



History

Explore–Journal of Research

ISSN 2278 – 0297 (Print)

ISSN 2278 – 6414 (Online)

UGC Approved List of Journals No. - 64404

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

Forced to Wed : Right to choose, if when and whom to marry

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Received : November 2018

Accepted : March 2019

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Abstract : *Forced marriages may seem a remote problem but it largely takes place in all parts of the world. The tender age of childhood is often transformed into a responsible task. The marriage without consent has involved in many forms. Marriage has been a very old social institution. It has been in the history since ages. This paper presents the different kinds of forced marriages practiced in India. Pakadwa Vivah in Bihar, Slave brides in Haryana, Contract marriages with Sheikhs in Hyderabad, Marriages with Rapists and child marriages are the different forms of forced marriages. There are different*

factors responsible for forced marriages mainly poverty, lack of education and dowry, family prestige etc. We also come across severe violence associated with forced marriages. The domestic violence leads to divorce, dowry, health issues et cetera. Forced marriages are not only practiced in India but also in developed countries like Canada, USA and UK. We have interviewed lawyers of Patna High Court and Police Officers to precisely understand the extent of forced marriages and existing laws related with it, we have conducted surveys on approximately 500 people to understand the factors responsible for forced marriages and so on. The problem of forced marriages is one that hits closer to home than many readers might suspect, but governments both In India and abroad are aware of the problems and taking steps to address it. With the continued support of government and non-governmental organizations more victims will be able to come forward and, in course of time this practice will get stagnated.

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Keywords: *Forced Marriage, Child Marriage, Dowry, Poverty, Domestic Violence, Government.*