

The Study of Hefty Dowry Demand and its Role in Causing Crime: A Case Study of Manujan, Iran

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Abstract: Today, the suitable dowry is the one that the male can afford to pay. Regardless of the negative effects of this tradition from moral viewpoint, hefty dowry may also legally lead to negative consequences. One of the very negative consequences of hefty dowry is causing crime; therefore, this study tried to examine the direct relationship between the increase of hefty dowries and the increase of committing crimes such as violence against women and children, discontinuing paying the alimony and transaction in order to avoid liability. Using library resources, questionnaire, interviewing with judges of Manujan, Iran who were the statistical population of this study and also analyzing the statistical, it was concluded that the hefty dowries which are demanded to strengthen the foundation of family have directly or indirectly created several problems for the families and society.

Key words: Hefty dowries, causing crime, violence against women and children, discontinuing paying the alimony, transaction in order to avoid liability

INTRODUCTION

Statement of the problem: From Islamic point of view, dowry plays a useful role in achieving the goals of the family, especially its strength. Unfortunately, despite Islamic recommendations on reducing the amount of dowry, its amount has been increased and it has lost its main status as a gift from male to female and hefty dowry has affected financial and non-financial relations of couples (Ranjbaran, 2011). Regarding the fact that the vast majority of men may not afford to pay even ten percent of the promised dowry (Gholipour, 2001) and in fact, according to the dominant norm, the male thinks he is not required to pay the dowry at the time of marriage and determining the amount of dowry (Shalchi, 2009) this study tried to examine the criminology of hefty dowry and its relationship with the increase of crimes such as violence against women and children, discontinuing paying the alimony and transaction in order to avoid liability (Jafari Langroodi, 1998).

The purposes of the study:

- To examine the impacts of hefty dowry on crimes such as violence against children and women, discontinuing paying the alimony and transaction in order to avoid liability
- To provide appropriate solutions and identify and deal with the effects of crime causing of hefty dowries during marriage in Manujan, Iran

Research questions:

- Is there a relationship between the hefty dowries and the increase of transaction in order to avoid liability?
- Is there a relationship between hefty dowries and violence against children?
- Is there a relationship between hefty dowries and discontinuing paying the alimony?
- Is there a relationship between hefty dowries and the increase of violence against women?

Research hypotheses:

- Based on the previous studies, there is a direct relationship between hefty dowries and the increase of transaction in order to avoid liability
- Based on the previous studies, there is a direct relationship between hefty dowries and the violence against children
- Based on the previous studies, there is a direct relationship between hefty dowries and discontinuing paying the alimony
- Based on the previous studies, there is a direct relationship between hefty dowries and violence against women

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Data collection: The data were collected by library and field methods using questionnaires and interviews.

The statistical population and sample size: The statistical population consisted of judges of the family court in Manujan, Iran. According to this methodology, all samples were analyzed and the samples were matched to the statistical population.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Data analysis: The data were collected through questionnaires and interviews.

Variables: The independent variable consisted of hefty dowries while the dependent variables included violence against women and children, discontinuing paying alimony and transaction in order to avoid liability. Using a sixteen item questionnaire and library and field method in the study, the hypotheses were confirmed as follows: Hypothesis 1 indicates that there is a direct relationship between hefty dowry and transaction in order to avoid liability. Based on the correlation coefficient of 0.74, there is a significant relationship between hefty dowry and transaction in order to avoid liability and hefty dowry has explained 54% of changes of the dependent variable which is transaction in order to avoid liability.

Experts and the participants believed that transaction in order to avoid liability may often be found in family conflicts in question No.6 and the male commits this crime in order to avoid paying dowry.

Hypothesis 2 indicates that there is a direct relationship between hefty dowry and violence against children. Regarding the correlation coefficient of 0.78, positive correlation coefficient, there is a direct and significant relationship between hefty dowries and violence against children. Hypothesis 3 indicates that there is a direct relationship between hefty dowry and discontinuing paying the alimony.

Hypothesis 4 indicates that there is a direct relationship between hefty dowry and violence against women. The correlation coefficient is 0.74 and it shows a significant relationship between hefty dowry (independent variable) and the increase of violence against women (dependent variable) and positive correlation coefficient shows that there is a direct relationship between these two variables.

Question 11 which addresses the level of increase in violence against women with the average of 3.83 indicates that the participants believe the violence against women is increasing.

The reasons of increasing the level of dowry including traditions and cultural issues were discussed however, despite the fact that dowry has increased in recent years to strengthen the foundation of family, not only it has not strengthened the foundation of the family but also has inverse effects and the amount of dowries is still increasing.

Maybe that's why the Islamic parliament of Iran tried to solve the problem by enacting new law and determined a legal amount for dowry however, it should be noted whether the determination of the amount of 110 gold coins as legal dowry can reduce problems or it may cause other problems.

CONCLUSION

Regarding the increasing trend of dowry level and family conflicts as well as the issue that the increase of dowry is one of the reasons of conflicts, one of the judges believed that the reason of most family conflicts is the decrease in families' tolerance which should be investigated from sociological and cultural point of view.

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