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Technology to eradicate the evil of dowry system from a Panchayath

When debating on the various aspects that pose obstacles in the path of development of a village, do not ignore this major evil- Dowry System. According to Aaryadan Shaukath, President of the Nilambur panchayath, the major contributor to a declined status of women and the life of the people in the panchayath is dowry system.

Along with the “Thousand House” scheme, various projects that the panchayath implemented for its people’s welfare failed due to this very prevailing social evil. The houses that the panchayath built for them were sold in order to meet the dowry demands put forth by the groom’s family. Thus a homeless remains a homeless forever despite of the availability of the assisting hands.

Many marriages are just business deals where the groom agrees to marry the bride for a handsome amount that could support his overseas migration for a job. In most of these cases the bride’s life after marriage turns out to be a longing to get a glimpse of her husband.

The Nilambur panchayath realized these grievances and started taking effective measures to abolish dowry system from their society. Where once the dowry giving used to be 82% now has come down to 42%.

Even with this achievement, there came a question of how to maintain this strategy outside their panchayath constrictions. As an answer to this problem the panchayath is about to launch a website- dowryfreevillage.com. The main aim of the website is to promote marriages without dowry. The names and details of the brides to be are enlisted in the site. As a security measure, code has been set to view the photographs of these brides, so that only genuine proposals could be encouraged.

The website has started its primary work and its launching will be on 8th March 2010.

*Story by **Rohini Kumar***