

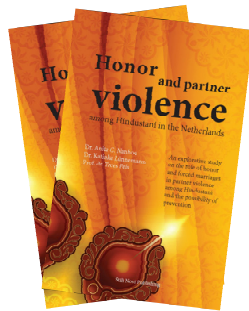
Honor and partner violence among Hindustani in the Netherland and the intergenerational transference



Honor and partner violence & the intergenerational transference

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Honor and partner violence & the intergenerational transference

Definitions

Violence in dependent relationships

Domestic violence and violence within a professional relationship, giving care or support. In all cases it concerns a violation of trust in a partner, parent, child or caretaker

Honor based violence

Any form of physical or mental violence committed out of a collective mentality, in response to (a threatening) loss of honour of a woman (or man) and his family and the outside world is bound to hear about it.



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Policy

The prevention of honor based violence is part of a program called Self-determination. This concerns the right to make your own choices about important matters in your life without any pressure or force. Violation of these rights are common in cases with inequality or strong dependencies between men and women. Examples are forced marriages, marital captivity, child marriages, abandonment, honor based violence, hidden woman, and the non-acceptance of LGBTI.



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Legislation to prevent forced marriages

Forced Marriage Prevention Act:

- Ban on marriage for people under 18
- Declaration on oath if relations (cousins) wish to marry
- Ban on polygamous marriage

Criminal prosecution of forced marriage:

- Offenders can be sentenced to up to two years imprisonment
- The six-year statute of limitations takes effect when the victim turns 18
- Pre-trial detention to protect then victim



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General information

Research question: How do honor based matters and forced marriages influence partner violence among Hindustani and what measures can contribute to stop the violence and to prevent the intergenerational transference?

Methods:

- Literature;
- Key informants
- 15 Mothers
- 17 Youngsters



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General Information

- Repeated migration history
- Population 125.000 (0,75%)
- Successful image
- Group-internal issues: high rates of (para)suicides



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Honor based mechanisms that influence partner violence

During upbringing

- Chastity (image versus reality)
- Importance of marriage and marital state (also for parents)
- Gender related upbringing and match making

During marriage

- Skew power relations
- Honor of women is related to marital state with first husband

After divorce

- Loss of male protector/identification along male line, financial and material deterioration
- Honor damage (resulting in marginalisation, out casting, low second chances)
- Not much to lose, so professional help is welcome



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Different faces of forced marriages

- Arranged marriages are a common practise, voluntarily but also under pressure or forced.
- Increasing pressure to marry before a certain age. Families anticipate on marital age and help arranging a match.
- High pressure to keep the marriage intact (marital captivity).
- Women are regarded as / present themselves as married according to Hinduism even after a legal divorce. Depending on the social environment they're in and the consequences they expect.



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Intergenerational transference

- Parents show (gender related) model behavior that is unconsciously copied
- Verbal messages have less impact than model behavior
- Honor based standards are unconsciously internalized by next generations

Note: a marginalized generation with multiple tasks:

- ✓ Process the trauma
- ✓ Grow up in a marginalized / less supportive family setting
- ✓ Work on honor repair by achieving successes (education, jobs, marriage and marital state)



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Seeking help

- Women first seek help from family. Reactions vary
- Effort of the women and their family is aimed at keeping the marriage intact
- Divorce is an ultimate measure and often comes after suicidal thoughts or attempts



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What helps to stop the violence and the intergenerational transference?

- Divorce
- Safe houses
- Severe interventions from police and child protection organizations



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Other policy recommendations:

- Attention for awareness and change of standards
- Parenting support
- Compensation of lost safety net
- Support for youngsters



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QUESTIONS?

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