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Honour Killing- A Customary Killing

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INTRODUCTION

Honour Killing- A negative aspect of the society which has been practiced in India over the years and has resulted in the loss of thousands of lives of innocent young ones. The registered cases in India have increased nine times in 2015 as compared to its past year that is 2014. Most of the time, the killing is by the relatives or family of the young couple whom they think had dishonoured them in society.

It is mostly found among Hindu and Muslim families specifically in Northern states such as Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh where people strongly oppose inter caste and love marriages. Bigamy, adultery or even dressing against family culture has ended up the killing of the victims. The murders are committed even publically to lesson other people of the community. It is not isolated to rural areas but also to urban areas and has widely spread geographically.

This evil is also common in other parts of the world. In 2002 United Nations estimated about 5,500 victims of honour killing. Every year, over 20,000 women are murdered in the world. Honour killing also includes acid attacks, kidnapping, stoning, burning, hanging etc.

In such a critical situation, Government of India proposed a bill in the year 2010 which included Honour Killing under section 300 of Indian Penal code but the 242th Law Commission Report recommended a bill entitled "The Prohibition of Unlawful Assembly Bill, 2011 which prohibited a person or any group from assembling together at any time with the mens rea of condemning any marriage, not prohibited by Law." But it didn't include Honour Killing as a separate crime.

During 2010, the Supreme Court was performing a scrutiny of the growing number of Honour Killings in India and issued a notice each to Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, and Rajasthan as well as the national government to take steps so that Honour Killings could be stopped. The Indian government has also made several efforts over the years to take preventive steps against Honour Killing and pass laws that could act as deterrents.

However, all the efforts have not been successful it seems. These incidents have been repeated in 2012 and 2013 in such as Rajasthan and Haryana. Even in the murder case of Arushi Talwar one of the main motives was preserving the honour of the family. The fact is that we speak of traditions of love and tolerance yet we are the last to practice it. If educated people can believe in such methods one can only imagine the plight of people in rural areas.

Honour Killing violates Articles 14, 15(1), 15(3) and Article 21 of the Indian Constitution which ensures Right to live, Right to move freely, Right to equality and Right to security.

Earlier, Honour Killing was considered rarest of the rare case but after the judgment of Supreme Court in which Justice VS Sirpur Karand Justice Deepak Verma said it is now not a rarest of rare case. The killings are the outcome of a social issue like a marriage with a person of so called lower caste. The family of the girl has to face lots of taunts and humiliation in the society for the acts of the girl. However, the time has come when we have to consider these social issues relevant while considering death sentence in such circumstances. Now, these should not be considered as rarest of rare case.

CONCLUSION

1. The mentality of the people has to change by counseling them and prepare themselves to accept their children's wishes regarding marriage as it is they who have to lead a life with their life partners.
2. There should be specific Act or laws against this heinous crime which provides a strict punishment against culprits.
3. There should be special homes in the every city for the couples who can approach those homes for their personal security.