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Indian wedding Web site has 'no dowry' clause

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By Tony Tharakan
13 October 2007 @ 11:17 am IST

New Delhi - Gifts of cash and gold may be essential to getting a husband in India, but hundreds of people are flocking to a matrimonial Web site which finds suitable partners averse to this traditional practice of dowry.



A screenshot of idontwantdowry.com taken on October 13, 2007. (Photo: IBTimes India/www.idontwantdowry.com)

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Nearly 6,000 people have signed up to www.idontwantdowry.com, which aims at eradicating the custom outlawed in India more than four decades ago but still widely practised.

According to the tradition, brides must gift their future husbands with valuables - usually money and gold, but which can range from washing machines to plots of land.

The website, founded by software professional Satya Naresh in April 2006, met with little response initially as people



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seemed wary of admitting they did not want dowry.

"There was this feeling that if a man didn't want dowry, there must be something wrong with him," said Naresh.

But things have improved since. At last count, around 3,800 men and 2,100 women had registered online.



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