

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ATTITUDE OF PARENTS TOWARDS DOWRY SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

The present article summarizes the study conducted on 100 parents chosen from Sonapat district of Haryana. The purpose was to find out the attitude of parents towards dowry system. Normative survey method was used and The Dowry Attitude Scale constructed by R.R Sharma was administered for collecting data. The data was analyzed by mean, S.D & t value. The results indicate that there is no significant difference between the attitude of male and female parents, educated and uneducated male parents, educated and uneducated female parents, educated male and female parents and uneducated male and female parents towards dowry system. This shows that the attitude of parents towards dowry system is not affected by the type of locality and education.

INTRODUCTION

One of the key social problems of modern India is the phenomenon of increasing dowry demands. With limited financial resources available, it is becoming increasingly difficult for several families, specially middle and lower class, to cope with the burgeoning dowry demands. Modern education has instead of containing the problem, helped in aggravating it. Efforts are being made since 1961 to control the problem by first introducing the prohibition of dowry act that year which was further amended to make was a fine of Rs. 5000/- and six months of imprisonment which has now been raised and the amended act has been given more teeth. Besides, government measures, efforts have also been made by general public through organizing mass protests against the dowry system. The press has also been reporting about cases of torture desecration and murder of young women which has created mass awareness and great indignance against dowry throughout the country.

THE MEANING OF DOWRY

The custom of giving presents at the time of marriage is a common phenomenon. According to the custom which prevails in India, parents of the bride give presents to the bride in terms of both movable and immovable property. The

custom which has been in vogue for several centuries, has now become rigid and associated with social status and family prestige. Now a days, it carries with its demonstration tendency which has turned in to a great social evil. Movable property now includes several things such as cash, clothes, furniture, ornaments, cycle, car, radio, television, scooter, bedding set, boxes and several other things. In the immovable property one can count land, house, shop, factory etc. The nature of property that a girl would usually bring with her at a time of marriage would depend on the financial status of the family.

THE SOCIAL PERCEPTION OF DOWRY

It is observed that the function of dowry practice are variously perceived by different segments of the society, since the perceptions of the practice as a problem are conditioned by the different interests, standards and expectations of the diverse group that make up the society. It is obvious that the practice was not totally seen with disfavour and even though many people advocated against it, almost all were found practicing it. This could be one of the reasons why movements against dowry did not gain ground. Without dowry it is not possible to get a good husband for the daughter.

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JUSTIFICATION OF THE PROBLEM

The problem of dowry has become a great problem for our society. We cannot set it aside. Everybody is affected by this problem. Nearly all classes of people irrespective of their religion or caste on their economic condition are affected by this barbarous practice. This evil has destroyed the married life of many girls. The press has also been reporting about cases of torture, discretion and murder of young women which has created mass awareness and great indignance against dowry throughout the country.

It is difficult to single out who is responsible for this. But in India as marriages of mostly children are arranged by their parents, it is usually assumed that parents demand the dowry. It is also assumed that mainly females are in more favor of dowry in comparison to male parents. It is also necessary to know that what is the difference between the attitude of educated and uneducated parents towards dowry system. Is there any effect of education on the attitude of parents towards dowry system.

The investigator herself has not come across any such study which deals purely with the attitude of parents towards dowry system. In Haryana only two or three studies have been found in the surveys of educational research but they too have encompassed some other social problems with the dowry system. These studies show the relation of dowry with the economic condition, caste of parents etc.. So the investigator took this study in hand to know and compare the attitude of male and female parents.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A comparative study of the attitude of parents towards dowry system.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED

1. ATTITUDE

An attitude is a readiness to respond in such a way that behavior is given a certain direction.

2. DOWRY

Property or money brought by a bride to her husband when they marry.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives formulated for this study are:

1. To find out the difference between attitude of male and female parents towards dowry system.
2. To find out the difference between attitude of educated and uneducated male parents towards dowry system.
3. To find out the difference between attitude of educated and uneducated female parents towards dowry system.
4. To find out the difference between attitude of educated male and female parents towards dowry system.
5. To find out the difference between attitude of uneducated male and female parents towards dowry system.

HYPOTHESES

The following null hypotheses has been framed for this study:

1. There is no significant difference between the attitude of male and female parents towards dowry system.
2. There is no significant difference between the attitude of educated and uneducated male parents towards dowry system.
3. There is no significant difference between the attitude of educated and uneducated female parents towards dowry system.
4. There is no significant difference between the attitude of educated male and female parents towards dowry system.
5. There is no significant difference between the attitude of uneducated male and female parents towards dowry system.

DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

1. Only the parents (male and female) living in the Sonapat city has been selected.
2. Only the attitude of educated and uneducated parents (male and female) towards dowry system has been studied.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Methodology used in the research was survey method.

SAMPLE

The study was carried out on 100 parents (50 urban & 50 rural) selected from Sonipat district.

TOOL USED

The tool used was The Dowry Attitude Scale constructed by R. R.Sharma.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED

Mean, S.D, t-test, were the statistical techniques used.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Hypothesis I:- There is no significant difference between the attitude of male and female parents towards dowry system.

Variables	N	Mean	SD	t' value	Remarks
Male Parents	50	231.50	1.58	0.52	NS at .01 & .05 level
Female Parents	50	215.48	1.42		

The calculated value 0.52 is less than the table value , so the null hypothesis is accepted.

Hypothesis II:- There is no significant difference between the attitude of educated and uneducated male parents towards dowry system.

Variables	N	Mean	SD	t' value	Remarks
Educated Male Parents	25	225.0	1.61	0.04	Not Significant at .01 level
Uneducated Male Parents	25	225.96	1.90		

The calculated 't' value 0.04 is low than the table value 2.58. So, the null hypothesis is accepted.

Hypothesis III: - There is no significant difference between the attitude of educated and uneducated female parents towards dowry system.

Variables	N	Mean	SD	t' value	Remarks
Educated Female Parents	25	231.50	1.58	0.39	Not Significant at .01 level
Uneducated Female Parents	25	215.48	1.42		

The calculated 't' value 0.39 is low than the table value 2.58. So, the null hypothesis is accepted.

Hypothesis IV:- There is no significant difference between the attitude of educated male and female parents towards dowry system.

Variables	N	Mean	SD	t' value	Remarks
Educated Male Parents	50	225.0	1.61	0.03	Not Significant at .01 level
Educated Female Parents	50	231.50	1.58		

The calculated 't' value 0.03 is low than the table value 2.58. So, the null hypothesis is accepted.

Hypothesis V:- There is no significant difference between the attitude of uneducated male and female parents towards dowry system.

Variables	N	Mean	SD	t' value	Remarks
Uneducated Male Parents	50	225.96	1.90	0.39	Not Significant at .01 level
Uneducated Female Parents	50	215.48	1.42		

The calculated 't' value 0.39 is low than the table value 2.58. So, the null hypothesis is accepted.

MAIN FINDINGS

1. There is no significant difference between the attitude of male and female parents towards dowry system.
2. There is no significant difference between the attitude of educated and uneducated male parents towards dowry system.

3. There is no significant difference between the attitude of educated and uneducated female parents towards dowry system.
4. There is no significant difference between the attitude of educated male and female parents towards dowry system.
5. There is no significant difference between the attitude of uneducated male and female parents towards dowry system.

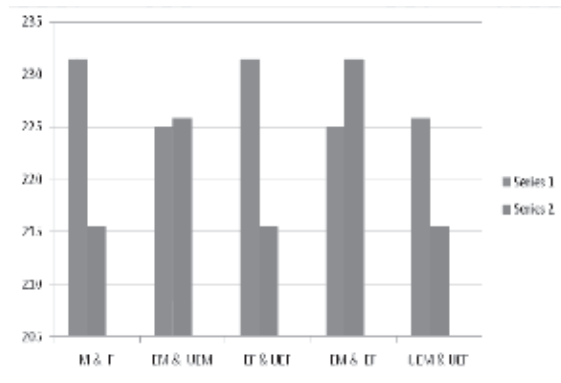


Fig: Attitude of parents towards dowry system

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