

An Illustrative Study Upon the Human Rights and Its Viewpoint on the Unnatural Deaths of Indian Brides: Dowry Harassment as Domestic Violence a Case Study.

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Abstract

In India, dowry harassment incidence is referred to as "dowry deaths." An infraction that has become a cultural and ethnic offence in India has been designated an offence under the Indian Penal Code, however the practice of dowry still exists in the country despite clear regulations. As part of India's dowry system, practice of dowry is outlawed under the Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961. This is also seen as a violation of one's fundamental human rights. Accordingly, this research paper will examine the terrible crime of dowry killing taking place in India and the violation of Human rights, with an emphasis on the socio-economic status of women that still persists in a rapidly expanding nation like India.

The objectives states to discuss the Incessant Disparagement of human Rights within the aspect of Dowry harassment and violence, to analyse Non-enforcement existing laws force, have failed in protecting the human rights of women suffering dowry harassment, and to evaluate upon the solutions of ramification of Unnatural deaths of Indian brides and implementing appropriate human rights remedies.

In addition to primary and secondary analysis, the results have been accessed. A justified result has been achieved by the application of qualitative research methods. By analysing polls, surveys, and other sources, the researcher intends to get insight into this awful crime and advocate legislative reforms and other measures of boosting public awareness to curb it and protect women's rights in India. There are suggested attempts to prohibit bride-burning by amending current domestic legislation and expanding the area of coverage under existing human rights law.

Key words: *Human rights, Dowry deaths, violence, harassments, domestic legislation*

1. Introduction

The tradition of dowry in India dates back to the 13th century AD, according to certain estimates. Brahmin castes in northern and north western India were the first to practice the practice of dowry-giving. As more and more foreign nationals move to India, so does the practice of dowry. There is a limit to the authority that women have when it comes to making household choices and encountering discrimination in any way, which is very contradictory to human rights, particularly against women¹. Human rights are a gift from God and belong to everyone who has received them. It is impossible to compromise on the importance of human rights. The goal of this research paper is to learn more about India's legal policy on dowry killings and other forms of human rights abuse.

1.1 Background

"A person who sells his son for money and he who takes a bride-price for earning a living are both great thieves and go to hell" – Mahabharata.

A bride's treatment in current Indian culture seems to centre on dowry. Demands for dowry that lead to oppressive violence against the wife by her in-laws may be classified as dowry violence. Several studies have shown that the victims of dowry are young, dependent, and lack education. Dowager crimes are difficult to prove, and the dying victim may sometimes be able to rescue the guilty². The Central Government's efforts to amend the Dowry Prohibition Act and preventative laws have not yet had an impact. In order to stop violence against women and strengthen the anti-dowry movement, people must take action on their own will.

¹ Kumari, Vinod, and Subhash Chander. "Socio-economic factors affecting problem of dowry." *International Journal of Education and Management Studies* 9.1 (2019): 21-24.

² Gunawan, Iqlima Qorinabila. "LEGAL POLICY AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE DOWRY DEATHS IN INDIA."

Dowry-related violence refers to the oppressive behaviour of the in-laws against the lady, frequently leading to her death or suicide, as a consequence of persistent requests for dowry. There are a number of possible explanations for this. It might be difficult to distinguish dowry-related harassment from other causes of marital difficulties, such as the personalities of the couples, their incompatibility and unreasonable expectations³. However, dowry and other social conventions allow the husband and his family to treat the wife with contempt, humiliates her, and even beat her up.

2. Literature Reviews

According to Sarma, 2021, Non-just conduct and unfair national and international frameworks harm women's human rights. A single act of violence does not constitute a violation of a person's human rights. Models of economic growth, whether capitalist or socialist, that favour the state or those in power at the expense of the poor, disadvantaged groups, minorities, and women, are to blame for these kinds of abuses. All human rights breaches against women, whether civil, political, economic, or social are characterized by distinct forms. Women are still held back by traditional institutions and practices, such as caste, customary rules, the family, religion, and so on. Institutions that exploit women, mistreat them, or claim to provide equal justice, such as the judicial system, are blatantly prejudiced against women and distort natural gender concepts of law⁴.

As per Nageswari, 2019, Physical assault, intimidation, threats, isolation, emotional, sexual or economic abuses are all forms of violence against women. Narrowly, "violence" has been defined as "physically striking an individual and causing injury," "the act of striking a person with the intent of causing harm or injury but not actually causing it," "acts where there is the high potential of causing injury," and "verbal abuse or psychological stress and suffering." A criminal's motive is always the same. "Innocent until proven guilty" is the guiding principle of jurisprudence across the globe, according to English jurist William Blackstone. "It's better if 10 criminal people get away than one innocent person gets hurt," the saying goes. Both of these ideas are overturned by this statute. When a woman claims that so-and-so sought dowry from her, that person is immediately labeled a criminal and brought to justice as one. The accused has the burden of proving that dowry was not requested in dowry proceedings. When a woman files a written complaint against someone, the police are allowed to arrest them without any inquiry since the legislation is cognizable and non-bailable⁵.

Author, Sharma Arushi, and Shivanshi Gupta. 2022, stated that as the Anti Dowry Law, IPC 498-A was introduced in 1983 to protect married women from the mental and physical abuse and dowry-related demands of their husbands and his family. After 30 years, 498-A is now recognized as the "Misused" statute. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, a total of 10 million charges were filed and 21 million persons were arrested between 1998 and 2012 - after rounding off, of which 5 million were women, 1 million were elderly citizens, and surprisingly 10,000 were minors. 4,48,704 cases went to trial and only 89,452 were convicted, while the remainder of 3,59,252 were acquitted! We're dealing with some amazing figures here⁶.

2.1 Research Gap

The purpose of this article is to fill up the research gaps left by priorly authored papers. It is the major goal of this dissertation to fill in the knowledge gap about Indian brides'

³ Sharma, Gitashree. "HUMAN RIGHTS: AN ANALYSIS ON WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS." *IJNRD-International Journal of Novel Research and Development (IJNRD)* 7.4 (2022): 877-879.

⁴ Sarma, B. Sexual Violence against Women: A Serious Human Rights Violation. *Issue 2 Int'l JL Mgmt. & Human.*, 4, 2913. (2021).

⁵ Nageswari, M. M. Women and Importance of Human Rights. *Think India Journal*, 22(14), 11020-11026. (2019).

⁶ Sharma, Arushi, and Shivanshi Gupta. "Comparative and Critical Study of Dowry Laws in India and Pakistan." *Supremo Amicus* 29 (2022): 165.

unnatural deaths by examining human rights and their point of view on the subject matter. The Dowry Prohibition Act's most recent modifications, as well as numerous other recently enacted laws, would remove the restrictions.

2.2 Research Question

- I. What are the Incessant Disparagement of human Rights within the aspect of Dowry harassment and violence?
- II. How the Non-enforcement of existing laws has failed in protecting the human rights of women suffering dowry harassment?
- III. What are the solutions of ramification of Unnatural deaths of Indian brides and implementing appropriate human rights remedies?

2.3 Importance of the Study

Due to its concise description of Incessant Disparagement of Human Rights in the context of Dowry harassment and violence, the paper is critical. Because it outlines the human rights viewpoint on domestic violence and dowry killings, this research is crucial. In addition, the article examines the effectiveness of human rights measures aimed at safeguarding women from dowry-related harassment. There is a lack of attention paid to the need for laws to protect women from dowry-related violence, as well as other forms of abuse. It's also important to note that crises don't just appear out of nowhere.

2.4 Research Objectives

- I. To discuss the Incessant Disparagement of human Rights within the aspect of Dowry harassment and violence.
- II. To analyse Non-enforcement existing laws force, have failed in protecting the human rights of women suffering dowry harassment.
- III. To evaluate upon the solutions of ramification of Unnatural deaths of Indian brides and implementing appropriate human rights remedies.

2.5 Hypothesis

H0: there is no proper legal enforcement of Human right policies to protect women from dowry harassment.

H1: there is proper legal enforcement of Human right policies to protect women from dowry harassment.

2.6 Scope and Limitation

The paper will be limited to the analysis of Dowry harassment or Domestic violence and the issue of hampering Human Rights due to the Unnatural deaths of Indian brides. The paper is limited to the constitution of India.

3. Research Methodology

The research methodology described here outlines the steps required to arrive at the study's conclusions. Data collection, organization, and analysis are all covered in this document, which outlines the steps involved. The study's validity and reliability are based on the research methodology. Secondary data gathering methods have been used to get the data. Descriptive and exploratory strategies are used in this case. Using this project, research will be able to accurately evaluate research abilities⁷. It is up to researchers to choose what they need to know, how they will arrange it, and how they will forecast its results.

3.1 Research Method & Design

The researcher collects the data by using Secondary sources, which are derived from the first source data that has already been acquired. As a general rule, these kinds of data are gathered from legitimate web sources, such as academic journals and government publications. Women's commissions and other organizations that aid women in their quests for justice have been consulted for the main analysis⁸. Descriptive research design will be employed in this study to ensure a logical course of action. In order to ensure that the study's

⁷ Pandey, P., & Pandey, M. M. (2021). *Research methodology tools and techniques*. Bridge Center.

⁸ Rinjit, K. (2020). *Research methodology*.

goals are met, this technique will help the researchers to arrange the data or material they need in meaningful ways so that it may be used to draw conclusions that are result-oriented.

3.2 Research Approach

During the process of conducting case studies, the exploratory approach and the research methodology were used. The combination of inductive and deductive methods used in this research has led to a fresh hypothesis on the methods used to gather data and observations. For example, goals and objectives are generated inductively and tracked using secondary data on the other side. Secondary data patterns may lead to the discovery of new topics, hypotheses, and disciplines⁹.

4. Analysis of Study

I. What are the Incessant Disparagement of human Rights within the aspect of Dowry harassment and violence?

Inequality and discrimination may arise in a variety of ways. Laws and policies, that limit favour or unjustifiably differentiate between specific groups, such as excluding women from owning or inheriting property, are examples of direct discrimination. Gender-neutral laws, policies, and programmes may appear to be gender-neutral, but in fact have a disproportionate impact on the rights of women and girls, which constitutes indirect discrimination. For example, a job requires a similar height requirement for men and women, but women are less likely to meet it¹⁰. Laws and policies that explicitly discriminate against women are referred to as de jure discrimination, whereas those that do not explicitly discriminate against women are referred to as de facto de facto discrimination. Additionally, larger practices including culture, customs, and stereotypical attitudes that deny women complete equality and the enjoyment of their rights may lead to de facto discrimination.

Women's violence includes anything from infanticide and dowry murder to foeticide and incest to domestic violence and elder abuse¹¹. As a societal disease, harsh tradition, and affront to women's dignity, dowager has been alluded to. Despite regulations, dowry harassment and dowry fatalities are on the rise in our culture every year. In the case of Shyam Sunder v. Shantamani¹², the Kundula Atithi v. State of Andhra Pradesh¹³; Arvind Singh v. Bihar¹⁴; Alamgir v. Assam; Alamgir¹⁵, Surender v. State of Haryana¹⁶; Bala v. State of Andhra Pradesh¹⁷; Alamuri Lalitha Devi v. State of Andhra Pradesh¹⁸. There are some significant dowry cases in the following 21.

Section 498–A of the Indian Penal Code makes cruelty a serious offence. It is also an important component of the offence of dowry death punished under Section 304–B of the Indian Penal Code and the presumed Sections 113–A and 113–B of the Evidence Act.. Cruelty may be defined as "behaviour of such a kind as to have caused danger to life, limb, or health, physical or mental, or as to give rise to a reasonable suspicion of such risk," as stated in Russel v. Russel¹⁹. The Supreme Court ruled in Shobha Rani v. Madhukar Reddy²⁰ that a

⁹ Mishra, S. B., & Alok, S. (2022). Handbook of research methodology.

¹⁰ Sinha, Keshav, et al. "Policies and social work against women violence." *Handbook of Research on Policies, Protocols, and Practices for Social Work in the Digital World*. IGI Global, 2021. 442-462.

¹¹ de Carvalho, Mércia Gomes Oliveira, and Alba Jean Batista Viana. "Domestic Violence Against Women: Relevance, Reflections, and Public Policies." *Gender Equality*. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2021. 157-170.

¹² AIR, 1962 Oudh 50

¹³ 1993 Cr. LJ 1635.

¹⁴ (2001) 6 SCC 407.

¹⁵ AIR 2003 SCW 111.

¹⁶ . (2006) 12 SCC 375

¹⁷ 1993 Cr. LJ 1635

¹⁸ 81995 Cr. LJ 2127.

¹⁹ (1880) LR 14 Ch D 471

²⁰ AIR 1988 SC 121

husband's demand for dowry, even though it did not harm the wife, was cruel and hence unlawful.

In India, dowry-related violence is all too common. There were 8,618 dowry harassment fatalities registered by the National Crime Records Bureau in 2011. Figures obtained from sources other than official channels suggest that the true number is at least three times higher. "Cruelty to the wife by the husband or his family" was established an infraction in the 1983 Criminal Law Act, but it concentrated on punishing the culprit, rather than recognizing and meeting the urgent and emergency needs of women²¹.

There is a limit to the authority that women have when it comes to making household choices and encountering discrimination in any way, which is very contradictory to human rights, particularly against women. Human rights are a gift from God and belong to everyone who has received them. It is impossible to compromise on the importance of human rights.

Human rights belong to everyone. All nations have a responsibility to protect their citizens' fundamental rights and freedoms, according to Article 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). All people under a state's authority, regardless of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political viewpoint, national or social origin, property, birth, or any other status, are guaranteed equal protection under the law by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)²². In some nations, like India, women are a disproportionately frequent target of violent crime. It is common in India for dowry-related violence to occur after a marriage, when a husband and his family hold the first dowry. There were further demands from her spouse and family to pay for the added expenses. In order to get a larger inheritance, the husband also exploits his wife. Even when harassed, women are hesitant to file for divorce because of the negative connotations divorce has in society. Some parents believe that physical abuse towards their daughters is preferable to the shame that comes with a divorce. Using this data, it is clear that domestic violence in India is motivated by money. The United Nations General Assembly accepted a proposal from the Commission on the Status of Women, namely the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, on December 19, 1979, because of the rising number of incidences of discrimination against women (CEDAW)²³. For the preservation and promotion of women's human rights, CEDAW is one of the most important international human rights instruments in existence today.

II. How the Non-enforcement of existing laws has failed in protecting the human rights of women suffering dowry harassment?

Although the Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961 was signed into law, the government took no action to implement or publicize the laws. While S.498-A, which deals with dowry abuse and harassment, makes cruelty a crime, its precise meaning is left up to interpretation. When a husband or a member of his family harasses his wife in an effort to coerce her into paying a dowry, it is called cruelty²⁴. Cruelty includes any action that is likely to cause a woman to take her own life or inflict serious bodily or mental harm on her. This offence carries a penalty of up to \$3,000 in fines and up to three years in prison.

Also, the Indian Evidence Act of 1872 stated that if the lady took her own life within seven years of marriage, the husband or a relative of the husband who exposed her to cruelty might be held responsible. For those who were worried about dowry and others who believed there was nothing wrong with it, 1961's Act was a complete compromise between both sides.

According to the historic Committee on the Status of Women in India, just a few complaints or prosecutions were made under the Act (1975). When a Joint Parliamentary Select

²¹ JEYAPPAUL, C. "HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST WOMEN."

²² Patro, Sairam. "VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: A HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE."

²³ Hefti, Angela. "Femicide, the UN system and CEDAW." *Conceptualizing Femicide as a Human Rights Violation*. Edward Elgar Publishing, 2022. 107-126.

²⁴ Mitchell, Austin M., and Suparna Soni. "Institutional development and the dowry death curve across states in India." *Journal of International Development* 33.6 (2021): 1026-1042.

Committee on Dowry was formed in the early 1980s, it found that the practice had permeated all social strata, including the lowest castes. In the early 1980s, the women's movement saw an increase in dowry-related deaths and launched a successful campaign that resulted in significant changes to the Dowry Act, 1961²⁵. Another revision made it clear that any gift given in connection with a marriage, whether before, during or after the wedding was regarded as a dowry by the courts of law. A customary or usual gift, on the other hand, may be considered a dowry if its worth exceeds the individual's financial means.

Section 3(1) included a new punishment for the giving or receiving of dowry. Anyone convicted under this provision of the Indian Penal Code of not less than five years imprisonment and a fine not less than Rs.15,000, or the greater of the actual value of the dowry, will be sentenced to incarceration. It was deemed illegal to demand a dowry, and the punishment was increased from six months to two years with a fine. In addition, the Act made dowry-related offences a cognizable and non-bailable crime, which meant that the police were obligated to investigate dowry-related offences as soon as they were aware of them²⁶.

According to another change to the Dowry Prohibition Act, Section 8A, the burden of proof falls on the individual accused of committing an offence under those provisions, such as obtaining or aiding in the acquisition of dowry or making a demand for it. No matter how much pressure was put on the government, women's rights advocates pointed out that nothing could be done until the act of receiving or providing dowry was outlawed and stopped (most complaints were lodged after the relationship broke down or a murder had occurred). Dowry Prohibition Officers were appointed by the States in 1986 after the original changes in 1983 and 1984, partly owing to the demands of the women's movement²⁷. They had the ability to gather evidence against those who accepted dowry. The effectiveness of these policemen is another matter.

III. What are the solutions of ramification of Unnatural deaths of Indian brides and implementing appropriate human rights remedies?

I. Law enforcement

It is possible to define a number of strategies for reducing the negative impacts of domestic violence. One of the most common methods of avoiding violence is to separate the abuser from those they are abusing in order to protect them from further harm. Victims are shielded from harm with this sort of remedy. Realizing that domestic violence may take many forms, lawmakers should add additional provisions to the Domestic Abuse Bill, giving those who are the victims of this kind of violence the chance to receive the most comprehensive protections now available under the law²⁸.

II. Counseling

Counseling is another method for preventing and treating domestic violence. Even if a victim of domestic violence is able to escape their abuser, the emotional toll that relationship takes on them persists. Search for therapy programmes that may be conveniently reached if you want to enhance your mental health and stop feeling guilty. There are several advantages to seeking professional counseling. It gives you a chance to think about ways to minimize the negative repercussions of the scenario in question. This gives people the chance to preserve marriages and families from failing. When a person is no longer living with the abuser but is nonetheless depressed, therapy may be necessary²⁹. If you attend both individual and group

²⁵ Shukla, Vanshika. "AN ANALYSIS OF THE 'DOWRY PROHIBITION ACT 1961' CONCEPT & EVOLUTION." *EPRA International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (IJMR)* 7.9 (2021): 1-1.

²⁶ Agarwal, Renu. "Deciphering Dowry Deaths in India." *Contemporary Social Sciences*: 150.

²⁷ Pasricha, Rohit. "Dowry Prohibition." *Issue 4 Int'l JL Mgmt. & Human.* 4 (2021): 1979.

²⁸ Kaur, Navpreet, and Roger W. Byard. "Bride burning: A unique and ongoing form of gender-based violence." *Journal of forensic and legal medicine* 75 (2020): 102035.

²⁹ Kumari, Vinod, and Subhash Chander. "Socio-economic factors affecting problem of dowry." *International Journal of Education and Management Studies* 9.1 (2019): 21-24.

therapy, you have a better chance of dealing with relationship difficulties or preventing them from occurring in the future.

III. Need for Stringent Laws

In 1983, India's Penal Code section 498-A recognized domestic violence as a distinct criminal offence. National laws such as the 1986 Child Labor Prohibition and Regulation Act and the Factories Act provide protection for children who have been exploited by adult.

The Domestic Abuse Bill, 2001, enacted into law by the Indian government "to provide for matters related thereto or incidental thereto," protects women who have suffered domestic violence of any form. Additionally, the Domestic Abuse Act of 2005 was enacted in an effort to protect women from domestic abuse (DVA, 2005). Protective officers are authorized by law to receive accusations of domestic abuse against women and "transmit copies thereof" to a police officer in charge³⁰.

But the Indian Constitution does not have a single piece of law that covers all forms of domestic abuse. This kind of legislation is much needed in our country right now. The definition of domestic abuse against married women under Section 498-A of the 2005 Domestic Violence Act is quite limited.

IV. Police and Health Care

Domestic violence detection and prosecution are critical police tasks. It is vital to their effectiveness that they be educated on the need of treating domestic violence cases with the same gravity as other crimes. Police with specialized training should handle cases of domestic abuse. They need to be aware of the government and judicial resources accessible to them. Gender education should be a part of police officer training³¹. Every police station should have a dedicated division for women with no additional duties.

As a matter of public health, domestic violence must be dealt with by the government. An experienced physician social worker trained in crisis response should be on staff at every large government or private hospital. Implementation of education and training programmes has improved the capacity of health care personnel to assist abuse victims.

H0: there is no proper legal enforcement of Human right policies to protect women from dowry harassment.

The Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961 made it illegal for women to receive a dowry, although it had little impact³². It's impossible to describe the whole tale of 498-A misuse using NCRB figures. Fear of arrest, harassment for years, and humiliation lead to hundreds of cases being settled behind every FIR. No one knows how many divorces end up being mutually agreed upon as a consequence of such threats! In return for a 498-A or 498-A settlement, large sums of money are being requested. Statistics from the NCRB on 498-A violations will never convey the whole tale of the law's misuse. Hundreds more instances are "settled" behind every FIR because of the fear of being arrested, harassed for years, and humiliated. No one knows how many divorces end up being mutually agreed upon as a consequence of such threats! In return for a 498-A or 498-A settlement, a large sum of money is being requested. For others, the Supreme Court has given them a way to establish that women abuse the law by claiming that women exaggerate and manufacture accusations of domestic violence in order to seek revenge against their husbands and their families³³.

H1: There is proper legal enforcement of Human right policies to protect women from dowry harassment.

In order to reduce violence against women, several worldwide organizations have been established. The United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution reaffirming women's rights to equality and self-determination. It is mandated under Articles 55 and 56 of the

³⁰ Agarwal, Renu. "Deciphering Dowry Deaths in India." *Contemporary Social Sciences*: 150.

³¹ Perween, Shazia. "Dowry as a social practice and its psychological impact." *IAHRW International Journal of Social Sciences Review* 8.1-3 (2020): 59-63.

³² Borthakur, Jolly. "The Faces of Domestic Violence: an Overview."

³³ Dar, Showkat Ahmad, and Naseer Ahmad Lone. "DOWRY... MOTHER OF SOCIAL EVILS." (2020).

United Nations Charter to promote equality and human rights for everyone. To torture or subject someone to any other kind of cruel, brutal, or degrading treatment or punishment is expressly prohibited by Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Under the Indian legal system, citizens have a wide range of options at their disposal. People in India are guaranteed equal access to the same opportunities as specified in Article 14 of the Indian Constitution, according to Article 36. Nondiscrimination laws are unenforceable because of the lack of enforcement mechanisms³⁴. Art. 21 focuses on the right to live as a whole and is concerned with the absence of suffering and violation of human dignity. In accordance with the National Body for Women Act, 1990[37], this commission was established in January 1992 to examine constitutional and legal protections for women, make legislative recommendations, facilitate the resolution of complaints, and advise the government on all policy issues affecting women.

5. Results

There is a wide range of persons who are affected by domestic violence, regardless of their background or location. Victims of domestic abuse and their families, as well as the communities, in which they dwell, face a broad variety of effects. The road to justice and protection for women is long and winding, and they face many challenges along the way. A crucial element of understanding domestic violence is developing the skills necessary to exert control over your intimate partner, both physically and psychologically. Victims and their children may be in danger as the behaviour worsens in many instances. If the state is going to take action against domestic abuse, they need to do it immediately and firmly. The federal government is responsible for both preventing and responding to domestic abuse. An integrated and multifaceted approach is required to prevent violence against women. It is possible to stop the spread of HIV and AIDS by involving all necessary government and non-governmental agencies. Local governments, the People's Committee, health care, social assistance, education, the legal system, and law enforcement organizations all fall under this umbrella.

6. Conclusion

It is imperative that the issue of Dowry be addressed in today's culture. Many ladies were unable to afford the large sum of money that they were being asked to pay for the marriage. When faced with this predicament, parents are left with little choice but to go elsewhere for the solutions they need. Sadly, the dangers to these women's well-being don't end when they tie the knot. It's very uncommon for this to result in the girls' mental health deteriorating, their family and society becoming more estranged from them, and even their marriages coming to an end. A girl's worth is really high. The Dowry doesn't come close to this. But in today's world, hardly one appreciates the significance of this. There are several laws and rules governing the Dowry, but these laws are only effective if the family understands the problem. Women's lives are being threatened by dowry in major part.

6.1 Future Scope

Future studies should concentrate on filling up the gaps that were found in this investigation. The scope of future research should include practices that have developed as a result of the practice of dowry. In order to increase women's access to legal resources and ensure that they are aware of their rights, more research should be conducted.

6.2 Suggestions

- There must be a mechanism to protect an innocent man and his family from the consequences of dowry laws, even if they should not be valued so highly that the rules lose their fangs.
- However, although the only goal of deterrence should be kept, it is also important to penalize those who make false or exaggerated complaints with ulterior motivations.

³⁴ Stroope, Samuel, Rhiannon A. Kroeger, and Jiabin Fan. "Gender contexts, dowry and women's health in India: a national multilevel longitudinal analysis." *Journal of biosocial science* 53.4 (2021): 508-521.

- There is a pressing need for legislation that acknowledges the presence of nontraditional genders and mainstreams them into society's mainstream.
- It is imperative that new safeguards be put into place to shield kids from the horrors that arise from their interactions.

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