



Horrors of Dowry Deaths Faced By People of Kerala Dowry Deaths in Kerala 2019-2022

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THIS TOPIC CAME INTO NOTICE AS TO WHY KERALA HAVING THE HIGHEST LITERACY RATE FACED A TRAUMATIC THREE CONSECUTIVE DOWRY DEATHS WITHIN A WEEK SPAN. THIS PARTICULAR ARTICLE COVERS THE DOWRY DEATHS THAT HAD OCCURRED IN KERALA DURING 2019-2022 AND WHY SUCH A SITUATION HAD OCCURRED. SO BASICALLY DOWRY DEATH MEANS THE GIFTS WHICH ARE GIVEN TO THE GROOM'S FAMILY BY THE BRIDE'S FAMILY AS A PART OF THEIR ALLIANCE . IT IS ALSO GIVEN AS PART OF OLD TRADITION FOR HER MAINTAINANCE AN D HE IS DENIED FROM RECEIVING HER ANCESTRAL PROPERTY AS SHE HAS ALREADY BEEN PROVIDED WITH DOWRY.ACCORDING TO THE DOWRY PROHIBITION ACT OF 1985 WHICH TELLS THAT BOTH THE PARTIES SHOULD MAINTAIN A LIST OF GIFTS , BUT IT IS LEFT VAGUE ON HOW TO MAKE SUCH A LIST. IF WE LOOK INTO THE CURRENT DATA THAT WAS RELEASED BY THE KERALA ASSEMBLY ON 21ST FEBRUARY, KERALA POLICE HAD REGISTERED 223 CASES UNDER THE DOWRY PROHIBITION ACT FROM 2011 TILL FEBRUARY 10,2022. 79% OF THE CASES WERE CHARGE SHEETED BUT LESS THAN 4% WERE CONVICTED.

The mysterious deaths of three women, all under the age of 25, have exposed Kerala's pervasive domestic violence and

dowry-related persecution once more and sparked discussions about the role of women in families.

ANALYSIS OF THE THREE SHOCKING CONSECUTIVE DOWRY DEATHS THAT HAD OCCURRED IN KERALA:

UTHARA CASE:

FIRSTLY STARTING WITH THE UTHARA CASE WHICH HAD OCCURRED BEFORE THE THREE CONSECUTIVE DOWRY DEATHS . THIS CASE WAS REFERRED AS THE RAREST OF THEE RARE CASE.TWENTY FIVE YEAR OLD UTHARA WAS SNAKE BITE INFLICTED AND KILLED WHILE SHE WAS ASLEEP BY HER HUSBAND SOORAJ ON MAY7,2020. SOORAJ WAS A PRIVATE BANK EMPLOYEE WHO HAD PLANNED THIS MURDER BY WATCHING SNAKE HANDLING VIDEOS ON THE INTERNET. THE MOTIVE TO DO SO WAS TO INHERIT THE OWNERSHIP OF HIS WIFE'S DOWRY (GOLD) AND ALSO HER LIFE INSURANCE POLICY AMOUNT.POLICE WAS INFORMED THAT SOORAJHAD TAKEN THE LIFE INSURANCE POLICY A FEW MONTHS PRIOR TO HER DEATH. UTHRA'S FATHER REPORTED THAT HE HAD ALREADY GIFTED HIS FAMILY 100 SOVEREIGN GOLD,A NEW CAR.AND RS 10 LAKH IN CASH. THE ACCUSED HAD CONFESSED HIS PART IN CRIME TO THE PUBLIC MEDIA ABOUT HIM PURCHASING THE COBRA AND INTRODUCING IT TO THE BEDROOM WITH THE STRONG INTENTION TO KILL HIS



WIFE. THE KERALA POLICE COULD OBTAIN STRONG SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE WHICH SUPPORTED A CHARGE OF MURDER. ON 13TH OCTOBER 2021, SOORAJ WAS FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER BY THE KOLLAM SESSION'S COURT AND WAS SENTENCED TO 17 YEARS OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT WITH DOUBLE LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOLLOWED BY A MONETARY PENALTY OF RS 5 LAKH.

VISMAYA CASE:

VISMAYA WHO WAS AN AYURVEDA MEDICAL STUDENT HAD GOT MARRIED TO KIRAN KUMAR (ACCUSED) WHO WAS A MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTOR WITH THE STARE OF MOTOR VEHICLE DEPARTMENT IN MAY 2020. KIRAN WAS BASICALLY UNHAPPY WITH THE AMOUNT OF DOWRY GIVEN TO HIS FAMILY. THE DOWRY GIVEN INCLUDED A NEW CAR THAT COST UPTO RS 11 LAKH, 1.25 ACRES OF LAND AND 100 SOVEREIGNS OF GOLD. HE CONSTANTLY ABUSED / HARASSED HER ACCORDING TO THE PROSECUTION. VISMAYA HAD GOT INTO THE FAMILY WITH GREAT EXPECTATION. THE FATHER OF THE VICTIM USED TO BOAST ABOUT THE DOWRY WHICH HE HAD PROVIDED FOR HIS DAUGHTER BUT THE GROOM AND HIS FAMILY WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE MILEAGE OF THE CAR GIVEN AS DOWRY. HER DIGNITY AND INDIVIDUALITY WAS SHATTERED TO GROUND. THE VICTIM INITIALLY COULD NOT HANDLE THE PHYSICAL TORTURES AND USED TO STAY AT HER PLACE FOR THREE MONTHS. BUT THE ACCUSED CONVINCED HER PARENTS AND GOT HER BACK HOME AND THEN HE USED TO CONFISCATE HER PHONE IN CASE SHE CALLED HER PARENTS. THE VICTIM WAS FOUND DEAD ON 21ST JUNE, 2021 IN THE BATHROOM OF THE ACCUSED'S HOUSE. KIRAN WAS SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT UNDER IPC SECTION 304(DOWRY DEATH), SIX

YEARS RIGOROUS IMPRISONMENT UNDER 306 (ABETMENT TO SUICIDE), 2 YEARS UNDER 498 (CRUELTY TOWARDS WOMEN BY HER HUSBAND / RELATIVES), 6 YEARS RIGOROUS IMPRISONMENT OF DOWRY PROHIBITION ACT, AND 1 YEAR RI UNDER SECTION 4 OF THE SAME LAW.

ARCHANA'S CASE:

24 YEAR OLD ARCHANA HAD GOT INTO LOVE MARRIAGE WITH HER HUSBAND SURESH (ACCUSED). DURING MARRIAGE SURESH'S FATHER HAD ASKED FOR RS 3 LAKH AS DOWRY AND THIS AMOUNT WAS FOR SURESH'S BROTHER. SO THAT HE COULD BUY SOME LAND. THIS HAD LED TO SOME FIGHTS BETWEEN SURESH AND HIS OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS AND HE MOVED OUT OF THE HOUSE TO A RENTED PLACE WITH ARCHANA SINCE THEN THEY WERE THE ONLY TWO LIVING THERE. ARCHANA WAS REPORTED DEAD ON 21ST JUNE AT 11:30 PM. IT WAS REPORTED THAT ON MONDAY, HE HAD BOUGHT A DIESEL CAN WITH HIM. ARCHANA'S FATHER ASHOKAN HAS ALLEGED THAT IT WAS USED TO MURDER HIS DAUGHTER BUT HE ARGUED THAT HE HAD BOUGHT DIESEL TO KILL ANTS. ASHOKAN SAID THAT SURESH USED GET DRUNK AND WOULD INVOLVE IN FIGHTS WITH HIS DAUGHTER. EVEN THOUGH SHE HAD COMPLETED BSC NURSING HE DID NOT ALLOW HER TO GO TO WORK. SURESH WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY AFTER THE INCIDENT. THE POLICE HAD QUESTIONED HIM BUT NO CASE HAS BEEN FILED YET.

SUCHITRA'S CASE:

19 YEAR OLD SUCHITRA HAD GOT MARRIED TO HER HUSBAND VISHNU (ACCUSED) WHO WAS A SOLDIER ON 21ST MARCH. SHE GOT MARRIED AT AN EARLY AGE BECAUSE HER HOROSCOPE SAID THAT IF SHE DID NOT GET MARRIED BEFORE THE AGE OF 20, HER MARRIAGE WILL



NOT TAKE PLACE AFTER SEVEN YEARS.THE FAMILY HAD GIVEN 51 SOVEREIGN GOLD AND A CAR AS DOWRY. BUT THEN SUCHITRA WAS CONSTANTLY HARASSED BY HER IN LAWS DEMANDING FOR MORE MONEY. SUCHITRA'S FATHER SAID THAT THEY HAD DECIDED TO GIVE A TWO-WHEELER BUT THEN VISHNU'S FATHER HAD DEMANDED FOR A CAR AND RS 10 LAKH. SHE HAD CALLED HER MOM CRYING AND TELLING THAT WHY THEY HAD PROVIDED HER WITH GOLD.SUCHITRA DID NOT HAVE MUCH ISSUES WITH HER HUSBAND BUT HER MOTHER-IN-LAW KEPT ON PESTERING HER REGARDING THE AMOUNT OF DOWRY PROVIDED TO THE FAMILY.DURING THIS PERIOD WAS THE DEATH OF VISMAYA REPORTED AND SUCHITRA HAD CALLED HER MOTHER AND TOLD THAT SHE WOULD NOT BE TAKING SUCH DRASTIC MEASURES.ON 22ND JUNE ,SUCHITRA WAS FOUND DEAD IN HER ROOM AT HER IN LAW'S HOUSE.

MOFYA PARVEEN'S CASE:

LASTLY THE RECENT DOWRY DEATH CASE THAT HAD OCCURRED IN KERALA WAS OF MOFIYA PARVEEN WHO WAS A LAW STUDENT WHO HAD GOT MARRIED TO HER HUSBAND SUHAIL (ACCUSED).SHE HAD FACED DOMESTIC ABUSE FROM HER HUSBAND AND HIS FAMILYAND ALSO THE MISBIHAVIOUR FROM THE ALUVA EAST POLICE STATION HOUSE OFFICER.HER HUSBAND HAD DEMANDED FOR RS40 LAKH AS DOWRY AND SUHAIL'S FAMILY HAD ALSO THREATENED THAT SUHAIL WOULD OPT FOR ANOTHER MARRIAGE. THE CASE WAS TAKEN TO JUDICIAL FIRST CLASS MAGISTRATE COURT AND SUHAIL , HIS PARENTS YUSUF AND RUKIA WEREARRESTED AND SENT TO JUDICIAL CUSTODY FOR 14 DAYS.

CONCLUSION:

THE IMPORTANT FACT TO BE NOTICED IN ALL THE FIVE CASES ARE THAT THE FUEL TO THE FLAME WAS ADDED BY THE BRIDE'S FAMILY. OFFERING THESE GIFTS ARE TOTALLY UNECESSARY AND IF SO IT SHOULD BELONG TO HIS /HER DAUGHTER AND NOT TO THE GROOM'S FAMILY.THE BRIDE'S FAMILY OFFERED THESE GIFTS IN THE FIRST PLACE WHICH INCREASED THE GREED OF THE GROOM'S FAMILY. THE OTHER IMPORTANT ASPECT TO BE POINTED OUT IS THAT ABOUT THE LAW ENFORCERS WHO ARE SADLY NOT SERIOUS ABOUT THE DOWRY COLLECTION GOING ON IN THE STATE WHICH EVENTUALLY LEAD TO THE EYE OPENING THREE CONSECUTIVE DOWRY DEATHS OCCURRED IN KERALA LIKE THE POLICE OFFICER WHO HAD HARASSED MOFIYA PARVEEN AND ALSO THE INSENSITIVE REMARKS ABOUT WOMEN TRIGGRING OUTRAGE GIVEN BY THE FORMER KERALA'S WOMEN COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON M.C.JOSEPHINE AND ALSO A MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTOR HIMSELF BEING THE ACCUSED IN CASE OF VISMAYA'S DOWRY DEATH. THIS CAN ONLY BE CHANGED IF WE CHANGE OUR ATTITUDE. IT IS TIME FOR THE SOCIETY TO HAVE A BROADER PERSPECTIVE AND LOOK AT THINGS AT DIFFERENT ANGLE SO THAT WE WOULD NOT LOSE ANY MORE LIVES.