



A STUDY OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS DOWRY AMONG WORKING AND NON-WORKING WOMEN

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ABSTRACT: The present study was undertaken to study the attitude of working and non-working women towards dowry system in India. Attitude towards dowry was treated as dependent variable while locality was treated as independent variable. Descriptive survey method was employed for the present study. A sample of 230 working and non-working was selected through random sampling. Dowry Attitude Scale (DAS) by Sharma employed to assess the **attitude** towards **dowry**. The data was analyzed by mean, S.D & t-test. The findings of the study revealed that there exists no significant difference between the attitude towards dowry among working and non working women. All the groups possess unfavorable attitude towards dowry. They equally believe that dowry is a social evil and taking and giving dowry must be prohibited.

KEYWORDS: Attitude, Working, Non-Working, Dowry, Locality

INTRODUCTION

We are living in the 21st century, an era where men and women are now given equal rights and liberties in the world. However, even after so much effort by many great social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy in the early 19th century, we are still orthodox and tradition bound society where women have been socially, physically, economically and sexually exploited from time immemorial, sometimes in the name of religion, sometimes in the pretext of customs like dowry system.

One of the key social problems of modern India is dowry. The dowry custom is a very old Indian tradition. It was introduced by Hinduism and has extended to all minorities. Even if nowadays some groups, like Muslims, are among those who consider it wrong, it has been and still is largely diffused across diverse Indian cultures. Dowry, commonly known as '**dahej**' includes any gift that is not offered by the bride's side on their own and anything that the groom's side asks for, directly or indirectly. The groom's side must compel the bride's side to fulfill their demands. If the groom's side makes any demand as a precondition to marriage, without which the bride's side anticipates that the marriage might be called off,



then also such demand will be considered as dowry. The dowry system is thought to put great financial burden on the bride's family. It has been one of the reasons for families and women in India resorting to sex selection in favor of sons. This has distorted the sex ratio of the India (940 females per thousand males) and has given rise to female foeticide. The payment of a dowry has been prohibited under The 1961 Dowry Prohibition Act in Indian civil law and subsequently by Sections 304B and 498a of the Indian Penal Code. The IPC makes the crime non-bailable, which means that the accused husband or family members cannot get a bail once arrested.

It is difficult to single out who is responsible for this. But in India as marriages of mostly children are arranged by their parents, it is usually assumed that parents demand the dowry. It is also assumed that mainly females are in more favor of dowry in comparison to male parents. It is also necessary to know the attitude of marriageable male and female students towards dowry system in relation to locality. Some researchers have attempted to study the attitude of students towards dowry. **Suresh Rajkumar (2014)** reported that marriageable women had favorable attitude towards dowry. **Laur (2015)** revealed that there exists no significant difference between the attitude of male and female B.Ed. students towards dowry. **Rani (2017)** found no significant difference between the attitude of male and female parents, educated and uneducated male parents, educated and uneducated female towards dowry system. Very few studies have been conducted to know the attitude of working and non working women towards dowry. So the investigator considered it worthwhile to study the attitude of working and non-working women towards dowry as the problem of dowry is directly related to women.

MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The main objective of the study is to compare the attitude of working and non-working women towards dowry in relation to their locality.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

1. There is no significant difference between the attitude of working and non-working women towards dowry.



2. There is no significant difference between the attitude towards dowry among working women of rural and urban areas.
3. There is no significant difference between the attitude towards dowry among working women of rural and urban areas.

DESIGN OF THE STUDY

Methodology

In the present study descriptive survey method was used.

Sample

In this study 230 working and non-working women were selected by random sampling technique.

Tool Used

Dowry Attitude Scale (DAS) by Sharma was used to collect the data. This scale contained 52 items related to dowry system.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED

Mean, S.D, t-test were used for data analysis.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Comparison of attitude of working and non-working women towards dowry

In this section, attitude of working and non-working women towards dowry has been compared. Table-1 presents the means, SD's and t-value of attitude of working and non-working women towards dowry.

Table-1: t-value for Mean Scores of Attitude towards Dowry among Working and Non-working Women

Group	N	Mean	SD	t-value
Women (Working)	105	114.67	7.43	1.31 (NS)
Women (Non-working)	125	113.16	9.97	

NS= Not Significant



Table 1 depicts that t-value 1.31 for the mean scores for the attitude of working and non-working women towards dowry is not significant. Therefore there is no significant difference in the attitude of working and non-working women towards dowry.

Comparison of Attitude towards Dowry among Working Women of Rural and Urban Areas

This section deals with the mean, SD's and t-value of attitude towards dowry among working women of rural and urban areas. Table-2 presents the means, SD's and t-value of attitude towards dowry among women of rural and urban areas.

Table-2: t-value for Mean Scores of Attitude towards Dowry among Working Women of Rural and Urban Areas

Group	N	Mean	SD	t-value
Working Women (Rural)	45	103.13	5.43	1.05 (NS)
Working Women (Urban)	60	101.75	7.97	

NS= Not Significant

A close perusal of Table 2 reveals that t-value 1.05 for the mean scores for the attitude towards dowry among working women of rural and urban areas is not significant. Therefore there is no significant difference in the attitude towards dowry among working women on the basis of locality.

Comparison of Attitude towards Dowry among Non-Working Women of Rural and Urban Areas

It can be inferred from Table 3 that the means, SD's and t-value of attitude towards dowry among working women of rural and urban areas. Table-3 presents the means, SD's and t-value of attitude towards dowry among non-working women of rural and urban areas.



Table-3: t-value for Mean Scores of Attitude towards Dowry among Non-Working Women of Rural and Urban Areas

Group	N	Mean	SD	t-value
Non-Working Women (Rural)	70	103.34	7.59	1.79 (NS)
Non-Working Women (Urban)	55	105.53	6.13	

NS= Not Significant

The above Table 3 concludes that t-value 1.79 for the mean scores for the attitude towards dowry among non-working women of rural and urban areas is not significant. Therefore there is no significant difference in the attitude towards dowry among non-working women on the basis of locality i.e. rural and urban.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. There exists no significant difference in the attitude towards dowry among women on the basis of their working status i.e. working and non-working.
2. There is no significant difference in the attitude towards dowry among working women on the basis of locality.
3. There is no significant difference in the attitude towards dowry among non-working women on the basis of locality.

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