



History

Explore—Journal of Research for UG and PG Students

ISSN 2278 – 0297 (Print)

ISSN 2278 – 6414 (Online)

© Patna Women's College, Patna, India

<http://www.patnawomenscollege.in/journal>

Honour Killing – A Heinous Crime

- Anuja Kumari • Shikha Shree • Heena
- Sister Matilda Pereira A.C.

Received : November 2011
Accepted : March 2012
Corresponding Author : Sister Matilda Pereira A.C.

Abstract : *This study focuses on people's perception on honour crimes, the extent to which it is prevalent in India and the different laws that can be enacted against this crime. It has been suggested that in large number of honour killings, the victims are mainly women. The violence towards these peoples different from culture to culture. It has been argued that more Muslim countries comply with this crime than the other countries. To investigate these issues in depth a qualitative research strategy was adopted. From the secondary research that was conducted, it was clear that honour crimes are motivated by cultural beliefs. However there is not one clear definition to honour killings and people's perception varies according to time and culture. It*

was found that honour killings fall under the category of domestic violence and under the violation of human rights in India. It has not yet been kept in a separate category. The concept of honour killing has recently been highlighted and more people are aware of it. A new task force has been assigned to tackle this crime. The main conclusion that were extracted from this study are that honour killings are mostly prevalent in North India in the states like Punjab, Haryana, U.P, Rajasthan, Bihar etc. The Khap Panchayats are supported politically by many politicians in India just for their vote banks.

Key words : *Honour killing, old tradition, cosmopolitan generation, discrimination, vilest.*

Anuja Kumari

B.A. III year, History (Hons.), Session: 2009-2012,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Shikha Shree

B.A. III year, History (Hons.), Session: 2009-2012,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Heena

B.A. III year, History (Hons.), Session: 2009-2012,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Sister Matilda Pereira A.C.

Associate Professor, Department of History,
Patna Women's College, Bailey Road,
Patna – 800 001, Bihar, India
E-mail : pwcpat@sancharnet.in

Introduction:

Honour Killing as it is euphemistically called is the ultimate retribution imposed by men on women whose actions are deemed to have besmirched the family's honour. The persistence of such practice despite prosperity and education remains to be introspected. It curbs the possibilities of change which are marred by the medieval mindset. To bring about a social change thus becomes a challenge which stands in confrontation with the traditional structures of authority. It is also time to make a choice as a modern nation determined to keep our trust with modern democracy or a tradition enraptured society where an imagined Indian