

Honor killings in Pakistan; Causes and Consequences

(A) Introduction

~~It~~ tragic conflict between cultural pride and human rights
— rooted in patriarchal mindsets

Thesis Statement:- Honor Killing in Pakistan is deeply rooted among social, moral and cultural distortions bringing significant impact on human rights.

(B) Understanding The concept "Honor killing";

(C) Root causes of Honor Killing in Pakistan;

- (a) Patriarchal mindsets of people living in cultural feudal cultures;
- (b) weak law enforcement agencies;
- (c) Misinterpretation of religious beliefs;
- (d) Illiteracy strengthen adjoinment to fixed customs
- (e) Economic backwardness fuel aggression for women being burden
- (f) Politicization of awareness campaigns
- (g) Institutional and legal Failure

(D) Consequences of honor killing in Pakistan

- (a) Evil thrives ^{in society} due to these heinous acts
- (b) Global image of the country distorted
- (c) Enhances Gender inequality and gender based deprivations
- (d) Psychological trauma for other members of society
- (e) Erosion of legal Framework and human rights violation

(E) Major Case Studies in Pakistan

- Qandeel Baloch Murder case (2016)
- Bano bibi murder case (2025)
- Samia Sarwar case (1999)
- Kohistan video-case (2012)

(F) Way Forward: Necessary measures needed to be adopted

- Strict implementation of legal laws
- Awareness campaigns
- funds Allocating for the development of underdeveloped regions

(G) Conclusion

The Essay:

A video of Bano Bibi went viral recently demonstrating the killing of Bano and Ehsan Ullah for marrying without family's consent. It was explicitly visible from the video that she was killed among the tribal people in the open area while crowd being cheered. It evoked nationwide outcry and awoken law enforcement agencies to take immediate measures. But after a couple of days, everything came back to normal like nothing serious crime happened. That's the major flaw in Pakistani system that was strengthened this heinous crime of honor killing. Murdering any of your family member in the accusing that one has brought shame to the family's name refers to the honor killing which has unprecedently significantly increased within a few years.

Although legal framework for these murderous acts exists, still weak enforcement and lack of awareness has outnumbered these activities. Also, Patriarchal mindsets in Pakistani Society and religious misinterpretations has led to encouragement of feudal traditionalism over legal sustainability. Similarly, lack of education and economic backwardness prevails medieval mindsets. It led to promotion of women being submissive culture and exploitation of their right to life considering themselves their guardian. ~~Honor killing dist~~ Also, Honor killings distort country's image at global level portraying social backwardness and Human rights violation. Furthermore, it brings a psychological trauma among individuals of society to experience worst of humanity. It perpetuates a rising conflict among cultural norms and human rights. To control this situation, It requires serious policing and implementation of laws that strengthen rights. Awareness campaigns and education promotion to demark boundaries of feudalism is utmost necessity of the time.

Honor killing, solely described as violation of human rights all around the world, had been observed in various region of Pakistan more frequently in tribal and underdeveloped areas. Places where people already suffer for their livelihood are being killed for violating the traditional norm and customs superimposed on the people and resulted in their deaths.

To begin the discussion about the causes of honor killings in Pakistan, patriarchal mindsets of the tribal and feudal people are the major reasons. Considering women their property and controlling their life decision had been a norm in the tribal areas for many years. This mindset has been engraved so much that the brothers of young girls even impose restriction on them. So, in this scenario, violating any minute custom can hurt their ego and on basis of that, the lady involved suffers death penalty. According to UN reports, patriarchal minds are the major causes of honor killing strengthening its ratio to 40%. Hence, unless this culture is modernized with help of awareness and education, honor killings would be on going.

Weak law enforcement is the second major cause of honour killing in Pakistan. In the non-settled region of Fata and Balochistan, centre and provincial governments are not that much strong as tribal control. Even policing in these areas is compromised before feudal leaders. This has even made these leader confident to carry out these acts. This has been observed in case of Kohistan video incident in which a scene of 3 boys singing and girls clapping was

observed. Soon after, all of them were murdered. One of the victims boy released the video and it was seen a few days later that he was also murdered by those feudals. This shows the incompetency of police and other law enforcement agencies to counter these activities and failure of legal framework in these areas. Hence, strengthening law enforcement is the outmost requirement for preventing such acts.

Thirdly, misinterpretation of religion beliefs and clerics made justifications of legal religion teachings is also the major cause of honour killings in Pakistan. Pakistani people have always prioritized religion and gave it followed its teachings. The problem arises when the justification and explanations of religion teachings is made by local cleric, which by themselves not understood Arabic and made self-explanatory justifications on woman being inferior to the men. This resulted in enhancement of these acts of honour killing on the basis of misinterpretation of religious teachings.

To end the discussion-

To put in a nutshell, honour killing is engraving more strongly in the society day by day. If left unchecked, it can even

led to distortion of the whole society.

The root causes which involve patriarchal mind-sets, misinterpretation of the religious teachings, legal and institutional failure, and socio-economic backwardness are stretching this crime in society more further and putting a danger for country's reputation. Global and regional platforms demands human rights protection as the top most priority within a country. To keep Pakistan's honor and structure enforced, it is necessary to strengthen law enforcement in these region. Also, the human development index demands socio-economic development of these region.

At the individual level, the trauma resulting from these acts in the other members of the society also hinders societal progress. To keep pace of the society and to strengthen human progression, it is necessary to impose institutional and legal framework in this region. As Iqbal has said, "The

fate of nation lies in the hands of people; Every person is shining star of nation". So, respecting an individual's life should be the topmost priority of the nation. Only this can make sure its progress toward development.