

FAMILY, MARRIAGE AND HONOUR KILLING IN INDIAN REPUBLIC

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ABSTRACT

Family is considered a very important unit in Indian society. Relationships between family members are formed by blood ties and marital ties. Love feelings, quarrels, quarrels, consent-disagreement are also seen between family members. In traditional Indian society, if a young man goes against his family, marries or does anything, he is a victim of honour killing. In honour killing, only the person of the family or the whole family is involved in the murder of any member of the house. Most of the victims of honour killings are women. It is important to know about family marriage and honour killing in republican Indian society from a sociological point of view.

The present article is completely based on secondary data. What is the belief of family members regarding young marriage in Indian society? In which society and state of India is honour killing more common? How does honour killing affect marriage and family?

Key Words :- *Family, Marriage, Honour Killing, Society, Problems*

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Introduction:-

No society can be without family or marriage. In addition, there are differences, conflicts, discrimination, quarrels between family members. If any member of the family violates the norms and values of the family, he is also punished. Sometimes family members punish their own member very severely, such as - killing him. Which can be termed as honour killing. Due to the traditional, conservative nature of Indian society, many young people have been the victims of honour killings. However in the age of modern technology the family is changing. Elsewhere, the rule of law has been instrumental in changing families, removing marital obligations, and resolving serious social problems, such as honour killings. The present article seeks to understand family, marriage and honour killings in the context of the Republic of India.

Objectives:-

1. What is the family system like in the Republic of India? Check it out.
2. Understanding the nature of marriage system in Indian society.
3. Getting an explanation of a serious social problem like honour killing.
4. What are the changes taking place in Indian family, marriage and honour killings? Check it out.

Methods:-

The article presented is based on complete secondary data. This topic has been chosen as it is interesting to know about Indian family, marriage and honour killing. The complete information contained in the present article is taken from various books, articles, journals, websites.

Review of literature :-

This article has been critically examined with a view to arrive at concrete suggestions and solutions and for which the following research material has been analysed. While reviewing, the researcher has analysed the following books, articles, reports, Judgements. A few have been referred hereby:

Steinberg (1990) reports that family environment including parenting style and child rearing practices provide opportunity for development of higher self esteem and less depression and anxiety and the children having good parental support are less likely to engage in anti-social behavior such as delinquency and substance use (Steinberg : 1990).

Kausar and Kazmi (2011) investigated relationship between Parental acceptance-rejection and self-efficacy of Pakistani adolescents. Authors revealed that there is significant positive relationship between mother and father's warmth and general self-efficacy of adolescents. Study also reported the significant negative relationship of mother and father's hostility, neglect and undifferentiated rejection with self efficacy of adolescents (Kausar & Kazmi : 2011).

Kalmijn (1998) points out to the flaw in marriage pattern studies. In case of endogamy if two groups do not marry between them it does not mean both groups show closure. Along with that local marriage market, residential area, group size extra will determine opportunity for endogamy. Highly educated people of minority group show a tendency towards less endogamy as their education provides them opportunity to interact with members of other groups. It is "Third parties" which holds an exerting power to foster endogamy by means of group identification and group sanction (Kalmijn : 1998).

Balakrishnan (1976) study of female age at marriage and some of its correlates such as education in the rural and semi-urban areas of four Latin American countries such as Mexico, Costa Rica, Columbia and Peru show that ideal age at marriage are greater than actual age for all groups also with increasing education this is greater. With a background of urban life and education female shows a greater tendency to marry late (Balakrishnan : 1976).

In book edited by Welchman and Hossain, the authors have emphasised on the viewpoints about the concept of honour and various responses of individuals and organisations working in diverse regions regarding the context of honour killing and the various strategies ,plans ,policies to combat with this social problem. The authors has given the voice to the fight to locate

the violence against women specially the cries relating to honour and also referred to the international framework regarding the same (Welchman and Hossain : 2006).

In the book, Khap Panchayat and Modern Age, the author has studied and referred in detail the phenomenon of khap panchayats. The author has visited various villages where incidents of honour killings have been reported and had the wide level of interaction with people there so the author has made an attempt to study khap panchayats, its dimensions, origin structure and functioning and also its relevance in today's modern world (Chaudhary : 2015).

Details of study :-

The present article attempts to give a detailed explanation of Indian family, marriage and honour killing, which are as under: -

Families in the Republic of India :-

The family is a primary and social group that is universal. All members of the family are bound by blood and marriage. Yet the family of each society is seen differently, such as motherhood and patriarchy. Family arrangements are also found in developed, underdeveloped or backward communities. In Indian society, family is everything. The house where a person lives with his family is considered sacred. There are direct, close, personal and informal relationships between family members. Close family relationships include mother, father, brother, sister, husband and wife.

According to Burgess, "The family may be defined as a group of persons united by ties of marriage, blood and adoption: constituting a single household, interacting and communicating with each other in their respective social roles of husband and wife, mother and father, son and daughter, brother and sister and creating and maintaining a common culture." (Burgess 7-8).

One of the primary functions of the family involves providing a framework for the production and reproduction of persons biologically and socially. This can

occur through the sharing of material substances (such as food); the giving and receiving of care and nurture; jural rights and obligations; and moral and sentimental ties (Schneider : 1984).

The modern Indian Republic has undergone a radical change in the family system. The traditional Indian family used to have a joint family system, but now the Indian family system is moving towards segregation. At the same time, a society is emerging which is moving towards a single family. Family norms, values, customs, culture are changing.

Indian Marriage Customs:-

There are many rituals in Indian marriages. In most Indian religions, observance of marriage is considered obligatory. A person who adheres to socio-cultural-religious norms, values, customs is considered cultured and important. In Indian society, marriages often take place in the presence of elders and members of the community. Hinduism is the majority religion in Indian society. In Hindu marriages mainly *Kanyadan*, *Panigrahan*, *Saptapadi*, *Vidaya*, in-laws house entry etc.

Indian Sikhs get married through a ceremony called Anand Karaj, a ritual started by the third leader of Sikhism, Guru Amar Das. The couple walk around the holy book, the Guru Granth Sahib four times. Even today Sikhism follows its traditional marriage practice

Indian Muslims celebrate a traditional Islamic wedding, with rituals include *Nikah*, payment of financial dower called *Mahr* by the groom to the bride, signing of marriage contract, and a reception (zawaj.com). The marriage practice of Indian Islamic women and men is slowly undergoing a modern transformation. The influence of other religions and the influence of westernization have resulted in modernization of marriage. Young people are free to decide how, where, and with whom to marry. Yet they follow the religious customs of marriage.

Indian Christian weddings followings traditional Christian marriage customs. In India, the betrothal rite celebrates the engagement of a couple, with prayers being offered for a couple and engagement rings being blessed by a pastor. A day before the wedding, the Haldi/Ubtan/Mayun ceremony (as it is known in northern India) or the Roce ceremony (as it is known in the Goa area of India) is held, in which “haldi or turmeric paste is applied on North Indian Christians and coconut paste is applied on South Indian Christians.” After some time, Indian Christians are married in a church wedding, during which, the couple meet in the presence of a minister, often in a church or place of worship. Readings from the Bible take place. The bride and groom take their marriage vows. The bride and groom often exchange rings as a sign of their endless love (Das : 2021).

Indian Christians go to church and get married. Among the Hindus, the young man often takes the procession to the house of the bride. Satfera, Kanyadan and Havan are performed in front of all the relatives and they get the status of husband and wife. The young woman comes to live in her husband’s house after marriage. At the time of marriage, money, jewelery, household items or other items are given as gifts. Sometimes these items are exchanged in the form of dowry. Due to which many problems are born. If the existence of many laws in the Republic of India has reduced the social problems. But on the whole, evil practices like dowry are found.

Honour Killing:-

What is the honour of home? In whose hands is the honour and dignity of any family? Ideal Answer: In the hands of every member of the family, but like other household chores, the responsibility of this honour also goes to the sisters, daughters and daughter-in-law.

In patriarchal and patriarchal societies, girls and women are kept completely parasitic in conservative-minded families. If a woman makes her own decision or crosses the line, it can lead to beatings, domestic violence and even death. Refusal of Orange Marriage, attempt and initiative for divorce, rumor spread in the society about the daughter or bride of the family, sexual harassment or rape,

marriage being an extramarital affair for a married woman. Reasons such as having an affair with a man who is unacceptable and unwelcome to the family for an unmarried young woman are usually among the main causes of honour killing.

Some of the reasons for honour killing of son or daughter :-

1. To marry of one's own free will against the consent of the family.
2. Interracial marriage or getting married in the same gotra. To marry into another religion.
3. Do not teach to get married in the place decided by the family.
4. Wearing clothes forbidden by the family.
5. Having sex before marriage.
6. Having or behaving in a homosexual relationship.

List of Honour Killing Victims :-

1. Murder of Pranay (Telangana)
2. Murder of Nandish-Swati (Tamil Nadu)
3. Poonam's murder (Rajkot)
4. Ankit's murder (New Delhi)
5. Murder of Bhavana Yadav (West Delhi)
6. Murder of Nitish Katara (Uttar Pradesh)
7. Murder of Nirupama Pathak (Delhi)
8. Murder of Asha Saini-Yogesh (Delhi)
9. Monica-Kuldip murder (Delhi)
10. Murder of Dipti Chikara (Uttarakhand)

Some methods of honour killing :-

1. Stone throwing
2. Fatal acid attack

3. Burning
4. Sore throat
5. Execution
6. Attack with a knife
7. Shooting
8. Beheading

Honour killings have been reported in northern regions of India, mainly in the Indian States of Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and the southern state of Tamilnadu. The main reason for these crimes is a result of people marrying without their family's acceptance, especially when it is between members of two different castes or religious groups, or, more particular to north-western India, between members of the same *gotra*, or exogamous clan. In contrast, honour killings are less prevalent but are not completely non-existent in the western Indian states of Maharashtra and Gujarat (*Deccan* : 2016).

Human Rights Watch defines "honour killings" as follows:

Honour crimes are acts of violence, usually murder, committed by male family members against female family members who are perceived to have brought dishonour upon the family. A woman can be targeted by her family for a variety of reasons including, refusing to enter into an arranged marriage, being the victim of a sexual assault, seeking a divorce—even from an abusive husband—or committing adultery. The mere perception that a woman has acted in a manner to bring "dishonour" to the family is sufficient to trigger an attack (HRW World Report - 2001).

The Supreme Court has used the word 'wild' for honour killing. The Supreme Court said, "There is nothing honourable in such killings, and infact nothing but barbaric and shameful acts of murder committed by brutal, feudal minded persons who deserve harsh punishment". - Words from the time of Judgment of 2006.

In a 2006 judgment, the Supreme Court itself said there was no "honor" in such killings, calling such killings "cruel, brutal" and that the killer should be

severely punished. However, no separate law has been enacted for honour killings.

Honour killings in India are likely to improve the judiciary and the law. The perpetrators of honour killings are currently being punished under IPC Section 302 (murder), 120- (conspiracy) and 34-common intent and this punishment can sometimes take a long time.

Conclusion :-

The main feature of the Indian family system is that the modern family can be dynamic in a joint, nuclear or single family. But in the end, the person stays connected to his or her original family. Feelings of closeness, love, warmth like family cannot be obtained quickly from others.

In the same way, in the Republic of India, despite changes in the rituals, values and traditions of the marriage system, the marriage system has survived. However, with the advent of modern gay, lesbian, live-in-relationship relationships, the pattern of marriage has changed. As for Honour Killing, the human being is a hypocrite.. He has got into the habit of taking pride in small and trivial things. This same hypocritical pride makes him a fanatic and forces him to go to any lengths to nurture his hypocritical pride. How can a man take pride in religion, race or province which he has not earned himself ?! It is foolish to take pride in all this by default and it is a disgrace to humanity. Secondly, we are very dominant. We have a habit of dominating others. This same habit causes trouble for those closest to us. We force him to live as we please. In fact, everyone should have the freedom to live his life in his own way (within the ambit of the Constitution). Only then will it make sense for us to be human.

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