

## A STUDY ON DOWRY DEATH AND ITS IMPACT IN SOCIETY

Arunachalam M.S<sup>\*1</sup>

<sup>\*1</sup>BA.L.L.B. ( Hons) Fifth Year, Saveetha School Of Law, Saveetha Institute Of Medical And Technical Sciences (SIMATS), Saveetha University, Chennai, India.

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### ABSTRACT

Dowry deaths is violence by the husband and his family with a motive of extortion of gifts and other demands from time to time against a woman. It is an ancient custom with no records or when it started or where. In India during the vedic and Indus civilization it is seen the dowry was practiced from that time. Dowry is defined under Section 2 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 'dowry' means any property or agreed to be given either directly or indirectly one party to a marriage to the other party to the marriage. The unnatural death of recently married woman vital to women's moment in the Indian society through the meaning of dowry has changed over time but harassment and cruelty have remained the same to some extent. The main objective of this study is To understand the concept of dowry death. To suggest measures for its abolition completely in India. Dowry death is the result of a unique form of violence suffered by Indian women. In some cases, to escape the punishment by law, the husband and his family do not kill the woman directly but harass her mentally and physically forcing her to commit suicide. Government has enacted many laws regarding the prohibition of dowry. The research method followed is Emprical Research .random sampling is used and the total responses is 200.Many educational and awareness program was run by the government and non- governmental Organisation with the intent to the lesser down the rate of dowry death. Section 304 B Dowry death, Section 498A,113 B was incorporated in Indian penal laws around 1986 to eradicate the nuisance of dowry death.

**Keywords:** Dowry, Death, Punishment, Family, Domestic Violence.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Marriage as a social establishment is recognized as a cultivated social order wherever 2 individualities, able to enter into the union, have pledged themselves to the institutional morals and values and secure to every different a veritably sturdy bond to sustain and maintain the married obligation. It works as a root for the continuance of the natural race. Despite all the pledges created at totally different occasions of wedding type that the individual incompatibilities associate degreed attitudinal variations for non-adjustment or denial for adaptation might come back to an finish, however bound circumstances passed wherever the boys and his families demand i.e. dower that is not consummated and infrequently a disheartened sense of retribution passed. dower suggests the transfer of maternal property at the wedding of a descendant . dower may be a payment of money or gifts from the wife's family to the man's family upon wedding. It should embrace money, jewelry, electrical appliances, furniture, Vessel's , utensils, vehicles and different house particulars that facilitate the recently man and wife to start out their life trip. dower is an associate degree ancient custom, and its reality may perhaps anticipate records of it. Dowries still be associate degree anticipated in varied regions of the globe and area unit currently so used as a condition of the contract that if not accepted furthermore the wedding came to a finish, significantly in bound areas of Asia and geographical area. The custom of dower is deep-embedded in Indian society over the days, it was a social pitfall, too settled and devilish to be attacked by liberals and law-makers. Although the sweats for the wipeout of the dower practice return to additional than a century, it's perhaps come back as the foremost discouraging social issue throughout the last twenty years just about as manifested by the growing violence against girls arising from matters regarding dower. It's usually understood that dower, in its original type, wasn't grounded on rapacity and overcharging because it quite repeatedly the case moment however gives a reminder of affection and regard for the partner. The term Varadakshina, mentioned within the Hindu Shastras, was a Dakshina of a strictly voluntary nature while noting that the meritable act of Kanyadaan wouldn't be complete. A part of the bridegroom's elders was to convey security and compensation for heritage rights to the female offspring so as to alter her to steer a sedate and harmonious relationship together with her husband and his family. Marriages are a unit created in heaven so, however in-law, relative-in-law, husband and different relatives are actively concerned within the dissolution

of the wedding for the lust of dower. Dower death, murder-suicide, and bride burning area unit burning symptoms of weird social upset and area unit unfortunate development of our society. Throughout the previous few decades India has witnessed the dark evils of the dower system in a very acute manner in the majority elements of the country since it's practiced by nearly each section of society; no matter faith, caste or creed to which they belong. It's nearly a matter of day-after-day that not solely married girls are pestered, humiliated, overwhelmed and compelled to kill and slapped; however thousands of area units are even burnt to death as a result of oldsters' area units unable to fulfill dower demands. The main aim of this study is to understand the concept of dowry death.

### Objectives

The objectives of the study are To understand the concept of dowry death, To suggest measures for its abolition completely in India, To find what are the causes causing dowry death, To know about the related programs and legislations related to IPC

## II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The author in the paper explains that the dowry system in India refers to the bride's family giving to the bridegroom, his parents, or his relatives as a condition of the marriage. Dowry stemmed from India's skewed inheritance laws, and Hindu succession Act, needed to be amended to stop the routine disinheritance of daughters. Dowry deaths rose from about 19 per day in 2001 to 21 per day in 2016. While these statistics are worrying, there is a great deal of variation in the incidence of "dowry deaths" across regions and over time (**Al-Turki 2015**). Dowry is actually within the nature of payment in money or some quiet gifts given to the bridegroom's family together with the pride and includes money, jewelry, electrical, furniture, bedding, tableware and different home goods that the newlyweds established their home gift system started even before the Brits amount. In those days, society failed to consider a gift as a "Money" or "Fee" you've got to pay to be the bride's folks. The idea behind the gift system was, to create positivity that the bride is going to be financially stable when getting married. The intentions were terribly clear. The bride's folks accustomed offer cash, land, assets to the bride as a "Gift" to create positive their girl are going to be happy and freelance when wedding. (**Agarwal 2018**). The author explains the dowry system is thought to put a great financial burden on the bride's family. In some cases, the dowry system Leads to crime against women, ranging from emotional abuse and injury to even deaths. It is indeed alarming that the rise in dowry deaths is unabated despite greater stringency of anti-dowry laws. In 1961, the Dowry Prohibition Act made giving and taking of dowry, its abatement or the demand for it an offense punishable with imprisonment and fine or without the latter. (**Mukherjee 1999**). The payment of dowry has long been prohibited under specific Indian laws including the Dowry Prohibited under specific Indian law including the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 and subsequently by Section 304-B and 498-A of the IPC. This was an abysmal failure as dowries became a nationwide phenomenon, replacing bride price. More stringent laws followed but with little effect. Dowry refers to the gross assets brought in by the bride at the time of marriage, henceforth "gross dowry". (**Sen 2002**). The Legal definition of dowry as Dowry in the sense of the expression contemplated by dowry prohibition Act is a demand for property of valuable security having and inextricable nexus with the marriage Dowry as bequest, on the other hand, focuses on gross dowry. In Becker's framework, the payments are between bride and groom. If the net recipient were the bride, the net transfer is the bride price and if the recipient were the groom, it is called dowry (**Mukherjee 1999; Roy 1999; Williams 1983**). It is a consideration from the side of the bride's parents or relatives to the groom or his parents or relative to the groom o his parents and guardian for the agreement to wed the bride to be. Beckerian dowry, on the other hand, refers to the bride's contribution minus the groom's payments, henceforth "net dowry". Dowry as a negative bride price tends to emphasize the marriage market in determining dowry, and focuses on net dowry. (**Belur et al. 2014**). The Dowry Prohibition Act. 1961 Section 3 specifies that the penalty for giving or taking dowry does not apply to presents which are given at the times of a marriage to the bride or bridegroom, when no demand for them have been made. An important contribution is Rajaraman (1983) who analyzed the transformation of the bride price into a dowry as a nation-wide phenomenon in the preceding 2-3 decades. Her main argument is that a dowry system which evolves from a bride price system on account of a decline in female contribution to family income alone, without any other parallel developments, will have a punitive incidence no greater than that of the system replaced. (**Mukherjee**

1999; Roy 1999). Indian laws against dowries have been in effect for decades. They have been largely criticized as being ineffective. The practice of dowry deaths and murders continues to take place unchecked in many parts of India and this has further added to the concerns of enforcement. When British rule came into the picture, they restricted women to own any property. Women were not allowed to buy any property, land or assets. Hence, men started owning all the "Gifts" given to the bride by her parents. This rule changed the pure dowry system into a mess! Now parents of the bride were looking at their bride as a source of income. Parents started hating their daughters and wanted only sons. They started demanding money as a dowry. Women were suppressed since they did not have equal rights as men. And since then, the groom's parents follow this rule to their advantage. (Raj et al. 2021). Section 498-A of the IPC required the bridegroom and his family to be automatically arrested if a wife complains of dowry harassment. The law was widely abused and in 2014, the Supreme Court ruled that arrests can only be made with a magistrate's approval. The new dowry system is creating problems in society. Poor parents do not get any groom who will marry their daughter without taking dowry. They have to take "Marriage Loans" to get their daughter married. Dowry is becoming a nightmare for Women. The cases of infanticide are increasing. Poor parents do not have any other option. They cannot afford to have a girl child, and hence they are intentionally killing infant girls. More than 8000 women are killed because of Dowry (Sen 2002; Bloch and Rao 2000). Marriage in India is steeped in traditions and deep-rooted cultural belief practises are passed down by word of mouth and in some case, with the changing times. In the south, marriage is more often conducted within the bride's family, for example with close relatives or cross-cousins, and in a closer physical distance to her family. Dowry is creating violence. Groom's parents are misusing this pure tradition. And they are not aware that they are misusing it, because they are not educated about the traditional dowry system. Everyone is just following the new dowry system blindly. Dowry is complete injustice with women and does not give women equal status in society. Because of dowry men will always be superior to women. This is creating a mess and negative environment in society. (Raj et al. 2021; Shri and Muhammad 2021). There is, however, one custom that stubbornly resists changing the dowry system in India. It has roots in medieval times when a gift in case or kind was given to a pride by her family to maintain her independence after marriage. This is of course an incomplete analysis as it doesn't throw light on inflation of dowry. In an insightful contribution, based on marriage recall data collected by ICRISAT, Deolalikar and Rao (1990), estimate the demand of groom- households for dowries and brides. During the colonial period, it became the only legal way to get married, with the British making the practice of dowry mandatory. A dowry is transfer of parental property, gifts or money at the marriage of a daughter. Dowry contrasts with the related concepts of bride price and dower. Marriages in India are usually arranged by parents and the wife becomes a member of the husband's family, in most cases moving in with them. Since most marriages are arranged with the assistance of third parties, the family generally do not know each other well. (Sarda, n.d.; Upadhyay 2000). While bride price or bride service is a payment by the groom or his family to the bride's parent's dowry is the wealth transferred from the bride's family to the groom or his family, ostensibly for the bride. They report that grooms and brides are matched not only by individual traits but, consistent with India's arranged marriage system, by household characteristics as well. Furthermore, they found that while the wealth of a groom's parental household brings a higher dowry, his individual characteristics do not make much difference to the level of the dowry. (Mishra 2000). Dowry is the property settled down by the bride herself, by the groom at the time of marriage and which remains under her ownership and control. Dowry prohibition Act, 1961 was enacted to prohibit in giving or taking of dowry and related offences. The marriage squeeze mainly manifests itself in these regions by forcing dowries to rise and reducing age differences between spouses. However, a surplus of women in the marriage market should, more generally, shift the distribution of marital resources towards men. (Bhatnagar and Awasthi 1996). Dowry death, in 1986 a new offense known as dowry death was inserted in the IPC by the virtue of section 304-B. The provisions under sec 304-B are more stringent than provided U/s 498-A of IPC. In addition, brides may have the ability to inherit land, which makes more Dowry started as a form of assistance to a newly married couple in starting their married life. As the time progressed human greed turned it into something that was to be demanded as a right in accordance with the social standing of the groom and his family. (Sarda, n.d. 2015). ("This Is My Dowry," n.d.). There are many economic factors that contribute towards the system of dowry. Some of these include inheritance systems and the bride's

economic status..The practice later degenerated further and brides began facing torture after marriage to bring in additional dowry. The torture would many a time escalate into bride burning. The groom and his family would then try to make up a story about a kitchen accident to save their skins(Haroon et al. 2017).The economics and weak legal institutions on inheritance place women in disadvantage with inheritances being left only to sons. valuable in the marriage, decreasing the chance of dowry over the bride price system. North, marriage usually follows a local system, where the The structure and kinship of marriage in parts of India contributes to dowry. Though the Dowry Prohibition Act was passed in 1961, the practice had such deep social roots that nothing much could be done and only in few cases could the accused be actually punished primarily because it is very difficult to prove a dowry case. Karwa and Karwa 2020).This leaves women dependent upon their husbands and in-laws. Who keeps the dowry when she marries. In 1956, India gave equal legal status to daughters and sons among Hindu. Sikh, Jain families under the Hindu succession Act.According to the Dowry Prohibition Act any person who gives or takes or abets the giving or taking of dowry,.The dowry can be in any form of property or valuable security given or agreed to be given either directly or indirectly by one party in a marriage to the other party, by the parents of either party or by any other person, to either party or to the other person, at or before or after the marriage. (Chakraborty and Rajan 2017).Dowry gave, at least in theory, women economic and financial security in their marriage in the form of Marble goods. This helped prevent family wealth break up and provided security to the pride at the time. The Indian Penal Code also punishes the bride burning, cruelty and torture to brides. Section 498A is a strong provision in this Code. Section 198A of Criminal Procedure Code fixes the procedure for the enforcement of such provisions. The Indian Evidence Act also provides that the accused has to bear the burden of proof Latha and Narendra 1998).The system can also be used as a premortem inheritance, as once a woman is presented with moral gifts, she may be out of the family estate. For many, dowry has become a greater financial burden on the family, and can leave families destitute based on the demand from the groom. The demand for dowry has increased over time. Or By the parents of either party to a marriage or by any other person, to either party to the marriage or to any other person at or before or any time after the marriage in connection with the marriage of the said parties (Sharma 2007)

### III. METHODOLOGY

The research method followed here is empirical research. A total of 200 samples have been taken out of which is taken through convenience sampling. The independent variables taken here are age, gender, qualification, occupation, residence. The dependent variables are dowry, dowry death, IPC, causes of dowry death. The statistical tool used by the research is graph (mean), scaling.

#### Analysis and Interpretation

Figure 1 and 2 -

Legend : This graph represents the frequency of age of the respondents.

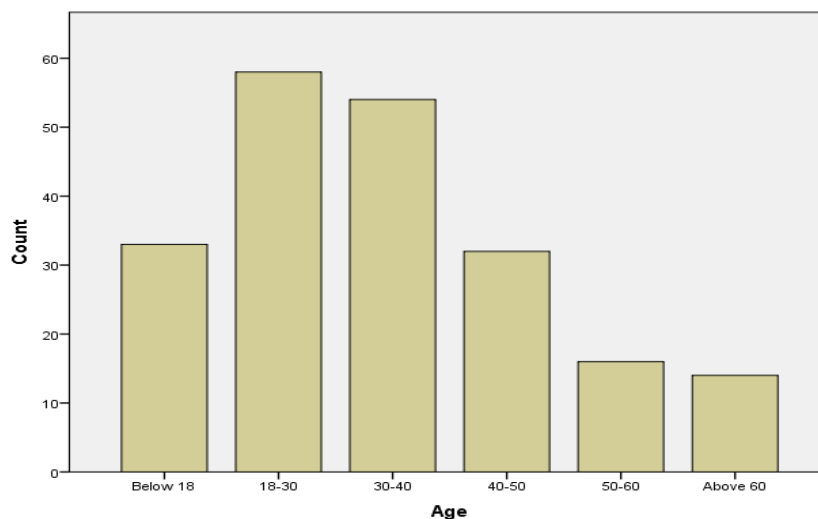


Figure 1

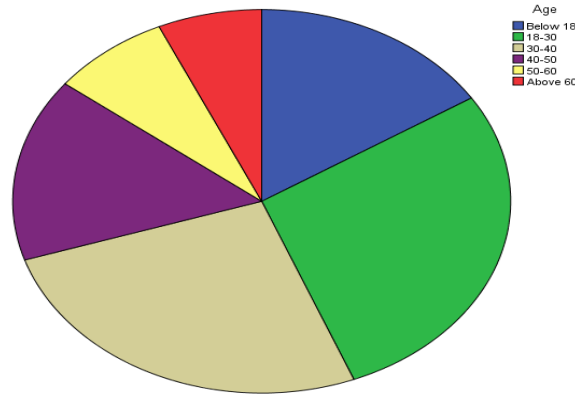


Figure 2

Figure 3 and 4 -

Legend : This graph represents the frequency of gender of the respondents

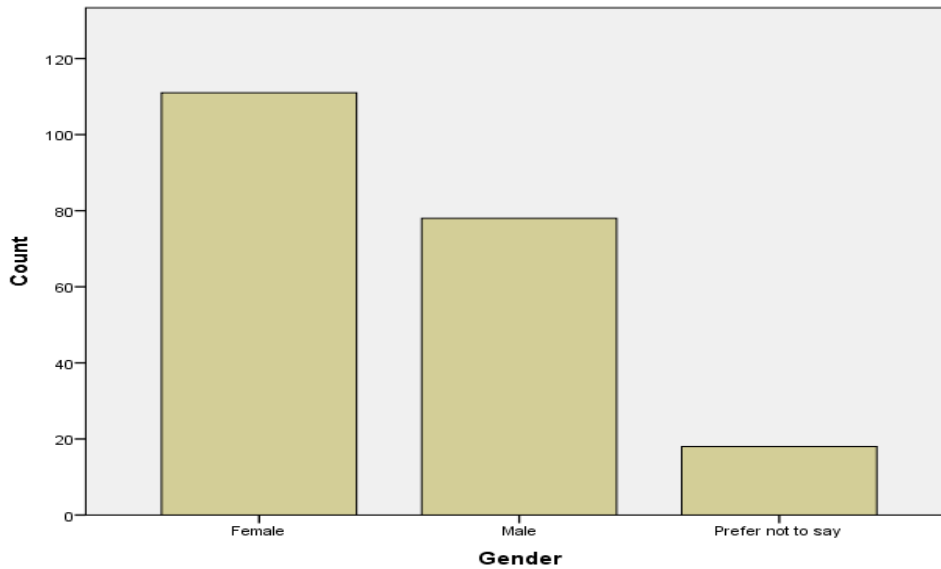


Figure 3

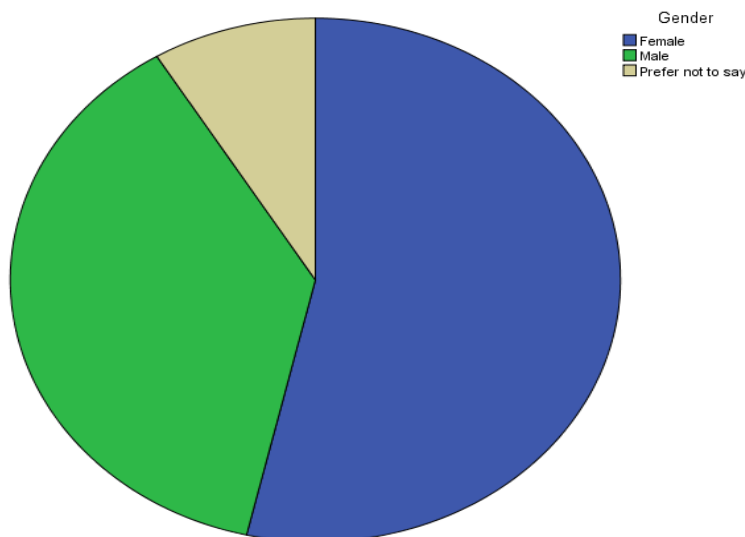


Figure 4

Figure 5 and 6 -

Legend : This graph represents the frequency of educational qualification of the respondents

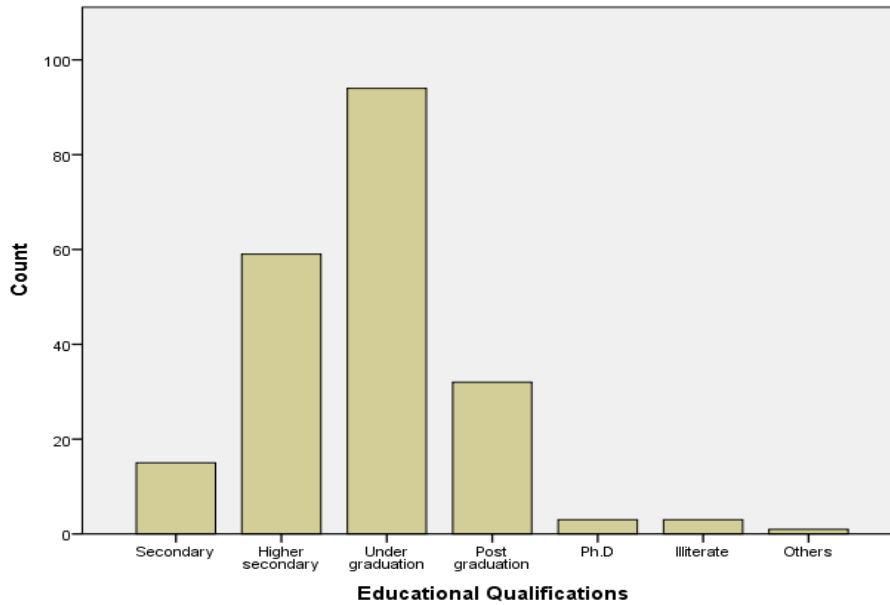


Figure 5

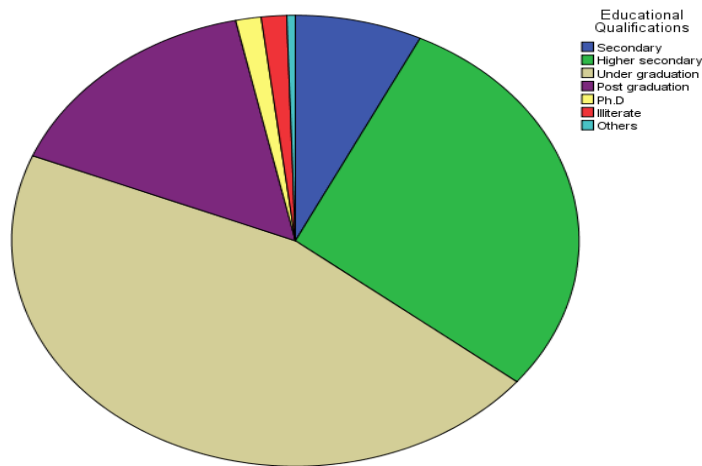


Figure 6

Figure 7 and 8 -

Legend : This graph represents the frequency of occupation of the respondents

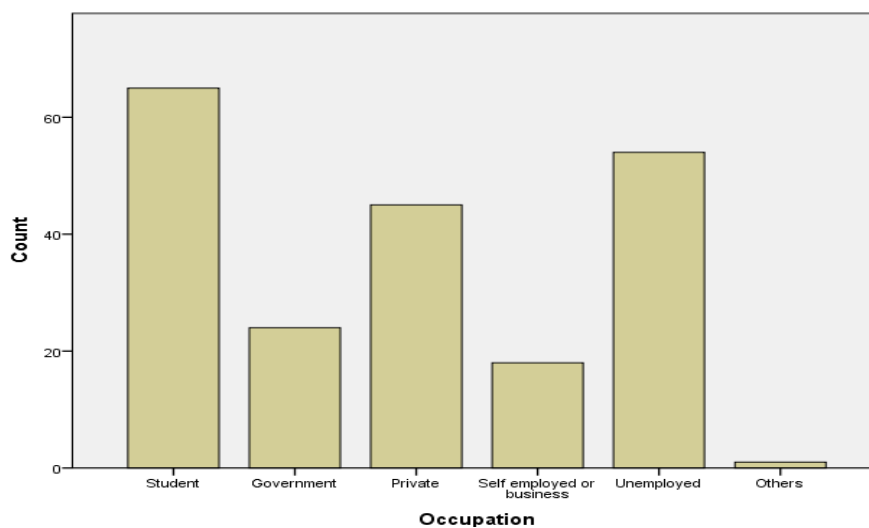


Figure 7



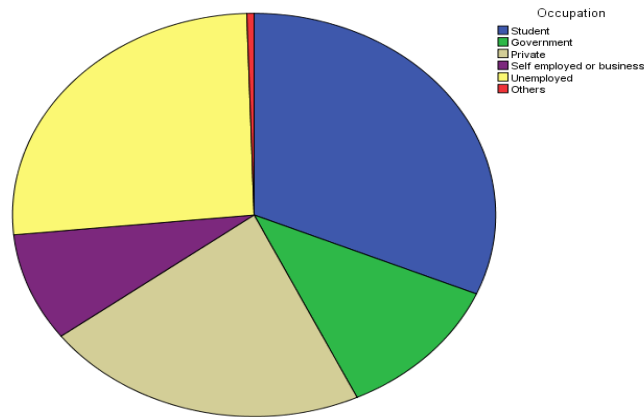


Figure 8

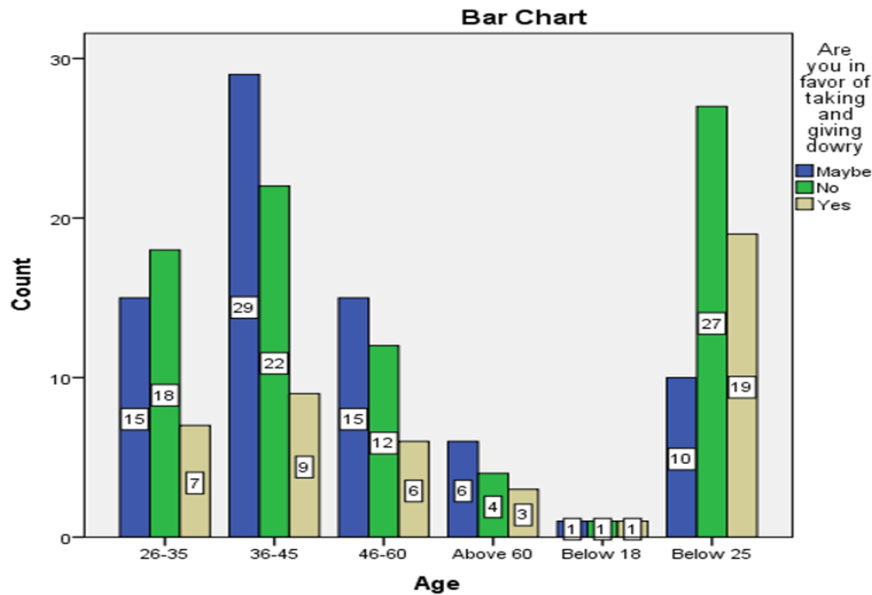


Figure 9

**Legend:**

This graph represents the people’s acceptability of the dowry system.

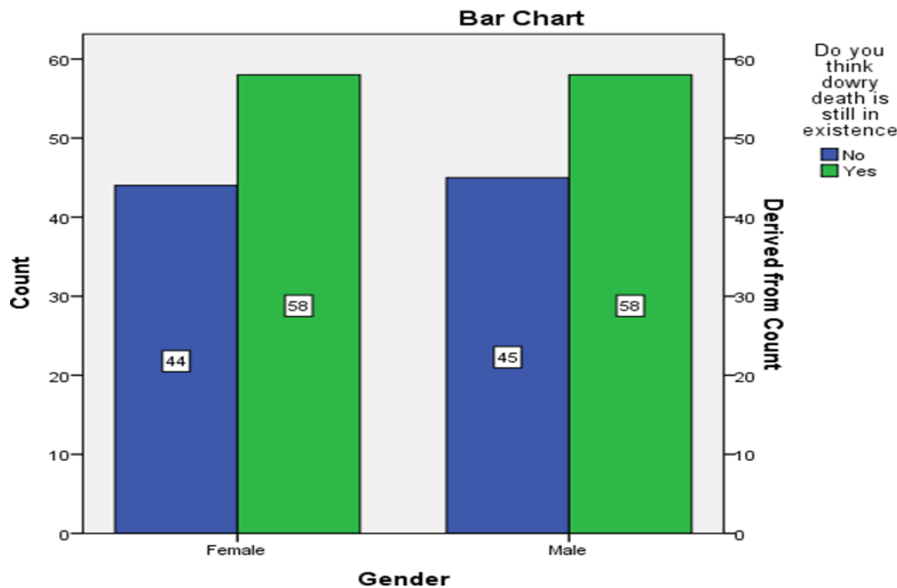


Figure 10

**Legend:**

This graph represents people's opinion on the existence of dowry death.

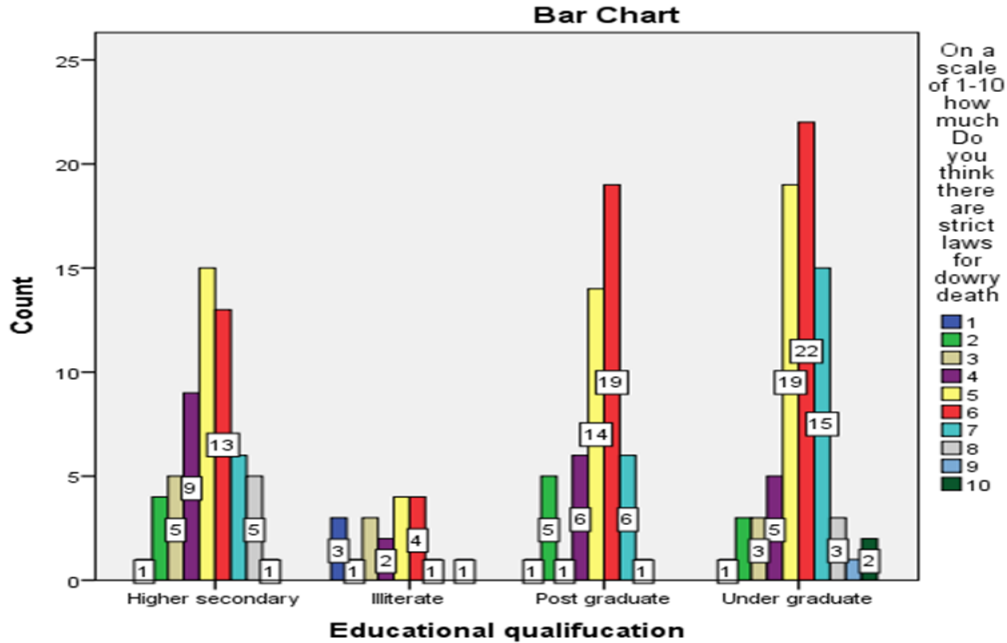


Figure 11

**Legend:**

This graph represents the agreeability of people to the statement "there are strict laws for dowry death"

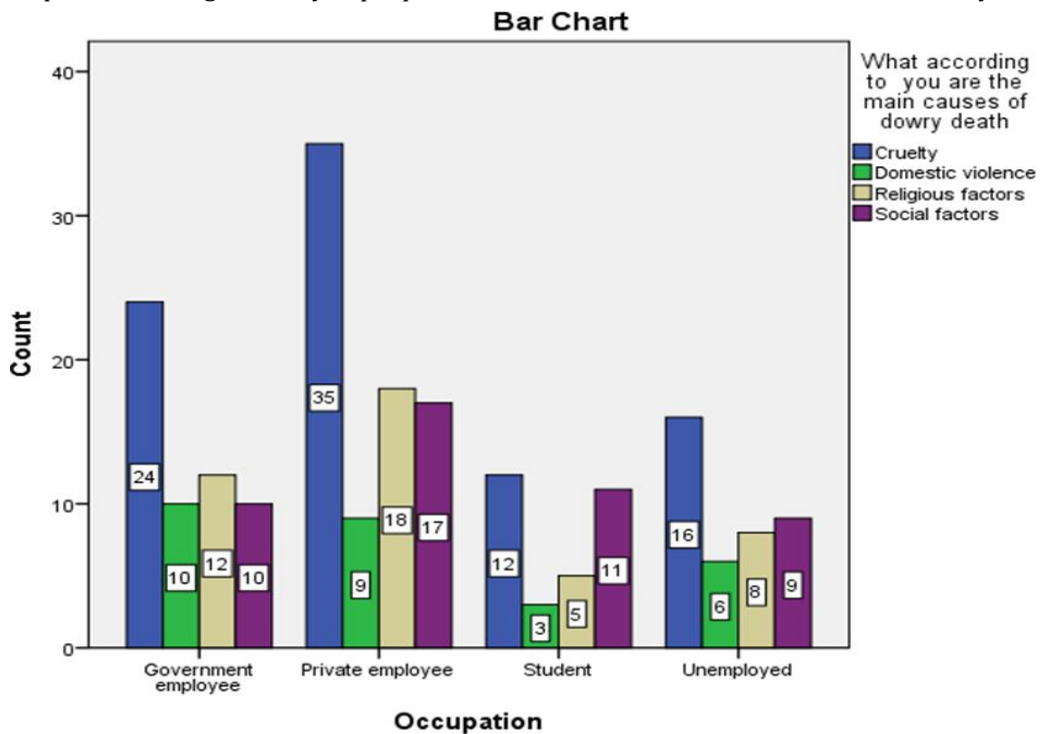


Figure 12

**Legend:**

This figure represents the public's opinion on the main cause of dowry death.



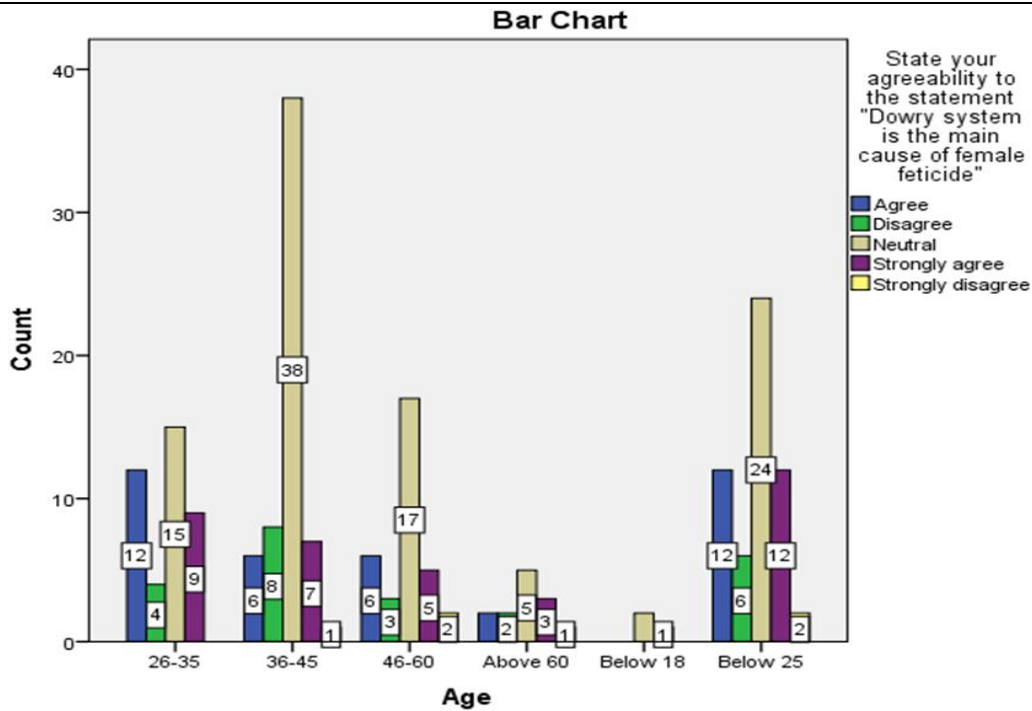


Figure 13

**Legend:**

This graph represents the agreeability of the public to the statement “dowry system is the main cause of female feticide.

**IV. RESULTS**

From Figure 1 And 2 Out of 200 respondents, 15.9 % were of the age group of below 18 which amounted to 33, 28 % were of the age groups of 18 to 30 which amounted to 58, 26.1 % were of the age groups 30 and 40 which amounted to 54, 15.5 % were between the age group of 40 and 50 which amounted to 32, 7.7% were between age group of 50 and 60 which amounted to 16 and 6.8 % were of the age Group of 60 amounted to 14. From Figure 3 and Out of 200 respondents, 37.7 % were male which amounted to 78, 53.6 % were female which amounted to 111 And 8.7 % preferred not to Disclose their gender which amounted to 18. From Figure 5 and 6 Out of 200 respondents, 7.2% were Secondary school education which amounted to 15, 28.5 % were higher secondary which amounted to 59, 45.4 % were undergraduates which amounted to 94, 15.5 % were post graduates which amounted to 32, 1.4 % were PhD holders to 3, 1.4% were illiterates which amounted to 4 and 0.5 % were of other educational qualifications which amounted to 1. From Figure 7 and 8 Out of 200 respondents, 31.6% were students which amounted to 65, 11.6% were government employees which amounted to 24, 21.7% were private employees which amounted to 45 , 8.7% were self-employed or business people which amounted to 18, 26.1% were unemployed which amounted to 54 and 0.5% per of other occupations which amounted to 1. Figure 9 it is found out that most of the public are not in favor of taking and giving dowry. From figure 10 it is found out that the public mostly thinks that dowry death is still in existence. From figure 11 it is found out that according to the public there are some strict laws governing dowry deaths. From figure 11 it is found out that according to public cruelty and social factors are the main cause of dowry deaths. From figure 13 it is found out that people mostly responded neutral to the statement “dowry system is the main cause of female feticide”.

**V. DISCUSSION**

According to figure 1 and 2, The highest number of respondents were Between the age groups of 18 to 30 and next is 30 to 40. So the research portrays mostly The opinion of middle-aged people. The opinion of the age group of above 50 is very low. There is a very slight difference in the respondents of the age group below 18 and the age group 40 and 50 (0.4%). So this research portrays the majority opinion of middle-aged people (18

to 40). On analysing figure 3 and 4, the number of female respondents are higher compared to that of male respondents. So the research portrays mostly the opinions of females compared to that of males. The difference between the male and female respondents is 19.9 %. There is a huge difference between the male and female respondents. On observation of a figure 5 and 6, there is a high number of undergraduates compared to any other educational qualification followed by Higher secondary. The number of PhD respondents and illiterates are the same (0.4%). The opinion of secondary, PhD, illiterate and other educational qualifications are less compared to Higher secondary, undergraduates, postgraduates. The examination of figure 7 and 8 reveals that most of the respondents were from the student community. So the research portrays the majority of the opinion of students. There is a small difference Between unemployed and private employees (4.4%). The opinion of the government and self employed or business people are less compared to other occupations. From figure 9 it is observed that the public is not mostly in favor of taking and giving dowry but yet there are few people who are in favor of taking and giving dowry. From figure 10 it is observed that the public mostly thinks that dowry death is still in existence but still some people do not think that dowry death is in existence. From figure 11 it is observed that on a scale of 1-10 the public has rated mostly 5-8 for the question "how much do they think that there are strict laws governing dowry death". This implies that the public does not think that there are stringent laws for dowry death but there are quite some laws for punishing dowry related cases. From figure 12 it is observed that the public considers cruelty and social factors as the main causes of dowry death above the other two options i.e. domestic violence and religious fact. From figure 13 it is observed that most of the public who responded are neutral to the statement "dowry system is the main cause of female feticide". People neither agree nor disagree with the above statement.

## VI. SUGGESTION

By this study my suggestion is to Take immediate intervention by informing the family or the local authority before it is too late. Help your daughter to become confident and independent rather than treating her as a burden. Invest in her education, not in her marriage. Create awareness in your community against dowry. The government should make more rules to prevent dowry and the laws should be made very strict so that people should afraid of getting dowry.

## VII. LIMITATION

The major limitation of my study is the sample frame. The sampling method is convenient sampling collected through Google forms. It has an impact on the study to some extent.

## VIII. CONCLUSION

Dowry death could be a social curse that could be a burning issue in Indian society. organized approach by ladies wale organizations, police, public retainers and bar by applying truculent discipline for dowry deaths felons. It is determined that the govt of Bharat together with Indian bar makes united and significant laws to protect the life interest and quality of girls and provides more justice to the victim of urgency or atrocity by better half and his cousins. Amendment within the education system junction rectifier to Associate in Nursing improvement within the education standing of girls and door to door employment service can lower down dowry deaths. Still, sure corrective measures have to be compelled to borrow to carry off or a minimum of check this social forthcomingness of dowry death, however most significantly it wants a public can and commitment to down feather materialistic rapacity of dowry demands. From this research it is found that most of the public are not in favor of taking and giving dowry and the public mostly thinks that dowry death is still in existence and according to public cruelty and social factors are the main cause of dowry deaths. If the Greeks find it difficult for a rich person to urge marriage as a "Dowry" additionally that is totally wrong and extrajudicial. A part of the bridegroom's folks was to grant security and compensation for heritage rights to the girl so as to change her to guide a sedate and harmonious relationship along with her husband and his family.

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