



McDonald's can't sell signature burger in land of sacred cow

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — McDonald's has been invited to India — but told not to bring its Big Mac.

To sell beef in the land of the sacred cow requires a special license that is granted only to luxury-class hotels catering to foreign tourists.

Beef is taboo to Hindus, who are 32 percent of India's 875 million people. Muslims, who are 12 percent and the country's largest minority, don't eat pork.

So if McDonald's goes ahead with its planned \$20 million investment deal, it probably will do what the British-based Wimpy's does.

"Chickenburgers are our hottest item," said the duty manager of the 1½-year-old restaurant on Connaught Place, heart of New Delhi's tourist district.

Wimpy's advertizes its hamburgers as 100 percent lamb. The lentilburger is popular with the vegetarian crowd.

"Most of the flavor is in the ketchup and the sauce anyway," said David Ginsberg, 33, from Huntington, N.Y. who has traveled the globe.

1. A GOOD HINDU WILL NOT EAT _____
2. A GOOD MUSLIM WILL NOT EAT _____
3. ACCORDING TO THE DOCUMENT WHAT U.S. COMPANY WANTS TO OPEN A BUSINESS IN INDIA? _____
4. WHY WON'T THEY BE ABLE TO SELL BIG MACS? _____
5. USE A DICTIONARY TO DEFINE (TABOO) _____
6. ACCORDING TO THE DOCUMENT WHAT IS TABOO IN INDIA? _____
7. WHAT MEAT PRODUCT IS USED BY WHIMPY'S _____
8. USE YOUR DICTIONARY AGAIN AND DEFINE (LENTIL) _____
9. WHAT MEAT PRODUCT WILL McDONALD'S PROBABLY USE? _____
10. WHAT IS A VEGETARIAN? _____

Most of India's women get few choices

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SYNDICATED COLUMNIST



JAIPUR, India — An Englishwoman of my acquaintance was invited to a wedding of a male friend in a small

village near Jaipur in north central India. She arrived at the celebration early and the bridegroom asked her to go to the bride's room. "Have a look," he said, "and then tell me what she looks like." The bride had been arranged by his parents and he had never seen her.

The young man was a well-known womanizer among his hip friends in London where chic and sophisticated post-modern men and women gather to drink and play. But he would please his family and abide by Hindu tradition.

Many men and women in

urban India, of course, mimic Western ways of courtship and marry for love and all across Asia women are struggling to assert their rights. Among the educated elite a wife can even work after she marries. But in rural India, which is 70 percent of the country, tradition and the old ways run deep. Today 95 percent of the marriages in India are still arranged.

Courting strategies differ and in many instances the man and woman meet and talk to each other during the months before the wedding. They can refuse to marry the person their parents select if they do it as soon as the choice is presented.

Many couples say arranged marriages often deepen into loving and loyal relationships. But the social mores can continue to work against the Indian woman after she marries.

"Brides for Sale" is headlined in the weekly magazine India

Today, an investigation of the account of men in the state of Rajasthan who, when they tire of their wives, auction them off to other men.

Prem, one such wife, recalls standing with two other women as two men named Bana and Banshi walked slowly around them, inspecting the merchandise. Banshi nodded toward Prem and her husband hit her with a stick from behind and threw her into a waiting Jeep. She woke up 200 miles from home, a captive wife. Banshi bought her for 80,000 rupees — about \$2,000.

Prem was more fortunate than some other auctioned women. After several attempts to escape from the family where she was held, she was rescued by a woman's organization based in Jaipur, who saw that she was reunited with her father who took her home.

Hundreds of women in rural communities have suffered the

horrors of a wife sale and were not so lucky to escape.

The Women's Rights Committee Against Atrocity, a non-government organization, surveyed two small rural villages and found a failure rate in marriage as high as 70 percent. "Virtually every household (in these two villages) has a woman bought or given out at a price," says Indira Pancholi, coordinator of the Women's Rights Committee.

While a small group of middle-class women are better off than their mothers and grandmothers, numerous studies show minimal improvement in the conditions of most women.

A Buddhist nun in Nepal says with blunt understatement that women have a tough time in traditional Muslim and Hindu cultures. A Hindu woman expresses it succinctly: "When I'm reincarnated," she says, "I hope I come back as a man."

Suzanne Fields is based in Washington.

1. WHAT IS THE DATE OF THIS DOCUMENT? _____
2. WHAT IS THE % OF PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE? _____
3. WHAT CAN HAPPEN TO A WIFE IN INDIA IF A MAN TIRES OF HER? _____
4. ACCORDING TO THE DOCUMENT WHAT % OF MARRIAGES ARE ARRANGED? _____
5. THE WOMEN IN THE DOCUMENT BELIEVES IN WHAT AFTER DEATH? _____
6. WHAT DOES SHE WANT TO COME BACK AS? _____
7. HOW ARE MARRIAGES DIFFERENT IN URBAN AREAS VS. RURAL AREAS? _____
8. WHAT DID THE YOUNG MAN KNOW ABOUT HIS BRIDE? _____



(APTV)

BRIDE BURNING

WHY WAS THE BRIDE KILLED?

ACCORDING TO THE DOCUMENT
WHO KILLS THE BRIDES?

Woman Protest Bride Burning

Indian women demonstrate outside the home of a family in New Delhi that has been accused of killing a bride because they were unsatisfied with her dowry. Suman Krishan Kant, head of the Women's Grievances Society,

says, 'Hundreds of young girls are burned or beaten death every year by their husbands and mothers-in-law over the issue of dowry.'

Photo by AP Laserphoto



Hindu Rite

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — A woman jumped into her husband's burning funeral pyre in a northern Indian village as hundreds of people watched, a newspaper reported Saturday. The Hindu rite, in which a widow is burned to death after her husband dies, was banned in 1829, but still persists in rare cases, usually in remote villages in northern India. In 1987, a woman jumped into the burning pyre of her husband in the village of Deorala in Rajasthan state, egged on by hundreds of people who hailed her sacrifice. The Pioneer newspaper said hundreds of villagers gathered in Satpurwa village in Mohaba district — about 65 miles south of Lucknow — after it was publicized that the woman would commit sati.

11/14/99

SATI

3. DEFINE SATI _____

4. WHEN WAS THIS PRACTICE
BANNED? _____