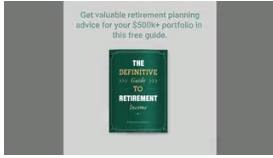


Sign in | Create a Rediffmail account



Sponsored

7 Retirement Income Strategies

Fisher Investments

Recommended by Outbrain

Sponsored

Rediff.com » News » One Man's 15 Year Battle Against Dowry

# One Man's 15 Year Battle Against Dowry

By A GANESH NADAR

October 04, 2021 08:32 IST



Get Rediff News in your Inbox:  [Keep Me Updated](#)

## 'Dowry is the main reason for female foeticide'

More like this



Why did Kerala governor fast against dowry?



51% girls will cancel wedding if in-laws demand dowry: Survey



'Demand inheritance, not dowry'



Why we don't read about dowry deaths any more

Kindly note the image has only been published for representational purposes. Photograph: Kind courtesy devendrabengali/Pixabay

"Dowry is the main reason for female foeticide. These are not two separate problems. They are interlinked," **Satya Naresh** tells **A Ganesh Nadar/Rediff.com**.



Dowry deaths account for 40% to 50% of female homicides

ANNIECLOTH

UP TO 80% OFF

SHOP NOW >

A problem like this, he believes, cannot be tackled by the government alone; people also need to be involved.

10+ Years of Excellence  
 Call Now & Get Up to 40% Off  
 Get Live Support from Travel Experts.  
 Save Big on Advance Booking.  
 travelopod.com

OPEN



Vajpayee's private secretary Shakti Sinha passes away



SC to examine if protests against farm laws can go on



Lakhimpur: Murder case against Union minister's son



Lakhimpur: Central forces deployed; Internet shut



ZOLUCKY FREE SHIPPING SHOP NOW

By then, says Naresh, who is based in Hyderabad, he had been running his own business -- NKG Online -- which provides Web portals and allied Web related services, for five years.

His anti-dowry We bsite is financed through his other business portals.

As a college student, Naresh says saw many marriages get stalled, delayed or cancelled because of dowry.



title nine Title Nine® Official Site

As an entrepreneur, he realised there were Web sites for people who wanted to get married and religion- and caste-specific marriage Web sites. But there was no exclusive Web site for people who wanted to get married without the scourge of dowry. So he decided to start one.

More from around the web



Cut into a lemon and place it next to your...  
Good To Know This



Recommended by Outbrain

Elegant & Glamorous Silk Dress  
Silk Maison

It was his way of contributing to a social cause that was close to his heart.

Over the years, he says he has been able to convince at least half of his close friends and family to abandon the practice of receiving, and giving, dowry.

Of those registered on his Web site, 100 people have got married with dowry. These are the people who kept him informed. The actual number, he believes, must be higher; there are others, he says, who must not have informed him thinking he would ask for a commission, which he does not.



Of the 100, he says, only one marriage failed because the husband later asked his wife for dowry. She refused and complained to the police.

While anyone can register on the Web site, membership is approved only after it is manually verified.

Naresh says 100 more couples may have got married through the annual swayamvarams he has been hosting for 15 years.

Fourteen of the events -- held in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh -- were offline.

Last year, because of the pandemic, it was held online on Zoom.

This year too, the swayamvaram will be online, hosted in both Kerala and Hyderabad.



## THE WAR AGAINST CORONAVIRUS

Tracking India's biggest health crisis

The War Against Coronavirus



Illustration: Dominic Xavier/Rediff.com

\*One the main reason behind the dowry system, Naresh says, is the belief among many that it is an honour to receive dowry; they also feel it is their responsibility to give a dowry to their girl child.

The problem, he adds, lies in the fact that many people are still not aware that taking, or demanding, dowry is illegal in India. The awareness drive -- which should be helmed by district collectors, local NGOs and the government -- needs to be much more aggressive.

### They Thought They Saved A Cat Until It's Fur Started Changing Colour

Though there are enough laws against dowry, people manage to find loopholes, he say. He adds that the movement against dowry will only succeed if people realise it is wrong and abandon the practice.

"If celebrities come forward to raise their voice against dowry, it will have a huge impact. People pay attention to what they say," he says.

**I***DontWantDowry.com* has more than 10,000 members. Some join and others leave and so the numbers keep changing.

Surprisingly, 2/3rd of the members are men and 1/3rd are women.

This means there are more boys who are willing to marry, without dowry, than girls. A ratio, that has not changed over the years.

*IDontWantDowry.com* has both free and paid membership. Those who pay Rs 500 for a year can contact other members. The free members cannot contact others.

According to Satya Naresh, one woman dies every hour in India because of dowry.

If girls are given equal property rights in the family property, he says then this evil dowry system would be less frequent, but he feels nobody does this because of our patriarchal society.

Working women may be asked for less dowry than women who don't go to work, but they are also not entirely free from this evil practice.



Another reason for the dowry evil is that women feel that they will get a better groom if they give dowry. "Change will come from working women," he says.

The literacy rate has nothing to do with dowry. "See what is happening in Kerala, which has the highest literacy in the country," he points out.

To eradicate the dowry evil, he says the government needs to run campaigns against female foeticide and dowry.

Corporates should include anti-dowry campaigns in their CSR activities. Celebrities should mention that dowry is evil.

Even when they hear about any family giving or receiving dowry, people don't interfere.

"That is the job of the government, it is a law and order problem and so I don't interfere'," he says about the reluctance to interfere with the dowry process.

Feature Presentation: Rajesh Alva/Rediff.com

Get Rediff News in your Inbox:  [Keep Me Updated](#)

A GANESH NADAR / Rediff.com

Related News: Satya Naresh, Rediff, NKG Online, CSR, Dominic

[Print this article](#)

Sponsored

You Might Also Like



You Might Be Eligible For Dental Implants Provided By Medicare

Medicare Dental Implants | Search Ads



Reserve Bank supersedes boards of Srei firms

Type 2 Diabetes? Do This Immediately (Watch)

healthgoodtop



About 46% Indians plan to travel in Oct-Dec: Survey

Did You Know That Medicare Offers 5g Phones For Seniors?

5G Phones | Search Ads



India's 14-year-old shooter Naamya wins Jr World gold

[Photos] What Happened To Ann-Margret?

The Chef Pick

Signs of Schizophrenia - They May Surprise You

Schizophrenia | Search Ads

If You Ever See This Plant, Run Fast And Yell For Help!

The Breaker

[Photos] Meet The Wives Of The Richest Men Alive

Bon Voyaged

45 Hair Shapes That Make A Woman Over 60 Look 40

HealthyGem

[Pics] The No. 1 Most Obese State in America Is

Vitaminews

Recommended by Rediff.com

Rediff.com

**10 mistakes women make in an extra-marital affair**

Rediff.com

**Millennials, want a job? Then read this interview**

Rediff.com

**How can women excel in their careers**

Rediff.com

**I trusted in my abilities: IIT-JEE topper Aman Bansal**

Rediff.com

**Are we over-celebrating 'work from home'?**

Rediff.com

**This gorgeous woman will represent India at Miss**



Take 1 pill before bed, watch your belly fat melt like crazy

AD PharmaLabs Keto

Know More

