



HONOUR KILLING - GS II MAINS

Q. Honour Killing is a heinous crime on the right to choice of humanity. Discuss the reasons for the honour killing and suggest measures to reduce the honour killing. (15 marks, 250 words)

News: *19-year-old boy kills sister in Tirunelveli, 'honour' killing suspected*

What's in the news?

- In a suspected case of 'honour' killing, a girl was murdered by her 19-year-old brother in front of their house in Tirunelveli district.

Honour Killing:

- Honour killing is a form of violence against women committed with the motive of protecting or regaining the honour of the perpetrator, family, or community.
- The apex court gave a list of following actions which trigger honour based crimes:
 - Loss of virginity outside marriage
 - Unapproved Relationship
 - Divorce
 - Refusing an arranged marriage
 - Demanding custody of children
 - Falling victim to rape.

Reasons:

- **Religion**
- **Caste system** - Fear of losing the caste status, which they gain many benefits, makes them commit this heinous crime.
- **Lack of formal governance** - The root of the cause for the increase of it is because the formal governance has not been able to reach the rural areas.
- **Khap Panchayat** - The absence of the formal institutions as panchayat Smiti or a constitution gathering leads to the brutal governance of the illegal and extra-constitutionalized panchayat.
- **Difference in Sex ratio** - Honour killing is happening in the area where the sex ratio is low and girls are being bought for marriages.
- **Illiteracy and unawareness about the rights** - large section of the society unknown about the rights which are made to protect them in our constitution
- **Danger of losing Prestige and Status in society** - A person's ascribed status is more important than the achieved status.



Implications

- Violations of human rights.
- Infringes right to live with dignity as per article 21 of the Constitution of India.
- Shows lack of attributes of empathy, love, compassion, tolerance etc among fellow human beings.
- Creates crisis of credibility in the government machinery to control such killings
- Undermines integrity of institutions such as police, judiciary etc
- Infringes right to choose and creates stress, fear, trauma among the lover
- Hampers notion of national integration, solidarity, cooperation etc among various communities and creates suspicion in the minds of people.
- May hamper peace and tranquillity.
- Shows lack of rational thinking capability, emotional intelligence etc
- Honour killing affects the whole society at large where one or more persons consider themselves above law.
- The ethical values of a society such as tolerance, respect for diversity, self determination etc. are degraded when such gruesome acts are either committed or ratified.

WAY FORWARD:

- Media play a more crucial role in expressing their views in the front of whole of society, without any fear, even there is a right of freedom to express is also given in our Constitution. It is necessary to improve sex ratio in the areas where females are low in number.
- Literacy is used as arm that has a potential to curb this menace.
- The state should focus on such programmes and projects which help in gender equity.