



***Patriarchal Ideology and Honour Related Violence
against women in India***

Presented By

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Hundreds, if not thousands, of women are murdered by their families each year in the name of family "honour."

What makes a father, brother, and mother kill a close female kin for honour's sake? Why do women have to be killed or sent on exile for choosing their own lifestyles and partners? How can a brother, whom should be the protector, becomes the killer of his own sister?

What is Honour Related Violence?

Honour violence is a form of violence against women committed with the motive of protecting or regaining the *honour of the perpetrator, family, or community*. Victims of Honour violence are targeted because their actual or perceived behaviour is deemed to be shameful or to violate cultural or religious norms. *Norms, such as resisting an arranged marriage, seeking a divorce, adopting a western lifestyle and wearing western clothing, and having friends of the opposite sex and facebooking have resulted in Honour violence.*

All of these abuses have the same roots, and those roots are patriarchy, misogyny, and inequality.

Patriarchal Ideology & Honour Related Violence

Honour violence occurs in patriarchal communities where women are considered the property of male relatives and are responsible for upholding family honour. *In a strong patriarchal society the word honour is not measured with the worthiness of a man, but rather the honour lies in the women under the control of a man.* Contrary to popular belief, honour crimes do not have anything to do with religion, although perpetrators may try to justify their actions on religious grounds.

Indicators of Honour Related Violence against women

- a girl/woman is not allowed to have friends of opposite sex,
- a girl/woman can not dress as she would like or that she is forced to wear an item of clothing against her will,
- she is not allowed to go out,
- she cannot spend time with friends,
- she cannot marry the person she want to,
- she is not in charge of her own body, her life or her sexuality,
- she is always supervised or controlled,
- she is not allowed to continue her studies, or may only study in the town where her family lives, and
- she is controlled by her family/relatives, who have more power than she do.

Forms of Honour Related Violence and Oppression

Forced
abortion &
hymen Repair

Abduction and
imprisonment

Forced
marriage

Honour
suicide

Honour killing

Some Reasons and Facts Behind Honor Killing



Some Statistics

The UN has estimated that 5,000 women are murdered by family members each year in “honour killings” but according to women’s advocacy groups the figure could be around 20,000.

Across the country, love related disputes were the third most common motive for murder in 2012, Affairs of the heart resulted in 2,549 killings last year, up by 184 since 2010. In some states, “love affairs/sexual causes” accounted for the highest number of murders, according to the 2012 data released by the National Crime Records Bureau, Andhra Pradesh topped the list with 445 such murders, followed by the northern state of Uttar Pradesh with 325, and Tamil Nadu, also in the south, with 291.

Harsh Malhotra, who set up the voluntary organization Love Commandos in 2010 to help protect young couples from their disapproving families, said his organization receives 600 to 700 phone calls every day from couples who face opposition from their families for marrying outside their caste or religion, with the most coming from Andhra Pradesh, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab.

According to women’s right campaigners over 10,000 women are murdered each year in the country in Honour killings, most of which take place in the northern states.

Effective Strategies and Action Plan

- It would be useful in the future if the police reported HRV cases as a specific crime category.
- Conduct effective investigations of the crime, and prosecute and sanction acts of violence perpetrated by State or private actors, especially when these acts demonstrate a pattern of systemic violence towards women.
- Include legal reform to criminalize violence against women, regardless of whether it occurs in public or private;
- There is a need of preventive work in for example schools, youth recreation centres and within the social service. This preventive work must have focus on strengthening the self-confidence of girls and increase the understanding and empathy of boys regarding equality and honour related norms.

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- Ensure that “front-line responders”, such as the police, judges and social workers are attuned to their key role in supporting victims and sanctioning perpetrators;
- Work closely with the media, the educational system, community-based organizations and women’s groups to undertake the revolutionary task of transforming societal attitudes which tolerate or condone violence;
- Modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women and eliminate prejudices, customary practices and other practices based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes, and on stereotyped roles for men and women;

Concluding Remarks

In honor culture the family's honor is valued by the girl's or the woman's social and sexual behavior, in her virginity, and is therefore dependent on how well she can manage the deeply rooted traditional norms that describes what is acceptable or not. Anyone who violates these norms and rules must be punished, and *the most extreme form is killing*, 'so called' honor killings, sanctioned by the community.

Oppression and violence in the name of 'so called' honor prevent girls and women to make choices about their own life. It restricts them in their everyday life, and is an act of serious discrimination and violation against human rights.

The complexities between the collective and individual values need further understanding, especially in view of conflicts between honour values and modernization, therefore, more research is strongly recommended.

It is felt that there have to be *separate act/ legislation for the Honour Killings* as per the recommendations of the Law Commissions as it is a Socio Legal Issue and therefore there is a need to draft a separate and stringent law along with thorough quantum of sentencing for ‘Honour Killings so as to combat this evil in this society before it takes an ugly turn.



THANK YOU