

A Study on Public Opinion about Honour Killing and its Impact on Tamilnadu

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Abstract: *Honour killing is a particularly harmful and disturbing form of the control over women's behavior. It has been taking place for thousands of years, and continues to be practised globally, particularly, but not exclusively, amongst communities in or from South East Asian, Middle Eastern, and Mediterranean countries. The sample size of the study is 225 and an empirical study was conducted with a convenient sampling method. The research aims to study honour killing which is a serious social problem in some countries that is yet to be adequately explained and addressed. We start with an overview of the conceptualization of this phenomenon and review its global prevalence. We argue that honor killing cannot be fully explained by focusing only on religion and sexism. We present a feminist Durkheimian analysis of honor killing as a form of informal social control and argue that honor killing represents a 'dark side of modernity' in which the systematic marginalization and stigmatization of minorities and social groups have led them to rely more on traditional honor codes as a kind of informal social control, exacerbating honor crimes. This research discusses how a more effective approach to combat honor or killing requires not only addressing the issues of sexism and religious fundamentalism, but also the systematic exclusion and stigmatization of local groups and minorities. We aim to explore the specificity and causes of honor killing. Our hope is that a better understanding of underlying causes will open a new front to combat this hideous crime against women and subsequently increase the effectiveness of the current efforts and activism dedicated to decrease and hopefully eliminate such crimes.*

Keywords: honour killing, informal social control, marginalisation, modernity, stigmatisation of minorities

