ABSTRACT

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Dowry is provision giving of the prospective husband to his prospective wife. In Ende's customary, dowry that is commonly called *belis* is very high, it can be seen in the levels of Lowes dowry that should be given to his prospective wife. That is about thirty million, whereas the majority of livelihoods of Ende is as fishermen and farmers. That caused the occurrence of elopement (*Paru De'ko*) because of being unable to pay the high dowry for a woman.

Ende is one of the counties located in east south Nusa which is predominantly fishermen and farmers. In the implementation of marriage in Ende, the customary is dominating the process of marriage. The purpose of this study was to examine deeply the views of Ende society toward elopement (*Paru De'ko*) and the meaning of dowry in Ende's customary that is understood by and society's perspective in treating elopement doer (*Paru De'ko*).

The type of this research is a sociological and descriptive research. The approach used is a qualitative approach, because this study attempted to capture and understand the phenomena and all things experienced by research subjects. The data obtained through 3 ways, those interviews, observation, and documentation study.

The researcher found prove that the elopement process (*Paru De'ko*) in Ende is different with elopement process in other places and the high dowry is established by custom caused by several factors, namely because of the necessity of giving a dowry in the customs marriage, customs respect women, the lowest levels of dowry, understanding of Ende about the dowry that is different from Islam and the cultural prestige that has mushroomed in society, so there is elopement (*Paru De'ko*) that occurs in society. The elopement (*Paru De'ko*) Is still on legitimating based on custom and religion because all of the marriage pillars of religion terms still is kept and hold, The elopement (*Paru De'ko*) is in violation if discipline customs are not established , but that is not a hard foul. Basically The elopement (*Paru De'ko*) is allowed by Ende society because that lead to negative things in social life and actors of the elopement (*Paru De'ko*) has no value in social life.