



A Critical Study of India's Judicial Procedure and Legislative Measures for Dowry Problems, With Particular References to Haryana State

Meenakshi, Research Scholar, Department of Law, Shri Khushal Das University

Abstract

The dowry system continues to be an important social and legal issue in India despite various legislative and judicial measures designed to prevent dowry demands, harassment, cruelty, and dowry-related deaths. This research critically examines the legal framework and judicial procedures adopted in India to address dowry-related problems, with particular reference to Haryana State. The study focuses on the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, relevant provisions of criminal law, and other legal mechanisms intended to protect women from dowry-related abuse. It examines the role of police authorities, investigating agencies, prosecution, courts, and other institutional mechanisms in the implementation of these provisions. Particular attention is given to the procedural challenges involved in reporting complaints, collecting evidence, conducting investigations, protecting victims and witnesses, and ensuring timely judicial proceedings. The study also considers the social and economic factors that contribute to the persistence of dowry practices, including patriarchal traditions, social expectations, financial pressures, and lack of legal awareness. Haryana provides a significant regional context for examining the interaction between legislation, judicial processes, and prevailing social practices. The research proposes to use statutory provisions, judicial decisions, government reports, legal literature, and relevant secondary sources to assess the effectiveness and limitations of existing measures. The study aims to identify gaps between law and implementation and suggest measures for improving legal awareness, institutional coordination, victim protection, and access to justice.

Keywords: Dowry system, Dowry Prohibition Act, judicial procedure, legislation, Haryana, dowry harassment, dowry-related violence, women's rights, legal protection, access to justice.

