

Honour Killing ; Social and Legal Remedies

Outline

A. Introduction

Attention Grabber: As Allan C. Hutchinson, a critical legal scholar, wrote, "The judicial emperor, clothed and coiled, in legitimate vougish garb, chooses and act to protect the interest of white and male power."

Pakistan's honour killing laws, too often wear the robe of justice while serving the old gods of patriarchy

Thesis Statement:

Honour killing is anything but honour. It is a manifestation of deep-rooted patriarchal mindset embedded in our culture, and a dysfunctional attribute of our society. It represents an expression of male dominance and the normalization of female subordination. It's

eradication demands a two-fold strategy; the transforming social attitudes and ensuring uncompromising legal accountability.

B. Understanding Concept of Honour killing

1). Definition and nature of Honour killing:

2). Patriarchal roots of Honour killing:

3). Behaviours considered dishonourable:

4). Global Perspective of Honour killing:

i) Case of Ghazala Khan in Denmark (2005)

5). Pakistani Context of Honour killing:

i) 405 honour killing cases recorded (2024) HRCP.

C. Legal Evolution of Honour killing in Pakistan:

i) Qisas and Diyat law (1990), Criminal law Act (2004), Anti Honour killing Act (2016)

D. Social Causes:

1). Patriarchal mindset leading to honour killing:

ii) women as property and symbol of male prestige.

2). Illiteracy and tribal custom:

iii) karokami, jirga, panchayats.

3). Religious misinterpretation paving path for Honour killing:

4) Weak governance, judiciary and political will:

(i) Poor law enforcement, influence of feudal elites.

(ii) Poverty and dependency giving more power to men, making women vulnerable.

E. Legal Critique of Honour killing:

(i) Very low conviction rate; 0.5%.

national conviction rate, Eg. Punjab:

285 cases reported, only 2 convictions.

(ii) Families manipulate forgiveness clauses.

(iii) Decision of judges are upto their subjective interpretation.

F. Social and Legal Remedies

1) Change in Mindset through Education

2) Role of Religious Leaders

3) Media and Culture Representation

4) Strengthening Civil Society (NGOs)

5) Women Empowerment

6) Community Policing and Local Mechanisms.

~~Legal~~ Remedies ^{to curb} for Honour Killing :

- 1) Make Honour killing Non Compoundable offense :
 - (i) Amend section 311 PPC to prevent forgiveness.
- 2) Strict Implementation of 2016 Anti-Honour Killing Act:
- 3) Gender Sensitive Judicial Training :
- 4) Fast track Courts for Gender Crimes :
- 5) Regulation of Jirgas and Panchayats :
- 6) Witness and Victim Protection
- 7) Strengthening Data and Accountability
- 8) Change the linguistic lag of honour killing

Conclusion :