

DELAYED MARRIAGES: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES.

OUTLINE:

(i) INTRODUCTION

(a) Quotation

(b) General Statement

(c) Thesis Statement: Delayed marriages, a growing trend in recent age is fundamentally driven by rising economic pressure, pursuit of tertiary education in females followed by shifting social norms that see rise in individualism and urban centric mindset. These impart critical consequences evidently seen in severe demographic and fertility decline, psychological issues, weakened familial structures and heightened relationship volatility.

(ii) CAUSES OF DELAY IN MARRIAGES.

(1) OVERWHELMING ECONOMIC PRESSURE DEMANDING STABILITY.

(a) Marriage seen as an economic commitment

(b) High demand of dowry

(c) Demand of extravagant wedding events

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e.g. Wedding Economy is a ~~big~~ multi-billion dollar economy every year.

(2) PURSUIT OF TERTIARY EDUCATION IN WOMEN.

(a) Females have become ambitious in pursuing higher education. Conflicting with traditional acceptance of a "marriageable" age in many societies:

e.g. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development see higher enrolment of females students

(b) Higher education has become a growing demand in Pakistani culture.

Promoted by "Perfect Profile" for marriage

(3) SHIFTING SOCIAL NORMS AND RISE OF INDIVIDUALISM.

(a) a cultural shift away from collectivism

e.g. joint family system is slowly declining in Asian families.

(b) Gradual decline in arrange marriage system.

(c) Individualism has created ~~the~~ strong opinions advocating "Love marriage" that is highly criticized in traditional societies like Pakistan.

(4) URBAN CENTRIC DREAM

- (a) Migration from stable rural setups to urban centers demands time for stability
e.g. Chinese leftover phenomenon.

(iii) CONSEQUENCES OF DELAYED MARRIAGES

(1) SEVERE DEMOGRAPHIC AND FERTILITY DECLINE

- (a) Delayed marriage, delay in childbirth, creating aging population structure.
e.g. Crisis in Japan and South Korea.
- (b) Growing age weakens the ^{reproductive} organs of male and female
e.g. fertility declines in women by age 30s and in men by 40s.

(2) Heightened Psychological Issues.

- (a) Pressure of marriage creates anxiety and stress.
e.g. Social Stigma in societies regarding marriage deadline.
- (b) Family pressure for marriage at the "marriageable" age ~~creates~~ creates incompatible relationships.

(3) WEAKENING OF FAMILIAL SUPPORT STRUCTURE

- (a) Huge age gap between parents and children, reduce availability of younger generation to provide care. eg. The 4-2-1 Family Structure in societies like China.
- (b) Dependency on caregivers and old age homes has increased in Pakistan. e.g. the Government of Pakistan's Senior Citizen Act 2001 addressed high demand of old age homes in Pakistan.

(4) INCREASED SOCIAL IMBALANCE AND RELATIONSHIP VOLATILITY.

- (a) Western Societies see rise in live-in situation, bearing children and then breaking up.
- (b) Psychologically independent individuals refuse to compromise in a relationship.

(IV) RECOMMENDATIONS.

- (a) Educational Focus on life-skills and Partnership.
- (b) Government led initiatives for modest weddings.
- (c) Public awareness regarding the negative impact of delayed marriages.
- (d) Economic relief for providing Regulatory housing Society for young families.

(V) CONCLUSION

ESSAY WRITING.

"We have sent messengers before you, and given them wives and children".

(Holy Quran: 13:38)

The Holy Quran emphasis over marriage being practice of the prophets. Marriage has been a fundamental pillar of the society that has carried the burden of every emotional, intellectual and economic needs of human. History bears evidence that marriages have sought century old rivalries between empires. It has expanded empires and rules that otherwise would have seized to exist. This trend is declining in modern age, fundamentally driven by aspects of rising economic pressure, pursuit of tertiary education in females followed by shifting social norms that see rise in individualism with urban centric mindset. These impart critical consequences evidently seen in severe demographic and fertility decline, psychological issues, weakened familial structures and heightened relationship.

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volatility. This essay will shed light on the cause, consequences and the desirable recommendation needed to ~~also~~ overcome this phenomenon.