

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF RUNAWAY COUPLES IN SAFE HOMES:
A CASE OF HARYANA**

ABSTRACT

Choice marriage is still a dream for youngsters in India after 75 years of independence. Constitutionally we are a democratic country with equal rights for males and females of all colours, races and communities, but socially we are far backward than this. We are adopting modern ways of living with the advancement of technology but are culturally rigid to our traditions without rationalising our thoughts. The consequences of which youth are facing, especially in matrimonial matters. Young males and females who breach the idea of parent's command over the choice of marriage partners runaway for the sake of their relationship and life after all. The state government has provided protection centres for such couples in all 22 districts in Haryana for their security. The present paper attempts to get an insight into the socio-economic status of such couples who seek protection from the state authorities. Various factors like age, educational qualification, caste, occupation, income and residential area are considered for the study.

Key Words: Runaway, Protection, Occupation, Democratic.