

Identify the determinants of groom price special reference to selected Muslim area in Ampara district

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Introduction

Payments between families at the time of marriage are common practice in many areas in Sri Lanka. These payments can be substantial enough to affect the wealth distribution of the society.

The marriage payments come in various forms and sizes but can be classified into 'Groom price or Dowry' and 'Bride price or in islamic terms Mahr' Groom price normally means gifts given during the marriage to the son-in-law or his family either in cash or kind and the bride price means gift given to bride by groom during the marriage. The practice of giving dowry was meant to assist a newlywed couple to start their life together without difficulty. However, dowry is prohibited and Mahr is appreciated in Islam. Today, dowry has degenerated into a kind of commercial transaction in which monetary considerations receive priority over the personal merits of the bride. Groom price is very high in North, Eastern and South Eastern Province in Sri Lanka. Compared with other Muslim area in Sri Lanka, these payments are very high in Ampara Muslim area. These payments have risen sharply in year by year. The empirical investigation indicate that average amount of dowry given to groom is approximately 200n time grater that bride's father average monthly income.