<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter I Introduction</td>
<td>1 - 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter II Review of Related Literature and Theories of Feminism</td>
<td>31 - 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter III Methodology</td>
<td>61 - 71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter IV Dowry, Women's Status and Feminism</td>
<td>72 - 119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter V Divorce, Women’s Status and Feminism</td>
<td>120 - 165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter VI Mismatching, Women’s Status and Feminism</td>
<td>166 - 220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter VII Analysis and Interpretation</td>
<td>221 - 231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A Bibliography</td>
<td>232 - 236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B Operational Definitions</td>
<td>237 - 238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C Facts and Figures</td>
<td>239 - 258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D Graphs and Map</td>
<td>259 - 266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E Paper Clippings</td>
<td>267 - 278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F Appendix</td>
<td>279 - 288</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIST OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1. Reasons for Women's Oppression 2
1.2. Idealhood of Women 4
1.3. Images of Women by Popular Personalities 5
1.4. Women in Ancient India 7
1.5. Women and Indian Constitution 10
1.6. Women in Independent India 11
1.7. Women in India - Today 12
1.8. Women and Employment 16
1.9. Social Evils against Women
   1.9.1 Devadasis 21
   1.9.2. Sati 21
   1.9.3. Polygamy 22
   1.9.4. Purdah 22
   1.9.5. Child Marriage 23
   1.9.6. Widowhood 24
   1.9.7. Female Infanticide 25
   1.9.8. Wife Battering 25
   1.9.9. Prostitution 27
   1.9.10. Rape 28
   1.9.11. Dowry 29

Chapter 2

Part I Review of Related Literature

2.1. Introduction 31
2.2. Dowry
   2.2.1. History of Dowry 31
   2.2.2. Dowry as Social Evil 33
   2.2.3. Economics of Dowry 34
   2.2.4. Role of Women in Dowry 35
   2.2.5. Shreedhan, Kanyadhan and Varadakshina 36
   2.2.6. Role of Organisations and Women's Movements 37
   2.2.7. Laws Related to Dowry 38
2.2.8. Reasons for Dowry

2.3. Divorce

2.3.1. Muslim Practice of Divorce

2.3.2. Opinion About Divorce

2.3.3. Divorce-Laws

2.3.4. Divorce and Maintenance

2.3.5. Reasons for Divorce

2.4. Marriage and Matching

2.4.1. Marriage and Married Life

2.4.2. Necessary Matching for Family Life

2.4.3. Importance of Conversation in Family Life

2.4.4. Role of Children in Marriage in Life

2.4.5. Problems in Family Life

2.4.6. Selection of Partners

2.4.7. Expectation in Family Life

2.4.8. Conclusion

Part II - Different Theories of Feminism

2.5. Value Theory (Robert Coombs)

2.6. Theory of Social Action (Talcott Parsons)

2.7. Exchange Theory (John Edwards)

2.8. Stimulus - Value - Role Theory (Bernard Murstein)

2.9. The Theories of Function and Dysfunction (H.M. Johnson)

2.10. Theories of Feminism

2.10.1. Liberal Feminism

2.10.2. Marxist Feminism

2.10.3. Radical Feminism

2.10.3.1. Patriarchy

2.10.3.2. The Family

2.10.4. Socialist Feminism

Chapter 3

Methodology

3.1. Statement of the Problem

3.2. Need and Importance of the Study

3.3. Sources of Data and Technique of Data Collection

3.4. Objectives of Study
Chapter 4

Dowry, Women's Status and Feminism

4.1. Dowry as a Sexist Problem
   4.1.1. Bride Price
   4.1.2. Kanyadan - Dakshina - Stridhna (Streedhana)
   4.1.3. Economics of Dowry
   4.1.4. Reasons for Dowry
   4.1.5. Consequences of Dowry
   4.1.6. The History of Dowry
4.2. Positive Attitudes Towards Dowry
   4.2.1. Dowry as Leisure Class Behaviour
   4.2.2. Dowry as a Status Symbol to Men
   4.2.3. Dowry as a Gratifying Factor
   4.2.4. Dowry as Women's Property
   4.2.5. Dowry as an Economic Security
   4.2.6. Dowry as a Parental Love
   4.2.7. Dowry as a Status Symbol to Women
   4.2.8. Dowry as a Social Security
   4.2.9. Dowry as a Social Custom
   4.2.10. Dowry as an Important Factor in Marriage
4.3. Negative Attitude Towards Dowry
   4.3.1. Dowry as Men's Primary Aim
   4.3.2. Dowry as a Purchasing Tool
   4.3.3. Women's Role in Dowry
   4.3.4. Women's Negative Attitude Towards Property Share
   4.3.5. Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961
4.4. Dowry and Society
   4.4.1. Dowry as a Delaying Factor
   4.4.2. Dowry and Mismatching
   4.4.3. Dowry Subordinates Women
4.4.4. Dowry and Female Infanticide

4.4.5. Dowry and Divorce

4.4.6. Dowry as a Social Evil

4.5. Suggestions for Eradication of Dowry

4.5.1. Need for an Alternative Source to Dowry

4.5.2. Dowry and Love Marriage

4.5.3. Need for Amendment in Dowry Prohibition Act

4.5.4. Punishment for Dowry Harassment

4.5.5. Need for Women's Property Right

4.5.6. Need for Equal Rights Act

4.6. Summary

4.7. Case Studies

4.7.1. Case I

4.7.2. Case II

4.7.3. Case III

4.8. Dowry System in Kanyakumari District

4.8.1. Sreedhanam

4.8.2. Dowry - Present Trend

4.8.3. Basic Principle Behind Dowry

4.8.4. "Aadi Expense" in Nadar Community

4.8.5. Dowry at the Time of First Delivery

4.9. Dowry System of Practice in Kanyakumari District

4.9.1. Cash and Jewels as Dowry

4.9.2. Permanent Assets as Dowry

4.9.3. Seervarisai

4.9.4. Bank Deposits as Dowry

4.9.5. Dowry to In-Laws

4.9.6. Dowry to New Baby

4.10. Liberal Feminism and Dowry

4.11. Radical Feminism and Dowry

4.12. Marxist Feminism and Dowry

Chapter 5

Divorce, Women's Status and Feminism

5.1. Divorce as a Sexist Problem

5.2. Marriage

5.2.1. Marital Adjustment

5.2.2. Children and Family Life
5.2.3. Wife's Employment and Family Life 122
5.2.4. International Pattern in Family Life 123
5.2.5. Understanding and Family Life 123

5.3. General Reasons for Marital Problem 124
5.3.1. Economic Problem 124
5.3.2. Problems with In-Laws Problems 124
5.3.3. Temperamental Problems 124

5.4. Marriage and Divorce Laws in Different Religions 128
5.4.1. Hindu Marriage Act of 1955 128
5.4.2. Muslim Marriage Act 129
5.4.3. Christian Marriage Act 129

5.5. Respondent's Opinions on Divorce 131
5.5.1. Increase in Divorce Rate 132
5.5.2. Reasons for Divorce 132
5.5.3. Possibility to Check Divorce 133
5.5.4. Suggestions to Check Divorce 135
5.5.5. Divorce and Affected People 135
5.5.6. Consequences of Divorce on Children 136
5.5.7. Divorce Law 137
5.5.8. Divorce in Society 137
5.5.9. Acquaintance with Divorcees 138
5.5.10. Reasons for Divorce 139
5.5.11. Initiating Persons for Divorce 140
5.5.12. Efforts to Avoid Divorce 140
5.5.13. Measures to Avoid Divorce 142
5.5.14. Reasons for not Taking Efforts to Avoid Divorce 143
5.5.15. Need for Divorce 143
5.5.16. Prevalence of Misunderstanding 144
5.5.17. Reasons for Misunderstanding 145
5.5.18. Respondent's Personal Opinion on Divorce and Reason 145
5.5.19. Divorce and Mutual Understanding 147

5.6. Summary 148

5.7. Case Analysis of Divorcees in Kanyakumari District 150
5.7.1. Age at Divorce 151
5.7.2. Difference in The Age of Couple 152
5.7.3. Duration of Wedded Life 153
5.7.4. Educational Status of the Divorcees 154
5.7.5. Occupational Status of the Divorcees 155
5.7.6. Forms of Family 155
6.8.2. Types of Marriage
6.8.3. Age Difference Between Couple
6.8.4. Family Responsibility
6.8.5. Mutual Assessment of the Quality of the Partners
   6.8.5.1. Assessment on Husbands by Wives (Positive Qualities)
   6.8.5.2. Assessment on Wives by Husbands (Positive Qualities)
   6.8.5.3. Assessment on Husbands by Wives (Negative Qualities)
   6.8.5.4. Assessment on Wives by Husbands (Negative Qualities)
6.8.6. Measures to Avoid Partners' Negative Qualities (Efforts to Correct Partners)
6.8.7. Misunderstanding between Husband and Wife
6.8.8. Intervention of the Family Members
6.8.9. Opinion on Divorce due to Mismatchings
6.9. Matching of Partners in Terms of Physical Features
   6.9.1. Comparative Age of Husbands and Wives
   6.9.2. Comparative Height of Husbands and Wives
   6.9.3. Comparative Personality Traits of Husbands and Wives
6.10. Partners Mismatchings in Terms of Social Qualities
   6.10.1. Comparative Educational Status of Husband and Wife
   6.10.2. Comparative Occupational Status of Husband and Wives
   6.10.3. Comparative Income Status of Husbands and Wife
   6.10.4. Comparative Family's Economic Status of Husbands and Wives
   6.10.5. Comparative Caste/Community of Husbands and Wives
   6.10.6. Comparative Religion Status of Husbands and Wives
6.11. Factors Given Importance at the Time of Marriage
6.13. Summary
6.14. Case Study
   6.14.2. Case II
   6.14.3. Case III

Chapter 7

Analysis and Interpretation

Conclusion
7.8. Counselling, Guidance and Legal Assistance 228

7.9. Suggestions and Legal Measures for Eradication of Dowry, Divorce and Mismatching 229

7.9.1. Dowry 229
7.9.2. Divorce 230
7.9.3. Mismatching 231

A Bibliography 232

a. Books 232
b. Periodicals 233
c. Journals 235
d. Documents 235
e. News Papers 236

B Operational Definitions 237

C Facts and Figures 239
1 - 20 Nos.

D Graphs and Map 259
1 - 8 Nos.

E Paper Clippings 267
1 - 12 Nos

F Appendix - Questionnaires 279
a. Opinion about Dowry 279
b. Dowry Practice in Kanyakumari District 281
c. Opinion about Divorce 284
d. Male - Female Marriage Matchings 286