



Attitude towards Dowry with Respect to Gender

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Abstract: *Attitude is a mental state since it exists in a person's mind. Allport (1968) noted that the concept of attitude is probably the most distinctive and indispensable concept in contemporary American social psychology. The fact that attitude is of greater interest to social psychologists is due to their key role in directing and channeling the various kinds of social behavior. Attempts have been made by social psychologists to define attitude in a concept way.*

Key Words: Tourism, Country, Fosters, Mutual Sympathy, Numerous, Exchequer, Modernity.

In the field of psychological sciences an attitude comprises of three components - affective, behavioral and cognitive, popularly called ABC model of attitude. Affect is used in psychology to mean emotion and feeling so affective component of an attitude is the way a person feels towards object, events or other person. In other words, the affective component of attitude consists of person's emotion and affect towards any object or event or person, especially positive or negative evaluations. The behavioral component of attitude is the action that the person takes with respect to object, person or situations. In other words, behavioral component consists of how the individual tends to act towards the stimulus. The cognitive component of attitude refers to the way the person thinks about another person, object or situation. These are the thoughts or broadly cognitions, which include beliefs and idea towards the object of attitude.

According to the various ancient scriptures, dowry means and includes the sum of money, household articles and other presents given to the bride at the time of her marriage by her parents and relatives as a present to the parents of the bridegroom.

Dowry maybe defined as the total of money, the household goods and other articles which are given by the parents of the bride to the parents of the bridegroom in the marriage generally on the demand of the latter failing which results in the bride being humiliated, tortured, burnt to death or
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forced to commit suicide by her in laws.

Dowry is a deep-rooted evil in our society and it should be curbed and abolished outright. Mere enacting to crush it is not enough. Public mind should be studied and molded to end this problem. On making observations of the literature on dowry system, it was strange to see that much has been talked and written on this problem, but little attention has been given to the constructions of the tools on this burning social issue. At least no attempt has been made to develop a reliable and valid instrument for measuring the feeling and attitude of the adolescents and adult.

Methodology: The present study was undertaken to understand the attitude of different gender towards the social practice of dowry.

Hypothesis:

H1. There would be a significant gender difference in attitude towards dowry.

H2. There would be no significant difference between attitude of married and unmarried women towards dowry.

H3. There would be no significant difference between attitude of married and unmarried men towards dowry.

Participants: The participants of the study consisted of college students, married couples, above the age of 18 and residing in Patna. The college students were selected from Patna Women's College and Bihar National College. The size of the sample was 100 (N=100), consisting of 50 males, out of



which 25 were married and 25 were unmarried and 50 females, out of which 25 were married and 25 were unmarried. The method of sampling was incidental cum purposive sampling method.

Tools: Dowry Attitude Scale (DAS) was used to measure the attitude of participants. The Dowry Attitude Scale (DAS) has been developed by R.R. Sharma to measure the attitude of adolescents and adults of both sexes. It can be extensively used on student population in particular and public in general.

Procedure: Data was collected over a span of 4 days. On first day, data was collected through a questionnaire from students of Patna Women's college after their informed consent. On second day data was collected through questionnaires from the students of Bihar National College after getting their informed consent. The next 2 days married couples were approached and were asked to voluntarily give their response to the questionnaire.

Results and Discussion: Interpretation of the result has been done hypothesis wise.

Hypothesis 1: There would be significant gender difference in attitude towards dowry.

Table 1

Gender	Dowry		t-ratio	df	P-value
	Mean	SD			
Males	201.18	17.02	12.44	98	P>0.0
Females	239.26	13.28			

Table value at df 98 on 0.01 level = 2.63

As it can be seen from the above table the mean attitude of males towards dowry is 201.18 and females is 239.26.

The percentile norms for males and females were referred from the manual of the Dowry Attitude Scale and it was concluded that males have a positive attitude while females have a neutral attitude.

Further analysis of the result reveals that the obtained t-ratio between the means is 12.44 which is significant at 0.01 level. Thus the obtained

t-ratio is showing significant difference between the two means. Thus the hypothesis has been proved. The SD values of males i.e. 17.02 and females i.e. 13.28 are quite less compared to the means which indicates less variation in the responses.

The result is supported by the study of Laur (2015) in which the result revealed that there existed a significant difference between the attitude of males and females towards dowry.

Hypothesis 2: There would be no significant difference between attitude of married and unmarried females towards dowry.

Table 2

Category	Mean	SD	t-ratio	df	P value
Married females	239.72	15.80	0.24	48	P<0.01
Unmarried females	238.8	10.11			

Table value at df 48 on 0.01 level=2.68

As it can be seen from the above table the mean attitude of married females towards dowry is 239.72 and unmarried females 238.8.

The percentile norm for females was referred from the manual of the Dowry Attitude Scale and it was concluded that both married and unmarried females have a neutral attitude towards dowry. Further analysis of the result shows that the obtained t-ratio (0.24) is not significant at 0.01 level because the df value at 48 on 0.01 level is 2.68. Thus the hypothesis stands accepted.

The SD values of married and unmarried females are 15.80 and 10.11 respectively which is quite less compared to mean. This indicates that there is less variation in the responses.

Hypothesis 3: There would be no significant difference between attitudes of married and unmarried men towards dowry.

Table 3

Category	Mean	SD	t-ratio	df	P value
Married males	191.4	15.49	4.87	48	P>0.01
Unmarried males	210.96	12.18			



Table value at df 48 0.01 level=2.68

As it can be seen from the above table the mean attitude of married male towards dowry is 191.4 and of unmarried male is 210.96. The percentile norms of males were referred from the manual of Dowry Attitude Scale and it was observed that the married males have a positive attitude towards dowry and the unmarried males have a neutral attitude towards dowry.

Further analysis of the result reveals that the obtained t-ratio (4.87) is significant at 0.01 level as the table value at df 48 on 0.01 level is 2.68. Thus the hypothesis stands rejected. The SD values of married males, 15.49 and of unmarried males 12.18 are quite less to the mean which indicates that there is less variation in the responses.

Conclusion: Time is dynamic, it is constantly changing which envelops the society of which man and woman are a part of. In the light of the recent past it has been observed that millennials have brought with themselves new way of life. They have broken caste barriers, old patriarchal practices have been challenged by them and they look for a more modern way of life. This paper attempted to study the attitude of those youth and young men

and women towards the age old social practice of dowry.

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