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## A Study of Gender Difference of Attitude towards Dowry among Adults

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### Abstract

**Aim:** The aim of the study was to observe gender difference of attitude towards dowry among adults. **Materials and Methods:** Sample of 200 subjects from which 100 males and 100 female adults were selected from district Jalandhar, Punjab. For data collection dowry attitude scale by R.R. Sharma was used. **Results:** There is a significant difference exists between mean scores of the variable of attitude towards dowry of male and female adults. **Conclusion:** It was concluded that there was a significant difference between mean scores of the variable of Attitude towards Dowry of male and female adults. This indicates that gender does play a significant role in Attitude towards Dowry among adults.

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### Introduction

We are living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, an era where men and women are now given equal right and liberties in the world. However, even after so much effort by many great social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. We are still orthodox and tradition bound society where women have been socially, physically, economically and sexually exploited from time immemorial, sometimes in the name of religion, sometimes in the pretext of customs like dowry system. The main social problem of India is dowry. In Indian tradition the dowry system is very old. This system was introduced by Hinduism and has extended to all the minorities. Dowry commonly known as Dahej includes any gift that is not offered by the brides side asks for, directly or indirectly. The groom's side must compel the bride's side to fulfill their demands. The dowry system is thought to put great financial burden on the bride's family. It is very difficult to know who is responsible for this. In India as marriages of mostly children are arranged by their parents. It

is usually assumed that parents demand the dowry. It is also assumed that mainly females are in more favour of dowry in comparison to male parents. Ghosh, Deepa (2013) examined the attitude of the boys and girl students and male employed and unemployed persons towards dowry. The study was conducted on 154 individuals. Among them 84 college students (boys 50 girls 34) were selected from three different degree colleges of Tripura and 70 male persons (35 employed and 35 unemployed) were selected from different strata of the society. The age of college students ranged between 19-21 years whereas the ages of all the employed and unemployed persons were above 30 years. For the purpose of data collection, the dowry attitude scale was utilized. The study revealed that the girls possess favourable attitude towards dowry. Further significant difference was found between the attitude of the boys and girls college students. No significant difference was evident between the attitude of the male employed and unemployed persons towards dowry. Surprisingly all the groups possess favourable attitude towards dowry. Singh, Meenakshi, Singh, Poonam and Saxena, Anjali (2017) studied attitude towards dowry among early adulthood, middle and senescence age respondents in urban Jhansi. The study was conducted in Jhansi city on 100 respondents of their life stage viz. early adulthood 18 to 40 years (35 number, 18 male and 17 female) and senescence above 60 years (30 number, 15 male and 15 female) randomly selected from 6 areas to assess their attitude towards dowry. More number of male and female respondent in these three stages of life span had most unfavourable and favourable, respectively attitude towards dowry while only 20% and 3.33% of respondents of Hindu religion had moderate and favourable attitude to dowry while less number of respondents favourable attitude to dowry. Early adulthood and senescence age group respondents with boys in their families had unfavourable association to dowry. Rabiya, Fatma (2019) studied attitude towards dowry with respect to gender. The participants of the study consisted of college students, married couples, above the age of 18 and residing in Patna. The college students were selected from Patna women's college and Bihar National College. The size of the sample was 100, consisting of 50 males, out of which 25 were married and 25 were unmarried. Dowry attitude scale was used to measure the attitude of participants. The scale is developed by R.R. Sharma. It measures the attitude of adolescents and adults of both sexes. The results revealed that there existed a significant difference between the attitude of males and females towards dowry. Both married and unmarried females have a neutral attitude towards dowry. It was observed that the married males have a positive attitude towards dowry. Kumar, Pardeep (2019) comparison between Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir college going students to know their attitude towards dowry. Sample of 100 students has been taken. Survey method was used. Dowry attitude scale by Dr R.R. Sharma used as a research tool. Significant difference found in the attitude of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir college going students towards dowry system. The male and female college going students of Himachal Pradesh do not differ significantly on dowry attitude scale. Male and female college going students of Jammu and Kashmir have less or more significant attitude towards dowry system.

### **Materials and Methods**

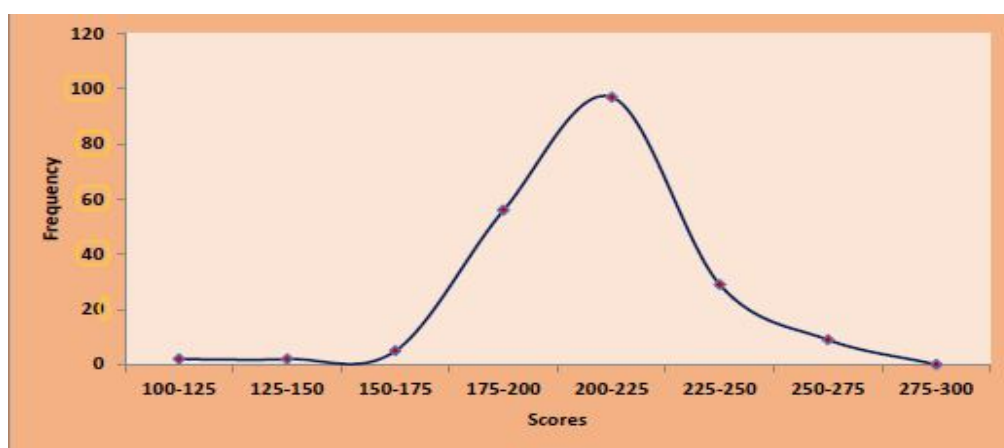
The present study was conducted on 200 subjects. From which 100 were males and 100 were females from district Jalandhar, Punjab. To assess the attitude towards dowry, dowry attitude scale was used which is designed by Dr R.R. Sharma.

### **Results and Discussion**

The variable of attitude towards dowry among adults was tested for normalcy. Table 1 shows that the values of mean, median and mode of the scores of adults on the variable of attitude towards dowry as 207.54, 208.00 and 208.93 respectively which are quite proximate to each other. The values of skewness and kurtosis in case of adults are -0.612 and 0.506 respectively showing the distribution as negatively skewed and leptokurtic. But these distortions are quite small. Therefore, the distributions can be taken as normal.

**Table 1. Mean, Median, Mode, Standard Deviation, Skewness and Kurtosis of scores of adults on the variable of Attitude towards Dowry**

Variable	Mean	Median	Mode	S.D.	Skewness	Kurtosis
Attitude towards Dowry	207.54	208.00	208.93	21.68	-0.612	0.506



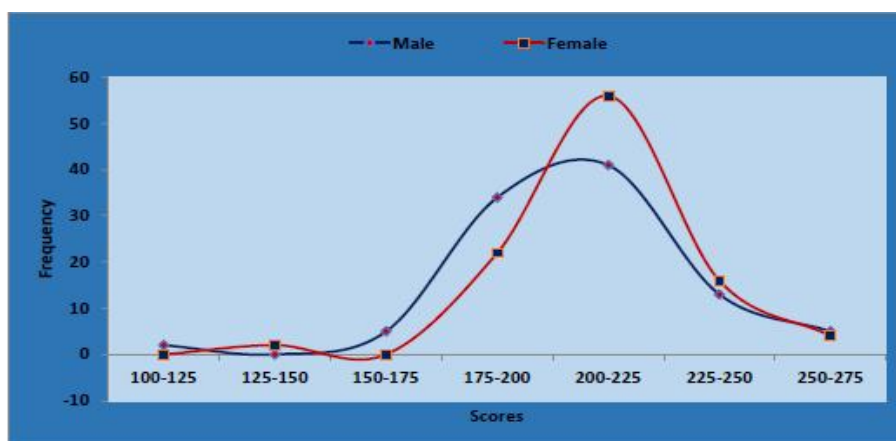
**Figure1. Frequency Polygon of scores of adults on the variable of Attitude towards Dowry**

**Table 2. Mean, Median, Mode, Standard Deviation, Skewness and Kurtosis of scores of Male and female adults on the variable of Attitude towards Dowry**

Variable	Mean	Median	Mode	S.D.	Skewness	Kurtosis
Male	204.47	205.00	206.06	23.07	-0.636	0.824
Female	210.60	211.00	211.80	19.84	-0.455	0.952

The variable of attitudes towards dowry among male and female adults was tested for normalcy. Table 2 shows that the values of mean, median and mode of the scores of male adults on the variable of Attitude towards Dowry as 204.47, 205.00 and 206.06 respectively which are quite proximate to each other. The values of skewness and kurtosis in case of male adults are -0.636 and 0.824 respectively showing the distribution as negatively skewed. But these distortions are quite small. Therefore, the distributions can be taken as normal. The values of mean, median and mode of the scores of female adults on the variable of Attitude towards Dowry as 210.60, 211.00 and

211.80 respectively which are quite proximate to each other. The values of skewness and kurtosis in case of female adults are -0.455 and 0.952 respectively showing the distribution as negatively skewed and leptokurtic. But these distortions are quite small. Therefore, the distributions can be taken as normal.



**Figure 2. Frequency Polygon of scores of Male and Female Adults on the variable of Attitude towards Dowry**

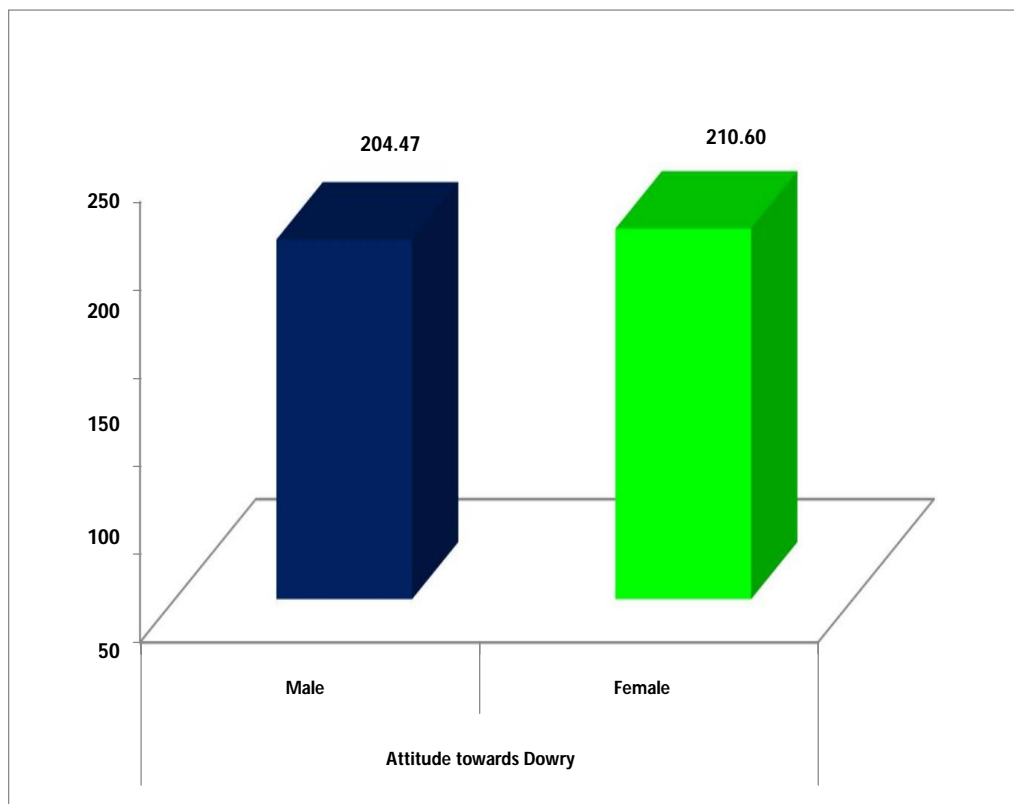
**Table 3. Significance of Difference between Mean Scores of Attitude towards Dowry among Male and female adults**

Group	Variable	N	M	S.D	SEM	t-ratio	Sig./Not Sig.
Male	Attitude towards Dowry	100	204.47	23.07	2.31	2.01	Significant at .05 level
Female		100	210.60	19.84	1.98		

Table 3 revealed that the mean scores of the variable of Attitude towards Dowry of male and female adults as 204.47 and 210.60 respectively. The t-ratio is calculated as 2.01 with df = 198 which is significant at .05 level. This revealed that a significant difference exists between mean scores of Attitude towards Dowry of male and female adults.

### Conclusion

It was concluded that there was a significant difference between mean scores of the variable of Attitude towards Dowry of male and female adults. This indicates that gender does play a significant role in Attitude towards Dowry among adults.



**Figure 3. A difference between Mean Scores of Attitude towards Dowry among Male and female adults**

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Conflict of Interest: None declared