cruel and ruthless victimization for the sake of money is now a common practice in India. Helpless and badly cornered young brides under extortions are forced to commit suicide. A country like India where, Dowry system was a grace has turned to be a great shame of the Indian society. Dowry system has become a curse. Now dowry system has degraded the man from his ideals. Dowry deaths in the early phase of women's movement had been perceived as the most visible symbol of patriarchal power leading to a scrutiny of women's personal experiences and to an awareness that power relations are perpetuated in the private sphere of women's life. He is trying to earn more by fair or foul means to fill up the belly of the giant of dowry. The system must be checked otherwise it will deface the whole Indian society. This social evil needs a treatment on the social level. Dowry is a deep rooted evil in our society and it should be curbed and abolished outright. Mere enacting laws to crush it is not enough. Public minds could be studied and moulded to end this problem. Students should be asked to take a pledge that they would neither seek nor give dowry. We need a very comprehensive illustrated and psychological education on a very extensive scale to be fed to younger generation. The girl child needs a compulsory education on the attitude of the dowry system. We as a nation can not prosper both economically and morally as long as we perpetuate this criminal practice of the dowry system.

Women and motherland are greater than even heaven. We have to draw out a streamlined pattern of education, which can be introduced to the new generation to wipe out the ignorance and wrong attitude adopted by our society towards dowry. The implementation of a vigorous system of education giving a glaring image of both the pollution and miseries of the dowry infected society, and on the other hand, the throwing happiness of the "dowry free" society with great acceleration.

Statement Of The Problem

The problem under study may be stated as ATTITUDE OF WOMEN TOWARDS DOWRY.

Objectives of The Study

The objectives of the study are as under:

1. To study the attitude of women towards dowry. ,
2. To compare the attitude of married and unmarried women towards dowry.
3. To compare the attitude of educated and uneducated women towards dowry.
4. To compare the attitude of women on the basis of economic status of their parents.

Hypotheses

1. There is no difference in the attitude of married and unmarried women towards Dowry.
2. There is no difference in the attitude of educated and uneducated women towards dowry.
3. Attitude towards dowry of daughters of rich parents do not differ significantly to those who are daughters of poor parents.

Sample of The Study

The sample shall consist of 200 women from Ferozepur city. Purposive sampling will be made keeping in view the variables of the study.

Tools of The Study

To get the data for attitude towards dowry, Dowry Attitude Scale (DAS) developed by Dr. R.R. Shanna (1990) will be used. Data relating to marital status and education of the women will be taken from the biodata to be filled by the subject.

Statistical Techniques

For the analysis and interpretation of the data the descriptive statistics percentages, Mean, SD will be used. Graphical representation where ever necessary will also be given.

Findings

1. Majority of educated women show negative attitude towards dowry.
2. Majority of uneducated women show negative attitude towards dowry.
3. Majority of Married and unmarried women show negative attitude towards dowry. So they do not differ significantly in their attitude towards dowry.
4. Most of the sample women whose parents income is up to 1 Lac P.A. show negative attitude towards dowry.
5. Most of the sample women whose parents income is 1 to 2 Lac P.A. show negative attitude towards dowry.
6. Majority of the sample women whose parent's income is over 2 Lacs P.A. show also negative attitudes towards dowry.

Conclusion

From the above findings, it may be concluded that.

1. There is no significant difference between attitude of educated and uneducated women towards dowry.
2. There is insignificant difference in the attitude towards dowry of the sample married and unmarried women.

There is no significant difference in the attitude of sample women whose parents income is high socio economic status and low socio economic status.

Suggestions For Further Study

1. The present study may be repeated on a large scale.
2. The present study is focused on women we can extend the scope
3. For the present study, the sample was drawn from the women of Ferozepur:- A similar study may be conducted at states and national level.
4. In the parents study, the factors of education, marital and economics status were taken. A comparative study can also be conducted by taking other factors also.
5. Cross- sectional study can also be conducted to compare the attitude of persons belonging to different sections of society.

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