

Cruelty Against Married Women and the Legal Framework with Reference to Sec. 498 A of Indian Penal Code, 1860

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Abstract: *The document discusses the evolution of the institution of marriage, focusing on the concept of cruelty against married women in the context of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. It highlights the introduction of Section 498A to address matrimonial cruelty towards women, the impact of the provision, and its misuse leading to the term 'legal terrorism.' The study emphasizes the need for recommendations to address the misuse of the law and protect both women and men from its abuse. The document also delves into the ingredients and implications of Section 498A, reflecting on historic cases and the challenges faced by the judiciary in dealing with dowry-related issues.*

The document explores the changing dynamics of marriage and the prevalence of cruelty against married women within the Indian legal framework, particularly focusing on Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. It discusses the historical context of marriage, the significance of vows and commitments, and the emergence of dowry-related issues leading to cruelty and harassment towards women. The study examines the objectives of Section 498A, its impact as a social reform measure, and the challenges in its implementation, including the misuse of the provision termed as 'legal terrorism.' Recommendations are proposed to address the misuse of the law and protect both women and men from its negative consequences. Historic cases and the complexities faced by the judiciary in distinguishing genuine cases from false accusations are also highlighted.

The document discusses the concept of marriage as a sacred commitment and the emergence of cruelty against married women, particularly related to dowry issues. It highlights the introduction of Section 498A in the Indian Penal Code to address matrimonial cruelty towards women but also points out its misuse, leading to the term 'legal terrorism.' The study emphasizes the need for recommendations to address the misuse of the law and protect both women and men from its abuse. It also delves into the ingredients and implications of Section 498A, reflecting on historic cases and the challenges faced by the judiciary in dealing with dowry-related issues.

Keywords: Marriage, Woman, Dowry, Cruelty, IPC Section 498A, Family, Husband, Relatives, Misuse

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