

## A Study On The Impact Of Dowry System In India

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**How to cite this article:** K.Dhatchayani, A.Kogila, P.Sandhiya, Lochana.P, R.Naveena, S. Anbarasu, (2024) A Study On The Impact Of Dowry System In India. *Library Progress International*, 44(3), 15633-15637

### ABSTRACT

The dowry system in India has a long root in Indian culture. Dowry is also Called as Dahej which has become an obstacle to every woman's routine day to day life. Dowry has progressively evolved into social standards, which is a serious problem for women and our society as a whole. In India, the dower system has existed since prehistoric times. It was also thought to be an honor shared by both families for the groom to get money during a marriage so he could properly care for his bride. Dowry is not only in the form of money, but sometimes properties and gold are also shared to the groom and his family. The objective of this discussion is to provide insight into the dowry system, societal impact and future scope. The present study employed an empirical research methodology, with a sample size of 200. The data was obtained within the borders of Chennai using a suitable sampling technique. The study's instruments include: The surveys that are structured with Findings in gender inequality, financial pressure, domestic violence, economic empowerment and cultural transformation. our culture as a tradition and presented as a complex set of challenges that impact on gender equality, family wellbeing and societal progress. India's dowry system is still a complicated, multidimensional problem that has an ongoing effect on society. Despite vigorous legal action and widespread public awareness campaigns, it continues to exist in our society in many forms and is adapted. To end this heinous social practice, the Indian government has made a law to refrain people from taking or giving dowry under the act of 1961. The main goal of the act is to investigate all the ills and repercussions of dowry and to abolish it from Indian traditions.

**KEYWORDS:** Dowry, social evil, marriage, family, domestic violence, money.

### INTRODUCTION

A dowry is only an offering, much like genuine A dowry is simply an offering, like real estate or cash, made to the groom and his family by the bride's family either at the time of the marriage or at a later date per the groom's request. A contract known as a "dowry" has to deal with how much a bride should be paid. However, the bride or her family is asked to pay the bride or the groom's family members for the bride or bride services. Under the name of dower, the bride's family's fortune is given to the groom or his family. In some parts of the world, such as several Asian countries, northern Africa, and the Balkans, accepting a marriage proposal is usually contingent upon paying a dowry. In many Asian nations, dowry-related conflicts can lead to violent crimes against women and their families, including vicious and deadly assaults. In ancient times people practiced killing their girl babies to escape from the dowry system as they cannot afford due to their poverty. So, The Indian government has taken steps to safeguard women from domestic abuse with the 1961 Dowry Prohibition Act and the Act of 2005. Factors affecting the dowry system are greed factors in our society structure, religious dictates, social constraints, social status of women and illiteracy. So that the National policies were framed and made

effective in 2001 for the empowerment of women and their rights on education. In conclusion, the dowry system is rooted in the Indian cultural traditions and has often led to detrimental consequences, such as gender inequality, financial burdens, domestic violence, and skewed social dynamics. Thus, Efforts to combat this practice have included legal reforms, education, economic empowerment, and cultural shifts. In India, everyone speaks for women's rights and says 'Beto Bachao Beti Padhao'. But a girl, even after achieving everything in her life, she can't escape the shackles of dowry. Hence more than one lakh cases are registered every year for dowry cases.

#### **CAUSES**

- Social structure: The patriarchal character of Indian society, where males are viewed as superior to women in terms of physical and intellectual strength, is fundamentally reflected in the dowry system.
- Women's social standing: Girls' lower social status in Indian society is deeply ingrained in the country's collective consciousness.
- Greed: When a bride and groom get engaged, it's expected that a dowry will be given to make up for the groom's riches, status, and professional background.
- Religious factor. The dowry issue is partly a result of religious restrictions placed on marital practices by society, particularly with regard to the groom's appearance.

#### **ACT OF 1961 PROHIBITION OF DOWRY**

Efforts of dowry system assaults on women, inequality of gender and loss of girls' shallowness and solution of Campaign for Education and Awareness, Law enforcement and Women's freedom. The Dowry Prohibition Act was passed on May 1, 1961, with the goal of making it illegal to give or accept dowries.

Rules should be established by the government in the historic The verdict in Suresh Kumar Singh v. State of Uttar Pradesh. The prosecution's evidence of the woman's dowry demand could not be removed because of her death, the Supreme Court decided. The connection between the victim's demise and the dowry demand needs to be established in order to elicit the expression just before our death. The D.P. Act should also be used to charge the accused.

#### **The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005**

The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 was passed by India in order to protect women from domestic abuse. It established civil remedies with this goal in mind. Since one of the causes of domestic violence is abuse of any kind, including financial, mental, physical, verbal, and sexual abuse, it is beneficial. The Domestic Violence Act is a component of the Dolly Prevention Act. The Domestic Violence Act's Section 3 expressly prohibits any kind of intimidation, harm, or use of weapons against women in order to comply with unlawful dowry demands.

#### **IMPACT OF DOWRY SYSTEM**

**Gender Discrimination:** It is often observed that due to the dowry system, women are considered a burden and are oppressed and given preferential treatment. Whether it's in the education sector or other amenity sectors.

**Impact on women's careers:** The larger context of dowry practices is women's underrepresentation in the workforce and the resulting lack of economic independence.

**Crimes against Women:** The dowry system occasionally gave rise to crimes against women, which could include everything from physical harm and psychological abuse to murder.

#### **OBJECTIVE**

1. To examine the reason behind India's dowry system in India.
2. To evaluate the effects of India's dowry system.
3. To investigate dowry preventative measures of the dowry system.

#### **Hypothesis**

**Null Hypothesis:** There is no association between the educational backgrounds and the different socioeconomic problems related to the dowry system.

**Alternative hypothesis:** There is association between the educational backgrounds and the different socioeconomic problems related to the dowry system.

#### **METHODOLOGY:**

This study was conducted using descriptive research. Convenience sampling method is adopted in the study to collect the data. The data is collected through a questionnaire and the sample size 200. The samples were collected from the general public with different region. The hypothesis was tested using the square test.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

**Ranjana Sheel (1997)** has argued that British legitimacy, which prioritized Brahmanical rules and laws of social order over various rural customs, influenced the laws of marriage, inheritance, and adoption. The study suggests that some patriarchal behaviors that harm Hindu women in all settings rural or urban are subject to legal repercussions. It had an impact on how most people experienced marriage and property inheritance norms.

**Priya R Banerjee (2014)** said that the World Health Organization has acknowledged the role that ingrained social and cultural norms play in the development of physical and intimate partner violence against women. A custom that is expected in married life is the dowry custom. Violence may break out if the recipient feels that the dowry or bride price is inadequate, leading to historically high rates of death and illness among Indian women.

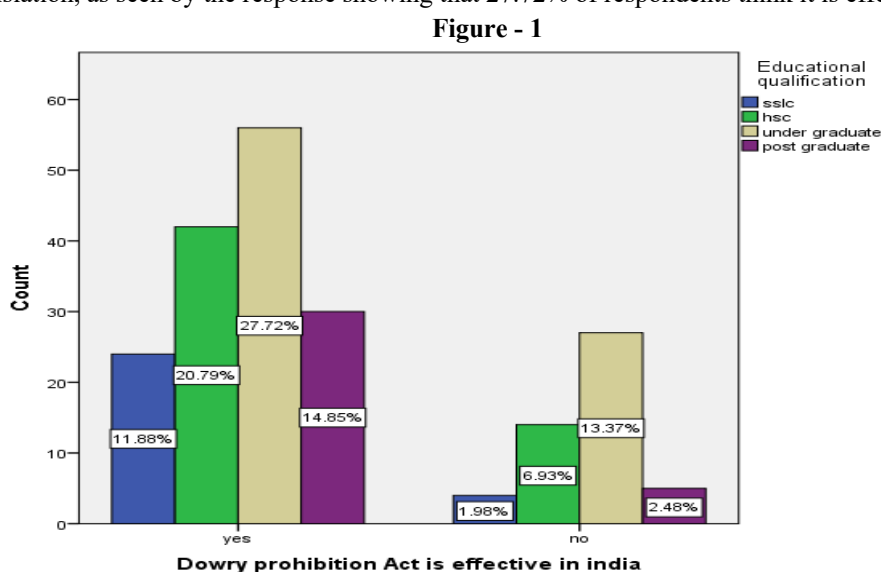
**Seema Dixit (2021)** the study on dowry system is a social problem that fuels the continuous torture, murder, and subjugation of women in India. A dowry is generally required in this society for planned marriages. 2020 saw 6,966 dowry deaths in India, as dowry disputes claimed the lives of 19 women every day. A sample size of 200 individuals was used for the investigation. For the past 50 years, this practice has mostly not changed in India. In fact, this problem is on the rise, resulting in unprecedented mortality and morbidity among women in India.

**Anil Kamal (2022)** analyzed the objective of this study to find out the influence of dowry demand, marriage dowry, occupational status and family system. As a method, they used a purposive sampling technique to find a practical approach. The findings indicated that, in terms of marital satisfaction, there was a substantial statistical difference between the two groups. This led to the conclusion that, in addition to being appropriately enforced, the dowry system should be avoided. Finding of the study Legislation prohibiting dowries is necessary.

**Sakkeel KP (2023)** said that humiliation over dowry in the husband's home was the reason behind a number of suicide attacks committed by married women. This situation highlights the necessity for women's empowerment, building on the social psychologists' contagion effect theory, which relates sociality, domestic abuse, and active psychiatric interventions. Women need to realize that there are other ways to respond to situations. Take note of influential policymakers to provide insight into India's dowry system.

## Analysis:

**Figure: 1** shows the respondents' educational backgrounds in relation to the effectiveness of India's dowry prohibition law. The public was asked if they thought the Indian government's dowry ban worked, and more than 27.72% of the educated undergraduate respondents said yes. A sizable section of the surveyed population appears to think favorably of the dowry prohibition legislation, as seen by the response showing that 27.72% of respondents think it is effective in India.



**Figure 2** shows the efficacy of India's dowry ban law, and the gender of the respondents. 54.95 % of female respondents said yes. 17.33% of the female respondents said no. A majority of the studied populations appear to have a positive image

of the dowry prohibition legislation, as seen by the response, which shows that 54.95% of respondents thought it was effective in India. This suggests a high degree of support for the degree of effectiveness of help to females.

Figure 2

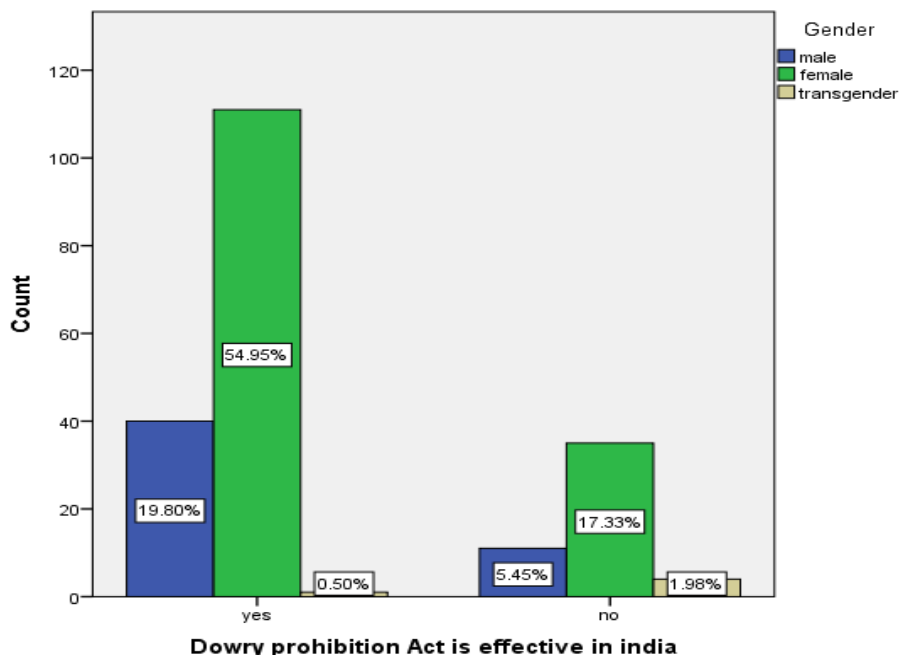
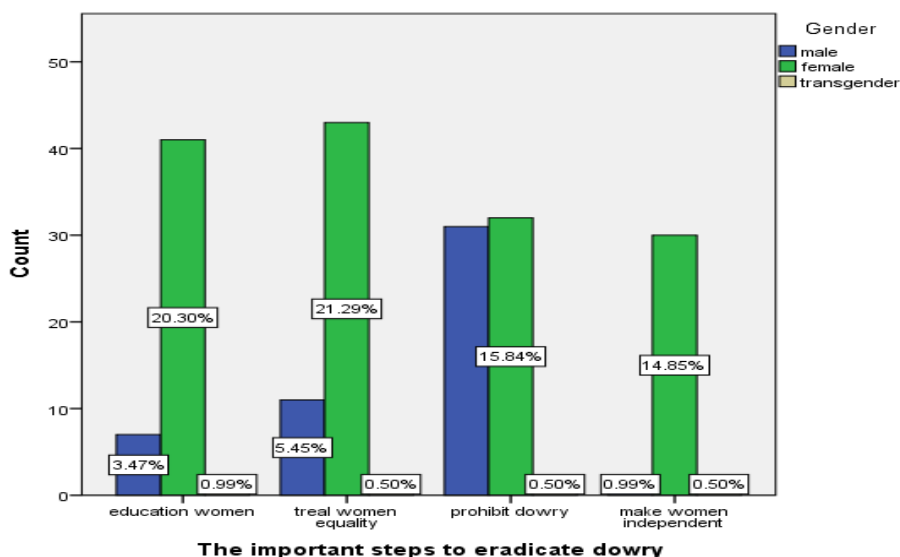


Figure 3: shows the gender of the responders to the crucial measures to stop dowries system the public's response was more firmly in agreement 15.35% than in neutrality (13.37%). It is clear from the response that 15.35% both male and female of respondents strongly prohibit of Indian dowry system. Hence it is a societal evil that needs to be abolished and that some members of the studied community are adamantly opposed to the practice



## Hypothesis test

### Chi-Square Tests

|                              | Value                | df | Asymptotic Significance (2-sided) |
|------------------------------|----------------------|----|-----------------------------------|
| Pearson Chi-Square           | 218.767 <sup>a</sup> | 12 | .000                              |
| Likelihood Ratio             | 185.158              | 12 | .000                              |
| Linear-by-Linear Association | 34.052               | 1  | .000                              |
| N of Valid Cases             | 202                  |    |                                   |

a. 2 cells (10.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 3.47.

### Interpretation:

The calculated P value is 0.000. Since P value > 0.05, null hypothesis is rejected at 5% level of significance. Hence there is association between education backgrounds and the different socio economic problems related to the dowry system.

### SUGGESTION:

Education and awareness use campaigns and curriculum in schools to raise knowledge of the illegality and detrimental effects of dowries. Legal reforms: make penalties harsher for both accepting and providing dowries, and fortify and enforce anti-dowry legislation. Women's empowerment: Empower women through education, vocational training, and economic opportunities to reduce their dependence on dowry for marriage. Family counseling: promote family counseling to address dowry related conflicts and promote gender equality within families. Financial literacy promotes financial literacy among families to help them manage wedding expenses without resorting to dowry.

### CONCLUSION

The dowry system refers to the custom in many cultures when the bride's family gives gifts, cash, or other assets to the groom and his family during the marriage. Meanwhile, it is sometimes blamed for fueling gender inequity, domestic violence, and financial hardship. As part of the marriage contract, the main goal of the dowry system is to transfer money, resources, or other assets from the bride's family to the groom's family. Gender disparity, financial stress, selective abortions, marital abuse, social pressure, postponed marriage, legal involvement, awareness and education, and economic independence are among the conclusions. Future scope includes legal reforms, economic empowerment, reporting and education, technical advancements, and support networks. Although cultural traditions are at the foundation of these efforts, they have frequently resulted in negative outcomes like gender inequity.

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