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"Money speaks but it speaks with a male voice."

Andrea Dworkin

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Rape: Minor girl murders husband

DH News Service Hyderabad:

A minor girl, who was forced into marriage by her parents and who was raped by her husband, killed him when he tried to rape her again here on Saturday. She is in police custody.

The girl, who is said to be around 15 or 16 years old, told the police that she wanted to study and was against marriage. But her family forced her and married her off to her cousin Shivraj (30) last year.

But she insisted on finishing her school and remained in her village in Mahbubnagar to finish the 10th class. She passed with Second Class last month.

Her husband who runs a mithai shop in Ramantapur locality, pressurised her parents to send her to him as she had finished school. Her pleas to study further were rejected and she was forcibly brought by her parents to the city and left with her husband. She tried to run away but was again brought back.

According to the girl, she was raped by her husband a few times. On Friday she kept a knife with her and wanted to threaten him with it to keep him off.

However, she told the police she did not remember how it happened. When he tried to force himself upon her she stabbed him. When he collapsed she ran to the neighbours and with their help took him to Osmania Hospital where he died. Police said autopsy showed there was alcohol in Shivraj's stomach.

According to legal experts here, since the girl is a minor she will be tried in a juvenile court under Juvenile Justice Act. If proved guilty she will be sent to special schools for reformation or put in a juvenile home and would be allowed to continue her studies.

Women's activists said the marriage is null and void since the girl is a minor and she should be treated as a victim of rape who acted in self-defence.

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