

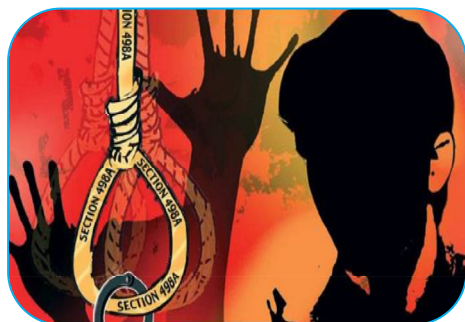


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A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE ATTITUDE OF COLLEGE GOING STUDENTS TOWARDS DOWRY SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT:

The concept of dowry has been around since many centuries and led to many told and untold stories of crime, cruelty and harassment of brides during or after marriage. It is practiced in Indian society without any inhibitions or ill feeling. The present study deals with the comparison between Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir College going students to know their attitude towards dowry system. Sample of 100 students has been taken. Survey method was used. Dowry Attitude Scale by Dr. R.R. Sharma used as a research tool. Mean, Median, Mode, Standard Deviation (SD) and t-test

were used to analyse the data. Result found that significant difference found in the attitude of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir College going students towards dowry system.

KEYWORDS: crime, cruelty and harassment of brides.

INTRODUCTION

India is a vast and multi-cultural country. The Civilization of India is the ancient most in the World and with each era a new social structure is born since the birth of our society. With the second highest population in the world after China, India has come a long way in concepts of development in all spheres of society. Indian culture holds a plethora of concepts where women in society are shown as a divine force of nature. Women throughout have been worshipped as goddesses like Durga, Kali, Saraswati, and Lakshmi. Through changing centuries so did the change in the view towards women evolved in rather negative way. The status of

women in the Vedic Civilization and the Indus Valley women held a status or position that of a Goddess. It is very surprising how the position of women as Goddess reduced itself to a mere object. But like every century has its own ideology so does the present one. The concept of dowry goes back to many centuries and it has historical background. By definition dowry means, "it is a parental property that passes to the daughter at the time of her marriage". This system is very ancient it is present in the age of Rama and Krishna. There is reference of this practice in Manu Samiriti. Dowry system in Indian Marriages can be called the commercial aspect of the marriage. Dowry is a payment from the bride's family to the groom or grooms family at the

time of marriage. Upon marriage, daughters are given all modern household gadgetry as dowry such as furniture, crockery, electrical appliances, and personal items of clothing, jewellery and cash. The name given to this system as Kanya Dana. The rituals of Kanya-dana are an essential aspect in Hindu marital rites. A number of marriage negotiations break down if there is no consensus between the brides and grooms families. Dowry is both a practice and problem in Indian Marriages. In some parts of the World especially in Asian and African countries dowry has become a condition for marriage. Dowry deaths of a newly married bride are still

regularly in the news. So, in modern time the dowry "Give and Take" phenomenon is practiced widely throughout India Irrespective of caste and class.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To know the attitude of college going students towards dowry system.
- To compare the attitude of male and female college going students towards dowry system.
- To compare the attitude of rural and urban college going students towards dowry system.

HYPOTHESES

1. The college going students have negative attitude towards dowry system.
2. The male and female college going students do not differ significantly on dowry attitude scale.
3. There is no significant difference between the attitude of rural and urban college going students towards dowry system.

DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

1. The study is conducted on college going students of H.P. and Jammu & Kashmir State.
2. The sample of present investigation was 50 students (25 boys and 25 girls) from Himachal Pradesh and 50 students (25 boys and 25 girls) from Jammu & Kashmir State.
3. The required data is collected from selected colleges of H.P. and Jammu & Kashmir State.

METHODOLOGY

The present study is Survey in nature. Survey studies are conducted to collect data of the existing phenomena. It deals not only merely gathering of data but also involves interpretation, comparison, measurement and understanding of solution of dowry system problems. In the present investigation survey method was used to study the attitude of college going students towards dowry system. Keeping in view the limited sources, time, money and practical difficulty a limited sample consists 100 college going students (50 boys and 50 girls) was selected from H.P. and Jammu & Kashmir state. A convenient purposive method of sampling was followed in selecting the sample. For the present study, the investigator used the Dowry Attitude Scale (DAS) by Dr. R.R. Sharma which contains 52 items out of which 35 are positive and 17 are negative. Each items is to be rated on 5 point scale. The Reliability of DAS was determined firstly by split half method and the value was found to be 0.79. In case of Validity the value of coefficient of correlation was found to be 0.89.

Table 1: College wise List of the Students

S.No.	State	Name of Colleges	No. of Students
1.	Himachal Pradesh	Govt. Degree College Hamirpur, Govt. Degree College Nadaun, Hamirpur	25 Boys, 25 Girls
2	Jammu and Kashmir	Govt. Gandhi Memorial Science College, Jammu, Govt. MAM College, Jammu	25 Boys, 25 Girls
		Total	100

Analysis and Interpretation of Data

Table 2: N, Mean, Median, Mode and SD of College Going Students towards Dowry System

N	Mean	Median	Mode	S.D.
100	201.6	200.7	199.76	26.14

Table-2 shows that mean of college going students is 201.6 which is showing the positive attitude towards dowry system when it is compared with the given table. So the null hypothesis that is "the college going students have negative attitude towards dowry system" is rejected. In other words we can say that the college going students have positive attitude towards dowry system.

Table 3: N, Mean, SD and t-value of H.P. and Jammu and Kashmir College Going Students towards Dowry System

State	N	M	SD	df	SEm	t-value	Result
H.P.	50	203.20	32.70	95	5.45	2.23	Not Significant
J&K	50	192.77	19.30				

Table-3 depicts that mean of college going students of J&K State are lower (M =192.77) than H.P. college going students (203.20). The computed t-value is 2.23. The df is 95 and t-value in the table at .05 level is 1.98. The obtained t-value is more than table value. So the framed null hypothesis is rejected that the attitude of the students of H.P. and J&K do not differ significantly towards dowry system. It means that H.P. and J&K's college going students differ significantly in attitude towards dowry system.

Table 4: N, Mean, SD and t-value of Male and Female College Going Students of Himachal Pradesh State towards Dowry System

Sex	N	M	SD	Df	SEM	t-value	Result
Male	25	203.86	21.85	46	7.2	1.23	Significant
Female	25	213.78	33.76				

Table-4 indicates that the mean of male students are lower than the female students towards dowry system. The computed t-value is 1.23. The df is 46 and t-value in the table at .05 level is 2.02. The obtained t-value is less than table value. So the framed null hypothesis is accepted that the male and female college going students do not differ significantly on dowry attitude scale. It means that male and female college going students of Himachal Pradesh have more or less same attitude towards dowry system.

Table 5: N, Mean, SD and t-value of Male and Female College Going Students of Jammu and Kashmir State towards Dowry System

Sex	N	M	SD	Df	SEM	t-value	Result
Male	25	182.30	8.85	46	4.3	4.09	Not Significant
Female	25	203.78	20.79				

Table-5 shows that the mean of female students are higher than the male students towards dowry system. The computed t-value is 4.09. The df is 46 and t-value in the table at .05 level is 2.02. The obtained t-value is more than table value. So the framed null hypothesis is rejected that the male and female college going students do not differ significantly on dowry attitude scale. It means that male and female college going students of Jammu and Kashmir have less or more significant attitude towards dowry system.

Table 6: N, Mean, SD and t-value of Rural and Urban College Going Students towards Dowry System

H.P. State	N	M	SD	Df	SEM	t-value	Result
Rural	25	214.42	26.40	46	6.6	0.49	Significant
Urban	25	210.78	23.19				

Table-6 depicts that the mean of rural college going students are higher (214.42) than the urban college going students (210.78) towards dowry system. The computed t-value is 0.49. The df is 46 and t-value in the table at .05 level is 2.02. The obtained t-value is less than table value. So the framed null hypothesis is accepted that there is no significant difference between the attitude of rural and urban college going students towards dowry system. It means that rural and urban college going students of Himachal Pradesh have more or less same attitude towards dowry system.

Table 7: N, Mean, SD and t-value of Rural and Urban College Going Students towards Dowry System

J&K State	N	M	SD	Df	SEM	t-value	Result
Rural	25	195.42	23.40	46	5.36	0.54	Significant
Urban	25	193.36	16.09				

From Table-7, the mean of rural college going students are higher (195.42) than the urban college going students(193.36) towards dowry system. The computed t-value is 0.54. The df is 46. and t-value in the table at .05 level is 2.02. The obtained t-value is less than table value. So the framed null hypothesis is accepted that there is no significant difference between the attitude of rural and urban college going students towards dowry system. It means that rural and urban college going students of Jammu and Kashmir have more or less same attitude towards dowry system.

FINDINGS

On the basis of analysis of data, the following findings may be drawn:

1. The college going students of H.P. and J&K have positive attitude towards dowry system. It means that they have attitude in favour of dowry system.
2. The male and female college going students of H.P. state do not differ significantly on dowry attitude scale. It means that they have more or less same attitude towards dowry system.
3. The male and female college going students of J&K state has less or more significant attitude towards dowry system.
4. There is no significant difference between the attitude of rural and urban college going students of H.P. towards dowry system. It means that they have more or less same attitude towards dowry system.
5. There is no significant difference between the attitude of rural and urban college going students of J& K State towards dowry system. It means that they have more or less same attitude towards dowry system.

CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of the analysis of above study it may be conclude that H.P. and J&K College going students differ significantly in attitude towards dowry system. In Himachal Pradesh State, male and female college going students have more or less same attitude towards dowry system but in Jammu and Kashmir state, male and female college going students have different attitude towards dowry system. On the other hand both rural and urban college going students of H.P. and J&K state have significantly different attitude towards dowry system which may be less or more. Dowry system is a system which disrupts the harmony in society. This system has its root in the psyche of society. That is why; it is very difficult to find out its solution to remove. For its eradication, a lot of research work and awareness programmes are being carried out in the societies. The college going students are such youth whose attitude towards dowry system accounts significant factor in the promotion and demotion of it. Dowry has spurred a flowering of sharp thinking about the economic and sociology of dowry and marriage payments more broadly. From a practical and policy-making perspective, however, the question of the existence of dowry paid is critical. We suggest that researcher should do more to understand the significant determinant of dowry. We recommended that much work remains to be done to find out in term of developing a suitable equation of dowry system and empirically testing our proposition. In the present investigation an attempt has been made to explore the attitude of college going students against dowry system. So as to seen the various reasons behind it. The result might be useful for social scientists to know the causative factors of the attitude of dowry system and it may be fruitful for counseling college going students against dowry system to promote harmony in society. To promote equity, equality and justice in the society, the policy makers and planners as well as administrators can emphasize the importance of this study.

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