

Women – subservient or oppressed

“CULTURE” teaches “us” to obey our husbands. To almost “bow” down to him. He’s all that matters. He’s no.1 not “us”.

Upbringing has got a lot to do with the way the family reacts/behaves after she gets married with her husband and his family.

The standard method (ideology) whether in the Indian subcontinent or the UK is:

- Girls are a burden
- You don’t congratulate the mother of the family if she’s just given birth to a girl (you say better luck next time!)
- Girls are kept in the house
- Education is not necessary
- Girls do all the chores in the house
- Girls don’t get consulted
- Girls don’t get a choice
- Girls don’t get a say
- Girls don’t have a voice
- Girls shut up and put up
- Girls are a worry until they are married and even then you need to make sure that the bottom drawer contains everything she will need to set up home with her husband (including clothes, jewellery, make-up, hair accessories, handbags, shoes...) and a large sum of money to hand over to the husband

She’s been a burden to you (as parents) but now she’s got to keep it sweet for the rest of her life – put everything she has learned/been taught into practice: be humble, be subservient, cook, sew, wash, iron, sweep, mop, dust, shop, budget...don’t answer back, don’t get into arguments, don’t question him, do as he says not as he does, (basically be very PATIENT) but we don’t want to hear a squeal from you – our job is done – oh! And only give birth to boys – about 10!!!...

If a young girl has any aspiration or hopes she longs for the day she gets married – the opportunity to dress up in red and gold (lots of gold!) be pampered – look forward to a new life with this new person – be girlie/ or ladylike! This may seem like freedom for some...

Until the bubble pops...

Boys on the other hand...

- You are blessed if you have a boy – showered with congratulations and gifts and “sweets”. The birth is announced everywhere...you can hold your head up high
- Boys are spoilt
- They get their own way
- They do as they please
- They can’t put a foot wrong
- They can stay out late
- Have girlfriends
- Smoke

- Drink...and that's where the problems start...
- Unhappy women
- Women whose lives literally physically come to a standstill
- Their lives/health deteriorating
- No life (outside of home)
- Aches and Pains
- Grow old quicker
- Children imitate their fathers so she is ridiculed by them as well
- Sometimes she is "competing" with a mistress
- Lonely nights while husband is gambling (or other)
- Depression

Families are rarely consulted. Friends are non-existent. Problems are shoved under the carpet, kept hush.

Shut up and put up.....