

False dowry cases on rise in City

FAIZA HANEEF

FILING a dowry case is as simple as ordering a coffee in a cafeteria as there is no penalty for filing a false case.

According to police sources, of the total dowry cases filed, 50 per cent of them will turn out to be false after thorough investigations and will have nothing to do with 'dowry'.

Speaking to BVT, sources in a City police station said that there is a large scale misuse of this law and this is resulting in irreparable damage to married life.

This is happening because people find filing a dowry case is the easiest way as this section is non-bailable. Let there be any differences among the couple, the parents of the girls find it easy to file a dowry case against their son-in-law.

The other very important reason, the police points out is that, it is a mere 'shifting of burden'. Further explaining this, they say it is burden of proving in the prosecution. If there is a difference on some issue between the couple and if a case of harassment is filed by the parents, then the entire burden of proving falls on them and in order to shift this burden they easily find a way through a dowry case. In a dowry case the burden to prove lies entirely on the husband.

R CHANDRASHEKAR



CASE STUDY

Case of dowry-death filed: Noor Jahan, was doused in kerosene and allegedly set ablaze by her husband in 2005. Noor Jahan's parents filed a case of dowry death. But, later when it was investigated, it was found out that the case had nothing to do with 'dowry' and he took this step as he suspected her fidelity. It was apparently a case of murder but the parents preferred to file a dowry case.

Only when the investigations are done, the police finds out that there is a different angle to the story which has to be proved to show the case is false. Most of the cases filed are of dowry harassment and dowry death.

About 10 per cent of the cases are solved at the initial stages, as

soon as we find out it is false case. When the interrogation begins, they gradually accept their mistake and sort for a settlement with mere compensations, says sources from police department.

Many a time, the police has noticed the girl's parents requesting to take the boy under custody

at least for an hour as per the section 498 (A) of the Indian Penal Code, which makes it mandatory for police to book the husband and his parents and other relatives/friends, whoever are being named on the complaint by wife or her close relatives and jail them.