



DOWRY IS A BIG EVIL, A BIG PROBLEM

Presented by- Dr. Smt. Sunila Ekka Assistant Professor (Political Science)

Govt. K.R.D. College Nawagarh Ditt. Bematarra (C.G.)

Introduction

It is said that there is no safer place for women than home, it may have been there sometime but not today. Today, for thousands and lakhs of women, their home is a camp of terror. Women are facing the greatest danger at home.

❖ Domestic violence is the most universal form of violence against women, yet this type of violence does not make headlines in newspapers because it happens behind closed doors and people are afraid to speak out about it. There is a need to create strong laws and effective mechanisms to deal with crime effectively.

❖ After seven decades of independence, when India is rapidly emerging in many and diverse spheres of life, it is moving towards becoming a power, but there are many hurdles or obstacles in its path. Among these roads or obstacles are the social problems of our country. The problem of dowry is the worst example of these problems. This not only exposes our contradictory approach toward gender equality but also exposes our value-contradictory hypocrisy.

❖ The word "dowry" is actually derived from the Arabic word 'jaden' which means offering or gift. Today this word refers to donations, gifts, etc. given by the patriarch at the time of a girl's marriage. Encyclopaedias like many sociologists like Max Redden, Kumbre, Fairwide also define dowry as –

❖ "Dowry is the money given to a woman at the time of her marriage."

❖ Today, efforts are being made to make boys capable through education and prepare them for service to the nation and society. Instead they have been made a tool to collect dowry. This aspect emerges which reflects the inhuman approach. In the present times, dowry system is deeply related to consumerism. Consumerism has gripped or influenced the society to such an extent that the brand of

every item is decided. Every item should be latest. The value perception is constantly created by many companies as to which brand of goods, jewellery etc. should be bought for the better future of the girl. Famous brands of jewellery and the companies promoting it leave no stone unturned in this regard, be it advertisements or hoardings. Hoarding Advertisement. Or in adopting the promotional medium of hoardings, it is written in their advertisement, "If the marriage jewellery is not pure, what will happen to the daughter?" Such advertisements promote values.

❖ If we look at the side effects of the dowry system, if a married woman is murdered because of dowry, then her children lead the life of orphans due to or after the murder of the married woman. A feeling of social insecurity creeps in among them. In this way, we see the ill effects of dowry system in a widespread and fatal form.

❖ Dowry is the biggest evil of today's era and hardly any family is untouched by this evil. Dowry is the giving of goods or money by the bride's side in the marriage of children under pressure from the groom's side. Due to which the girl's family and mainly the girl herself suffers. Daughter-in-laws are being murdered every day due to dowry. The demand of valuable items and money by the groom's side as dowry is a stigma on the society. If the bride's side does not fulfill the demands of the groom's side, then the bride has to face harassment in her in-laws' house and some of the criminals even burn the brides to death. As soon as the woman goes to her in-laws' house. She has to live under strict discipline from her husband, mother-in-law, mother-in-law and sister-in-law. Yes, it is considered the duty of the bride to follow their appropriate and inappropriate orders. In practice, if the wife protests, she is abandoned. The bride is victimized when the father does not fulfill the groom's unreasonable demands.

❖ Incidents of abuse, beating, starvation and killing by burning occur frequently, in this way, a woman abandoned by her husband remains buried and suffocated with her parents throughout her life. Remains scared. Although the government has made strict laws to prevent dowry.

❖ The problem of dowry is increasing exponentially among women. Used to be. It has become common to see news about it in newspapers every day. When dowry is not received as per the newspapers every day. When dowry is not received as per the wish, the in-laws, including husband, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister-in-laws, brother-in-law, harass the woman mentally and physically and commit cruel acts up to the point of burning the woman. This practice is mainly prevalent in the upper classes but it is gradually affecting other classes also.

- ❖ To prevent dowry harassment, a law was made in our country in the year 1961, which is known as “Dowry Prohibition Act 1961.” It is not that the government and other responsible organizations are not making efforts towards and executive efforts have been made to stop this, provisions like Anti-Dowry Act 1961, Sections 498-1 and 406 of the Indian Penal Code have significantly reduced incidents of dowry harassment and dowry deaths. Women have been legally empowered by the Act 205.
- ❖ Measures to prevent to eradicate the social curse of dowry, the first requirement is that our young generation should come forward and not agree to being sold by their parents in the name of dowry.
- ❖ To save dowry, we need to make girls self-reliant, will be. When they become educated and stand on their own feet, then reasons like dowry will not come in their way in marriage and they will be able to earn their living. There is a need to make a multi-layered strategy to deal with the demon of dowry. Under this, there is not only a need to encourage and protect love marriages but it is also necessary to attack the patriarchal structure.
- ❖ To defeat the demon of dowry, it is also necessary to honor and encourage those people in the society who marry without dowry. Those demanding dowry should be given strict punishment. Powerful public opinion should be created against dowry through education and publicity. Young men should be encouraged to boycott dowry.
- ❖ The anti-dowry law should be made effective and the mechanism to implement it should be strengthened.
- ❖ Violation of women’s rights in the name of dowry has deep roots in our social system, economic structure and cultural beliefs, but in the changing era, there has been a change in the mental ideology and system. Women’s thinking is changing now. Today some men are giving opportunities to women to move forward. He is now thinking creatively about the women in the family. Wife’s participation in household work and decisions is increasing. Today women also want to be equal partners with men.
- ❖ The government has also started efforts towards women empowerment. State Women’s Commission has been formed. The number of women police stations is increasing. Reservation of 33 percent seats has been done in Panchayati Raj.

The percentage of literacy among rural women is increasing. Lifestyle has increased. The sex ratio of women is comparatively better in many other states. Although there has been improvement in the condition of women in the state in every field, there is still a long-way to go to give them the desired place in the society. Along with economic freedom, health and education, as democracy and the

thinking, attitude and prejudiced, notions of the entire society change, the future of rural women of Chhattisgarh will become brighter.

References

1. Tripathi Dr. T. P. (Human Rights / Allahabad Law Agency Publications.
2. Narayan Praka/ Women's Awakening and Law/ Rana Publication Jaipur.
3. Daily newspaper- daily
4. Navbharat - newspaper

