

# A Study on Honor Killing and Its Impact with Special Reference to Tamil Nadu

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**Abstract:** Honor killing is the act of killing a person—a male or female—who chooses his or her spouse in accordance with his or her wishes. The head of the family, who is responsible for upholding the family's honor, considers the status and reputation of the clan, but disregards its members' feelings of love and affection. The objective of the study is to identify the main reasons for honor killings in our society, determine the major consequences of the honor killings, identify the most suitable prevention methods for reducing honor killings. The research method for this research is empirical research and used convenient sampling. The total number of samples collected is 221. The findings are that most people are aware about honor killings taking place in the society and that rigid caste systems and parents considering their prestige and status more important than their children are the main causes of honor killings and these can create a social stigma and gender disparity and other effects to the people. Therefore, in conclusion, a public education campaign is required to raise awareness of this heinous type of crime among the populace. Special initiatives should be taken, particularly in rural areas, to educate the populace. Educating the public about the fact that such killings do not provide a solution to society's problems. To punish the offenders, assist the impacted family in rehabilitation, and punish the criminals, a separate law on Honor killings is required.

**Keywords:** Honor killings, Public, Caste, Government, Prevention

## I. INTRODUCTION

Honor killing is the act of killing a person—a male or female—who chooses his or her spouse in accordance with his or her wishes. The head of the family, who is responsible for upholding the family's Honor, considers the status and reputation of the clan, but disregards its members' feelings of love and affection. The definition of Honor killing in India and the role of the law in Honor killing are provided in the research paper. These issues arise as a result of specific social triggers. For instance, if the wife belongs to a lower social class, this eventually lowers the status of the family, which motivates the male family member to kill the girl. They ought to remember this. Honor killing is essentially a family member killing another family member. It is the dishonest behaviour of the family members who prioritize the purity of their clan over the life of an individual. It is done to remove the shame and dishonour that a family member has brought on. Any male family member who looks to fall in love with someone who doesn't fit their social status is killed. We can also say that the murder was pre-planned, with caste and religion serving as the main motivators. After more than 70 years of independence, some people now believe that adult life is superior to that of a child. Every citizen in the democratic nation of India is entitled to both equality and life. But as we can see, this shameful act of Honor killing was motivated by caste, society, and the people's small-minded thinking. These types of actions are typically brought on by triggers used by family members, the community, or neighbours who cause the accused to feel dishonoured and become agitated. Women have consistently shown themselves to be equal to men around the world, but when it comes to Honor killings, female victims are more likely to be accused of marital and sexual offenses than male victims. Everybody who ought to be supporting that particular member is opposed to her, creating a situation where one shouldn't exist. Honor killing is the act of humiliation committed against one family



member by the others. Shame killing is another name for the phrase "Honor killing." When a person rejects an arranged marriage, marries someone from a different caste or religion, or marries someone who is not liked by the family, they are killed. It has been a tradition in India since ancient times. Those who have engaged in inter-religious or inter-caste marriages are subjected to the shameful act. Honor killing is the act of humiliation committed against one family member by the others. Shame killing is another name for the phrase "Honor killing." When a person rejects an arranged marriage, marries someone from a different caste or religion, or marries someone who is not liked by the family, they are killed. It has been a tradition in India since ancient times. Those who have engaged in inter-religious or inter-caste marriages are subjected to the shameful act. Currently, the Indian Penal Code's guidelines apply to Honor killings in India. The penalties for murder and culpable homicide that does not amount to murder are covered in sections 299 to 304. If found guilty of the crime of murder, the appropriate punishments include the death penalty, a life sentence, and a fine. In addition, a person found guilty of culpable homicide that did not amount to murder could face up to 10 years in prison and a fine. In accordance with Section 307 of the Indian Penal Code, attempting to murder is also punishable. If found guilty of committing this crime, the punishment could range from a 10-year prison sentence to a life sentence in prison. The Code also makes it illegal to attempt to commit culpable homicide that does not constitute murder. The offender may receive a sentence of up to three years, with or without a fine. However, the sentence can be increased to 7 years if any harm was caused as a result of the attempt. Articles 14 and 15 of the Indian Constitution refer to equality before the law, respectively, which means that all Indian citizens will be treated equally before the law without regard to their caste, creed, sex, race, or religion. In cases of Honor killing, the act is committed more often against a female member of the family than a male, demonstrating that there is no equality before the law. The murder of a woman constitutes a gender violation. The Indian Constitution's Articles 19 and 21 discuss the rights to freedom and life, respectively. Both of a person's rights are violated in an Honor killing. A person has the right to select their life partner. The Indian Penal Code includes additional penalties in addition to these key sections. This includes the penalties under Sections 120A and 120B for criminal conspiracy. Additionally, sections 107 to 116 make it illegal to aid and abet the commission of the aforementioned offences, including murder and culpable homicide that does not amount to murder. Last but not least, the Code imposes penalties on those who commit a crime with another person while having a common goal. Sections 34 and 35 of the Indian Penal Code list the associated penalties. By passing the Rajasthan Prohibition of Interference with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliances in the Name of Honor and Tradition Bill, 2019, the state of Rajasthan made a significant contribution and a significant advancement. The main cause of the crime is that the majority of caste members reject inter-caste unions in order to uphold the dignity of their caste or the social standing of their family. The prevalence of the crime of Honor killing is rising as a result of the complex sociocultural issues. When the issue involving the same Gotra came up, the Honor killing also occurred. The murder is carried out to regain the Honor and respect that the family has lost as a result of the person who fell in love with someone from a different caste. Numerous crimes, such as Sati practice, are outlawed in India, but there are many cases of Honor killings here, despite the fact that both of these crimes can only be committed by triggering. In comparison to Tamil Nadu, In India, there are more occurrences of Honor killing in the states of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. The aim of the study is to know about Honor killings and its impact on the people.

### **I.1. OBJECTIVES**

- To find out the people's level of awareness about the offense of Honor killing in our society.
- To identify the main reasons for Honor killings in our society.
- To determine the major consequences of the Honor killings
- To identify the most suitable prevention methods for reducing Honor killings.

### **II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

This study analyses Karo-Kari, a form of planned Honor killing, has its roots in Sindh, Pakistan's rural and tribal regions. The majority of the murders are conducted against women who are believed to have dishonoured their families



by having unlawful extramarital or premarital relationships. A male family member must kill the involved female in order to regain this Honor. **Patel S, (2008)**

This essay studies Current multicultural tensions in many European communities are intertwined with conflicting values regarding gender equality. In Sweden, where gender equality and the values of individual human rights make up the state profile and political identity, they are at the root of these problems. This article focuses on three Honor killing instances that in Sweden became hot topics for discussions on "culture and cultures" between political parties, immigrant groups, and feminists. **Van Eck, C. (2002)**

The goal of the study was to identify the factors that led to the deaths of female victims of Honor crimes as reported in court records, as well as the Jordanian penal codes regarding these crimes, the evidence used in the defendants' sentencing, the weapons used, the characteristics of the physical assaults on the victims, and the sentencing of the offenders. The 16 homicide cases that were deemed to be crimes of Honor in Jordan were examined as part of a retrospective study on these crimes. **Hobson, B. (2008)**

This essay examines when, when, and how violence against women begins to be labelled as a distinct crime called "Honor killing," in which the term Honor comes to acquire hegemonic implications that eclipse other options, struggles, and violence. In this piece, I contend that the messy job of the patriarchal system has been delegated outside of the USA and Europe. I do this by looking at how the concept of "Honor killings" is used in Indian and "Western" media reports. **Grewal, I. (2013),**

To analyse how Since lockdowns were instituted to stop the spread of COVID-19, there has been an increase in the frequency of violence against women throughout the world. Iran already had a lot of violence against women; between 2010 and 2014, there were about 8000 so-called "Honor killings." **Pirnia, K. (2020)**

When information is scarce, newspaper reports make a good source of surveillance. We discovered that adult married women made up the majority of HK victims. Continuous observation would help to characterize HK in Pakistan and evaluate the efficacy of preventive measures. **Cummings, K. J. (2009)**

The zina ordinance, blood feuds, Honor killings, and dowry murder will all be covered in this essay. This article also examines the crucial role social research plays in the prevention of gender violence and surveys global initiatives that aim to combat it. **Standish, K. (2014)**

The study focuses on the challenges involved in obtaining and comprehending victims' own personal narratives, particularly in legal contexts, while also demonstrating how empowering women to speak up for themselves is the only way to effect the significant societal changes required to end Honor-based violence. **Gill, A. K. (2013)**

The study aims to identify incidents of Honor killings. The findings are that Women and girls who visited the NGO recalled several instances of Honor killing that happened in the rural communities they were from. Additionally, they mentioned that in the city where they live, the same incidents occasionally affect their friends or family. **Khafagy, F. (2005)**

The aim of the current study was to investigate how Arab Israeli students, who belong to two different cultures, felt about killing in order to preserve family Honor. The traditional-patriarchal Arab culture and the contemporary-liberal Western culture have an impact on communities of Arabs and Muslims living in Western nations. **Ne'Eman-Haviv, V. (2021)**

To examine newspaper discussions of Honor killing in the Netherlands and Germany to better understand how such framing creates boundaries between immigrants and the majority society in the media. These discussions serve to further define the stark divisions between immigrants from Muslim and/or Turkish backgrounds and the majority population. **Yurdakul, G. (2009).**

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) estimates that up to 5,000 women and girls are victims of Honor killings each year in the world, but some non-governmental organizations (NGOs) place the number as high as 20,000. Even though there are few statistics, research indicates that Honor killings happen to women of all ages, religions, social statuses, wealth, education, and geographic locations.

**Pande, R. P. (2020)**



This essay offers a critical reevaluation of Honor killings in Pakistan and makes the case that the prevalence of these crimes is a result of the dominance of traditional justice over legal principles. Aspects of traditional justice have been incorporated into the Pakistan Penal Code since the late 1970. **Knudsen, A. (2004)**

The study shows that families' intolerance of their daughters' premarital relationships and marriage preferences, particularly those involving inter caste marriages, leads to Honor killings. The severity of these factors, which leads to elopements and forbidden love marriages, makes the situation even worse. Both documented case studies and content analysis techniques were used to carry out the current study. **Deol, S. S. (2014),**

The socio psychological causes of Honor killings are examined in this essay. Recent years have seen an increase in the frequency of Honor killings in India, drawing the attention of policy makers, the media, civil society, and academics. In the information age and knowledge society of the 21st century, media reports on the medieval phenomenon of Honor killing have sparked a national discussion. Important public policy imperatives that could eventually put an end to Honor killings in the nation have also been covered by the author. **Kumar, A. (2012)**

This essay is an attempt to address the crucial problem of a cultural crime that is growing day by day like an uncontrollable monster. It is hard to believe that families still kill their relatives in the 21st century, let alone in the biggest democracy in the world, ostensibly to preserve their Honor. **Singhal, V. (2014)**

The study was carried out using a documented case study approach, an observational-analytical approach, and content analysis techniques. The study shows that family members' intolerance of their daughters' premarital relationships and marriage preferences, particularly inter-caste and inter-religious marriages, leads to Honor-based violence. **Deol, S. S. (2014)**

Pakistan's version of "Islamic" criminal law, which permitted settlement between the parties in a murder case, was first introduced in 1990. The "new law" reinterpreted the country's definitions of culpable homicide and murder. The "new law" changed the definition of murder from being a crime against the State's legal system to a crime against the victim's legal heirs. Since family members kill women in most Honor-related crimes, the new law effectively gave those who commit Honor killings immunity. **Wasti, T. H. (2010)**

Honor crimes are a classic crime that, despite modern thinking and mindsets, still have a place in society today. The most severe form of Honor crime, Honor killing, is almost universally practiced throughout the world with varying statistics. Honor killing is considered one of the most heinous crimes and is outright forbidden by law in some nations. **Munir, K. (2018)**

This study looks at three issues: what constitutes an Honor killing (to establish the term's definition); where does it happen (looking at reported incidents in Canada); and why does it happen looking at the psychopathology associated with such criminal acts committed in the modern era. **Muhammad, (2013)**

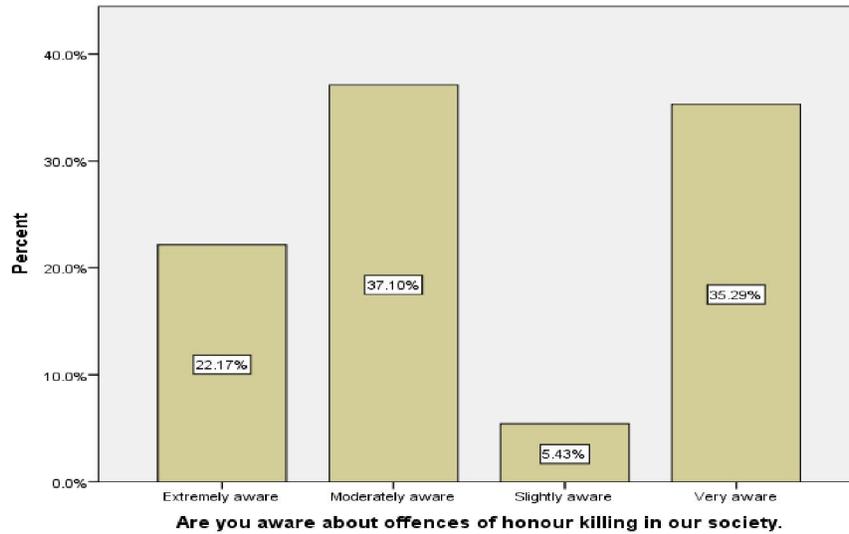
### **III. METHODOLOGY**

The research method for this research is empirical research. The sampling method used is convenient sampling. The total number of samples collected is 221. The independent variables used in this research are gender, age, educational qualifications, income levels, occupation and marital status. The dependent variables used in this research are reasons for honor killings in our society, major consequences of the Honor killings, prevention methods for reducing honor killings. The statistics used here is SPSS.



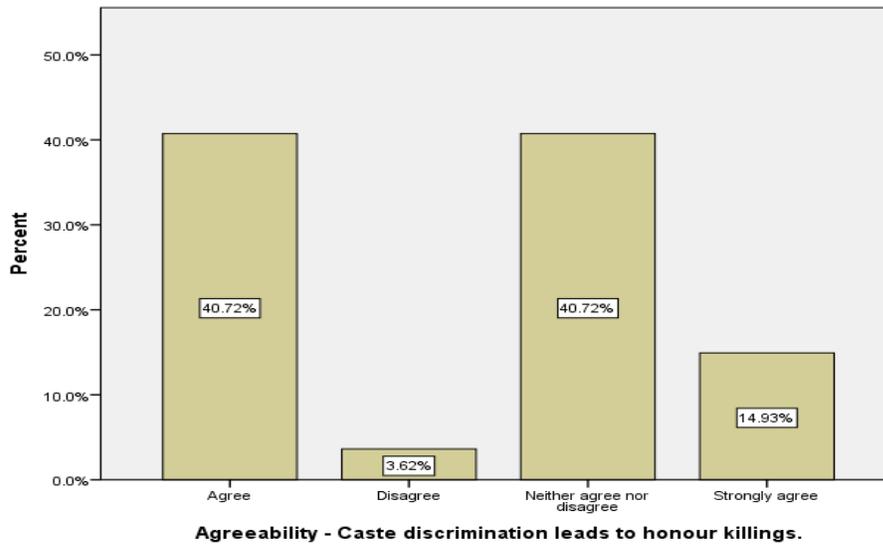
**IV. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

**FIGURE 1**



**LEGEND:** The above figure 1 shows the respondents awareness about the offense of Honor killing taking place in our society.

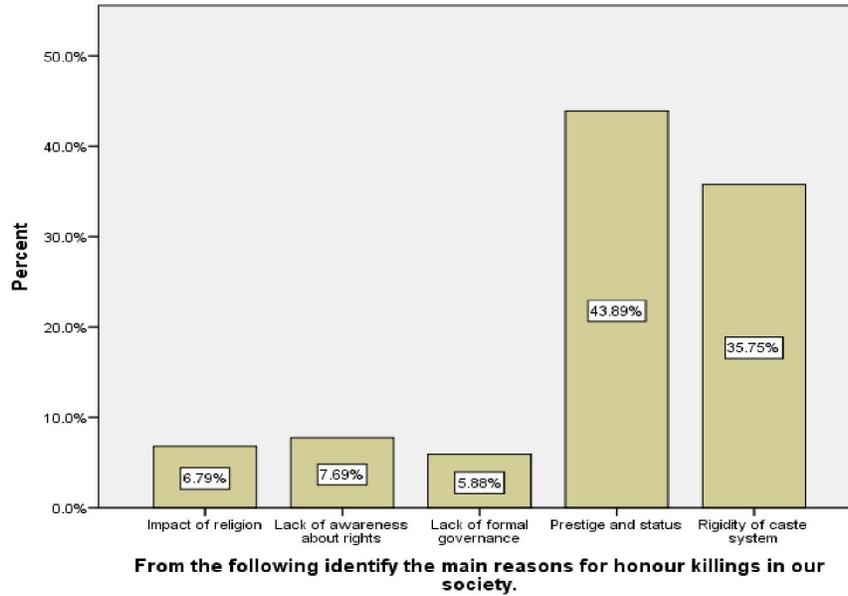
**FIGURE 2**



**LEGEND:** The above figure 2 shows the people's agreeability on the statement that caste discrimination leads to Honor killing.

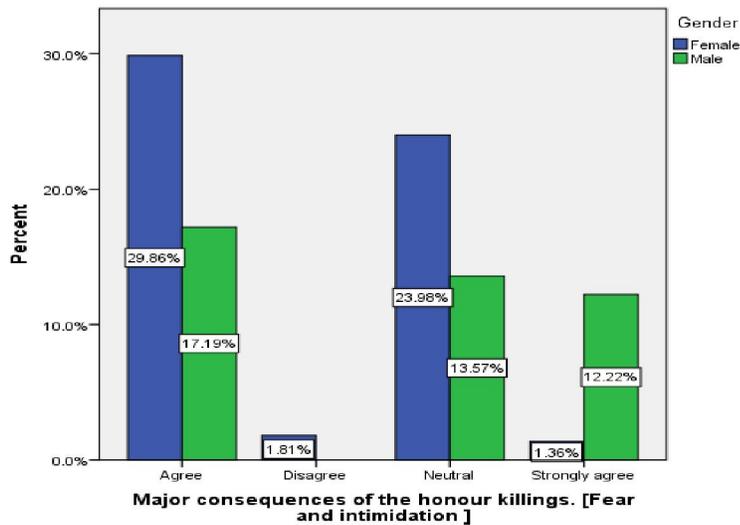


**FIGURE 3**



**LEGEND:** The above figure 3 shows the people's opinion about the main reason for Honor killing in our society.

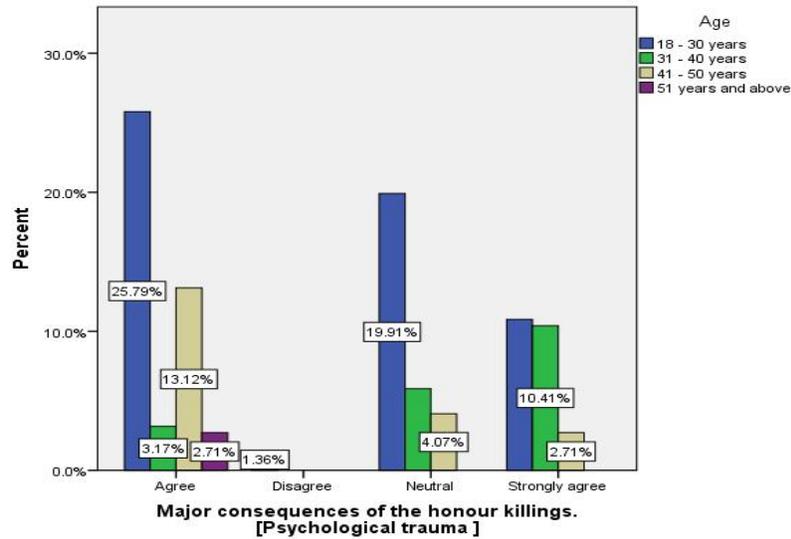
**FIGURE 4**



**LEGEND:** The figure 4 shows the gender distribution and the respondents agreeableness on fear and intimidation as the major consequences of Honor killing.

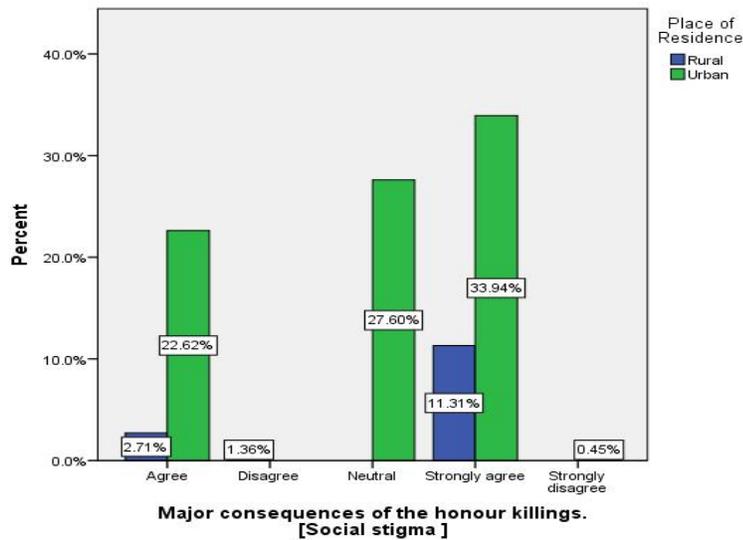


**FIGURE 5**



**LEGEND:** The figure 5 shows the age distribution and the respondents agreeableness on psychological trauma as the major consequences of Honor killing.

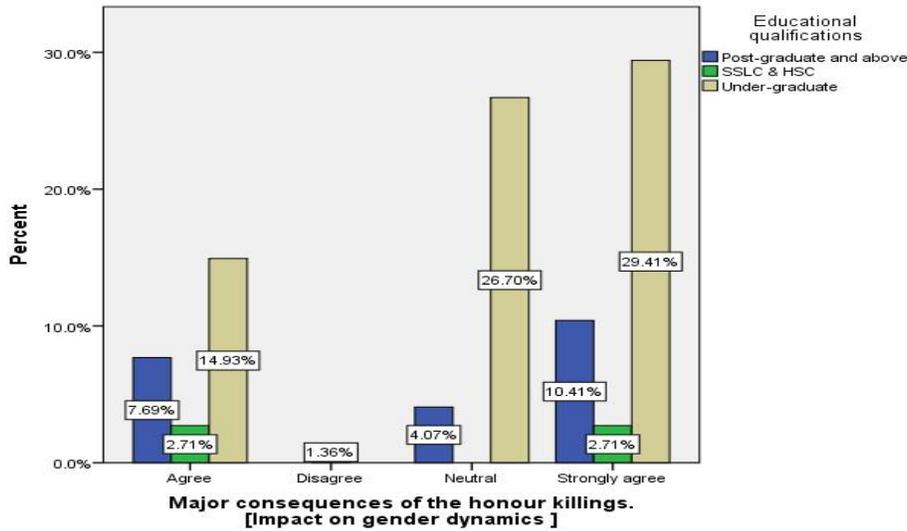
**FIGURE 6**



**LEGEND:** The figure 6 shows the place of residence distribution and the respondents agreeableness on social stigma as the major consequences of Honor killing.

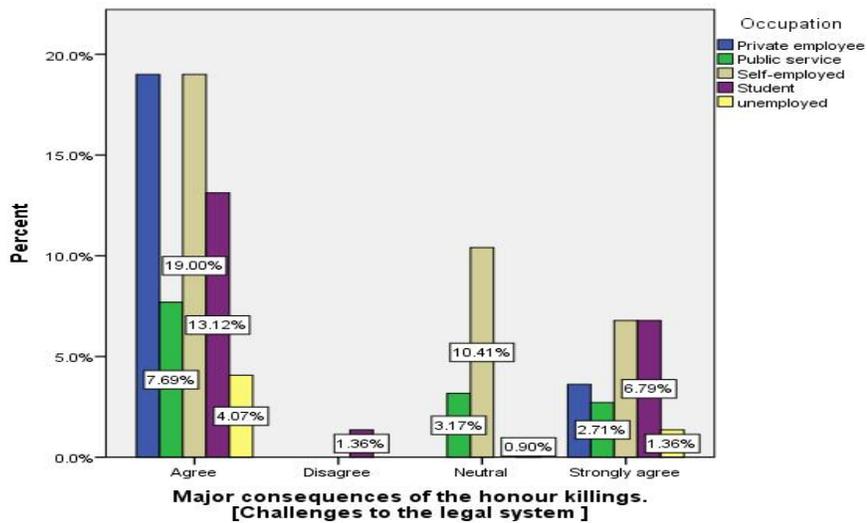


**FIGURE 7**



**LEGEND:** The figure 7 shows the educational qualifications distribution and the respondents agreeableness on impact on gender dynamics as the major consequences of Honor killing.

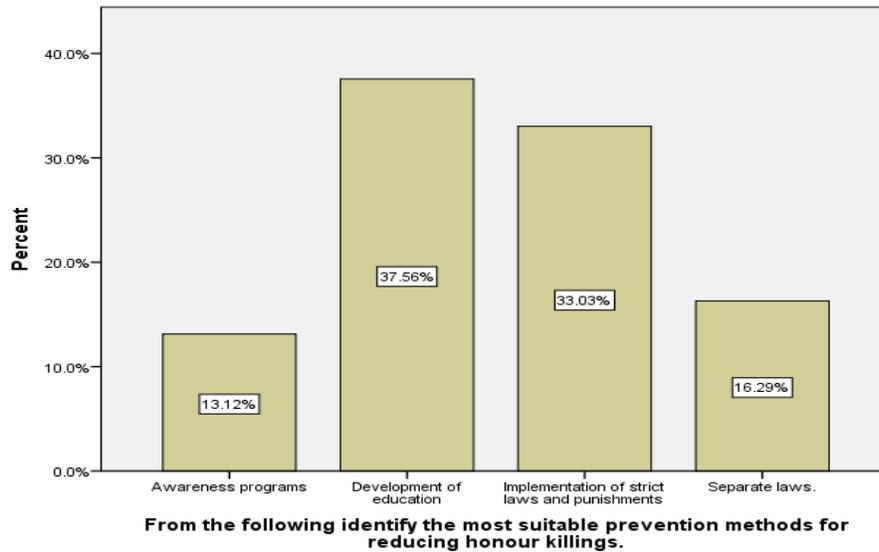
**FIGURE 8**



**LEGEND:** The figure 8 shows the occupation distribution and the respondents agreeableness on challenges to the legal system as the major consequences of Honor killing.

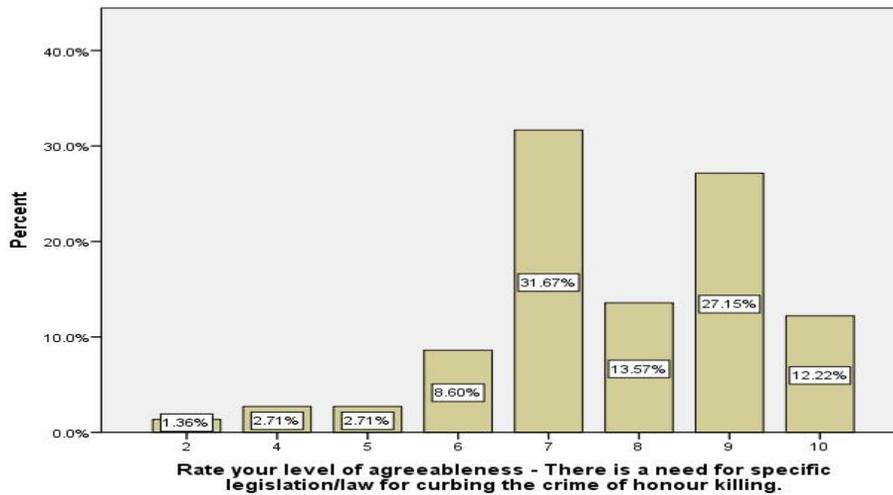


**FIGURE 9**



**LEGEND:** The figure 9 shows the respondents opinion on the most suitable prevention methods for reducing Honor killings.

**FIGURE 10**



**LEGEND:** The figure 10 shows the respondents agreeableness on the statement - there is a need for specific legislation/ law for curbing the crime of Honor killing.

**IV.1. SAMPLE INFERENTIAL ANALYSIS:**

**VI 1.1. Chi Square:**

**Null hypothesis:** There is no association between caste discrimination leads to Honor killing and place of residence.

**Alternate hypothesis:** There is association between caste discrimination leads to Honor killing and place of residence.



**Place of Residence \* Agreeability - Caste discrimination leads to Honor killings. Crosstabulation**

		Agreeability - Caste discrimination leads to Honor killings.				Total
		Agree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Strongly agree	
Place of Residence	Rural	7	0	18	9	34
	Urban	83	8	72	24	187
Total		90	8	90	33	221

**Chi-Square Tests**

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	10.510 <sup>a</sup>	3	.015
Likelihood Ratio	11.820	3	.008
N of Valid Cases	221		

a. 1 cells (12.5%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 1.23.

**Interpretation:** The calculated P value is 0.015. Since P value < 0.05, null hypothesis is rejected and alternate hypothesis is accepted. So, there is an association between caste discrimination leads to Honor killing and place of residence.

**V. RESULT**

**Fig.1** shows respondents are very aware about the offense of Honor killing taking place in our society at the level of 35.29% and slightly aware at the level of 5.43%. **Fig.2** respondents agree on the statement that caste discrimination leads to Honor killing at the level of 40.72% and disagree at 3.62%. **Fig.3** respondents have said that prestige and status at the level of 43.89% and rigidity of caste system at 35.75% as the main reasons for Honor killing in our society. **Fig.4** shows that female respondents have the highest agreeableness on fear and intimidation being the main consequence of Honor killing at the level of 29.86% and disagree at the level of 1.81%. **Fig.5** shows the 18- 30 years have the highest agreeability on psychological trauma being the major consequences of Honor killings at the level of 25.79% and disagree at the level of 1.36%. **Fig.6** shows the urban respondents have the highest response on social stigma being the major consequences of Honor killings and their agreeableness towards it at the level of 33.94% and disagree at the level of 1.36%. **Fig.7** shows that undergraduates have the highest agreeability on Impact on gender dynamics as the major consequences of Honor killings at the level of 29.41%. **Fig.8** shows private employees and the self-employed have the highest agreeableness on challenges to the legal system as a major consequence of the Honor killings at the level of 19% and students disagree at the level of 1.36%. **Fig.9**, shows the respondents have highly opted for development of education at the level of 37.56% and implementation of strict laws and punishments at the level of 33.03% as the most suitable prevention methods for reducing Honor killings. **Fig.10** shows the respondents agreeableness on the statement- there is a need for specific legislation/ law for curbing the crime of Honor killing at the level of 31.67% on the scale of 7 and least on the scale of 2 at the level of 1.36%.

**VI. DISCUSSION**

**Fig. 1** Most people are aware about Honor killing in our society as a result of seeing it happen in the spray to day life.

**Fig.2.**The reason is that caste plays a vital role in the society today and it determines the status of the people, thus it



becomes a problem if inter marriage, because of prestige and discrimination takes place. **Fig.3** To preserve the dignity of their caste or the social standing of their family, the majority of caste members do not approve of inter-caste marriage. The prevalence of the crime of Honor killing is rising as a result of the complex sociocultural issues. **Fig.4.** The females are the ones who are affected more and thus it creates a fear in them to even talk to their male friends in school or college etc., as a result of punishment from their parents. **Fig.5** the reason is that nowadays youngsters are the most victims of Honor killings and it causes psychological distress to other young adults also and thus lead to even mental disorders. **Fig.6** The reason is that such acts create a social stigma that makes the people more isolated and discriminated just because they did something not acceptable in society and it was not even unlawful or punishable. **Fig.7** The reason could be because nowadays youngsters are becoming freer and can do anything they want and the women are more affected here and thus it may become gender biased. **Fig.8** The reason could be because the increase in such activities in the society may cause a stir in the justice system and become a challenge to the legal system and its functioning. **Fig.9** The reason is that to put an end to this act in society, strict laws and penalties are required. Criminal activity decreases in society as a result of people being afraid of punishment. **Fig.10** the reason is that Separate laws are required to punish offenders, as well as to support the victim's family and provide them with legal protection

#### VII. LIMITATION

One of the major limitations of the study in the sample frame. Most of the respondents are from Tamil Nadu and also by adolescence and if this is your size we focused on the affected parties and deforest policies are taken from them and in such cases the results would have been clearer and also the impact cost in the effective personalities can be shown.

#### VIII. CONCLUSION

One of the most heinous types of crimes recorded in history is the crime of Honor. Numerous factors, including illiteracy, societal attitudes, and refusal to participate in an arranged marriage, among others, contribute to crime. The most inhumane and brutal form of discrimination and violence against women and girls, this heinous crime is not tolerated in society. We can infer that different regions of India have different laws regarding the crime of Honor killing. The objective of the study is to find out the people's level of awareness about the offense of Honor killing in our society, identify the main reasons for Honor killings in our society, determine the major consequences of the Honor killings, and identify the most suitable prevention methods for reducing Honor killings. The findings are that most people are aware about Honor killings taking place in the society and that rigid caste systems and parents considering their prestige and status more important than their children are the main causes of Honor killings and these can create a social stigma and gender disparity and other effects to the people. Eliminating Honor killings requires a multifaceted strategy. Consequently, we should work to alter the attitudes of patriarchal men and women on one side. On the other hand, the government should introduce a distinct law to stop Honor killings and deem khap panchayats illegal. Politicians should be under pressure to stop supporting khap panchayats.

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