

Husbands fall prey to anti-dowry law

Reuters

Posted: Dec 13, 2006 at 1014 hrs IST

Husbands are becoming victims of an anti-dowry law which is being misused by their wives to extort money, a group representing men who have been accused of dowry abuse said.

Members of 498a.org -- a group representing thousands of men and their families named -- claim there are growing numbers of false cases being registered under the anti-dowry law or Section 498a of the Indian Penal Code that seeks to protect women.

"There are thousands of men and their families who are victims of the abuse of this law, who are locked up in jail and undergo severe mental, emotional and social trauma as a result," Anupama Singh, a member of 498a.org, named after the dowry law informed.

Singh said the main reason for registering false cases was to extort money, or gain custody of children during divorce.

The number of false cases against husbands was growing by 20 per cent every year as "unscrupulous women are realising there is a money to be made by the divorce industry," she said.

According to statistics 498a.org obtained from the ministry of home affairs, 18 per cent of the 58,319 cases of dowry abuse registered in 2005 were dropped due to frivolous grounds.

But women's rights activists say there is no clear statistics to prove that law which came into force in 1983 is being intentionally abused.

"489a is one of the most important tools in the hands of Indian women who have suffered abuse," said Yogesh Mehta, legal officer for the National Commission for Women.

"The Commission is of the view that so far we don't have clear statistics that the law is being intentionally misused."

Police say the most common form of domestic violence is dowry-related and that there one case of cruelty committed by the husband or his relatives every nine minutes in the country.

Flawed

But 498a.org says the anti-dowry law, as well as a new domestic violence act which came into force in October is biased in favour of women as no evidence is required by the wife to prove that she has been harassed or abused.

"Under the law, the accused can be arrested and jailed without warrant or investigation, the complaint cannot be withdrawn by the petitioner and it is non-bailable," said JK Grover, a member of 498a.org.

"It's ridiculous. We don't want to scrap the laws, we just want to ensure that it is fair and balanced. The government needs to plug all the loop holes in both the laws."

Most Read Articles

- [13-year-old girl dies as man grabs hand, jum...](#)
- [Dawood Ibrahim has same IQ level as Swami Vi...](#)
- [Taj corridor case: Mayawati not to face tria...](#)
- [US polls: Barack Obama, Mitt Romney to make ...](#)
- [BJP defends Nitin Gadkari on Swami Vivekanan...](#)
- [Axed Suresh Raina leaves in huff as India pi...](#)



Post Comments

Name*	<input type="text"/>	Email ID*	<input type="text"/>
Subject*	<input type="text"/>	Country*	<input type="text" value="Select"/>
Message*	<input type="text"/>		
	Characters remaining	1000	

TERMS OF USE:

The views, opinions and comments posted are your, and are not endorsed by this website. You shall be solely responsible for the comment posted here. The website reserves the right to delete, reject, or otherwise remove any views, opinions and comments posted or part thereof. You shall ensure that the comment is not inflammatory, abusive, derogatory, defamatory &/or obscene, or contain pornographic matter and/or does not constitute hate mail, or violate privacy of any person (s) or breach confidentiality or otherwise is illegal, immoral or contrary to public policy. Nor should it contain anything infringing copyright &/or intellectual property rights of any person(s).

I agree to the terms of use.

Submit

Reset

[Home](#)
Blogs

[Money](#)
Estates

[Cricket](#)
Astrology

[Classifieds](#)
[Tenders](#)
