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CONTENTS

1. Bollywood Notions of Gender: Disparity in Wages	Rupali B. Kulkarni	05
2. Music and Peaceful Meditation	Dr. Chatrapati B. Pangarkar	09
3. Folk Media and Rural Development in India	Dr. Manisha V. Mankar	11
4. Problems of Senior Citizen in Modern India....	Dr. Shirish V. Kadu	13
5. Role of NGOs in Environmental Management	Dr. Rajendra Gonarkar	17
6. Gender Inequality Index: Calculating Analysis	Dr. Pratibha G. Chavan	23
7. Diasporic Communities and Social Media	Y. L. Padme	27
8. Cyber Security and Global Technology Issues ...	K. S. Khobragade	31
9. Use of Social Media by Urban Indian Youth and its impact on...	Dr. Beedkar Sandhya D.	34
10. Sports training	Mr. Santosh Kumar Banjare	35
11. Significance of Spirituality and Cultural Values in...	Mr. Shalin Patel	36
12. Physical Inactivity and Health	Mr. Sashikant Bhagat	38
13. The Place of Rhythm in Indian Folk Music	Hemant T. Shinde	42
14. Learning and Perspective for Sustainable Development	Dr. Vandana Phatale	45
15. A Critical Appreciation of Child Malnutrition	Dr. Rajeshwar B. Deshmukh	49
16. Career in Political Science	Dr. Shirish V. Kadu	52
17. The Role of Population Density in Rural Transformations	Mohd Azhar Ud Din Malik	58
18. The Study of Changes in Sex Ratio	Mohammad Amin Malik	62
19. A Psychological Approach of Maryam Jameelah ...	Bhagwan S. Manal	63
20. Role of Environmental Education	Nirmal Ekanath Sitaram,	66
21. Effect of Social and cultural factors on women's health	Anand P. Pandit	68
22. Issues of National Security in India: China Threat	Balasaheb S. Murade	71
23. A World Food Day 2017" Volumetric Analysis of Food ...	Shinde A. Bhaskarrao	73
24. Women Agriculture Labour in India	Bushra Nahid Rahim Sayyed	75
25. Safety Laws In India: Status And Challenges	Ishwar Baburao Ghorade	77
26. Governance Tools In Public Administration and ...	Kirti Sadhuroo Niralwad	80
27. Application of RFID Technology in Libraries....	Dr. Anvita Agrawal	84
28. Application of RFID Technology in Libraries	Dr. Shekhar B. Ashtikar	88
29. Information Literacy: Concept, Category & Components	Sangharsha Baliram Sawale	9
30. LIB-MAN Software for Computerization of Academic	Dr. Nitin V. Gaikwad	9
31. Academic Anxiety among High School Students	Shraddha A. Vibhute	9
32. Library Automation of Shri Vyankatesh Arts Commerce	Hatkar Jalba Umaji	9
33. Economic Thought of Mahatma Gandhi	Memane S.M.	9
34. Application of GIS and Remote Sensing for Selection...	Memane S.M.	9
35. Monetary and Fiscal Policy Reforms in India	Mr. Kalyan D. Yadav	9
37. Urban Development Policy and Solid West Management	Dr. Sunil D. Belsare	9
37. The Role and Functions of Educational Agencies on the ...	Dr. Rajani Ramesh Senad	9
38. Coalition Politics in Indian Democracy- An Analysis	Dr. Umesh B. Deshmu	9
39. Effect of Faculty on Emotional maturity	Kamble Krushna Shivaji	9
40. Social Media: It's Effect on Youth and Society	Lagad Santosh Jabaji	9
41. Women Health In India	Dr. Bhakti Mahindrakar	9
42. Influence of Gender and Locale on Dowry Attitude	Neela Sangameshwar J.	9
43. Recent Trends in E-Commerce: An Empirical Study ...	Mr. Bhimappa Rangannavar	9
44. Role of Small Scale Entrepreneurs in Urban & Rural Development	Dr. Sunil V. Shinde	9
	Dr. Ramesh D. Waghmare	9
	Dr. Syed Tanvir Badruddin	9
	Dr. Surekha R. Gaikwad	9
	Neeta N. Lad	9
	Ms. Sonam R. More	9
	Dr. Vikas Choudhari	9



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“Influence of Gender and Locale on Dowry Attitude”

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India is one of the ancient countries in the world. Being one of the ancient country there are many rituals and traditions which are followed by peoples of India till today, dowry is one of them. Most of the peoples were uneducated in ancient days. They followed their parents as well as grandparents. They don't know what the main reason behind that tradition. But now the world is changing and so that India. People are mostly educated now. They didn't blindly follow the tradition. They are very curious about the reasons behind the traditions. But people in India, till today, read holy books. They feel they get mental stability and strength to face the problems. Therefore there is effect of the books on the minds of people.

Dowry has historical background. It is present in the age of Rama and Krishna as well as kings in India. The book 'Manu Smriti' tells about the practice of dowry. There was a tradition of 'Ashrams' in ancient India. People followed it very strictly. There was need of dowry to bridegroom in those days to start their life with ease because they had to start their life at new place without their parents. But dowry was not taken by force. It's depended on the bride's parent's ability and willing to give dowry to bridegroom.

The purpose of dowry was to help the married couple to start their lives with ease but now dowry system takes an evil shape. It is like a curse to people.

Definitions of Dowry -

According to Max Radin, "Ordinarily dowry is the property which a man receives when he marries, either from his wife or her family.

According to Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, "Dowry means any property or valuable security agreed or given directly or indirectly by one party of a marriage to other party before or after marriage."

The Oxford dictionary defines dowry, "the amount of property or money brought by a bride to her husband on their marriage."

The word 'Dowry' comes from An 'Anglo-Norman French word 'dowries.' Actually when the system of dowry was started or when it was taken in ancient days, the purpose was good behind that because that was a help to couple to start a good life and the main part of that was, it was not a compulsion on bride and her parents. It was willing of the bride's parents as well as blessings through that. So in ancient days, it was not an evil system. But as the days are passing this system starts taking an evil shape. Now- a- days dowry is taking for granted. Commonly people always say that we are in a 21st century but most of the people feel bad when there is a birth of girl. They start thinking about dowry. They take girl as a burden. In 21st century also they take boy as a property and girl as a way of dowry means wasting their money. So dowry system is at very dangerous point where life of girls is ruined by her own people.

1.1.2. Theories of Dowry

A. Dowry as Bequest

The bequest theory views dowry as an intergenerational transfer of inheritance to the bride from her kin, under her control, upon marriage. Dowry can be seen as a pre-mortem inheritance to the bride at the time of her marriage. According to the bequest theory, while sons obtain their inheritance upon the death of the parents, daughters receive their share of the family wealth at marriage (Suran et al2004).

B. Dowry as Price

First formalized by Becker (1981), the price model sees dowries as transfers between families (Anachalam and Logan, 2008). Brides do not directly benefit from such transfers. Instead, dowries are transferred from the bride's families to the groom's families to equilibrate the marriage market. Hence, price models of dowry "yields a dowry function that maps characteristics of the bride, groom, and their respective families, as well as underlying features of the marriage market, to a dowry amount". The price model views dowry as an instrument whereby parents of daughters secure alliances with high-quality in-laws (Arunachalam and Logan, 2008). Dowries are considered as opportunities for daughters to attract resourceful men and means to ensure a better future for one's daughter and to enhance one's own prestige in the community. In this way, dowry is a gift for alliance and not a marriage payment.

C. Sexual Exchange Theory

According to Sexual exchange theory men place more value in attractiveness and women place more value in resources. Dowry serves fundamentally as a price to "equalize" the imbalance in the value of marriage, and as a form of compensatory transfer based on the combination of traits of the bride, groom and their respective households. According to Kodoth (2008), fullness of body is an important aspect of the notion of womanhood, implicating notions of sexual and reproductive potential. The reference to health thus points to the expected effects on sexuality, reproduction and domestic abilities of being pale, thin or seeming unenergetic. Feminists, who have focused on the woman's equal right to inheritance, have presented arguments that dowry can be seen as the woman's inheritance and through this practice the woman will get receive at least something rather than nothing.

1.1.3. Negative Consequences of Dowry

The negative consequences of Dowry system is discussed below:

A. PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES

1. Mental Disturbance:

If a girl or her parents are unable to fulfill the demands of bridegroom and his parents then after the marriage the in-laws of girl started harassment of the girl. They torture girl physically as well as mentally. This results in the mental disturbance of that girl.

2. Stress and Anxiety:

Due to dowry, there is stress on the parents of girl. If they are unable to give dowry before marriage, sometimes the marriage broke-up. Because of this the parents and the girl always feel stressed. The anxiety about what will be the future of the girl or will anyone marry with her? This question ruins the present and happiness of parents and they are feeling depressed and guilty. The situation of the girl is not different than her parents.

3. Lack of Self-Confidence:

Due to dowry bride's in-laws torture bride physically and mentally. They always underestimate bride. Slowly confidence of the girl will disappear. She is unable to take decisions by her own. She becomes dependent person and this results in changing her personality.

4. Loss of Self-esteem among women:

The demands don't stop even after marriage. The people from the boy's side demand things like car, gold, money etc to bride and tell her to bring the things from her parents. She doesn't want to bring the things from her parents but she does not have another way. Out of concern for her parents, she loses self-esteem by believing she is a burden on her family. She loses her peace of mind. Thinking the problem, greed of an individual ruins the beautiful lives.

5. Lack of willingness:

When a woman is dependent on her husband, sometimes she doesn't do things with her own choice. She has to listen to her husband and in-laws. And if her parents are unable to give dowry then the situation can be more critical. She even doesn't talk with her husband with an open mind and hence she starts hiding what is going in her mind she doesn't tell anyone what she wants even in her day-to-day life.

6. Psychological Suppression of the Girls:

Any boy, who is going to marry, has a picture of his wife in his mind. Usually any boy wants an educated girl, belongs from a well-off family, she must be in service and earns well. But now-a-days this is not enough he and his family want gifts like gold, cars etc. in marriage and after that also. There are many girls who are educated, belong from good family and culture but not accepted as wife because her parents are unable to give dowry.

7. Suicide:

In the language of Law suicide is illegal. No one has right to kill themselves. The purpose of suicide is to kill themselves or finish their own life. There are mainly two types of suicide.

1. Conventional Suicide:

Conventional suicide is a result of tradition and the pressure of public opinion. Thus, this is because of one kind of pressure given by people directly or indirectly. Some wrong traditions also cause conventional suicides.

2. Personal Suicide:

Personal suicide is like common in now-a-days. When people don't able to take pleasure of problems usually they feel depressed and then they start thinking about death and commit suicide.

8. Some other psychological effect:

Depression, Inferiority complex, Neurotic problems, Emotional problems, insecurity and Mental harassment.

SOCIAL CONSEQUENCE

1. Initiate Gender Imbalance:

Dowry is taken an evil shape now-a-days. Due to it sometimes, social pressure creates on the minds of parents. They start comparing girl and boy. They start thinking about their future. People think about dowry. They think that no one marries with their girl without dowry and therefore they focus more on the boy than girl. They think the girl has to go to another people's house one day so why waste money on her. On the other hand they provide everything to boy because he will give support to them in their old age. They start saving money for her dowry and underestimate her. In this way people create gender imbalance, which results in imbalance in sex ratio.

2. Domestic Violence and Crime:

Dowry is the main cause of domestic violence and sometimes crime. The man and his parents, sister, brother torture woman physically and mentally. Sometimes they force woman to commit suicide or burn her.

3. Status of woman:

When a girl is born, she is no longer a reason of happiness. No one thinks about her rights. Her own family members also treat her as a person who will go to her own home which is her husband's house, after marriage. That's why she is deprived of her basic rights. She doesn't get high education, more freedom and her basic right of speech. She has to listen to everyone because she is girl and do the thing according to that. This happens with her only because she is a girl and not a boy.

4. Feticide:

Dowry is one of the main causes of feticide. Dowry is like a burden on girls' parents. The census of 2011 gives info about sex ratio it is 943. It means the number of females behind 1000 males is only 943 girls. The difference is of 57 girls. This clearly says there are many people who abort their child after knowing that she is a girl. This is becoming a very serious social issue. There are many acts to prevent this but because of social pressure people break the act and do what they want.

SOLUTIONS:

1. Education:

In Telangana state sex education is now a compulsory subject up to graduation. This helps girls and boys to think about the traditions whether it is right or wrong, because there are many traditions which are based upon the gender of a person. If girls and boys get sex education then it will be easy for them to abolish the wrong traditions.

2. Awareness:

People should be aware. Government launches many schemes to spread awareness some of them are 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao', 'Sukanya Yojna' etc. If people are aware about these schemes and overall changing situation of girls.

3. Government Initiatives and Strict laws:

Government is the body which holds the key to development of a nation. It is the formulator of laws and executes them to make sure people follow them for the betterment of the society. Dowry system has been a part of the society from ancient days. The government has made legislation to limit the dowry exchange. But very few follow these laws. If people follow this law then the level of crime can be decrease.

4. Making women self dependent:

The female sect of our society is an active contributor in the development of the home, the society and the nation a whole. Woman empowerment is necessary for development of society and nation. But many women are unable to take their own decision only because they aren't independent. If they are independent they do with their life what they want. They are forced to abort the fetus because it is girl. If she is independent she can stop this.

Acts:

A. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961:

This act was passed on 1 July, 1961. This is one of the most significant acts for woman. If anyone asks for dowry then it imposes a penalty in section 3. The minimum term for the lay-off was 5 years and a minimum fine of INR 15,000 or the amount of dowry, depending upon whichever is higher. If anyone asks for dowry then it is punishable in the legislation. If there is direct or indirect demand then it would invoke a prison term of 6 months, with a fine of INR 10,000.

B. Protection of woman from Domestic violence Act, 2005:

There are many cases of domestic violence. The definition and the segments included in the legislation are diversified and include all forms of abuse, namely, physical, emotional, Economic, sexual or verbal aggression.

METHODOLOGY

Sample

A purposive sampling technique was used for the present study.

Design for study:

This research was adopted 2 x 2 factorial design.

Statistical Treatment of the data:

First, data were described on the basis of descriptive statistical techniques such as mean and SDs. Further, data were treated under various appropriate inferential statistical tools for more detail analysis such as Analysis of Variance (Two Way ANOVA).

Objectives of the study:

Following main objectives were framed for the present study:

1. To measure the attitude towards dowry among males and females.
2. To measure the attitude towards dowry among subjects living in rural and urban area.
3. To compare the attitude towards dowry between males and females.
4. To compare the attitude towards dowry between the subjects living in rural and urban area.
5. To compare the attitude towards dowry between females coming from urban area and males coming from rural area.

Hypothesis:

To serve the objective of the study, following several hypotheses are framed and these were tested. Assuming that other variables are kept constant

1. Females has positive attitude towards dowry than males.
2. Subjects living in urban area has positive attitude towards dowry than subjects living in rural area.
3. Females living in urban area has positive attitude towards dowry than males living in rural area.

Instruments

1. **Dowry Attitude Scale:** DAS is a measure of dowry attitude developed by Dr. R.R.Sharma its reliability by split half method is .85 and by test re-test method is .88 and validity is .89. The DAS consisted of 52 items. Respondents were asked to answer each item by indicating the extent of their agreement on a 5 point Likert scale (strongly agreed to strongly disagree).

Variables under study:

1. Independent Variables:

- A) Area of living
- B) Gender

2. Dependent Variables:

- A) Dowry Attitude

Procedure

After selecting subjects the tests were distributed to them. Before filling the tests rapport was established with them and assure them that the identification and responses given by them was kept confidential and this information would not be disinter anywhere, so they can gave their responses comfortably and honestly. After that the importance and purpose of the study was explained to them. The instructions were given them according to manual. After that the tests was given to them. After response booklets and answer sheets was collected from them.



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RESULTS, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

Table No.1 Descriptive statistics of two classified groups of Gender on Dowry Attitude

Gender	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Female	215.08	25.266	101
Male	213.94	22.473	101

Table No.1 shows the Mean and Standard Deviation scores of female and male on Dowry Attitude. As per the result obtained in the table, it observes that the Mean and SD score of female for Dowry Attitude are 215.08 and 25.266 respectively. The Mean and SD score of male for Dowry Attitude are 213.94 and 22.473 respectively. Females obtained highest Mean score (215.08) of Dowry Attitude and Males obtained lowest Mean score (213.94) of Dowry Attitude.

Table No.2 Descriptive statistics of two classified groups of Locale on Dowry Attitude

Locale	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Rural	220.29	22.114	102
Urban	208.61	24.230	100

Table No.2 shows that the Mean score and SD score of two classified groups of Locale on Dowry Attitude. Results revealed that the Mean and SD score of subjects living in rural area are 220.29 and 22.114 respectively, and the Mean and SD score of subjects living in urban area are 208.61 and 24.230 respectively. Subjects living in rural area obtained highest score of Mean (220.29) and subjects living in urban area obtained lowest score of Mean value (208.61).

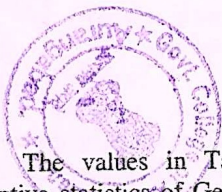
Table No.3 Descriptive statistics of four classified groups on Dowry Attitude

Gender	Locale	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Female	Rural	222.41	22.300	51
	Urban	207.60	26.121	50
Male	Rural	218.18	21.941	51
	Urban	209.62	22.401	50

The results in table No.3 shows that the Mean score and SD score of four classified groups on Dowry Attitude. As displayed in the table the distribution of scores in each of classified groups was more or less normal and the Mean score obtained by the four groups vary largely. Some of the groups obtained large Mean score while others are associated with small Mean score. Highest Mean score of Dowry Attitude obtained by the group A1B1 (M = 222.41, SD = 22.300). Lowest Mean score of Dowry Attitude obtained by the group A1B2 (M = 207.60, SD = 26.121). There was some groups which obtained scores close to the highest mean for example A2B1 (M = 218.18, SD = 21.941) for Dowry Attitude. And also the group which obtained the scores close to lowest Mean score for example A2B2 (M = 209.62, SD = 22.401).

Table No.4 Descriptive statistics of Gender and Locale for Dowry Attitude

Individual	Gender		Locale	
	Female	Male	Rural	Urban
Mean	215.08	213.94	220.29	208.61
SD	25.266	22.473	22.114	24.230



The values in Table No.4 shows that the Descriptive statistics of Gender and Locale for Dowry Attitude. As per the result obtained in the table, it observe that the Mean and SD score of Female for Dowry Attitude are 215.08 and 25.266 and the Mean and SD score of Male for Dowry Attitude are 213.94 and 22.473 respectively. This table also shows that subjects living in rural area obtained 220.29 and 22.114 Mean and SD score and subjects living in urban area obtained 208.61 and 24.230 Mean and SD score respectively.

Even from the face values of the Mean and Standard Deviation sometimes it is possible to assert that the groups, as well as the cluster of the groups are likely to differ significantly each other. However, it is not appropriate to draw a conclusion only on the basic of descriptive statistics hence; the Independent variables were analyzed by inferential statistics. i.e., Two way analysis of variance (ANOVA).

To find out the effect of Gender and Locale on Dowry Attitude the data was analyzed by Two way

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ANOVA. Obtained findings are shown in the following tables.

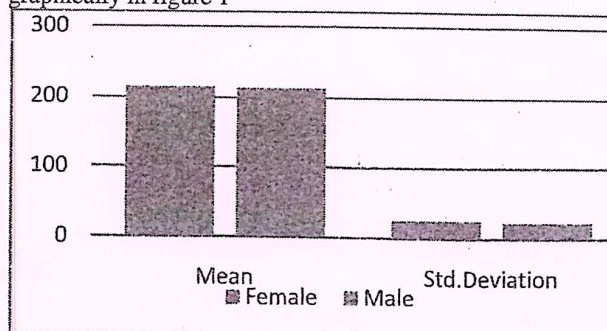
Table No.5 The Summary of ANOVA for Dowry Attitude

Sources of variance	SS	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
A	61.951	1	61.951	.115	.735
B	6893.514	1	6893.514	12.762**	.000
A * B	493.951	1	493.951	.914	.340
Within	106953.545	198	540.169		

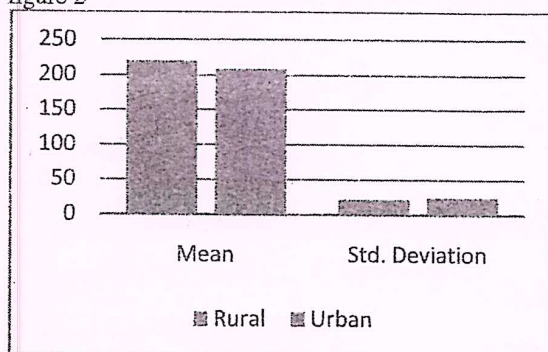
Note: ** significant at 0.01 level of significance

Table No.5 displays the summary of ANOVA for Dowry Attitude. At a glance of summary of ANOVA shows that main effect A represents the factor of Gender, varied at two levels, female and male of the four groups. First two groups are that of female subjects and the next two groups are that of male subjects. From the Table No.4 one finds that the female subjects (M = 215.08, SD = 25.266) and the male

subjects ($M = 213.94$, $SD = 22.473$) have the less difference (1.14) in their Mean scores and definitely it has occurred by chance only. Scores revealed that the main effect for Gender was found not significant $F(1,198) = .115$, $p = .735$. This main effect is presented graphically in figure 1



Second independent variable was Locale. It was also varied at two levels (Urban, Rural). The expectation was when other factors come constant; the subjects living in urban area might have significantly more Dowry Attitude than the subjects living in rural area. But from the obtained values shows that subject living in rural area has more Dowry Attitude level than the subjects living in urban area. The main effect of Locale yielded an 'F' ratio of $F(1,198) = 12.762$, $p = .000$. Table No.2 indicates that the Mean change score was significantly greater for subjects living in rural area ($M = 220.29$, $SD = 22.114$) than for subjects living in urban area. This main effect is graphically presented figure 2



Here the Mean score of Dowry Attitude is plotted against the 'B' score. The height of bar is indicated the large difference between mean score. It clearly shows that the main effect was significant. Seems the main effect B is highly significant. It could be easily inferred that locale plays key role in the developing of the level of Dowry Attitude. That means subjects living in rural area are significantly differ that subjects living in rural area in Dowry Attitude. Thus the alternative hypotheses, subjects living in urban area has positive attitude towards dowry than subjects living in rural area was rejected.

The interaction effect of $A * B$ has no significant difference on Dowry Attitude, $F(1,198) = 0.914$, $p = .340$. It denotes that Gender and Locale functioned independently. It means main effect $A * B$ functioned independently. Thus the alternative hypothesis Females living in urban area has positive

attitude towards dowry than males living in rural area was rejected.

Conclusion:

1. There is no significant difference found between females and males in respective to positive attitude towards dowry.
2. Locale plays major role in developing positive attitude towards dowry; rural residential peoples have more positive attitude towards dowry than their counter part.
3. There is no significant difference found between females living in urban area and males living in rural area in respective to positive attitude towards dowry.

6.2. Limitation:

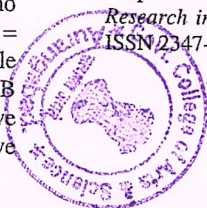
1. The geographical area of study was restricted for Kolhapur and Satara area.
2. There are many variables which predict dowry attitude and marriage adjustment but in present study following variables gender and locale were taken into account only.
3. Only 202 subjects were taken for the present study.

6.3. Suggestions for further study:

1. There are wide ranges of variables which can predict dowry attitude and marriage adjustment such as education; socio-economic status etc., taken into account such variables further research can be conducted.
2. Large set of sample from various cities may be taken.

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