

The father's checklist

We all see weddings as a great mother-daughter bonding time, but fathers have a big role to play here as well. Never underestimate the presence of a father-figure when big arrangements are underway. Since a wedding needs 'all hands on deck,' we have some guidelines to be that helpful hand as the father!

CREATE SPREADSHEETS

Finances often get mishandled during weddings, and given all the chaos, it is practically a given. Make a separate spreadsheet for each event, and one miscellaneous. Take down every expenditure made and keep track of the cash. But be careful not to nag on every single expenditure!

THE IN-BETWEEN LEG-WORK

A lot of things will require picking up. Things like picking up the invitation cards from the store, making final calls with vendors and event management, sending and receiving cash and so much more. See to these little things as they get easily mishandled.

KEEP RECEIPTS

This goes without saying, expenditure is easily lost track of. Keep all receipts with you, so any last minute changes do not pose a threat to the wedding and can easily be taken care of.

ACCOMMODATION

Grand weddings mean guests riding and flying in from all over. A good gesture is to provide accommodations and transport for them. It does not have to be your own place, but booking hotels and microbuses can be super helpful.

A FATHER AND SON/DAUGHTER-IN-LAW DAY

If you are the father of the bride, make time to sit with the groom to discuss dressing details. It is most likely that you are paying for the grooms wedding attires, so it is always best to get his thoughts on it first, or better yet, take him shopping with you.

As for the daughter-in-law, take time to talk over the coming days. She might have new ideas coming to her head all the time, listen to them and try to add in as well. You can also give her a personalised gift as welcoming gesture.

PREPARE A BOUQUET

Prepare a bouquet of flowers to hand to your daughter or soon to-be-daughter-in-law before she gets on the stage. This is nothing but a sweet gesture where you took your time out to handpick flowers for your little daughter's/ newest family member's special day.

KEEP HER COMPANY

It can sometimes get stressful for a bride while on stage with cameras flashing all around and loud guests. Take turns as the father or the father-in-law and accompany her during these times and keep her company so she does not feel too much pressure.

TAKE CHARGE OF FAMILY PORTRAITS

A family portrait is a must at the end of the event. Look over it and make sure it goes according to plan, without missing out any of the members missing in action.

By Anisha Hassan and Iris Farina



The mother's wedding checklist

Mothers undoubtedly play a huge role in weddings, from giving that last nod of approval, to handpicking and perfecting every little detail. There is little they do not look over when it comes to their children's wedding.

THE GUEST LIST

Take a draft from the bride and groom and add in every family member or friend or neighbour they might have missed. You know certain families better than your daughter or son and families they might have missed. So make sure that you look it over before ordering cards.

DISTRIBUTING INVITES

In today's busy world, it is not always physically possible to visit every single person to hand over an invitation. For the not-so-close guests or those who are out of town/country, you can mail the invitations or opt for e-cards and save the trouble.

THE DRESS

Whether you are the mother of the bride or the groom, go wedding dress shopping with the bride. It is her big day, so she should be the one getting her choice of dress no matter who ends up paying. If you have the responsibility of getting the bride's outfits for her big day, take time out to meet up with her and know what she wants. Do understand that generation gap is a thing and the best choice would be to leave it to her to make her own dress decisions.

GET MATCHING OUTFITS FOR ADDITIONAL CEREMONIES

Events like the holud ceremony, sangeet night, or mehndi night calls for lot of matching outfits for the guests and performers. Make a list of the number of people and get their dresses ahead of time so the person has enough time to tailor the dresses before



the event.

LOOK OVER BRIDE'S APPOINTMENTS

The bride will have a tonne of appointments before her big day- Makeup appointments, hair dressers, spa days, and much more. Help her keep track of all of these and have backups for all in case something was to go awry.

MENU TASTINGS

If possible, try to get a taste of the food you will be serving the guests. Accompany your daughter or son to these tastings so you can speak for what might suit the taste buds of senior guests.

ARRANGE A MEETING WITH THE IN-LAWS.

Before kick-starting the event planning, and after it is all done, sit with the in-laws twice to see if you agree on all details to avoid troubles later on.

DALA DECORATING

Without a doubt 'dalas' are a big part of the weddings now. If you have a theme going, ask the decorators to customise 'dalas' for the purpose. Delegate the work to the children in the family and watch over what goes in which 'dala' to prevent mess-ups.

A LIVELY HOLUD WELCOMING

Make it your duty to watch over this part. Handpick all the items yourself, from the flowers to be handed out, to the sweets to be placed. New ideas can also be incorporated, like handing

goodie bags with all the gifts inside it which makes it easier for the guests to carry.

Keep a different set of gifts and bags for the children as they would not fully appreciate or love gifts for the older guests.

CHECK THE SITTING ARRANGEMENTS



If you have ever experienced awkward seating during weddings, you know this is necessary. The two mothers-in-law can easily divide this up between themselves so that you can each look after your own side of the event.

PASSING DOWN MEMORIES

If you have ever wanted to pass down any heirloom, like an old jewellery box, or a sari or a prized piece of jewellery, now is the time.

BE THE SUPER MUM

When it is finally the day of the event, make it your duty to make sure nothing goes wrong with the bride's dress. Last minute dress checks, makeup and hair fixings and everything in between. Be there for her so she never has to wander for sudden help. This is also one of the most important days that your daughter will require your help to navigate. So simply be there for her, comfort her and cheer her on into the next chapter of her life.

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Photo: Prito Reza, Wedding Diary Bangladesh
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