

news

You are here: [News Main](#) » [Wedding website says no to dowry](#)

Wedding website says no to dowry

AOL India Editorial

Last Updated: October 15, 2007 23:54:02

New Delhi, October 16: 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.

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 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.

"When we started, we had expected the number of women and poor people to be more. But it's educated people like doctors and IT professionals who are a majority," said Naresh, who lives in Hyderabad.

Members, however, still pay close attention to factors such as social caste and religion while choosing potential mates. But the Web site's founder says these are minor hurdles.

"The dowry system is the major challenge. Women kill their daughter-in-laws for not bringing enough dowry, not for some other reason," said Naresh.

"I just want to focus on this issue for now."

Police say the most common form of domestic violence in India is dowry-related and that one case of cruelty is committed by the husband or his relatives every nine minutes.

Taking inspiration from 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus, whose Grameen Bank in Bangladesh lifted millions out of poverty, Naresh said he wants to take the grassroots approach in his war against dowry.

He has started a classifieds section on the Web site, aimed at people in rural areas who are unlikely to surf the Internet.

"They give us the details on our customer service helpline and we put it up as classifieds on the Web site, so that people can get back to them on the phone," said Naresh.



Advertisement

More on News AOL.in

Nation

Fashion

Hollywood

Bollywood



US does not foresee reopening of n-deal talks

The n-deal will not be reopened as US views the agreement as "done" and hoped that it would come up for a final voting in the US Congress early next year.

[BMW case: No interim relief for Anand from SC](#)

[Nandigram controversy overshadows Kolkata film fest](#)

[Sibal to head Indian team to climate change summit](#)

[Modi masks spark row in Gujarat](#)

[More: All the latest in national affairs, politics and news](#)

[More](#)

Other Channels

[Bollywood](#)

[Hollywood](#)

[Int. Music](#)

[Games](#)

[Gurus](#)

As part of the Web site's activities, all registered members can check out prospective brides and grooms face to face at 'Swayamvarams', or matrimonial meetings, held at a common venue.

At these events, those in attendance take a pledge that they will not encourage the practice of dowry.

The Web site, with the tagline "I want just u, I don't want dowry" -- does not owe its origin to its founder's personal experiences: at 34, Naresh is still unmarried.

(C) 2007 Reuters Limited. All rights reserved. Republication or redistribution of Reuters content, including by framing or similar means, is expressly prohibited without the prior written consent of Reuters. Reuters and the Reuters Sphere logo are registered trademarks and trademarks of the Reuters group of companies around the world.

© Copyright 2007.

More Top News

[Sobhraj's shadowy stalker anxious about verdict](#)
[World food prices to rise: Report](#)
[Pakistan propaganda fails to convince listeners in border areas](#)
[World's oldest Rolls Royce fetches 3.5m pounds at auction](#)
[EC to review Gujarat poll preparedness Tuesday](#)
[Afghan bomber hits Nato convoy; 10 hurt](#)

[More](#)

news

Web India Sites

Search

MORE ON AOL INDIA: [AOL Messenger](#) | [Bollywood](#) | [Cityguide](#) | [Cricket](#) | [Games](#) | [Gurus](#) | [Hollywood](#) | [Music](#) | [Kids & Cartoons](#) | [Mail](#) | [Mobile](#)

[AOL India](#) | [AOL International](#) | [Terms Of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Trademarks](#) | [AOL Unsolicited Bulk E-mail Policy](#) | [Help](#)

AOL India's news channel's where you're sure to get the latest news about India, the world, business, sci-tech and health, including photos and videos.
What's more, it comes to you with a whole lot of attitude. Yeah!

©2007 AOL Interactive Media India Private Limited. All Rights Reserved.

[BACK TO TOP](#)