

Identify the Determinants of Groom Price Special Reference to selected Muslim Area in Ampara District

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Introduction

Payments between families at the time of marriage are common practice in many areas in Sri Lanka. These payments can be substantial enough to affect the wealth distribution of the society.

The marriage payments come in various forms and sizes but can be classified into 'Groom price or Dowry' and 'Bride price or in Islamic term Mahr'. Groom price normally means gifts given during the marriage to the son-in-law or his family either in cash or kind and the bride price means gift given to bride by groom during the marriage. The practice of giving dowry was meant to assist a newlywed couple to start their life together without difficulty. However, dowry is prohibited and Mahr is appreciated in Islam. Today, dowry has degenerated into a kind of commercial transaction in which monetary considerations receive priority over the personal merits of the bride. Groom price is very high in North, Eastern and South Eastern Province in Sri Lanka. Compared with other Muslim area in Sri Lanka, these payments are very high in Ampara Muslim

area. These payments have risen sharply in year by year. The empirical investigation indicate that average amount of dowry given to groom is approximately 200 time grater that bride's fathers average monthly income.

Objective

The objectives of this study are to identify the main determinants of groom price and the reasons behind it in the marriage market in selected Muslim area in Ampara district.

Data and Methods

Data for this study has been collected by participated interview method. Newly marriage couple in 2010 and 2011 and their parents and family members have

included to face to face interview. The list of marriage couple have been taken from Muslim wedding registrar in each village. In that list, 40 families in each village namely, Sainthamarudu, Addalaichanai and Akkarappathu (altogether 120 families) have been selected conveniently by the researcher to this study. Researcher and assistants used open-ended questionnaires to obtain detailed descriptions including wedding, dowry, education, job, salary and family detail.

Regression method and descriptive statistical method (Graph, mean and percentage) were used to analysis the data and Eviews and Minitab statistical software have used to achieve this aim. This study is focusing to identify the main determinants of groom price in Ampara Muslim area. Components of dowry (Jewelry, paddy land, house and house land, vehicles and money) have been transforming to 2010 and 2011 current price.

The model to identify the main determinants of groom price is developed by following way,

$$GP = f(AD, MS_g, MS_{gf}, MS_b, NS_b, PQ_G, PQ_B)$$

$$GP = \beta_0 + \beta_1 AD + \beta_2 MS_g + \beta_3 MS_b + \beta_4 MS_{bf} + \beta_5 NS_b + \alpha_1 D_{1PQG} + \alpha_2 D_{2PQG} + \alpha_3 D_{3PQB} + \epsilon_t$$

Where, D's are dummy variables for professional qualification for bride and groom.

And GP: Groom Price / Dowry, MS_g : Monthly salary of groom, MS_b : monthly salary of bride, MS_{bf} : Monthly income of bride father, NS_b : Number of sisters in bride

Findings

Finding of this study indicate that there are several factors such as Grooms' professional qualifications, monthly salary of bride, age difference between bride

and groom and number of sisters of bride are highly significant to determine groom price in selected Ampara Muslim area.

Though the majority of the grooms are well educated and they are very good in economic side, they have obtained dowry from bride side. They said variety of reasons for that. 70 % of the grooms express providing security to bride in future is the main reasons for dowry, as well as 50 % to 45 % of them express that to develop their economic in future and properties are not distributed according to the Islamic law are the main reasons for obtaining of dowry.

Conclusion

Today, most of the families are struggling to find appropriate partner for their marriageable daughters. Frequently they need to pay huge price to buy suitable husband for their marriageable daughter. Professional qualification of groom, his monthly salary, age difference between bride and groom and number of sisters for bride are found as main factors to determine groom price in the marriage market in Ampara Muslim area.