

(Don) 1- Do Children Really Need to Learn to Code?

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Unemployment has remained a great concern in India over time, and parents forced their children, irrespective of their aptitudes, to become doctors or engineers or to get management degrees because of the fear that if their children did not join any of those professions, they were certain to be failures.

Mr. Bajaj, who studied engineering and management at Indian colleges, is a product of that era, when parents sold land and jewelry and depleted their savings to send their children to engineering and medical colleges. At any school of medicine in the Soviet Union, and later in Russia and Central Asia, you would find a bunch of Indian students.

Tens of thousands of those engineers and doctors have no jobs now. Hundreds of engineering colleges are shutting down in India. Substandard private colleges in small towns and villages mushroomed to meet the demand and produced a generation of unskilled, unemployable engineers and doctors.

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Extracted from article by Neelesh Misra written on Jan. 2nd, 2021

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/02/opinion/teaching-coding-schools-india.html?searchResultPosition=2>

(Denis) 2- 8 Dehumanising Customs Indian Widows Have Faced Through the Years

Wearing a white *saree*

In Hinduism, white is considered the colour of mourning and is often the colour one wears to a funeral or memorial service. In parts of north and central India, it is believed that a widow needs to be in a constant state of mourning once her husband dies. She is compelled to adorn a white (or a colour close to white) *saree* for the rest of her life from the day of her husband's death.

Renouncement of identity and wealth

Another dehumanising practice is the psychological abuse widows go through even today. In parts of UP, Haryana, and Rajasthan, once a woman's husband dies, she is immediately referred to as a mere object - 'it' instead of 'she' - and even basic human rights are taken away from her. To top it all, she is stripped off any inheritance from the husband's family and is even made to downsize her diet significantly, sometimes to just one meal a day, or turn vegetarian if she would eat meat when the husband was alive.

Solitary confinement

In several Hindu and Muslim households across the country, widows are confined to their homes, and sometimes even their rooms, without any interaction with the outside world. While some are made to adopt this solitary life for a few months, many are made to go through the rest of their lives in isolation and society-inflicted shame.

Forbidden vanity

In many states across the country, when a married man dies, the woman is immediately made to discard marriage markers such as *sindoor* (vermillion on the forehead), *mangalsutra* (beaded necklace), *bichia* (toe ring), *chooda* (bangles), and so on. In many households, during the man's funeral, his widow is made to break her bangles to proverbially mark the end of a part of her life she cannot repair. The widow is then forbidden from indulging in vanity and enhancing her appearance with makeup, jewellery, or ornate apparel.

Extracted from article written by Arushi Kapoor on June 24th, 2016

<https://www.vagabomb.com/8-Absurd-Customs-Indian-Widows-Have-Faced-Through-the-Years/>

(Marije) 3- The marriage story: How much does a woman's life change after vows are exchanged?

..... While marriage brings with it its own set of responsibilities for both partners, it is often the woman who is left to multitask, as she manages domestic responsibilities, the child and the rest of the family, along with her career.

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So, why does marriage bring more responsibilities for a wife? “This has to do more with our Indian culture. Even if the wife is working, she is still expected to take care of the house, take care of the in-laws. When she becomes a mother, she has to take care of the baby. And most Indian women think it is their duty to take responsibility of the house and children. And it is always the woman who accommodate and adjust more,” Dr Maya Kirpalani, consultant psychologist and family therapist, Bhatia Hospital Mumbai, pointed out.

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Agrees a 29-year-old software engineer from Gurgaon who recollects how as an independent, single, working woman, living away from home before marriage, she never had to face any “interference” from anyone. “I used to do everything on my own before marriage. But here I have to be answerable to everyone in the family including in-laws about how my day is planned, what I am making, where I am going, etc,” she said.

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Extracted from article written by Jayashree Narayanan on Feb. 6th , 2021

<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/feelings/marriage-post-marriage-blues-relationship-conflicts-great-indian-kitchen-film-7170075/>

(Wicher) 4- Uncommon Indian weddings

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Arranged marriages have long been the norm in South Asian societies. The majority of Asians, especially Indians, have their marriages planned by their parents and other elders of the family. While recent studies suggest that Indian culture is trending away from traditional arranged marriages, still fewer marriages are purely arranged without parental consent and that the majority of surveyed Indian marriages are arranged with consent.

Love marriages (or self-arranged marriages) are still an exception to the norm, and are associated more with urban living and a generally progressive outlook, particularly in the urban parts of India. Love marriages in off-urban parts do exist, but not without traumatic incidents that lead to “honour killings” or of stories that entail runaway brides/grooms.

Extracted from article written by Amitesh Grover on Aug. 20th , 2020

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/arranged-marriages-indian-match-making-netflix-6563287/>