

Study on the Phenomenon of High Price Bride Price in Rural Areas -- A Case Study of L County, Shandong Province

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ABSTRACT

The frequent occurrence of high betrothal gifts in rural areas has aroused widespread concern in society and aroused strong interest in academia. This paper explores the phenomenon of sky-high bride price in rural areas, and analyzes the reasons for the phenomenon of sky-high bride price from the individual level, government level, and social level by consulting literature; analyzes the impact of sky-high bride price phenomenon from three levels: individual, society and government. So as to propose solutions in three aspects: individual, society and government.

Keywords: high betrothal gift; poverty due to marriage; betrothal gift

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Research background

The continuous emergence of the phenomenon of high bride price has not only aroused wide spread concern in the society, but also made academia have a strong interest in it. Mr. Fei Xiao-tong's book "Rural China" mentioned that the dowry is a kind of financial support and guarantee for men and women to start a family after marriage [1]. However, the high betrothal gifts in modern society have created a situation where one person gets married and the whole family is indebted to a huge financial burden.

1.2. Research status

Tian Feng (2016) and others elaborated on the impact of the phenomenon of high-priced bride price, and believed that to curb the high price of bride price, we should actively improve our country's legislation on bride price [2].

Usman, Kelaimu (2019) analyzed the reasons for the existence of high-priced betrothal gifts in rural areas from traditional customs, social concepts, etc., and added "measures to improve social security work for the disabled" into the recommendations [3].

Hou Yun-jie and Gao Qiang (2020) expounded the current situation of betrothal gifts in terms of the amount,

types and sources of betrothal gifts, and elaborated in detail from three aspects: the imbalance between male and female marriageable men and women in rural areas, the serious comparison of farmers, and the mode of marriage and love based on blind date. The reason for the problem of high bride price [4].

Jin Xiao-yi and Duan Zhu-qing (2019) conducted a related study on the cost of male marriage in rural China under urbanization. During the survey, it was found that the rising cost of marriage in rural areas has brought a heavy economic burden to individuals and families [5].

Gao Feng-qin's (2019) research took Gu-lang County, Gansu Province as an example, conducted an in-depth investigation of the local phenomenon of high betrothal gifts, conducted an empirical study on the social harm caused by the phenomenon of high betrothal gifts, and conducted relevant legal issues. Normative Analysis [6].

Ren Yue (2019) concluded that the continuous growth of betrothal gifts is closely related to factors such as the level of rural economic development, traditional ideology, and the ratio of males and females [7].

1.3. Research methods

Scope of research: The research site of this paper is in Shandong, and the relationship with the respondents is familiar, so it is easy to gain the trust of the respondents,

and can quickly and deeply understand the true thoughts of the respondents. This paper mainly adopts the method of literature review and field observation to explore and analyze the current situation and causes of the phenomenon of high bride price.

2. OVERVIEW OF HIGH BETROTHAL GIFTS IN L COUNTY, SHANDONG PROVINCE

2.1. Basic Situation of L County In Shandong Province

Before matchmaking, the first thing a matchmaker needs to do is to seek out the intentions of the families of both men and women. If they are interested, they can make peace in it, as long as the family background is not too big, the characters are in line with (traditional customs), the seniority is the same, and the parents' relationship is the same. If you have the same opinion, you can make a verbal marriage contract. Changing the number is also called changing the sticker. Both the man and the woman write the parent's name, age, and birth date on red paper, and exchange it through the matchmaker. At this time, the man can give the woman the convenience Dowry. After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the "Marriage Law of the People's Republic of China" was implemented.

2.2. Existence of High Bride Price In L County, ShanDong Province

With the development of the times, the form of dowry has changed. In the 1950s, what was popular at that time was not "the orders of the parents and the words of the matchmaker", but "all obeying the arrangement of the organization", and marriage needed to be sent to the superior. The leadership application and the marriage certificate need to be signed by the superior and certified by the work unit. The wedding is directly undertaken by the organization, and the guests are mostly relatives in the family. This form of marriage also continued for a long period of time. By the 1960s, matrimonial laws had become widespread, and arranged marriages had gradually faded into the dust of history. In terms of the form and cost of marriage, there is no big difference between the 1950s and the 1960s.

In the 1970s, economic development gradually led to the change of the times. Compared with the dowry in the 1950s and 1960s, the betrothal gifts at this time may cost people a lot of money. Bicycles, sewing machines, and radios also gradually entered the market. In the list of betrothal gifts, the form of betrothal gifts at that time still stayed on the objects used.

In the 1980s, after the three major items of marriage became standard, in the 1990s, with the rapid economic

development, the economic gap between towns and villages gradually widened, and the comparison of betrothal gifts had a wide range of influences. Today's Shanghai and Tianjin have entered the million-dollar dowry area. The betrothal money in the three eastern provinces, Jiangxi and Qinghai is about 500,000 yuan, and the betrothal money in Shandong, Hunan, and Zhejiang has started at 100,000 yuan.

There are three main directions about the flow of bride price. According to the current domestic and foreign scholars' investigation and research on the flow of high-priced bride price in rural areas, one is the flow to the woman, as a compensatory behavior of the man to the woman. The second is to return to the man, and the ultimate effect of the high betrothal gift is a kind of "going through the motions". The third is the flow to the children of marriage. At this time, the dowry is transformed into the financial basis for the husband and wife to complete their own family construction.

During in-depth interviews in rural areas, corresponding problems were also found. For example, during the conversation, some people still hold the idea that "raising daughters for so many years is to earn all the money when they get married". This is the so-called "selling daughters" behavior in rural areas. Today, with the rapid development of modern society, it is still difficult to change the concept of prioritizing boys over girls in rural areas.

For families in need, this is indeed a shortcut to solve their current difficulties and improve their quality of life. However, a gentleman loves money and must take it in a right way. According to Guangxi news channel, when welcoming the wedding, the woman suddenly asked for an additional 180000 bride price on the spot. The two sides began to quarrel, and finally ended up with a bitter separation. Correspondingly, the cultural auditorium mentioned in the "bride price rises all the way, don't let the sky high price bride price bend your waist" published by the people's Daily has achieved good results as a multi-functional place. It rents private wedding banquets to the village in its spare time, and advocates new customs in the village rules and regulations. The venue rent is not high, the ceremony is simple, the accompanying gifts are not heavy, the amount of betrothal gifts has also reached a normal level, the human debt has been reduced, and the human sentiment is still very strong [10]. B1: "At that time, I also worked to earn some money. You know, my job is to drive a cart to transport things and earn some hard money. At that time, I also had the idea of begging for a wife. I asked the matchmaker to inquire about the good girls around. It was a coincidence that there was one. Although I was divorced, I was very nice. I would chat with her at night. You can't say it was not bad. At that time, we were together Planning betrothal gifts was a bit of a headache at first. Later, after we discussed it, she was very good

and didn't want the money. She just got married last year.

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Secondly, it is a one-sided and incorrect view to talk about bride price without dowry. It is a very typical example: the bride price in Tianjin generally requires the man to provide a suite and cash ranging from 50000 to 200000. This part of cash covers wedding banquet expenses, rental expenses, jewelry expenses and other necessary expenses for marriage. In this regard, the bride price in Tianjin ranks among the top in the country. However, from the perspective of the flow of bride price, it is a different conclusion. The final flow of the marriage costs paid by these men, such as real estate (house), cash and gift money, points to the married couple, and the woman's parents will prepare a relatively rich dowry for their daughter when her daughter gets married. Therefore, according to this view, the bride price in Tianjin is relatively small. The difference is that the betrothal gifts in Shandong range from 50000 to 300000, and there is no standardized requirement for real estate. On the surface, the betrothal gifts given by the man are still less than those given by Tianjin. However, according to the consumption level of different regions, they are also sky high in some rural areas of Shandong. Moreover, these betrothal gifts generally flow to the woman's parents and may be used to provide for the elderly, It may be used to support the next generation, and the bride price will lose contact with the married couple.

3. THE IMPACT OF HIGH BRIDE PRICE IN RURAL AREAS

3.1. Personal level

High-priced bride price will increase personal financial burden and reduce personal happiness. The consequences of borrowing in order to collect high betrothal gifts are nothing more than two aspects. One is to increase personal financial pressure, and the expenditure originally planned to be used for living has been greatly reduced, which will lead to a decline in living standards. The second is to increase the psychological burden of the individual. At the same time as the economic level declines, the individual will become more anxious, and even lead to psychological problems, and the individual's sense of well-being will plummet.

3.2. The family level

The high betrothal price causes the poor to become poorer and affect social stability. The phenomenon of "returning to poverty due to marriage" and "impoverishing due to marriage" has become more and more frequent, casting a haze on the country's poverty alleviation work.

3.3. Social level

The appearance of the high bride price phenomenon makes some people pay more attention to material interests when choosing a partner. This has caused the deterioration of the rural social atmosphere, and it is also a serious challenge to the village rules and regulations. The "feminist money worship" spawned by high betrothal gifts makes more and more men lose their desire to get married. The high betrothal price causes the relationship between men and women to oppose each other and corrupt social morality.

4. ANALYSIS ON THE CAUSES OF HIGH PRICE BRIDE PRICE

4.1. Personal level

The traditional concepts of "son preference" and "raising children to prevent old age" have been deeply rooted in the hearts of the rural people. Behind the increasing amount of bride price, there is an imbalance in the gender ratio between men and women. It is this social reality that makes the standard of female mate selection gradually improve. Whether there is a registered permanent residence in the city, whether the economic conditions are good, whether there is a house or a car at home, and whether the work is good have gradually become the reference of women's mate selection standards. That's why the trend of comparison is prevalent. Families gradually form a distorted psychology for their own faces, and then frantically raise the price of the bride price. This crazy behavior has created the phenomenon of sky high price bride price.

Personal misconceptions such as the concept of "get for nothing" exist in people's hearts, and the social reality amplifies this misconception in a disguised form, making some people hope to achieve wealth through marriage.

4.2. Government level

The management agency lacks corresponding management methods, and lacks corresponding laws to curb the phenomenon of high bride price. As a traditional custom, betrothal gifts are difficult to supervise, and the definition of high betrothal gifts is also a major obstacle for management agencies to supervise.

Social public opinion has developed more rapidly since the progress of science and technology. However, the chicken soup text pushed by the marketing sign is similar to "boys should not buy five carat diamond rings for their girlfriends, and" girls must suffer if they enter the door without a dowry ". Under the banner of caring for women, they spread unhealthy trends. In this regard, the government's supervision is still insufficient, and chaos is one of the consequences.

4.3. Social level

The imbalance in the ratio of males and females in rural areas has brought about a squeeze on marriage. In cities, it has been widely tolerated whether it is boys or girls who do not marry at the age of 30. However, in economically underdeveloped rural areas, due to the influence of traditional concepts: there are three kinds of unfilial piety, nothing is great. It is considered an act of unfilial piety for a man not to marry after a certain age, but the poorer the family, the higher the dowry money that needs to be paid.

5. CONCLUSION

The phenomenon of high bride price in rural areas of China has brought serious problems. In order to solve the negative impact of the phenomenon of high bride price in rural areas and promote the operation of healthy marriage relations, it is necessary to start from the three aspects of the individual, the government and the society. to prevent this from happening.

Based on this, through the key research on the negative impact caused by the phenomenon of high betrothal gifts, the cause and background of the problem have been deeply excavated at multiple levels. Therefore, this paper puts forward the following countermeasures and suggestions: Ideological and moral construction, establish correct values; start with policies, serious laws and regulations, and contain the phenomenon of high bride price from the national level through laws and regulations; guide correct public opinion, and transmit positive social concepts; in order to eliminate such phenomenon the goal of.

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