

GHANI IKAKAR

TOPIC: Forced Marriages in Pakistan: Cause and Consequences

Outline

A. Introduction

1. General statement:

A tragic murder
of Sana Yousof for
refusing the proposal
of a boy

2. What does it mean
by forced marriages?

3. Thesis statement:

Indeed, multiple drivers
have made forced marriages
an undeniable phenomenon
in Pakistan. Its implications
are evident and need
immediate resolution.

B. Causes of Forced Marriages in Pakistan

1. Prevalent illiteracy;

a. Women's inaptitude to
proceed against it legally

b. Illiteracy enhances the
prospects of early marriages

2. Misinterpretation of religion;

a. Orthodox Ulemas provoke
people for early marriages

b. Case in point: Rural people
become victim of their
misteachings

3. Economic compulsions;

a. Families fail to
afford the expenses of
women

b. Families prompt women for marriage to avoid dowry

4. Traditional culture;

a. Watta Satta marriages

b. marriages in exchange of bloodshed

5. Fear of social stigma;

a. Unmarried women are source of disregard

in patriarchal societies

b. Women's denial to marriage brings stigma in Pakistani society

C. Consequences of Forced Marriages in Pakistan

1. Domestic violence;

a. It becomes the norm of the day

b. Case in point: Feminists are seeking its elimination in Pakistan

2. Psychological problems;

a. Mental diseases

b. Case in point: World Health Organization has expressed its concern about this issue in Pakistan

3. Health issues;

a. Early marriages deteriorates women's health

b. Case in point: Pakistan Gynaec Association has disclosed pregnancy diseases due to early marriages

4. Enhancement in the rate of divorce;

- D. Wayforward to Curb
Forced Marriages in
Pakistan

1. Viable framework

- ## F. Conclusion

ESSAY

A young Pakistani girl named Sana Yousaf bore the brunt of exercising her free will. A boy repeatedly compelled her to fulfil his demand. Her constant denial enraged that boy. Ultimately, he killed Sana Yousaf for refusal to his order. This unfortunate event truly depicts the subservience of women in Pakistan society. Women confront death in return of seeking liberation or free will. Forced marriages mean to compel the women for marriage against her will. She fails to prove her say or consent in this phenomenon. This menace is prevalent in Pakistan. No one can deny its existence. Women's illiteracy and unconditional surrender to traditional culture ~~worsen~~ enhance this. Misinterpretation of religion adds to its fragility. It confronts Pakistani society with numerous hardships. There appears rise in domestic

violence. It enhances people's vulnerability to health and psychological problems. However, there exists panacea to every problem. Forced marriages are no different fact. Persistent and sincere efforts can erode it from its roots. Nonetheless, there is a dire need of Ulema's cooperation to tackle this problem. Hence, this essay will shed light on the prevalent causes, implications and possible solutions of forced marriages in Pakistan.

Illiteracy is the prominent cause of forced marriages in Pakistan. Illiteracy means to snatch the wisdom of decision-making from anyone. An illiterate one cannot shield oneself against forced marriages. Illiterates lack legal awareness to defend their cause. Their illiteracy exposes them to the atrocities of the society like forced marriages. They have no idea of legal mechanism to avoid forced marriages. Similarly, illiteracy brings

early-marriages. An illiterate woman seems to be the victim of early-marriage. Their families prioritise their marriages instead of making them sit at home. This early marriage snatches free will from these women. Hence, illiteracy breeds forced marriages in Pakistan.

Apart from illiteracy, religious misinterpretation adds fuel to the fire of forced marriages. Religious misinterpretation means to mislead people according to wrong teaching of Islam. This misinterpretation permits early-marriages.

Orthodox Ulemas provoke people towards early marriage by misinterpretation.

They fail to apprise people about the genuine teachings of Islam in this regard.

Islam does not endorse the marriage of women without their consent.

Islam condemns compulsion in this regard. Similarly,

rural people seem to be victim of this misinterpretation. They hold ample regard for

Ulemas. They pay heed to Ulemas' teachings. Their subservience amplifies the miseries of rural women. These women are compelled to marry as per the teachings of Ulemas. Thus, Ulemas' guilt in provoking forced marriages is evident in Pakistan.

Besides, poverty contributes to forced marriages in Pakistan. Poverty means inability to meet basic needs. Without robust economy, one can hardly meet the need of one's family. Women become burden of impoverished families. To diminish this burden of economic strain, they marry their women without consent. Likewise, families cannot afford the payment of dowry for girls. This fear of paying dowry forces them for women's early marriages without their permission. Therefore, economic strain authorizes forced marriages in Pakistan. Likewise, Pakistan's traditional culture normalizes forced marriages in Pakistan. Traditional culture means fixed norms and principles.

Violation of these set principles tantamount to mutiny. Similarly, Watta Satta is among these principles. In this, women are exchanged without their approval. There seems no say of women. Similarly, women are married for compensation of bloodshed. This ruthless norm also robs women of exercising free will in selection of her partners. Hence, traditional culture is the obstacle in the way of women for choosing their partners with free choice. Last but not least, the fear of social stigma mitigates women's will in marriage. Social stigma means the negative judgment or perception of society pertaining any matter. Women sitting at home bring this stigma for their family. In Pakistan, an unmarried woman is the source of stigma for their families. Public gossips and taunts force families to marry their women.

without women's permission. Likewise, Pakistani society considers women's denial as a shame pertaining marriage. They link it with esteem. Women's denial appears disregard to their honour. Therefore, they ignore women's assent. Hence, women's say in marriage is assumed as a social stigma in Pakistan.

The above paragraphs elaborated the causes of forced marriages in Pakistan. The upcoming paragraphs will focus on implications of forced marriages. Domestic violence is the result of forced marriages. Domestic violence means violence in families. Forced marriages turn this into a normal trend. Couples do not endure each other. This scarcity of closeness and mutual understanding create or culminate in domestic violence. Feminists have raised their concerns in this regard. They condemned its emergence.

in Pakistan. Their concern reveal the escalation of forced-marriages in Pakistan. Hence, forced-marriages have confronted Pakistan with the evil of domestic violence.

Moreover, forced-marriages end in psychological problems. Psychological problems are associated with humans' minds. Women become victim of mental issues. They hardly find pleasure in their domestic lives. Constant exposure to domestic violence affects their mental health. The World Health Organization has rightly witnessed this in Pakistan. Its reports disclose that the mental health of Pakistani women is at stake due to forced marriages. Thus, forced-marriages create mental diseases among women.

Furthermore, health issues can not be treated in isolation from forced-marriages. Health issues mean the absence of appropriate treatment. Forced marriages make women vulnerable

work
es.

note
in.

to pregnancy diseases.
They endure unprecedented
cost for early-marriages.
It undermines their
health. Women's fragility
to health hazards can
be gauged from the
reports of Pakistan's
Gynaec Association. It
associated flimsiness of
women's health with the
spike in forced-marriages.
Thus, forced marriages have
undermined women's health.
Last but not least,
the rise in the rate
of divorce is due to
forced marriages. Divorce
means the breach of
bond or companionship.
Forced-marriages and successful
relationships can hardly
run together. No one
wishes to stay under
compulsion. Everyone desires
liberty and free-will
in relationship. The
denial of this liberty
and free-will cause
alienation and separation
between spouses. Hence,
forced-marriages have
fostered divorce.

The above paragraphs
entailed the impacts of

However, the upcoming ones will give recommendations for combating forced marriages. Firstly, there is an urgent need of devising a viable framework to control forced-marriages. Viable framework means applicable strategy. The government should contemplate on forming a commission. This commission will assist in addressing the woes of compelled women. It will convey their voices to relief-granting platforms. No woman would face difficulty or obstacles for relief. Hence, the government should work on framing a tangible strategy for the miseries of women.

Secondly, it is mandatory to convince the Orthodox Ulemas for changing their extreme perceptions about women. They oppose women's liberation. These Ulemas confine their role to homes. Women's dominance or appraisal seem a guilt to them. They interpret the teachings of Islam in

an inappropriate manner.
their misinterpretation
denies independence to
women in selecting
their spouse. Therefore,
the government should
arrange meetings with
them. It should convince
them that Islam does
not refuse free-choice
in this aspect.

Lastly, there is a
need of equipping women
with the prerogative of
education. A literate woman
would never be a
burden on her family.
Her education would assist
her in attaining employment.
It would ~~ex~~ liberate
women from the financial
chains of her family.
Strong income would assist
or aid her in
avoiding family's compulsion
for marriage. Therefore,
adequate education can
mitigate women's victimness
to forced-marriages.

To sum up the
discussion, there seems no
rebuttal to the fact
of forced marriages
in Pakistan. Economic strain

and social stigma bring forced-marriages for women. Similarly, it makes women victim of uncountable woes. Women fight to ensure proper health. Their marriages do not persist for a long-time. However, there lies a solution to every hurdle. If one can conquer Rome, then eroding forced-marriages is not a ample obstacle. Government's sincere efforts and eagerness can bring it to an end.

