

Forced Marriages in Pakistan

Outline

Causes & Consequences

1 Introduction

Hook

Background

Thesis Statement

2

Causes of Forced Marriages

(i) Patriarchal and Cultural Norms:

Families often prioritize social status, property, or family honour over personal choice.

(ii) Economic Motivations

Dowry, land inheritance, and

financial settlements push families to force marriages.

iii Lack of Awareness and Education:

Limited literacy especially among women reduces understanding of legal rights.

iv Distorted Religious Misinterpretation
Misuse of religion to justify child marriage of forced unions.

3 Consequences of Forced Marriages

(i) Emotional & psychological Trauma:

Victims often face depression, anxiety, and loss of self-esteem.

(ii) Social Implications:

Marital dissatisfaction domestic abuse broken relationships and perpetuation of gender inequality

(iii) Legal and Human Rights concerns:

Violates constitutional rights international human rights standards and child protection laws

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(iv) Economic impacts

Limits women's participation in education and workforce perpetuating poverty cycles.

4 Government and legal measures

(i) Existing Laws:

Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929, Prevention of Anti-Women Practices (Criminal Law Amendment) Act 2011.

(ii) Challenges in Enforcement:

Weak implementation, societal pressure, and corruption undermine effectiveness.

4 Proposed Remedies

(i) Education & Awareness campaigns

Promote literacy, legal knowledge and empowerment programs, especially in rural areas.

(ii) Strict Legal Enforcement:

Ensure punishment for violators
make reporting accessible
and safe.

(iii)

Cultural and Social Change:

Encourage community leaders
religious scholars and media
to challenge harmful traditions.

(iv) Support systems for victims:

Counseling shelters, and vocational
programs to help survivors
rebuild lives.

5 Conclusion

When freedom is denied in the name of love, oppression wears the mask of virtue. Across the world countless individuals are compelled into marital unions that rob them of their autonomy and dignity. What society often celebrates as tradition or honour, sometimes conceals deep injustice.

In Pakistan, forced marriages continue to persist as a grim reflection of patriarchal norms, cultural rigidity, and distorted interpretations of religion - inflicting profound emotional and social consequences on their victims.

Despite legal frameworks and awareness campaigns, this practice remains entrenched in both rural and urban areas, often driven by social

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pressure economic considerations and familial authority. This essay analyses the causes implications, and potential remedies of forced marriages in Pakistan highlighting the urgent need for social reform and empowerment of vulnerable groups.