



Dowry — An Analysis

The dowry bill amendment has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 15th May, 1984. It might have earlier stirred hopes in the minds



bring into force a strong dowry prohibition system, it is the outlook of the society that deserves primary criticism.

Given a man and a woman of identical qualities/qualifications, society is inclined to give a much higher status for the man. People may be prepared to deviate from tradition and send their women to work so that they may improve the standard of their life, but they

run the family. But now that it has become a common practice that every girl coming out of school/college should also seek a job, why can't the society rethink about the dowry system? The prevailing attitude of men is to maintain:

I am a boy
You are a toy
I go for job
So give me dowry
You too go for job
To give me your salary
You return from files
To receive me with smiles
To work and cook
That is the new outlook.

I wonder whether the present society is indirectly trying to see and worship Lord Shiva in women that is, one half as a male and the other half as a female!

When a man insists on a working wife, should he not sacrifice something at least in return, viz., dowry? To speak in banking terms, when a girl offers two alternate choices of a fixed deposit or

Home Banking

The Bank of Scotland has launched Britain's first nationwide home banking system, called Home Banking. Customers can access the service seven days a week, via British Telecom's Prestel Viewdata network, which in turn is connected to the bank's computer. Services include account information, standing orders, bill payments and inter-account transfers, plus, for businesses a comprehensive cash

of girls who are waiting in the line and their helpless parents. But many know very well that these are only legal twisting of words providing accommodation to anybody capable of engaging a wise lawyer.

But rather than the inertness on the part of the Government to

are not willing to accord women an equal status.

In the olden days, when man alone took up a career, the contribution from wife's side in the form of dowry might have been provided a block capital, whereas his monthly earnings could be described as a Working Capital to



a more attractive recurring deposit can the man who is so greedy to grab both the things ever be forgiven ?

Reformation in the dowry system over the years, has taken place in words rather than in action. Parents of bridegrooms pose to be magnanimous by saying 'We don't demand, do whatever you can do', 'It is enough if you do in a nominal way', etc., to the parents of working girls. But a middle class girl's parents have to part with not less than half a lakh rupees for such 'nominal dowry' marriages.

After educating his daughter and thus enabling her to get a job, why should the girl's father be additionally burdened ? Some people argue that girl's parents give jewellery, furniture, utensils, etc., only to their daughter and not to the in-laws. Then, barring a few who leave behind some ancestral property, what is the contribution from the bride-

management function. However, the mundane task of withdrawing cash still requires a visit to the local ATM

To link into Home Banking, customers need a TV, telephone and a Prestel adaptor. Customer information in the system is protected by personal passwords and security codes, in addition to the Prestel codes.

*SOURCE
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groom's side for his setting up a family ?

Now, let us approach the problem in a practical way. Some initial investment is necessary for the couple to set up their family. So, let the bridegroom accept from the bride only that much which he could save himself over the years. He should be ashamed to take from a girl, who is in fact

replaced by the phrase 'Provident Fund' that is "I contribute an equal share of what you contribute".

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younger than him, anything more than what he could himself contribute. On the other hand, if he chooses a wife of corresponding means, his wife will be proud of him.

Let a principle of give and take be followed on the occasion of marriage. Let us act to see a future when the word 'DOWRY' will be