

## **ROLE OF DOWRY IN SUCCESSFUL MARITAL LIFE A CASE STUDY OF DISTRICT DERA GHAZI KHAN, PAKISTAN**

**Naveed Ahmad**

*Faculty of Business Administration, Lahore Leads University, Lahore*

**Alamdard Hussain**

*Institute of Social Studies National Collage of Business Administration and Economics, Lahore, Pakistan*

**Muhammad Suaman Tariq**

*Finance Manager, Research and Development Solutions, Islamabad*

**Muhammad Ali Raza**

*PhD Scholar Preston University Islamabad Campus*

### **Abstract**

*Dowry means the gifts, cash or other electronics items given to the groom after marriage. Dowry is a serious problem now a day in our society. A sample of two hundred peoples was selected from City Dera Ghazi Khan through convenient sampling technique. Collected data was analyzed through SPSS software. The result was significant which shows that the direct relationship between variables. It was observed that dowry plays important role for brides and earns respect for her in husband's family*

**Keywords:** Dowry system, Marital life, Society impact, Opinion Making, Economical Gap.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The terms and conditions of marriage give a notion of what the gender relations might look like for the members in a society. Most of the women had no part in choosing their husband. The members were living in patriarchal society where the fathers of the households had most of the power. When women get married in the villages in Savar they generally move out of their parent's home and in to that of the new husband's parents. Kinship is transferred through sons, so called patrilineage. In a predominantly patrilineal society, male heirs are essential for the survival of the lineage. Without male heirs the lineage dies since only sons can pass on membership. The fact that sons are crucial for the survival of the patrilineage causes these societies to have built-in cultural mechanisms that favor males. This does not mean that girls are automatically seen as an inconvenience or a burden but that the gaining of boys is crucial for the patrilineal society, having effects for men and women in institutions such as marriage (Sant, 2006).

The Marriage is an important factor in our life. It gives us sense and also tells us how to manage life. After marriage most of the people should be mature and they have sense of responsibility how to manage his life(Leghari,2002).

Dowry is a gift to given to their daughter and her husband. Dowry give by the parents of the bride and some time the demand of groom husband are also continue after the couple is married. In bride new home bride is helpless and also powerless because she left parents home and enter in new home of his husband where she feel shy and some time facing domestic violence (Singh, 2002)

In Pakistan some specific culture are less supported dowry system than others to support dowry system. When bride's parent given minimum dowry to her daughter's it viewed that the mostly dispute cases are happened between wife and husband. Dowry also causes the disputes between families. In india dowry death is also one of the major problem facing in india(Srinivasan,2004)

Pakistan has adopted the concept of mass marriage in Lahore, Governor Khalid Maqbool organized mass marriages for Muslims and Christians at Alhamra Cultural complex, fortress stadium and Governor House to support poor families by giving those cash and dowry then the researcher tells in pakistan our some families force the bride parents to arrange a huge dowry for them. Dowry include bodily and mental abuse and sometime divorce as well(Ahmad2005)

### **Significance of the Study:**

The purpose of this study is to clarify the linkages between dowry and empowerment of women by offering a pathway through which dowry contributes to empowerment such as wealth, respect, compensation, prestige that creates a change in people of City Dera Ghazi Khan.

### **Objectives of the study**

Following were objectives of study

1. To investigate that dowry is the key to get respect in husband's family/in laws.
2. To analyze the factor that dowry improves the life of brides.
3. To study that dowry system is positive effect in our society.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

According to Sawant (2000) dowry is a property of female which their parents given their daughter as a gift and it refers to the traditional items, such as car, electronics, dinner set , furniture and clothes. According to Indian culture mostly groom's parents are willing for a reasonable amount of their son's in their entire life.

Krishan (2000) argued Dowry has negative impact on society and it has many negative consequences. In India, number of incidents of bride burning, physical abuse and mentally torture by husband and their families are the headings of newspaper daily. After marriage women left their home and enter her husband's home and start their new life with one person which she already know or she don't know but her new life start with her husband and their family.

Schneider (2000) researched that primitive people and civilized culture required bridge price for a marriage to be legal in their times.

Trivers (2000) concluded that there are many institutions in society but the most necessary institution is family because of its long established tradition. A family institution comes into existence with marriage. Marriage is related with society to which a person belongs to that particular culture.

Mau (2005) discussed that mass marriages also held in Sikhism as usually took place in the presence of Guru Jagjit Singh. Large numbers of Namdhari (Sect of Sikhism) couples, all dressed in white, walked around a huge ceremonial fire, four times. The concepts of mass marriages exist in the religion of Christianity, Buddhism and Sikhism. In the Christianity the Sun Myung moon introduced the mass marriages to make couples true parents without any sin and considered mass marriages as ritual of salvation and restoration. Buddhism, mass marriages held to remind the newly-wed, the teachings of the Buddha on the role of both husband and wife.

Hughes (2006) mentioned that Pakistan, it is really difficult for poor parents to arrange a dowry for their daughters. Dowry increased the expenditures of the parents on the marriage of their daughters. Moreover, women were used as capital transfer. Therefore, collective marriages are economically beneficial for the respondents by providing them dowry and arranged wedding ceremonies. The dowry received through the collective marriage released the girl's parents from the burden of the expense which entailed many daughters.

Ejaz (2006) concluded that parents tried to arrange the dowry by getting loans. Ultimately, all families were financially bounded for a long period of time. In contrast, collective marriages have positively affected the society. As the people marry at a same time through the same process so it leads society towards equality. As mass marriage involves government, public supporting NGO or social workers so it promotes mutual cooperation and unity among society. The status of women increased through mass marriages because government supported women and their parents and tried to solve their problems.

Srinivas and Bedi (2007) explained dowry is vital for the security and status of bride after her marriage. Moreover, they mentioned that dowry enhance the social status of groom. As a result, bride enjoyed more power and control in her home which ultimately reduced the marital violence. Therefore, many girls parents are unable to marry their daughters due to insufficient or unavailability of dowry. Government recognized this serious issue of the society and took initiative to adopt the collective marriages to support the people.

Ghaffar (2010) studied that collective marriage is a new concept in Pakistan and it is and unusual procedure as compared to the simple marriage so different people showed different attitude toward it. 60 % respondents were criticized to take dowry from government by their relatives. The major criticism was that the respondents were unable to marry their daughters and received a grant from government. 10 % respondents hesitated to invite their relatives on the wedding occasion.

## **METHODOLOGY**

Convenient sampling was used because the population was easy to find. The sample size was consisted of 200 respondents. This is a main tool for drawing a conclusion of conducting research. After conducting research data was analyzed statistically. It was used for saw the association between dependent and independent variables. Tool for data analysis was SPSS and technique was chi-square. So the present research, after conducting research data was entered into the computer and analyzed through SPSS data entry software. Then the conclusions had been drawn successfully.

### **Percentage**

Each item of investigation was into a frequency distribution. The percentage was calculated as follows.

$$P = F/N \times 100$$

Where

$$P = \text{Percentage}$$

F = Absolute Frequency

N = Total Number of frequency

### Chi-square

Chi square test was applied to examine relationship between independent and dependent variable.  $X^2$  were computed by using the following formula.

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(f_o - f_e)^2}{f_e}$$

Where

$f_o$  = Observed frequency

$f_e$  = Expected frequency

$\Sigma$  = Total sum (Sigma)

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter describes the analysis and results by using percentages. Following are the analysis and the results of the study.

**Table No. 1**

**Percentage distribution of respondents regarding age of the respondent**

Age	Respondents	
	Frequency	Percent
18-21 years	66	33.0
22-25 years	52	26.0
26-29 years	46	23.0
30 and Above	36	18.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This table shows that 33.0 percent of the respondents said that belong to age group of 18-21 years, 26.0 percent of the respondents said that age group of 22-25 years, 23.0 percent of the respondents said that age group of 26-29 years and 18.0 percent of the respondents said that age group of 30 and above years. According to this table, most of the respondents were above the age of 18-21 years.

**Table No. 2**

**Percentage distribution of respondents regarding their gender**

Gender	Respondents	
	Frequency	Percent
Male	154	77.0
Female	46	23.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This table shows that majority of the respondents i.e. 77.0 percent were male and 23.0 percent of the respondents were female. According to this table, most of the respondents were male.

**Table No. 3**

**Percentage distribution of respondents regarding their gender dowry helps to get respect from husband**

<b>Dowry helps to get respect from husband</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	
	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly Agree	90	45.0
Agree	46	23.0
Neutral	6	3.0
Disagree	44	22.0
Strongly Disagree	14	7.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This table shows that 45.0 percent of the respondents were strongly agreed that dowry helps to get respect from husband, 23.0 percent of the respondents were agreed that dowry helps to get respect from husband, 22.0 percent of the respondents were disagreed that dowry helps to get respect from husband, 7.0 percent of the respondents were strongly disagreed that dowry helps to get respect from husband and 3.0 percent of the respondents were neutral that dowry helps to get respect from husband. According to this table most of the respondents were strongly agreed that dowry helps to get respect from husband.

**Table No. 4**

**Percentage distribution of respondents regarding due to dowry, husband give honour to his wife**

<b>Due to dowry husband give honour to his wife</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	
	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly Agree	62	31.0
Agree	66	33.0
Neutral	18	9.0
Disagree	46	23.0
Strongly Disagree	8	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This table shows that 33.0 percent of the respondents were agreed that due to dowry husband give honour to his wife, 31.0 percent of the respondents were strongly agreed that due to dowry husband give honour to his wife, 23.0 percent of the respondents were disagreed that due to dowry husband give honour to his wife, 9.0 percent of the respondents were neutral that due to dowry husband give honour to his wife and 4.0 percent of the respondents were strongly

disagreed that due to dowry husband give honour to his wife. According to this table most of the respondents were strongly agreed that due to dowry husband give honour to his wife.

**Table No. 5**

**Percentage distribution of respondents regarding due to dowry husband support wife in family disputes**

<b>Due to dowry husband support wife in family disputes</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	
	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly Agree	110	55.0
Agree	46	23.0
Neutral	6	3.0
Disagree	36	18.0
Strongly Disagree	2	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This table shows that majority of the respondents i.e. 55.0 percent were strongly agreed that due to dowry husband support wife in family disputes, 23.0 percent of the respondents were agreed that due to dowry husband support wife in family disputes, 18.0 percent of the respondents were disagreed that due to dowry husband support wife in family disputes, 3.0 percent of the respondents were neutral that due to dowry husband support wife in family disputes and 1.0 percent of the respondents were strongly disagreed that due to dowry husband support wife in family disputes. According to this table most of the respondents were strongly agreed that due to dowry husband support wife in family disputes.

**Table No. 6**

**Percentage distribution of respondents regarding giving cash in dowry support new couple**

<b>Giving cash in dowry support new couple</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	
	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly Agree	82	41.0
Agree	72	36.0
Neutral	2	1.0
Disagree	30	15.0
Strongly Disagree	14	7.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This table shows that 41.0 percent of the respondents were strongly agreed that giving cash in dowry support new couple, 36.0 percent of the respondents were agreed that giving cash in dowry support new couple, 15.0 percent of the respondents were disagreed that giving cash in dowry support new couple, 7.0 percent of the respondents were strongly disagreed that giving cash in dowry support new couple and 1.0 percent of the respondents were neutral that giving cash in dowry support new couple. According to this table most of the respondents were strongly agreed that giving cash in dowry support new couple.

**Table No. 7**

**Percentage distribution of respondents regarding giving electronic in dowry to support new couple**

<b>Giving electronic in dowry to support new couple</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	
	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly Agree	94	47.0
Agree	38	19.0
Neutral	10	5.0
Disagree	54	27.0
Strongly Disagree	4	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This table shows that 47.0 percent of the respondents were strongly agreed that giving electronic in dowry to support new couple, 27.0 percent of the respondents were disagreed that giving electronic in dowry to support new couple, 19.0 percent of the respondents were agreed that giving electronic in dowry to support new couple, 5.0 percent of the respondents were neutral that giving electronic in dowry to support new couple and 2.0 percent of the respondents were strongly disagreed that giving electronic in dowry to support new couple. According to this table most of the respondents were strongly agreed that giving electronic in dowry to support new couple.

**Table No. 8**

**Percentage distribution of respondents regarding dowry is important for success of marital life**

<b>Dowry is important for success of marital life</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	
	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly Agree	104	52.0
Agree	68	34.0
Neutral	16	8.0
Disagree	6	3.0
Strongly Disagree	6	3.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This table shows that majority of the respondents i.e. 52.0 percent were strongly agreed that dowry is important for success of marital life, 34.0 percent of the respondents were agreed that dowry is important for success of marital life, 8.0 percent of the respondents were neutral that dowry is important for success of marital life, 3.0 percent of the respondents were disagreed that dowry is important for success of marital life and 3.0 percent of the respondents were strongly disagreed that dowry is important for success of marital life. According to this table most of the respondents were strongly agreed that dowry is important for success of marital life.

**Table No. 9**

**Percentage distribution of respondents regarding women empower due to dowry system**

<b>Women empower due to dowry system</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	
	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly Agree	42	21.0
Agree	110	55.0



Neutral	8	4.0
Disagree	36	18.0
Strongly Disagree	4	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This table shows that majority of the respondents i.e. 55.0 percent were agreed that women empower due to dowry system, 21.0 percent of the respondents were strongly agreed that women empower due to dowry system, 18.0 percent of the respondents were disagreed that women empower due to dowry system, 4.0 percent of the respondents were neutral that women empower due to dowry system and 2.0 percent of the respondents were strongly disagreed that women empower due to dowry system. According to this table most of the respondents were agreed that women empower due to dowry system.

**Table No. 10**

**Association between dowry helps to get respect from relatives and women empower due to dowry system**

<b>Dowry helps to get respect from relatives</b>	<b>Women empower due to dowry system</b>			<b>Total</b>
	<b>Strongly agree or agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree or Strongly disagree</b>	
Strongly agree or agree	134	0	0	134
Neutral	10	0	0	10
Disagree or strongly disagree	8	8	40	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>200</b>

Chi-square = 258.028

Degree of freedom = 16

Level of significance = 0.05

Significant

Gamma Value = 1.000

The above table's results show that there is relationship between respect got from relatives due to dowry and women empowerment. The gamma value is positive which shows that relationship between variable is direct means more the respect from relatives due to dowry, more will be the women empowerment. So, alternate hypothesis is accepted and null hypothesis is rejected.

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

Dowry is a gift given to daughter from her parents. If the parents give more dowry to their daughter their daughter are more secure than those parents who can't give their daughter dowry. Most of the people said government must banto dowry system because it is creating family disputes in society. Most of the thinker's said that it must be banned in the county. It leads to become conflict most of the women in India are mentally retired due to this dowry system. Both love and arrange marriage and both educated and illiterate people are practicing dowry system in the society of Pakistan.

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