



Community concern and response to modern practices in weddings: In context of Jaunpuri community

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Abstract

This research paper is based on the proposals declared by diverse village meetings of representatives and people held in Jaunpur block, Tehri Garhwal of Uttarakhand. Jaunpuri community keep almost the similar features as other hill communities of the state. Jaunpuri community is well known for its rich culture and sociability in the state. The study offers the analysis of the concerns of community people relating to rapid transformations in marriage ceremonies. It explores the people's collective efforts and unity against these newer concerning practices and willingness of restoration of old valued marriage events. This work will be assisting document for policy framers and futuristic studies of understanding transforming wedding practices across Uttarakhand hill rural communities.

Keywords: Austerity, Practices, Expenditure, Social pressure, Tradition

Introduction

Jaunpur block is situated in Tehri Garhwal district of Uttarakhand (Uttaranchal, n.d.). In Jaunpur various village and area representatives called community meetings at different parts as according to their time and date. The study is based on the output in form of the resolutions announced from these meetings. The meetings held at various Gram Sabha, Gram Panchayat and Maha Panchayat level in different parts of Jaunpur on different dates and time (table 1.1).

Table 1.1

Village/Area	Participants
Rautu Ki Beli	45
Khyarsi	33
Gavana	12
Jakhdhar	42
Silwad	60
Kyari	7
Goran	6
Agyarna	7
Gaid	27

The people proposed in those meetings instructions how to organise marriage events in recent times. The people expressed the social concern over the evolving practices related to such events. Social concern deals with the current problems, issues of the community or country. (www.scribd.com, n.d.) The people of this area felt need of coming together to discuss on growing issues together. Various proposals have been finalized on these community platforms. It is a testimony of self-governance in which the people of its own group control or

instruct something. "Self-government or control of a group by its own members rather than by the members of a different group." (Britanica.com, n.d.) The people have shown concerns over increasing newer trends which assumed negative to the socio-cultural and economically to the people of Jaunpur.

The topics of concerns of community people

The people expressed their concerns over following points related to current marriage and other social events:

Table 1.2

Specific proposals	Involved Gram Sabhas
1. Prohibition on Liquor	Agyana, Gaid, Gavana, Goaran, Rautu Ki Beli, Kyari, Khyarshi, Silwad, Jakhdhar
2. Austerity and Measures	Agyarna, Gaid, Goaran, Kyari, Khyarshi, Jakhdhar, Ritual Gift and Reform
3. Limiting economic obligation on mat	Agyarna, Gaid, Goaran, Silwad
4. Community Conduct	Goaran, Gaid
5. Enforcement fines	Agyana, Gaid, Gavana, Goaran, Rautu Ki Beli, Kyari, Silwad

Uncontrolled consumption of alcohol and drugs

The increasing consumption of liquor and drugs in auspicious and weddings was the prime concern in all village meetings. This trend is deteriorating the social morality and become the reason of social peace. The villagers found it a bad practice which effecting youth and family.

Modern show off and unnecessary party culture

As per the people's concern, in the name of Mehandi and Cocktail party in marriages, has shifted to the social vicious pattern. These events require separate invitation and money to organise which lay extra economic and social pressure on eople.

Burden on maternal side

On the decisions declared by people in different gatherings has expressed worry on the maternal side when this side face pressure of gifting and Goats in a Jaunpuri marriage. For poor family this obligation forces them to debts and social pressure.

Uncontrolled noise and DJ culture

Noise on high pitch till night long and indiscipline is the concern expressed by people. Different village meetings have

suggested a fixed timing of such celebrations.

Public exhibition of gifts and money

In these meetings people have assumed the wearing cash garland, costly ornaments and tendency of gifting costly items is an extravaganza. The participants in these meetings have perceived that show off trend has triggered the social competition of being noticed which needs to be stopped.

Table 1.3

Category	Specific declarations	Involved gram sabhas
Prohibition on liquor	English/ local liquor/beer cocktail parties ban at functions/ events	Agyana, Gaid, Gavana, Goaran, Rautu Ki Beli, Kyari, Khyarshi, Silwad, Jakhdhar
Austerity and measures	Ban of Mehndi, DJ timing limitation and ban of Cash Garland	Agyarna, Gaid, Goaran, Kyari, Khyarshi, Jakhdhar
Ritual gift and reform	Limiting economic obligation on maternal side - one goat and fixed cash	Agyarna, Gaid, Goaran, Silwad
Community conduct	Ban on standing food, restoration of traditional seated dining and limiting guests	Goaran, Gaid
Enforcement	Fines ranging 50 thousand to 1 lakh rupees and social boycott at violation	Agyana, Gaid, Gavana, Goaran, Rautu Ki Beli, Kyari, Silwad

Breaking of social norms and discipline

Rural community people think if desirable action will not be implemented to stop new social anti-community practices in various events, the social fabric might break.

Sociological analysis

The approved decisions in various social assemblies indicates following sociological point of view as follows -

- **Economic security and austerity:** The rural community people expressed deliberate effort together to be secure at economically and sustain austerity by minimizing unnecessary debts to fulfil events. Expressed concern about uncontrolled expenditure on gifting and traditional obligation of maternal uncle behalf in weddings.
- **Social resistance to substance abuse:** In each public meetings, people have showed their acceptance to prohibited local and English liquor in social events. This indicates that rural communities consider it the main cause of being economic loss, health issues and disturbance in peace. To keep liquor free to the fundamental event like weddings, the communities wish to keep secure the safe environment to younger generations.
- **Rejection of modern malpractices:** Standing buffet in Mehndi, birthday and cocktail parties have assumed as a modern malpractice. The new practices are not according to tradition and these practices viewed as economic burden and moral downfall of people.
- **Social control:** The decisions finalized by people in these meetings are community’s traditional instruments of social control which prove more powerful than legal laws. Violation of these decisions will be punished by economic loss of 50000 to 100000 rupees and social exclusion in community.

- **Restoration of traditional values:** Traditional sitting buffet of Jaunpuri style and less ornaments of bride have been supported by participants in the various social assemblies. This is an indication of backing the traditional ways of such events. Limiting the timing of DJ and music indicating the awareness of community people to social morality and noise pollution in the area.
- **Regional solidarity:** Maha panchayat of Silwad Patti in Jaunpur block indicates the social solidarity of the area which is not limited to one or two village. Having come at one place of 10 Gram Panchayats, showed the social revolution among people bringing a social code to all.
- **Women inclusion:** In these community meetings the presence of women representatives indicates that community consider their participation in social concern and reforms important. It is a sign of women empowerment.

Objectives of the study

- To understand the prime concerns of people relating to marriage events in the study area.
- To know the people’s views regarding prevalent trends in weddings.
- To explore the people’s proposals to mitigate such trends in wedding and other ceremonies.

Methodology

The work is based on the secondary data of the proposals announced by Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayats in various meetings of the study area. The reliable content from the previous studies, books, newspapers and content of internet also have been consulted. More than 225 participants from 9 village meetings’ resolutions have analysed.

Significance of the study

Marriage is among one of the fundamental institutions of any society in the human world. The modern changes are occurring in marriage institution which impacting people and community in varied extent. It becomes important to understand how people see these evolving things and how such new trends affecting people and community.

Conclusion

The proposals and decisions finalized by Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayats makes it evident that in the name of modernity extravaganza and intoxication, the rural society rising against altogether. The decisions of economic fines and social exclusion shows that rural communities are serious to reforms and social control. These efforts are part of people's social engineering to safeguard their traditional and cultural foundations safe from undesirable malpractices in social events. The collective efforts of community people indicate the social consciousness, social control, social security system and self-governance.

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