

Bride Buying in Haryana: A Case study of Kakroi Village in Sonipat Tehsil

Jyoti, Ajay Dahiya

M.A. Centre for Advanced Studies in Geography, Panjab University Chandigarh

Abstract: With skewed sex ratio it is impossible to find a local mate for each man. Decades of unchecked sex-selective abortions have made the once fertile State of Haryana suffer a drought of brides, making human trafficking a lucrative and expanding trade. Often projected as a voluntary marriage, every year, thousands of young women and girls are lured into the idea of a happy married life with a rich man in Haryana.. This is also called 'marriage of convenience'. Intermediaries/ brokers play a very strong role in this kind of marriage. Sadly most 'purchased girls' are exploited, denied basic rights, duplicated as maids, and eventually abandoned. Sometimes the girls are forced to marry against their wishes. This depicts the worse conditions of women's which are treated as a commodity. Also, with the tradition of not marrying within the same village and eligible girls marrying the wealthiest suitor, the majority of men in villages left unmarried.

Keywords: Bride Buying, Haryana, Kakroi Village in Sonipat Tehsil

I. INTRODUCTION

"Marriage to an imported bride makes caste, language and culture immaterial as long as the price is paid to the girl's family and a male child is born. The National Crime Bureau data shows that more than 20,000 girl children and women between the ages of 10 and 30 were kidnapped for marriage in 2013. Such marriage for women who are bought and sold as brides is often a life of slavery and abuse. This phenomena is very common in north-west states of India particularly in Haryana one side, Haryana is one of the most developed states of India but other side it has lowest sex ratio in the country. A cultural preferences for son cause female foeticide cases in the state which creates imbalance in the sex ratio. The sex ratio in the state has declined considerably and it is 879 in 2011. The scenario of child sex ratio (0-6 years) is even more terrible. It has declined from 964 in 2001 to 834 in 2011 in the state. Due to this man are not able to find wives within the state and buying a bride has become the only solution for them. Hence, Haryana state is considered as a main destination for bride trafficking. These brides are referred as 'paro' or 'molki' in the state. A study by red-cross society reflects that more than 100 brides have been brought into Bhiwani District. According to a study, price of the bride lies between Rs. 4,000 to 30,000 and the parents of the women are only paid an average of Rs. 500 to 1,000 (Aanchal Kapoor, 2012). This supply of brides come from Bihar, Assam and West Bengal, Jharkhand states.

II. OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the present study is to highlight the issue of bride trafficking/purchasing in Haryana. To find out the reasons behind this trafficking.

III. DATA SOURCES

Newspaper articles and some other studies related to bride purchasing are considered as a base for the present study and later the facts and figures have been justified by doing a field survey at Kakroi village in Sonipat tehsil of Sonipat district. In the village people don't tell directly that they have purchased the bride. Because they thought this is against their family standard. But the news spread through linkages. Therefore, the sarpanch of the village has been interviewed for collecting the primary information.

IV. STUDY AREA

The primary survey for the present study is conducted at Kakroi village, situated in Sonipat tehsil. It is located 09 km towards south from Sonipat and 49 km from Delhi. Total population of the village is 5023 and child sex ratio for the Kakroi is 821, lower than Haryana average of 834. The village has 78.07 percent literate population. But the status of female literacy is very low i.e. only 66.60 percent in the village as compared to 88.03 percent of male population. 61 percent of total workforce are agricultural workers therefore, Most people depend on agricultural activities for their livelihoods.

This village is considered for the case study because it is one among the largest villages in Sonipat tehsil. The cases of bride purchasing are increasing in this village from last three-four years.

V. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The results based on the interview depicts that the scenario of bride purchasing is increasing day by day in the village. This scenario of bride purchasing is not new in the state. But its magnitude has increased from last 6

years. At present, out of 2531 households persons from 200 houses have bought the brides from other states (i.e. 7 percent houses). Among which 60 percent brides have bought from Bihar and Jharkhand states and other 40 percent from Orissa, Assam, Eastern U.P, West Bengal and part adjacent to Bihar. For this truck drivers, persons from neighbouring villages play the role of mediators. There are not only one but 2 or 3 mediators are involved in one marriage. One of them belongs to the area of the area of girl second one belongs to the receiver area and third one can be the close relative of the girl. Sometimes farmers of the village or the neighbouring states who have their lands in other states play the strong role of mediators. 10 percent marriages in Kakroi village have done with the help of farmers.

The low sex ratio of the state is the main reason behind the bride purchasing. As discussed earlier, the increasing cases of foeticides for the desire for boy lead to the problem of skewed sex ratio in the state. Therefore, those people who are illiterate, unemployed and are not able to marry within the state they prefer to buy the bride. The age of those persons are above 30 years. These kind of marriages are very common in Jaat communities (due to low sex ratio, declining land holding-sizes and unemployment) and less in Brahmins community as the strictness of their custom do not allow them to marry in different area without considering the clan.

First case of bride buying in this village has occurred 10 years ago when a man in the village bought the purchased bride with the help of mediators (belongs to neighbouring state). Before purchasing the bride people do not ask the cast or religion of the girl. These girls belong to labour class families mostly migrant labourers. The girl's family are easily convinced by the mediators by giving false promises. As every year labour migrates to north-west states particularly in Punjab and Haryana from Assam, Bihar, West Bengal. These labourers are highly influenced by the lifestyle of people from these states. It is a wish of every parents to marry their girl in a good and rich family therefore, If they got the marriage proposal for their girls they feel happy and easily agree for this kind of marriages.

The most of the girls are either illiterate or just have passed 5th class. They work as a servant in the houses and they cannot take any decisions related either to them or the house. These brides don't have their own identity and the name of the girls have also been changed. In the village these purchased brides are not

given equal status, only 10 percent women are given some rights at the houses. While their child have given equal status and equal rights in the family property. After marriages some girls have their contacts with their families and with the help of their husband they also provide labours to their family members in the neighbouring villages.

There are also some exceptional cases in the village which shows that the girls also create troubles for her in-laws families. As a girl went to her home with her child and didn't come back and when her husband went there to bring her back she filed a police complained against him. She also forced him to stay at her native place. This situation is very similar in the neighbouring villages as told by the sarpanch.

VI. CONCLUSION

This issue of bride purchasing cannot be solve until the sex ratio of the state should be improved. Haryana government has also taken many steps such as the Ladli scheme was introduced on 20 August 2005 on the occasion of birthday of Late Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi to improve the sex ratio. Even the state government has decided to give old age pensions to parents of daughters. In order to aware the people seminars have also been conducted at village level. Two months ago a seminar has also been organised in the Kakroi village in order to aware people about the serious consequences of female foeticides and the bride purchasing in the state is only the result of female foeticides.

VII. REFERNCES

- [1]. Das Gupta, Monica and Bhat, P.N. Mari 1997, "Fertility decline and increased manifestation of sex bias in India." Population studies, 51(3). 307-315.
- [2]. Guilimoto, C.Z. and S.Irudaya Rajan 2002, "District level Estimates of fertility from India's 2001 census" Economic and political weekly, feb.2002 (672).
- [3]. Gulliot, Michel. 2002, "The dynamics of population sex ratio in India, 1971-96" Population studies, 56(2002), 51-63, printed in Great Britain.
- [4]. Krishnaji, N.1987. "Poverty and Sex Ratio: Some Data and Speculations." Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. XXII, No 23, 892- 897