

English 180, First Place; Professor, Dr. Timothy Helwig

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In 2011, India conducted its fifteenth national census, and the results were very disconcerting. For every thousand males, there were 943 females; however, for children up to six years old, that number drastically dropped to 919, one of many indicators that sex-based abortions are common in Asian countries (India Census). In India,

children in India, the system of dowry today must cease and be replaced with a new form, one that involves both the bride and groom's side contributing to the new household—something that can only happen when individual mindsets and cultural attitudes change.



of Economics, have deconstructed this theory. Their research suggests that the size of the bride's father's estate and how many daughters he has in his household—two factors that should have a major impact on a dowry's size, if it does serve as an inheritance—have no effect on the size of dowries (Dalmia and Lawrence 89). Thus, dowry has no practical purpose in Indian society.

Even with laws banning its practice and new programs in effect to discourage it, dowry is still commonplace in Indian marriages. Part of it is that the word “dowry” has different

