

Topic: Marriage is a lottery

Outline

1. Introduction:

(Thesis statement) where some couples are on cloud nine after marriage, a large number of them live in regret over their life choices. Presently, the percentage of people who suffer in a toxic marriage are far more than those who live in bliss.

2. Fear of marriage is real and a true nightmare.

3. Marriage is more like a positive covid-19 report, rather than a lottery:

(Thesis):

- a. There is an increasing number of domestic violence cases each year.
- b. The rate of reported and unreported cases of acid attacks ^{by} ~~of~~ men on their wives is nightmarishly high.
- c. Stove brides and dowry murders are so frequent that it is almost considered a norm.
- d. Men put several types of bans and impositions on their wives that ^{the cases of} makes their life miserable, under patriarchy.
- e. The suicide rate among married

men and women is higher than those who are unmarried.

4. The problems arising in marriage are mere reactions, not intentions (Anti-Thesis)

a. Violence of any form is attributed to psychology rather than marriage.

b. Several laws and bills have ^{been} passed to protect women against acid attacks.

c. Burning incidents are often instigated by women and dowry related murders have decreased a lot.

d. In our society, men are considered providers and women have reproductive roles only.

e. Marriage counselling should be done of troubled couples to avoid suicides.

5. Solution to marriage related problems are illusive: (Synthesis):

a. Psychological tendencies don't absolve one from responsibility of a crime.

b. The loop holes in laws prevent apt implementation.

c. Instigation is no excuse to justify criminal behavior.

d. For women, jobs are more about passion.

e. Due to lack of education and ^{and supporting their family alongside}

stigmas attached to therapy, it seems almost impossible to convince people for couple therapy.

5. CONCLUSION.

TOPIC: MARRIAGE IS A LOTTERY

'All that glitters is not gold' This piece of advice is perhaps taught us at a very early age. This teaching, that a package maybe beautifully decorated on the outside with finest beads and pearls, but the truth lies under those layers of deception - is age old. Such is the case with marriage. From the outside, everything may look perfect and ideal but whatever happens behind close doors may not be beau idéal. Even though marriage is a sacred bond between a man and a woman but for some people, it can prove to be a shackle for the ankle. Where some couples are on cloud nine after marriage, a large number of them live in regret over their life choices. Presently, the percentage of people who suffer in a toxic marriage is far more than those who live in bliss.

Harrassment at the hands of the husband or partner can take many forms. It maybe in the form of domestic violence, acid attacks, torching to death or dowry related murders. The patriarchic society of Pakistan allows men to attain dominant roles, imposing torturous restrictions on their partners under the pretence of their right and making their lives miserable. This, too, is notably

interesting that the suicide rates among married couples is also fairly high.

Therefore, it can be said that in order to combat marriage related issues, it is imperative to have a holistic approach and tackle issues both privately and through help of others. It is essential that the word 'marriage' should be frequently associated with peace and security rather than fear. People nowadays are completely aware of all that is happening around the globe thanks to the digital technology. This is also true that reports of incidents of crimes are more ~~in~~ recorded in order to attract readers. This not only awares people of the activities around the world, but instills fear in them.

This has led to people choosing to be single for the rest of their lives rather than playing such a gamble.

It is not a secret that there is an increasing number of domestic violence cases each year. Previously, these cases remained largely underreported. The NHCR released a policy brief according to which 63,000 cases of gender based violence (GBV) had been reported in Pakistan over a period of three years. As per reports, 80% of these cases

were related to domestic violence, while 47% pertained to domestic rape. This data was based on reported cases; the actual number is feared to be much higher. (National Commission for Human Rights, Policy Brief, March 2023). Such incidents make marriage less desirable among individuals, especially females.

The incidents of violence are not only of sexual nature but also take place in the form of physical and psychological violence. The rate of reported and unreported cases of acid attacks by men, specifically, on their wives is alarmingly high. Around 200 cases of acid attacks are reported in Pakistan annually and numerous are still hidden from highlights (pulitzercenter.org, Acid Attacks: Pakistan's Worst Social Epidemic, September 2023).

Acid attacks are not a damage of the physical entity of a person but also has grave psychological impacts. It is reported to have said that throwing acid is far worse than murder, ~~however~~ it leaves irreversible psychological damage to a woman. (pakistan today.com, Growing Acid Attacks in Pakistan, November 2021). However, unfortunately, throwing acid is getting much common in Pakistan.

Another example of violence seen in

Pakistan is torching women to death. Stove brides and dowry murders are so frequent that it is almost considered a norm. Each year, the victims of bride burning are rapidly increasing where the in-laws easily blame such incidents as 'kitchen accidents' and exempt themselves from the punishment of such atrocious crimes. It is reported that around 8000 women die each year with several thousands injured from 'kitchen fires', primarily in Pakistan, Bangladesh and India. (Rights Universal, Bride Burning, April 2017)

In such cases, wife is typically doused with petrol and set on fire. One of the reasons is also associated with dowry where a woman's worth is the amount of dowry she brought with her. Many incidents are reported where girls and sometimes their parents are targeted for not sending 'things that only her daughter will use'. Even illiterate people are not spared from this disease. In India, a female doctor committed suicide because her future in-laws demanded dowry worth millions of rupees. (pakistanihtoday.com, The epidemic of dowry, November 2023). Thus, marriage is seldom seen as a lottery. Marriage is a product of several factors and unfortunately the most prevalent

ones are against females. Under the label of patriarchy, men put several bars and impositions on their wives that makes their life a living hell and miserable. Bars, mostly unvauid, interfere with the individuality of the wife and turns her only into an identity that is in association with her husband rather than a complete individual in her own essence. From receiving less to no education in their parents homes to not allowing them to work - this is because women are only seen for their reproductive roles. (Tribune.pk, Treatment of Women in Pakistan, September 2017). Such is the suffocating reality of marriage.

Another factor that makes marriage less desirable is the fact that suicide rates among married men and women is higher than those who are unmarried. It mostly involves the tortive one puts the other under. For men, its mostly psychological but it is also observed that physical abuse at the hands of wives is present. For women, its mostly the pressure of saving face and continuing marriage, preventing herself from ~~that~~ the label of a 'divorcee'. In a research, it was found that 1 in 5 deaths by suicide is related to problems with intimate partners (psych news.com, Marriage + Suicide, May 2023). Keeping this in mind, marriage seems

a daunting idea rather than a happy event.

where one can argue endlessly on how marriage is not a lottery, there are several people who believe that getting the relationship officiated is the most pleased event of one's life. People attribute the act of violence with one's psychological ability rather than with marriage. It ^{can} be deduced that a person who is capable of violence can be maniacal in all spheres of life, including marriage. According to a psychological analysis a person who exhibits history of early aggression, attributing hostility towards others, paranoia and impulsiveness has the tendency to exhibit violent behaviour. (ojp-gov, understanding the risk factors for violence, 2021). Therefore, instead of blaming marriage to be the leading cause of violence, one should hold oneself accountable for choosing such a partner.

Not just that, but measures are taken on government level. Several laws have been passed to protect women against GBV especially acid attacks. In 2011, the National Assembly of Pakistan passed the first acid and Burn crime Bill, which criminalized acid attacks and made them punishable by 14 years to life

imprisonment (pulfizercenter.org, understanding the Risk Factors for violence Acid Attacks: 'Pakistan's worst social epidemic | September 2023).

Such measures for protection of women are taken and enforced, thus minimizing the numbers of incidents in Pakistan.

Other than that, women are often held responsible for instigating burning incidents. ~~and to~~ women, with their ability to argue on trivial matters, often aggravate the situation. The ~~st~~ issue is made worse when the bickering reaches a level that men and his family take extreme measures such as killing or torturing the wife in order to teach her lesson. It is said, that most violence is learned behaviour and the various cocentric circles can either ~~ca~~ increase or decrease the likelihood of it (ojp.gov, understanding the Risk Factors of violence, 2021). Therefore, to blame marriage or husband for such incidents solely is unfair.

where one argues that impositions of women such as ~~to do~~ job seeking employment are ^{imposed, it is} often the result of the fact that in our society, men are considered providers and women only have reproductive roles. The societal setup limits women to the house and household chores. consequently, parents often ~~give~~ resources and

don't educate girls. They also encourage females to remain in the veil that is the house as ^{per} the cultural demand. According to a survey, employment status of ^{majority} women is of housewives that makes about 79.4%. (economist.com, economic contribution of Pakistani women, 2023). In most cases, such a social understanding works perfectly and is sometimes favoured.

On top of this, marriage is also blamed for increased suicide rates. However, it should be noted that other fields of life also have a significant contribution to such cases. In such a scenario, marriage counselling should be done to avoid suicide cases in troubled couples. It is upto the individuals to seek medical attention in the form of therapy before taking extreme measures such as divorce or suicide.

In fact, research shows that couples therapy positively impacts 70% of those receiving treatment. (forbes.com, marriage counselling: what is it and does it work?, september 2023).

Therefore, before blaming marriage for such a gruesome act, one should explore all options.

It is true that humans are easily to be blamed for all their actions, but an individual's actions are, in truth, an amalgamation of various socio-

cultural factors. All the solutions that are given to support the institution of marriage and rebuild faith in it are illusive.

It is true that a person's character makes or breaks marriage but to solely blame a person's psychological tendencies does not absolve one from responsibility of a crime. Such victim mentality where men self-victimize and blame women that they were driven to take severe actions is something seen frequently; the consequence of which is relationship imbalance and finally, divorce. (Healthnews.com, Breaking Free: Overcoming Victim mentality in Relationships, September 2023). Therefore, one needs to take responsibility of their actions and be held accountable for them.

It is also claimed that several ordinances have been passed such as the Protection Against Harassment of women at workplace, the Anti-Rape Act 2021. Yet, there are several loopholes in laws that prevent apt implementation. This is highlighted in the famous documentary 'Saving Faces', where the victims are asked to pardon their criminals ~~with~~ their families and husbands, who threw acid on them (Shirmeen Obaid, Saving Face, 2012). They are seen to be forced by their families to forgive their guilty as by law, if the victims

forgive them, the criminals would be exempted of the charges. Such loop holes making ^{justice} seeking almost impossible.

Moreover, females are blamed for majority incidents of violence; but instigation is no excuse to justify criminal behaviour. Even if such a scenerio is created, violence is not even an option one should resort to. Only a person capable of committing a crime can justify violence for surely there is no social justice without gender justice (Neils Hegewisch). So, one should be responsible for one own's acts rather than pointing fingers.

On top of that, women are only seen for their reproductive roles and men are seen to be providers. For women, jobs are more about passion as well as supporting their families. Women have the equal ~~opportunitit~~ right to employment and should be given the opportunity to do so. In an interview, Hillary Clinton said, 'women are the largest untapped reservoir of talent in the world (Hillary Clinton). Not only our women more vigilant than men but are keen to utilize and seize every opportunity to make a difference in their life as well as for others.

People who support to be tied in a

relationship that is nothing but a mental torture saying that they should seek therapy, negate the fact that due to lack of education and stigmas attached to therapy, it is almost impossible to convince anyone for couples therapy. The culture of keeping domestic issues private and the taboos attached to therapy hinder the people from seeking it even if they want to. It is a prevailing therapy stigma that those who seek therapy show weakness and couples therapy is nothing but mere invasion of privacy (therapygroupdc, what is the stigma associated with therapy?, October 2023). It is, therefore, notable that people are less willing to work for a better marriage due to societal stigmas and stereotypes.

To sum it all up, it can be deduced that surely ~~not~~ marriage and the associated chain of events that follow can be the worst nightmare of an individual. Surely, it has some bright aspects. However, the gloomy aspects overshadow these bright ones. Marriage is, in fact, the greatest gamble of life for if one wins, surely wins a lottery but if one loses, can be disastrous. Therefore, it can be difficult to say that marriage is a lottery.