CASE-STUDIES SHOWING CHANGE IN DOWRY SYSTEM

Dowry in Educated Gaddi Families

1. The dowry items received at my own marriage two years ago were: a double bed, one steel almirah, two chairs, one table, two quilts, a mattress and a bed, a fan, a sewing machine, steel utensils, a brass pitcher (gaggar), two cooking vessels (pateeley), five steel full plates (thalis), twelve vegetable dishes (katories), six glasses, six cups, twelve spoons, some suits and a radio set.

   - Lat Ram, 23, Village-Chaled (Eharmour), Chamba.

2. The dowry items brought by my wife at our marriage four years ago included utensils of steel, a two-in-one, a steel box, a sofa, a double bed and a sewing machine.

   - Puran Chand Thakur, 32, Village-Sachuin (Eharmour), Chamba.

3. The dowry items given to me in my marriage by my parents were: a nose ring of gold (balu), a forehead wear of gold (mantikka), a gold ring, a gold pendant, silver anklets pajeb (pariyan), a silver head-wear (chakphuli) a silver head necklace (dodmala), silver bangles, a sari, a suit, a cotton gown (luanchari), a silken sheet to cover
the body (reehra), a radio set, some glasses, a dining table, a box each of steel and wood, a large brass vessel (baltoi), a sewing machine and a double bed.

- Smt. Kailash Devi, 36, Village-Bharmour (Chamba).

4. The dowry items given to me in my marriage by my parents included a bed (palang), a spinning wheel (charkha), a suit, a sari, a sewing machine, a table, a chair, steel utensils, a silver necklace (chanderhar), a golden nose ring, a forehead wear of gold, gold ear-rings (bali), a gold ring, bracelets of silver (tokay or gojru) and anklets of silver.


5. My daughter-in-law brought as dowry beds, chairs, tables, boxes of aluminium and wood, a sewing machine, five suits for her and clothes for the boy.

- Baldev, 33, Village-Chhatrari (Mehla), Bharmour, Chamba.

6. The dowry brought by my wife consisted of two chairs, a sofa, a sewing machine, steel utensils, a double bed, a box of aluminium, a radio set, three suits, a golden nose-ring, a golden forehead wear, gold ear-rings, anklets of silver, and silver bracelets.

- Rajinder Singh, 27, Village-Gehra (Mehla), Bharmour, Chamba.
7. The dowry items given to my wife at our marriage were: a full plate (thali) of steel, a water jug (lota), a serving spoon (karchhi), a glass of steel, a sickle (dranti or datri), a cotton gown, four dupattas (ghundu), two woollen gowns (cholas), a woollen rope (dora), a golden necklace, silver bracelets, a golden nose-topus (long), and head-wear of silver.

- Bhajan Singh, 30,
  Village - Rahla (Bharmour), Chamba.

8. The dowry items given to my wife at our marriage were: a single bed, a table, a chair, a spinning wheel, a box each of aluminium and wood, a cotton gown, five suits and two saris.

- Chunni Lal Rane, 33,
  Village-Malkohta (Bharmour), Chamba.

9. The dowry items brought by my wife at our marriage were: two cotton gowns, 15 suits, two woollen shawls (Chadars), steel and brass utensils, a radio set, a forehead-wear of gold, anklets of silver, a silver head-wear, bangles of silver and bracelets of silver.

- Narayan Singh, 26,
  Village - Malkohta (Bharmour), Chamba.
10. The dowry items brought by my wife at our marriage included a double bed, a radio set, a sewing machine, a table, a chair, a dining table, two steel boxes, an electric press, a heater, steel utensils, a crockery tea set, a suit for me, 30 suits for the bride, two cotton gowns, a woollen rope, a golden nose-ring (nath), a golden forehead-wear, a gold ring, a silver headwear and a separate set of silver ornaments.

- Dina Nath, 29, Village - Lamu (Bharmour), Chamba.

11. The dowry items given by her parents to my wife at our marriage were: a cot, a big brass vessel, steel utensils, a spinning wheel, a sitting tea poi (peehra), two wooden boxes, a buffalo, two cotton gowns, three suits, four self-woven woollen blankets (pattoo or gararu).

- Preetam Chand, 30, Village - Narwana (Nagrota), Kangra.

12. The dowry brought by my wife comprised a small brass container (chrotu), a brass pitcher, a copper container for water (tamara), steel utensils, a steel almirah, a spinning wheel, a few suits, a sewing machine, gold ear-rings, a gold
13. The principal items of my daughter's dowry were:
a steel full plate, a water jug, a radio set, a watch, a table, a chair, a sofa, a box, a big brass vessel, steel utensils, a single bed, a palanquin (palaki), a pair of shoes (mochari), silver ornaments in greater quantity and a gold ring.

- Bhagal Ram, 62
Village - Narwana (Nagrota), Kangra.

14. The items of dowry brought by my wife at our marriage seven years ago included a single bed, an aluminium box, a spinning wheel, a brass container, 15 full plates, two self-made woollen blankets, a serving spoon, a chapati toaster (tawa), a spatchular spoon (taintha), chapati-making wooden items (chakla and belan), a cotton gown, three suits, golden earrings, golden nose-pin, a silver headwear, silver bracelets and silver anklets.

- Dina Nath, 28,
village - Sidhpur, Kangra.

15. I am against dowry, so when I was married, I declined to accept anything as dowry from my parents-in-law.

- Thakur Singh, MLA, 34,
Village - Sachuin (Bharmaur), Chamba.
16. Apropos of dowry, something very unusual happened in our village last year. A marriage had to be cancelled when all preparations for it had already been made due to extravagant demands for dowry by the boy's parents.

- Brahmanand, 50,
  Village - Sidhpur,
  Kangra.

17. There is no tradition of demanding dowry among the Gaddis.

- Karam Chand, 44,
  Village - Sidhpur,
  Kangra.

Dowry in Non-Educated Gaddi Families

1. At the marriage of my son, some suits, a table and chairs, and utensils of steel were given as new items besides the traditional ones.

- Sohnu Ram, 55,
  Village - Malkohta (Bharmour),
  Chamba.

2. The dowry items given to my daughter at her marriage were: two brass containers, two full plates (thalis), a glass, a kneading brass dish (prat), a brass water pitcher, an oil stove, a cooker, a silver necklace, silver bracelets, two silver bangles, silver-made head wear, a golden nose-pin,
a sewing machine, a spinning wheel, two chairs, a table, a single bed, six suits, two cotton gowns and three self-made blankets.

- Dharam Chand, 42, Village - Malkohta (Bharmour), Chamba.

3. The dowry given to my daughter-in-law by her parents at my son's marriage included 15 suits, 15 shawls, two saries, a cooler, an oil stove, a large brass vessel, a radio set, a watch and a suit for my son, an electric press, a steel tea-set, a bucket, a brass pitcher, a bed, a table, a chair for a table and two easy chairs.

- Gora Ram, 50, Village - Malkohta (Bharmour), Chamba.

4. The dowry given to my daughter-in-law by her parents at the marriage of my son consisted of a golden nose-ring, forehead wear of gold, a headwear of silver, a cotton gown and suits besides all other traditional items.

- Chalnu Ram, 65, Village - Gosan (Bharmour), Chamba.