

## ROLE OF DOWRY PROHIBITION ACT, 1961 TO REDUCE MENACE OF DOWRY: STUDY OF JODHPUR DISTRICT OF RAJASTHAN

---

Dr. Kuchta Ram\*  
Renu Parmar\*\*

### ABSTRACT

*Dowry system today spreads in almost all societies from urban areas to rural areas. Different governments today are trying to stop the menace of dowry. In this connection central government brings Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. A survey is conducted in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan through questionnaire to find out the effect of this act. The findings of survey analyzed in this paper.*

---

**Keywords:** Dowry, Jodhpur, Dowry Prohibition Act.

---

### Introduction

Today, dowry system become a big problem in marital affairs. Dowry system not only exists in almost all sections of society but also it spreads from urban to remote rural areas. Government passed Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 to eradicate this menace of society. A survey through questionnaire was conducted in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan to find out the effect of this act on present dowry system and awareness about this act.

### Study Area

Jodhpur district is located in the north-west part of Rajasthan state. Some part of Jodhpur district covers Thar desert and other parts of district also has harsh deserts conditions. Jodhpur district spreads 197 km from east to west and 208 km from north to south. Due to harsh climatic conditions peoples in rural areas are still lacking common necessary facilities. Persons of all caste reside in Jodhpur district. According to census 2011 the population of Jodhpur district is 36,87,615 out of which schedule caste population is 6,08,024 and schedule tribe population is 1,18,924. Jodhpur district is second largest district in terms of population and its population density is 161 person per sq. km.

According to census 2011 the total literacy rate in Jodhpur district is recorded 65.9 percent out of which urban literacy is 79.4 percent and rural literacy is 58.5 percent. There is large gap in male and female literacy rate in Jodhpur. The total male literacy in Jodhpur district is 79.0 percent whereas total female literacy is only 51.8 percent. Similarly, the urban literacy male is 86.7 percent and female literacy rate is 71.3 percent and rural male literacy is 74.6 percent whereas rural literacy rate as low as 41.2 percent.

### Methodology

A survey was conducted in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan through a questionnaire. A total of 200 female respondents were selected for the study from Jodhpur district. Selected female respondents were asked questions related to Dowry Prohibition Act, its provisions, IPC provision related to dowry and reasons for ineffective implementation of Act.

---

\* Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, JNVU, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India.

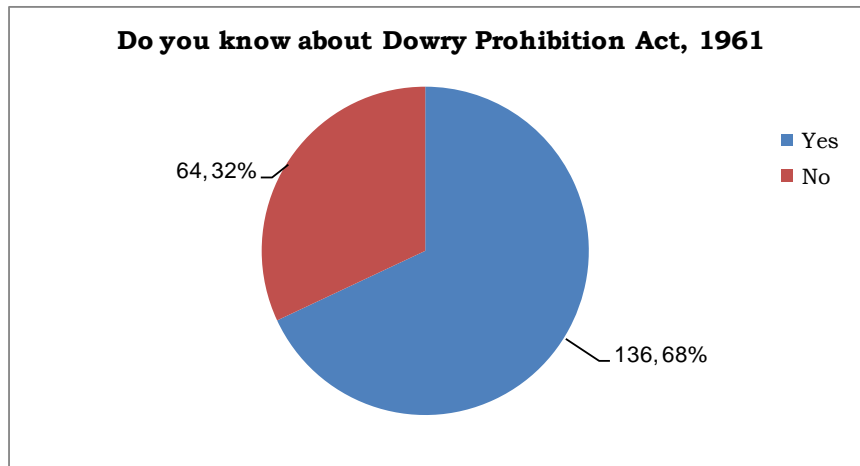
\*\* Research Scholar, Faculty of Law, JNVU, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India.

**Data**

Data collected through questionnaire are tabulated and qualitatively represented as follows:

**Do you know about Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.**

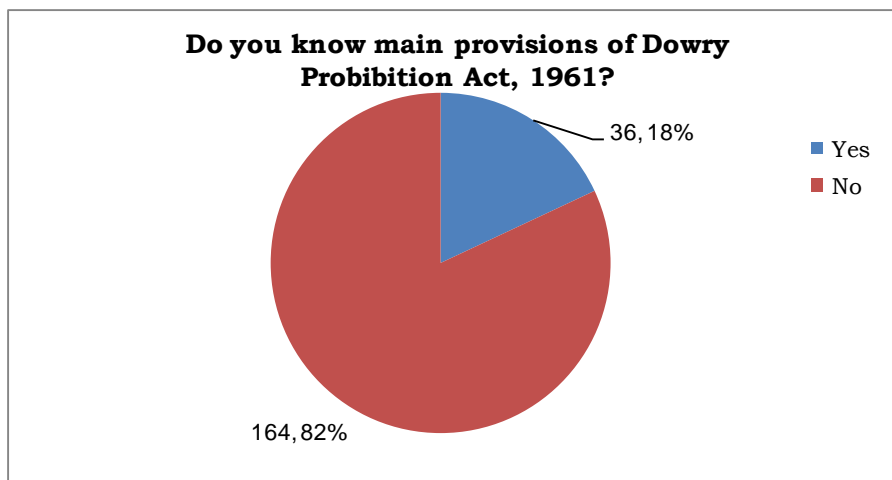
	Number	%
Yes	136	68
No	64	32
Total	200	100



The above table and graph reveal that when respondents selected for study are asked that "Do you know about Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961?" then 136 (68%) says yes whereas 64 (32%) says no. It shows that most of the respondents know about the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.

**Do you know about the main provisions of Dowry prohibition Act**

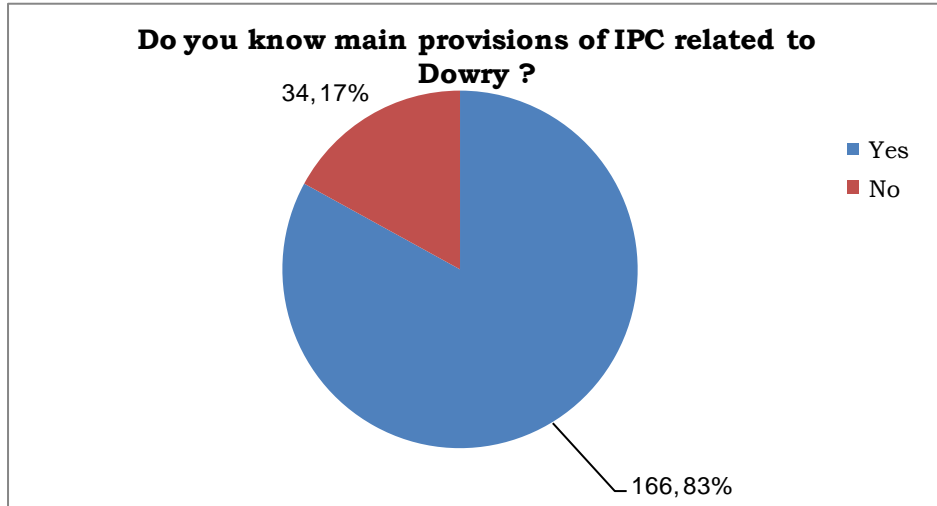
	Number	%
Yes	36	18
No	164	82
Total	200	100



The above table and graph reveal that when respondents selected for study are asked that "Do you know main provisions of Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961?" then only 36 (18%) says yes whereas 164 (82%) says no. It shows that most of the respondents although know about Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 but only a few of them know about main provision of this Act.

**Do you know about the main provisions IPC related to dowry?**

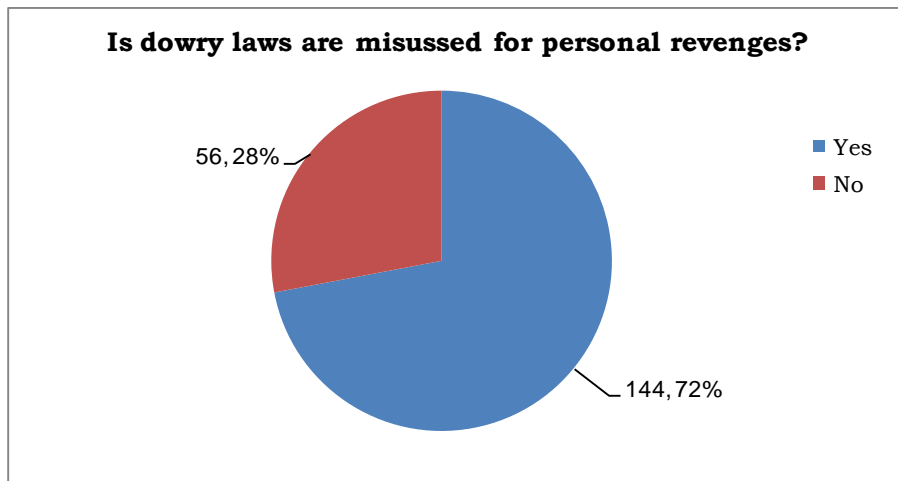
	Number	%
Yes	166	83
No	34	17
Total	200	100



The above table and graph reveal that when respondents selected for study are asked that "Do you know about main provisions of IPC related to dowry?" then 166 (83%) says yes whereas 34 (17%) says no. It shows that most of the respondents know about main provisions of IPC related to dowry.

**Do you believe that this act today misused for personal revenges.**

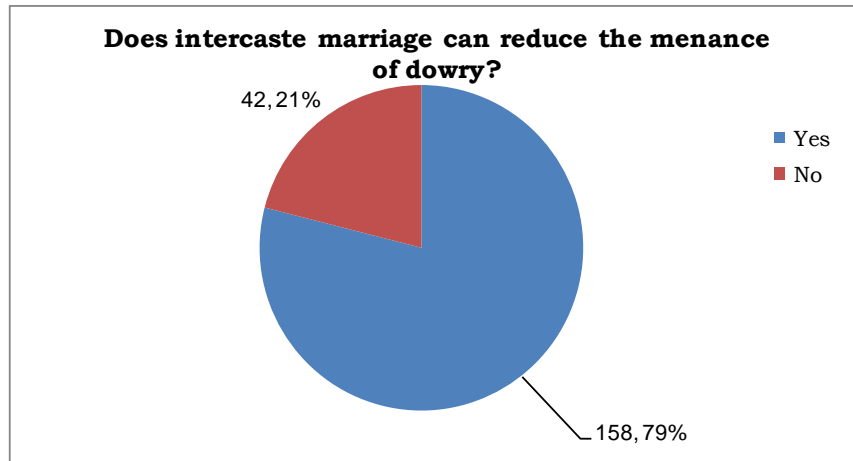
	Number	%
Yes	144	72
No	56	28
Total	200	100



The above table and graph reveal that when respondents selected for study are asked that "Is dowry laws are misused today for personal revenges?" then 144 (72%) says yes whereas 56 (28%) says no. It shows that most of the respondents agreed that today dowry is misused for personal revenges. Today many women used dowry laws for personal revenges although they are suffering from some other family problems.

**Do you think inter-caste marriages may help to reduce the menace of dowry**

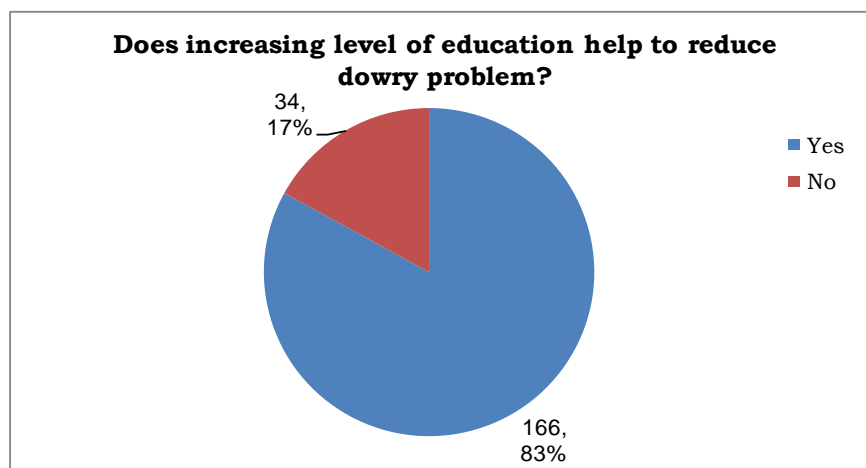
	Number	%
Yes	158	79
No	42	21
Total	200	100



The above table and graph reveal that when respondents selected for study are asked that "Does inter-caste marriage can reduce the menace of dowry? then 158 (79%) says yes whereas 42 (21%) says no. It shows that most of the respondents agreed that dowry is traditional custom so inter-caste marriage can help to reduce the dowry system but on the other hand only 21% respondents were not agreed.

**Does increasing level of education may reduce the problem of dowry**

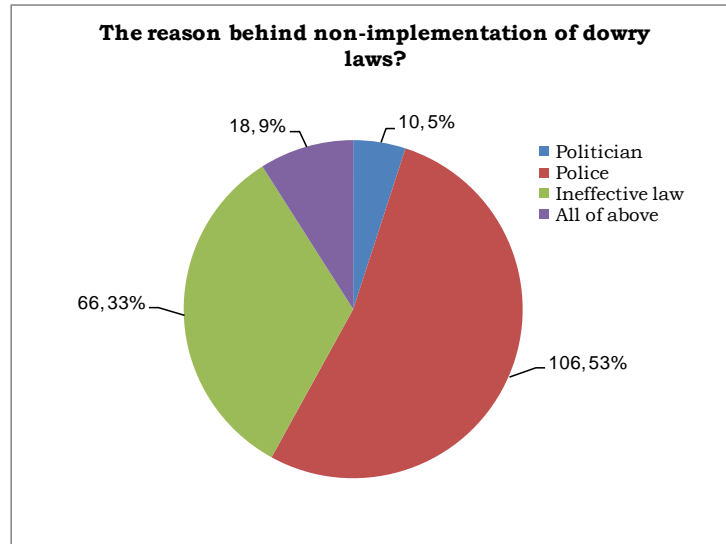
	Number	%
Yes	166	83
No	34	17
Total	200	100



The above table and graph reveal that when respondents selected for study are asked that "Does increasing level of education help to reduce dowry problem? then 166 (83%) says yes whereas 34 (17%) says no. It shows that most of the respondents agreed that increased level of education may help in reducing problem of dowry. The increased female education level help to make them economically and socially independent.

**What is reason behind non-effective implementation in Dowry cases**

	Number	%
Politician	10	5
Police	106	53
Ineffective law	66	33
All of above	18	9
Total		100



The above table and graph reveals that when respondents selected for study are asked that "What are the reasons behind non-effective implementation of dowry laws? then highest 106 (53%) says police, 66 (33%) says ineffective law, 10 (5%) says politician whereas 18 (9%) opined that all the above reasons are together responsible for ineffective implementation of dowry laws.

**Conclusion**

The analysis of data collected through questionnaire in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan shows that on one hand 136 (68%) respondents knows about the Dowry Prohibition Act but on the other hand only 36 (18%) knows about the main provisions of the Act. Respondents when asked that did, they knows about the main provisions of IPC related to dowry then 166 (83%) says yes which shows that most of females today knows about main provisions of IPC. Today, it is observed that dowry laws are misused in many cases and respondents were asked about it then 144 (74%) agrees that dowry laws are misused for personal revenges. Thus, it is clear that dowry laws are not much effective today. To find out the reason behind its respondents when asked who are responsible for ineffective implementation of dowry laws then 106 (53%) says police is not playing a fair significant role in dowry cases and 66 (33%) opined that weak law is also responsible for its in-effective implementation. 158 (79%) respondents opined that inter-caste marriage can help to reduce system of dowry whereas 166 (83%) respondents agrees that by raising education level of females and making them self-reliant the system of dowry may be reduced. Conclusively, the menace of dowry can be stopped only by making the provisions of dowry laws stronger and raising female literacy.

**References**

1. Chandra, Paul, Dowry and the Position of Women in India, New Delhi: Inter-India Publications, 1986.
2. Gokilavani, *Marriage, Dowry, Practice and Divorce*, Regal Publications, New Delhi (2008).
3. B.P.Beri. Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, Lucknow, Eastern Book Company, (1988).
4. Dr, N.S.J.Rao, "Dowry-An Inevitable Evil to Society and an Unavoidable Curse to Indian Women", in B.N.Das (Ed.), *Dowry: Diagnosis and Cure*, (1989), p.5.

