

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

India, with its significant population, holds the position of being the second most populous country globally. Unfortunately, this demographic fact does not bring favorable circumstances for its inhabitants. Specifically, India faces the distressing reality of being regarded as one of the most perilous countries for women. According to a study carried out by the Thompson-Reuters Foundation in 2011, India ranked as the fourth most unsafe nation for women. 213 experts from various countries participated in this study, in this study the experts ranked countries based on six categories namely health threats, sexual violence, non-sexual violence, dangerous practices in culture, traditions and/or religion, limited access on economic resources and human trafficking. (Rosvita Walanda Sitorus, 2012)

Gender equality refers to human rights which means that both men and women have fundamental rights that cannot be taken away. Human rights aim to provide protection against equal rights, responsibilities, opportunities, or opportunities and obstacles that occur in the social life of the individual.

Human Rights are fundamental and unalienable rights that belong to everyone. Human rights are intended to provide protection against discrimination between men and women, which is common in social, cultural, economic and social activities. A gender perspective and anti-discrimination in the sense of having the same rights as men in diverse professions are among the ideas that underpin the existence of rights for women.

In various social scenarios, women may encounter biased treatment and find themselves under constant scrutiny. Prejudice can manifest itself in workplaces, homes, and social gatherings. Consequently, an increasing number of women have come to realize the imperative to address women's rights as an integral aspect of human rights that demand recognition and protection in light of this pervasive discrimination.

Discrimination is frequently induced by the class system, society, and norms, which favor males and place women in a second-class status. In a country like India, there are numerous examples of prejudice that result in women's deaths due to their disadvantaged status.

This high level of concern and central to women's rights in India stems from the traditions and culture in India, which honor men and place women second in their social system. Traditions and cultures that are discriminatory against women are still widely embraced by Indian society. One tradition that is a source of discrimination against women is dowry tradition. Parents wishing to marry off their daughter must pay a sizable dowry to the groom's family, a custom that stems from Hindu religious traditions. The bride's family will be embarrassed if they cannot provide a dowry.(Dianita Kautsarini, 2014)

In India, many grooms' families ask for dowry in large sums beyond the means of the wife's family to use the dowry as a means of getting rich. This dowry demand can trigger violence and even murder, especially if the woman's family is unable to accommodate the wishes of the man and his family. The constant violence that women face can cause women to commit suicide, even though husbands and their families kill women, but many murders are disguised as suicides.

The United Nations responded to the prevalent instances of discrimination against women by adopting the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) on December 19th, 1979. CEDAW addresses international concerns related to human rights and places significant emphasis on ensuring equal rights for women. This includes recognizing gender equality in terms of status, roles, and contributions across political, social, economic, and cultural spheres. Furthermore, UN Women, an international organization, has actively engaged in addressing cases of dowry tradition in India.

## **1.2 Research Question**

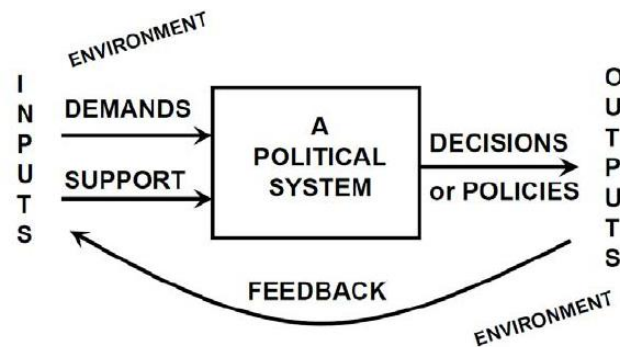
Based on the background that has been explained, the author has formulated the question as follows: What are the Indian Government policies in dealing with Dowry tradition?

## **1.3 Framework**

### **Political System Model**

David Easton's model of the political system is a significant contribution to political science. This model, as developed by Easton in his work, "The Political System," emphasizes the integration of various activities involved in the formulation and execution of social policies, which collectively constitute the political system.

Easton defines the political system as a set of interactions that are abstracted from the totality of social behavior, through which values are authoritatively allocated in society. The model views the political system as a policy-making process that integrates all activities related to the formulation and execution of social policies. It considers political entities such as governments, states, and citizens as components of a system, similar to a computer system.



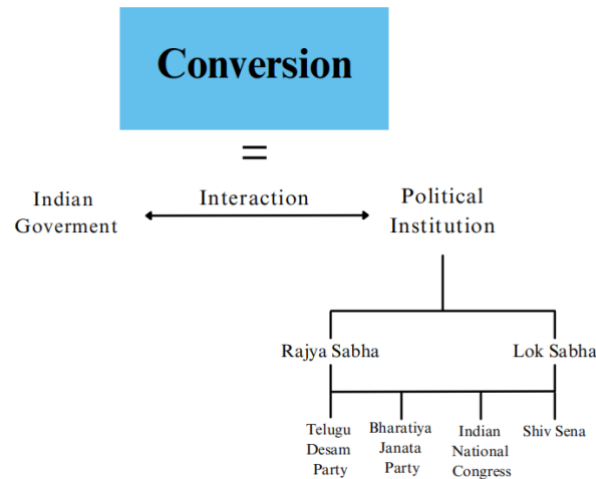
Source: *(Kerangka Kerja Analisa Sistem Politik Book)*

David Easton was a prominent political scientist who made significant contributions to the study of political systems and their functioning. One of his notable works is the "political system model" or the "Easton's model of political systems." This model provides a framework for understanding how political systems operate and maintain stability.

According to Easton, a political system can be seen as a set of interrelated processes and structures that interact with their environment. He emphasized that the political system must perform certain functions in order to survive and maintain stability. These functions include:

1. Input: The political system must receive input from the environment in the form of demands, interests, and support from individuals and groups. This input can include public opinion, interest groups, political parties, and social movements. In this research, the demands found were in the form of criminalizing dowry deaths and protest movements such as "Anti-Dowry" and "Say No to Dowry".

2. Conversion: The political system must convert the demands and support it receives into policies and decisions. This process involves the interaction between various political institutions, such as legislatures, executives, and bureaucracies, to formulate and implement policies. In this study, the conversion found was in the form of interaction between the Government of India and political institutions such as the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha in order to formulate an output such as policies and decisions.



Source: *(Kerangka Kerja Analisa Sistem Politik Book)*

3. Output: The political system produces output by implementing policies and decisions. These outputs include laws, regulations, public services, and other actions that address the demands and interests of the society.

4. Feedback: The political system receives feedback from the environment regarding the effectiveness and consequences of its outputs. This feedback is crucial for the system to adapt and make necessary adjustments in its policies and decisions.

Easton argued that for a political system to remain stable, it needs to maintain a balance between the input and output functions. If the system fails to respond to the demands and interests of the society or if it produces policies that are not acceptable or effective, it may face instability and potential challenges to its authority.

Easton's model of political systems provides a comprehensive framework for analyzing and understanding how political systems operate, adapt, and maintain stability in response to the demands and challenges from their environment. It has been influential in the field of political science and has contributed to our understanding of the complex dynamics of political systems.

Apart from political institutions such as the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, one of the outputs of this political system is that the Indian government is also working with UN Women to overcome this dowry tradition with programs made by the government of India and UN Women.

## 1.4 Hypothesis

- Based on the formulation of the problem above, the researcher can draw a hypothesis, the Government of India implements policies including:

1. The Dowry Prohibition Act 1961
2. The Dowry Prohibition (Amendment) Act 1984
3. Section 340b of Indian penal code 1983
4. Section 498a of Indian penal code 1983
5. Section 3 & 31 of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Bill 2005

- Apart from that, the Government of India has also implemented a policy of cooperating with UN Women. The role of the government and UN Women in overcoming discrimination against women in India is very significant. Both entities are actively involved in promoting gender equality, empowering women, and eliminating all forms of discrimination.

### **1.5 Research Purposes**

Based on the formulation of the problem, the purpose of this study is: To find out what kind of policies of Indian Government in dealing with Dowry tradition.

### **1.6 Research Methodology**

The researcher has chosen to employ the qualitative research methodology to analyze their curiosity about the case. Qualitative research is characterized by its focus on understanding how individuals interpret and make sense of their real-life experiences, as expressed through their own thoughts and words. (Arthur Cropley, 2015) The qualitative research method allows for the utilization of various data collection methods, including gathering information from journal articles, official online sources, books, scientists' viewpoints, trustworthy online documents, and other relevant sources that align with the author's research. The researcher analyzes the research topic of the paper by interpreting the meaning and grasping the whole picture of the phenomenon, and tries to explain the meaning of the phenomenon from the researcher's point of view and understanding.

### **1.7 Research Range**

In a study there must be a limitation or scope of research so that the discussion is not too far or wide which is less relevant to the actual research objective, namely knowing the policies of the Government of India in dealing with the dowry tradition. The scope of research around 2013 to 2016 is to answer what are the Indian Government's policies in responding to the dowry tradition. Policies are needed to reduce the number of cases of dowry and the number of cases of death due to dowry.

## **1.8 Systematics Writing**

The researcher using the outline as follows:

**Chapter I:** The researcher describes the introduction of the research that begin with Background of the issue, Research Question, Theoretical Framework, Hypothesis, Research Methodology, Limitation and Scope research, and the Research Outline.

**Chapter II:** History of the dowry tradition in India. This chapter contains the history of the practice of dowry in India to see the development of this practice from its beginnings and the factors that influenced the occurrence of cases of dowry deaths.

**Chapter III:** Policies of the indian government in addressing the dowry tradition. This chapter contains an explanation of the policies implemented by the Indian government and its programs with UN Women.

**Chapter IV:** Closing. This chapter contains the conclusions from the research.