

INDIAN FAMILY TIMES

From the Editor's Desk

Welcome to the second issue of the 498A newsletter. As some of you already know, our first issue was tremendously successful. Over 20,000 people directly received our newsletter and scores of readers from around the world wrote to us appreciating the first-of-its kind newsletter. We received many suggestions, and we will be incorporating many of these suggestions in our future issues. Times of India, an English language national daily, even departed from its traditional stance of publishing anti-family material and discussed our newsletter in favorable terms. Of course, with early success comes tremendous responsibility, and now it is incumbent upon all of us to work together to encourage a family-friendly environment and eradicate the menace of laws like 498A that seek to destroy Indian families and values.

Some of you are probably aware that when Renuka Chowdhury, by far the worst Women and Child Development Minister of India since independence, was informed of our newsletter she famously remarked “*This is classical men's behavior*”. I am not sure what she means by the word ‘this’, but if she is referring to Indian men’s struggle for their rights, I believe she is correct. For centuries, Indian men have fought for their rights. We first fought against the British in 1857 and then for decades more till we finally got independence in 1947. Today, we are fighting another war against anti-India forces, and these forces are represented by Renuka Chawdhury, Girija Vyas, Indira Jaisingh, Brinda Karat and other radical elements in our society whose sole agenda is the destruction of the traditional Indian family. Whether we choose to fight against them like Mahatma Gandhi and Bal Gangadhar Tilak (non-violence) or like Subhash Bose and Bhagat Singh (violent resistance), only time will tell,

but it is certain that Indian men will certainly fight for the safety of the Indian family, the cornerstone of the our civilization for thousands of years.

Many readers wrote that the newsletter should not only focus on legal abuse (where women threaten to use or use 498A and similar laws which affect Indian families worldwide) against the husband and his family, but also include social, physical, economic, sexual, emotional, and psychological abuse of Indian men and their families. The future issues of the newsletter will reflect our revised mandate- to highlight all types of abuse against Indian men and their families by their wives and her family. Though abuse against men by their wives occurs worldwide, what is unique in the Indian context is the active involvement of the wife’s family in the process and the support the Indian government has provided to it by refusing to make gender-neutral laws and its unwillingness to stop the rampant misuse of 498A, Domestic Violence Act, Dowry Prohibition act and other similar laws through proper checks and balances.

In this month of the 62nd year of Indian independence, we invite you to join us in our struggle against enemies of traditional Indian values and the Indian joint family system. We request you to spare a few minutes this 15 August to think about the Indian men, their mothers, sisters, and innocent relatives who are in prison or in police custody because of false accusations by their 498A wives. We look forward to your comments, suggestions, and feedback on how you think we can advance our struggle against the injustice perpetuated on many Indian men every day all over the country and around the world. You can reach us at editorindianfamilytimes@gmail.com.

Volume 1, Issue 2, August 2008

We ask: Make Family Laws Gender Neutral

Hall of Shame

Name: Kanchan Gupta
(Married Name: Kanchan Mittal)
Date of Birth: 29th July, 1981
Place of Birth: Delhi
Education: B. Tech (Computer Science)
Employer: Building Materials and
Technology Promotion Council (A
Government Undertaking)
Office Address: India Habitat Centre, Lodi
Road, Delhi.

Father: Mohan Lal Gupta
Mother: Kusum Gupta
Brother: Mitul Gupta
Sister : Neha Gupta

Residence Address: Flat-99, Pocket C,
Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi, India

The father of this girl is so greedy, he openly
told people that “*maine toh makan dekh kar*

*shaadi ki thee, ladka dekh kar thodi hi ke
thee*”. Of course, he forgot that if “*makaan*”
was his primary criterion he should have
taken his daughter to a brothel, not to a
matrimonial place. Unfortunately, the list of
Indian parents who prostitute their daughters
for money is increasing rapidly, and Mohan
Lal Gupta of Rohini is no exception.

Kanchan works in BMTPC where tax payer
money is used to pay her salary which helps
her engage in “legal terrorism” against her
husband and his family. If you believe that
your taxes should not be used to support
terrorists like Kanchan please write or call
**Dr. Shailesh Agrawal, Executive Director
of BMTPC** email address: ska@bmtpc.org,
tel.: 011-24636705. Should your taxes
support “legal terrorism” in India? If not,
write and call!

News from the Halls

It is commonly observed that jurisdiction is a tricky issue for men (and their families) who are falsely accused under 498A. In a typical scenario, the girl and her parents first harass and abuse a man (and his family), then seek a remote police station which is close to their place (and distant from the husband’s place, the marital home) or where they have a friendly police officer who is ready to bring the full force of police power to bear on the innocent man and his family. The Supreme Court of India, state high courts, and many local courts have noted this problem many times. In a 2006 judgment by the Allahabad HC in the case of an Assistant IT Commissioner accused of dowry, the honorable justices discussed the jurisdiction issue in great detail.

The court has made it clear that 498a and other matrimonial cruelty-related complaints can only be made in the police station in the area in which the alleged cruelty and harassment occurred. The court clearly ruled that jurisdiction will be not be decided by where the wedding ceremony took place, but by where the alleged acts of cruelty were committed. Furthermore, the court ruled that in examining accusations of 498A, it needs to be observed whether a complaint was filed when the serious acts of alleged abuse occurred. In other words, the court suggested that if the alleged victim does not file the complaint when the acts of cruelty occurred, it has to be asked why she chose to wait to get to a police station which was convenient to her family.

In summary, the Allahabad HC decision provides relief to falsely accused men by spotlighting the where and when of filing 498A and other cruelty-related complaints.

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Research News

Most people on the street, when asked about abuse of men by women, would probably respond with surprise, shock, or chuckle. However, for the men who are beaten, raped, or battered by their wife abuse is no laughing matter! Professor Hines of University of Massachusetts (USA) and his co-authors (Jan Brown of DAHMW and Edward Dunning of Family Interventions Project) published a paper in the *Journal of Family Violence* (2007) which described the abusive experiences of 190 U.S.-based men who called the Maine-based helpline phone number. The abused men in their study reported horrific experiences of physical, emotional, sexual, economic, and legal abuse. Many victims in their study reported being beaten repeatedly by their wife:

“My wife has ripped the phone off the wall and she hits me all the time... She is a prominent person in the community... Who would believe me if I told”, said one man.

Abusive women didn't just stop at beating the husband, they also raped their husband or caused him serious injuries. One man said *“She beat me up, punched me... she raped me with a dildo... I tried to fight her off, but she was strong... I was bleeding and she wouldn't let me go to the doctor's”*. Another

reported that his wife broke both his eardrums and still he requested that the police not arrest her!

The paper reports numerous instances of women manipulating the support system and legal infrastructure to falsely accuse the husband, even when it was clear that the men had either not hit her at all or had only hit back in self-defense to save his life. The paper discusses the example of a woman whose son committed suicide because his wife repeatedly abused him and *“manipulated the justice system”* to falsely accuse him. Her son committed suicide, the mother reported, because he had *“no where to go and no one to talk to”*. (Such a story would of course sound very familiar to many abused Indian men who have been frustrated by the ease with which their wife misuse the legal system to abuse them).

Professor Hines' argues that violence between married couples should be seen as a human problem, and not a gender problem. The authors believe that violence by women should be taken seriously so that the goal of ending all violence in marital relationships can be achieved. If you agree with the professor, you can email her at denise_hinse@uml.edu.

Helpline Numbers for Abused Men

Domestic Abuse, USA
[1-888-743-5754](tel:1-888-743-5754)

Save Indian Family
[91-9243473794](tel:91-9243473794)

Asha-Kiran, All India
[91-80-65334135](tel:91-80-65334135)

SAHANA, Hyderabad
[91-9848280354](tel:91-9848280354)



Protect India Family, Mumbai
[91-9224335577](tel:91-9224335577)

SFF NRI Helpline
[91-9986378801](tel:91-9986378801)

**498a.org,
for Indians in US**
[917-512-5362](tel:917-512-5362)

**Gender Human Rights
Society, Delhi**
[91-9871763056](tel:91-9871763056)

Save Family, Kolkatta
[91-9830151555](tel:91-9830151555)

Dialogue

In what may be considered another example of “imperial feminist” scholarship, Professor Huma Ahmed-Ghosh of San Diego State University published a paper titled “Chattels of Society: Domestic Violence in India” in an inter-disciplinary, international research journal. (The dictionary meaning of the word chattel is “a slave”). In her 25-page paper Professor Ghosh criticizes the Indian parliament for passing ‘soft laws’ like 498A, denounces Indian men as abusive and women as stupid victims of the ‘patriarchal’ order in India, and argues that India should learn from England on ways to make marital relationships more egalitarian. To support her arguments, Professor Ghosh turns towards Manu, “the third century BCE lawmaker”, and “leading feminist-activist of India” such as Brinda Karat, a card-carrying leader of the communist movement in India.



In her paper, Professor Ghosh denounces 498A as a weak law and argues for stronger laws to punish the Indian men. Interestingly, her 6-page ‘analysis’ of legislations, like 498A, makes no mention of the absolute power such laws have given many women to manipulate the system and engage in “legal terrorism”. Not once, did she acknowledge the thousands of Indian men languishing in prisons or suffering in silence because their wife misused laws to abuse them. Perhaps, we are to believe that the professor did not know that thousands of Indian women are abusing such law around the world. This was certainly possible if the professor was working in a third-world institution with no access to internet, but Professor Ghosh is employed in a university which is located in California- the mecca of the world wide web! It is simply inconceivable that the professor did not even do a google search on “498a” which returns thousands of links to websites and blogs detailing the misuse of 498a. **Why Professor Ghosh ignored a website like www.498a.org which receives more than 2 million hits a month is a mystery!**

Professor Ghosh explicitly argues that women are abused in India because of the “patriarchal” system which is controlled by men. She provides no evidence of outlandish claims that all Indian men are abusive. The best she can do is to refer to ‘Manu’s law’ as the “guiding philosophy” of Indian society. Not once, did she acknowledge that the percentage of Indian people who have read even one page of Manu’s book is far less than the percentage of American people who believe that George Bush is actually a woman masquerading as a man! And what, according to Professor Ghosh, is the role of Indian woman in this ‘patriarchal’ society? Indian women, the professor believes, are unable to dumb and stupid- They are first abused by men and then collaborate with them to abuse other women, simply because ‘the man’ tells her to do so!

Professor Ghosh suggests that Indians should learn from the British. Of course, no data is provided on the success (or failure) of the English programs to promote marital happiness. She does not even once acknowledge that divorce rate in England is alarmingly high and that there are more divorced couples than married couples in England. Without any evidence or data, Professor Ghosh suggests that the poor and illiterate (brown) Indians learn from the educated (white) British about how to have a harmonious relationship between married couples.

Furthermore, she argues, everybody in India has to change- the young, the old, the police, judiciary, media, women, men, politicians, and the whole society! Perhaps, there is a simpler solution- Given that according to Professor Ghosh the historical, religious, social, and family system of the Indian society advocates and accepts abuse against women, we can simply replace the abusive Indian race with more egalitarian (and culturally superior) race.

“Chattels of Society” is not a scholarly paper, it is an imperialistic feminist propaganda! It is available from the website of the journal *Violence Against Women*. If you disagree with Professor Ghosh’s thesis that Indians need laws even more harsh than 498a, all Indian men abuse and all Indian women are abused, and that India adopt programs from western countries (where divorce is rampant), you can write to her at ghosh@mail.sdsu.edu and share your thoughts with her. If you believe that the journal should also publish a paper discussing the other side of the coin (such as the widespread misuse of 498A to harass and abuse the husband’s mother and sister) and present a balanced scholarship on such serious issues as domestic abuse you should email the journal editor at Claire.Renzetti@notes.udayton.edu.

Patriot and Pinhead



Ms. Namita Panda, former Chairperson of the Orissa State Commission for Women recently acknowledged that “many women are using 498A of the IPC (anti-dowry law) to terrorise their husbands and his families”. She accepted that “a large number of cases filed under the dowry laws are fake”. She admitted that many 498A cases are “a cruel and wicked design to blackmail husbands and in-laws”. She had also urged for steps to check the blatant misuse of 498A and other similar draconian laws. For daring to publicly speak the truth, Ms. Panda is a **PATRIOT**.



Miss Girija Vyas, chairperson National Commission for Women, recently recommended that dowry givers should be excluded from punishment. Earlier, Ms. Vyas, a doctorate in philosophy, has also been opposed to the demand of prosecuting both men and women for adulterous behavior and infidelity, arguing that women can never want to have sex outside of marriage! In the past, she has also been accused of cheating a poor widowed woman in Rajasthan from getting a petrol pump license. For her actions against the Indian family, sick comments, and continued corruption Dr. Vyas is **A PINHEAD**.

*It is important to mention here that Ms. Namita Panda has recently been suspended from her position by Dr. Girija Vyas because she **dared** to suggest that some women are misusing the legal system to abuse their husbands, in-laws, and his innocent relatives. It is clear that the NCW no longer represents or speaks for the Indian women, but has become a forum for radical feminists who believe that marriage is an institution inherently oppressive to women.*

Saat Samundar Paar...

Pick up any magazine, book, or newspaper or switch on any TV channel or radio station and you will be told that we live in a globalized world where distances between countries have become meaningless and where what happens in one country reverberates around the world. Perhaps, nowhere does this hold truer than in cases of domestic abuse among Indian couples. In recent years, there has been a sudden increase in allegations and accusations of domestic abuse and dowry harassment against Non-Resident Indians (NRI) and Person of Indian Origins (PIO) settled around the world.

The typical scenarios for such cases go something like this: A non-resident Indian (any person of Indian origin living abroad) decides to follow his parental advice and social norms to have an arranged marriage. His parent shortlist a few girls who he meets with when he visits India for a short duration. Based on a short meeting, he makes a decision, and soon finds himself married for life to a girl who he does not know much about. After marriage, he sponsors the girl for a visa, pays for her airfare, insurance, shopping, and other miscellaneous expenses. After a few days or months (sometimes years), the girl goes back to India and accuses him of mental cruelty and harassment using 498A. Though the accusations refer to incidents that allegedly occur in another country where she almost always lived alone with her husband, her complaint usually includes the husband's father, mother, and other relatives. The police register a complaint and require the husband and his parents to report for investigation. The husband is unfortunately unable to take many days off to travel to India for investigation. He is told that if he agrees to a "settlement" (by paying a large amount of money), the complaint will be withdrawn. He pays the money, the girl withdraws her complaints, and he is single again. The girl and her family get a shockingly large amount of money without having to make much effort.

Consider the case of **Mr. Sanil Sukumaran**, a British citizen of Indian origin. He married Ms. Vijayan in 2000-01, had a daughter with her in 2004, and had a 498A filed against him in 2005. In the interim, he paid for his wife's higher education in England, helped her get a job with the British government, and bought a home in England with her. In 2005, his wife accused him of harassing her for a car and gold ornaments when she filed a 498A against him in Kerala, her home state in India. Notably, her uncle Mr. Sasidharan is a retired Deputy Superintendent of Police which ensured that the police lost no time in registering the case. Of course, no dowry accusations were made with the police when Ms. Vijayan was in England, where the couple lived for almost all their married life. Now, 8 years after his arranged marriage and three years after the 498A, Mr. Sukumaran is trapped in the Indian judicial system, his wife has obtained the right to British residency, and his parents are spending the golden years of their life responding to accusations of harassment in the court and with the police.

It is clear that NRIs are treated as the proverbial bird that lays golden eggs by the society. They are accused of serious crimes like mental cruelty and wife abuse and then conveniently let go as soon as they agree to pay up a sum of money, usually much larger than what the girl's family has ever seen. They are accused of torturing the girl for a few thousand dollars (a car that cost four lacs in India is 10,000 US dollars, not more than two months salary for most NRIs) and then expected to pay tens of thousands of dollars to make the accusations disappear. The Indian media, police, and judiciary refuse to use their common sense and ask why a guy would harass a girl for money which is far less than what he has already spent on her (buying gifts, travel, insurance, accommodation, food, and education). No one wonders why the girl did not complain of abuse to local police in the country of their residence, where the police usually respond to complaints of domestic abuse immediately. No one asks why the greedy

husband agreed to pay for the wife's visa and air-ticket to take her abroad with him in the first place, when he could have easily let her stay in India. No one asks what, if anything, have the girls' family given in the past that the husband is expecting them to give him anything in the future. In other words, NRIs like Mr. Sukumaran will continue to be harassed for crimes they never committed!

But can we just blame the girls and their parents' for such criminal acts of extortion? Look at the role model these girls and their parents have- Renuka Chowdhury, cabinet minister in the Government of India. Ms. Chowdhury is among the elitist of the elite in India. Her daughter Poojita was married to a London-based ophthalmologist Satya Sai Prasad in 2007. Within less than a year of the wedding, Ms. Chowdhury filed a 498A against her son-in-law in

Hyderabad. It is hard to understand why, if Poojita was being harassed, did she not complain to local law enforcement in London where the police and court take a strict view of any sort of domestic abuse. No one, not even the media, asked her if she had given any dowry at the time of the wedding, and if she did not give any dowry earlier, what made the husband and his parents believe that they would get anything later. In short, as our ancient texts says, *yatha raja, tatha praja* (as the rulers behave, so do the ruled). As long as there are role models like Renuka Chowdhury and her daughter Poojita Chowdhury, there will be girls like Geetha Vijayan who believe it is okay to manipulate the law to abuse the husband.

Will Sukumaran get justice? If you want to see justice done to Sukumar, email DGP Kerala Police at dgp@keralapolice.gov.in.

Did You Know...

- ✓ For the last three years, Indian Police registered more cases of 498A or Cruelty by Husband and Relatives for Dowry than they registered for Murder, Attempt to Murder, Rape, Molestation, Kidnapping, Dacoity, Robbery, Rioting, Auto Theft, Molestation and Sexual Harassment. (The turning point has been year 1997, till then there were more cases per year of murder etc.).
- ✓ In the last 11 years, incidences of crimes like Murder, Attempt to Murder, Culpable Homicide, Dacoity, Robbery, Burglary, Theft, Rioting, Criminal breach of trust and Counterfeiting, showed a decline ranging between 9% to 40%, while reports of crimes like Hurt, Dowry Death, Rape and Molestation showed an increase ranging from 6% to 63%.
- ✓ In the last 5 years, more women have reported cruelty by husband and relative than rape, molestation, sexual harassment, forced prostitution, kidnapping and abduction of women put together.
- ✓ 2.3 people are arrested for every 498A complaint. This arrest per complaint is only higher in rioting (where 100s of people are usually involved) and Dacoity. 498A or cruelty by Husband and Relative has the highest ratio of Arrest Rate per complaint (after Rioting).
- ✓ 5,206 people arrested against 498A complaint are presently in jail for over 1 year without conviction.
- ✓ More than 20% of women prisoners in India were arrested after another woman included them in 498A complaint. These arrested women have no law to seek help from!
- ✓ The rate of 498A complaints is higher than the national average in states which have above-average literacy, higher education level and higher per capita income (exception: Rajasthan).

(This research was conducted by Shoneek (email: harassed.by.498a@gmail.com))

KEEP SMILING, STAY SANE



Payment from Boss for False Sexual Harrasment Case – 2 lakh Rupees
Payment from Husband for False 498A case – 20 lakh Rupees
Payment from Husband False Domestic violence case – 5 Lakh rupees
Payment as maintenance from Live-in-relationship - 2 Lakh rupees

Enjoying the Husband's House , Boss's car and adultery from Live- in relationship – Priceless

There are some things money can't buy, for everything else there is 498A , DV act and the Live- in relationship maintenance act!

(submitted by an innocent victim of 498A Arpit Mittal, arpitmittal@rediffmail.com)

You, 498A, and India



In 1944, speaking to a gathering of poor and deprived Indians living in Burma, Subhash Bose, the founder of the Indian National Army and a legendary leader of the Indian freedom struggle famously said “*Tum mujhe khoon do, mein tumhein azaadi doonga*” (*Give me your blood, and I will get you freedom*). It is reported that people responded to his passionate call with everything they had, some gave their lives, others their savings, and all gave him their heart. The sacrifice of millions of Indians worldwide ultimately brought freedom from colonial slavery on **15th August 1947**. However, today Indians worldwide are fighting another battle, the battle against radical feminism which is slowly destroying the uniquely Indian family system. In a world where divorce rate is as high as 70% in many countries and there are more divorces than marriages, the time-tested Indian family system offers the best hope for the future. If we are to save Indian families from draconian laws, we need people to contribute to this effort with their *thann, mann, and dhann* (*Life, heart, and money*). If you believe in our struggle to save the Indian family system, we need your support.

Can you volunteer some time to help in this effort? If yes, **WE NEED YOU!**

Can you contribute your skills and expertise for this effort? If yes, **WE NEED YOU!**

Can you contribute some financial resources for this struggle? If yes, **WE NEED YOU!**

Can you put your heart to help save the unique Indian family system? If yes, **WE NEED YOU!**

If you believe in this struggle, WE NEED YOU.

To provide material, financial, or other support to Protect India Family contact Gokul, email address: gokul@protectindianfamily.org.

To provide material, financial, or other support to 498.org, visit <http://donate.498a.org>.

THANN, MANN, and DHANN- WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

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