

"Forced Marriages in Pakistan: Causes and Consequences"

Outline

I - Introduction

Force marriages is one of the crises Pakistan faces. It is caused by a number of factors including economic, societal, religious and cultural. Similarly, it has dire consequences as well, such as an unstable marriage life, which results in abuse and violence. Also, it impacts their mental health and their children's psychological abilities.

II - Pakistan's Country Profile of Forced Marriages

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III - Causes of Forced Marriages

A - Economic Gains

1. UNICEF highlights that poor household use forced marriage as a coping mechanism for economic hardship
2. Dowry and Bride-Price System

B - Family Pressure

- 'Honor' and 'Shame' factors
- Threats and coercion
- Emotional blackmail

C - Poverty-driven

1. According to the World Bank, poorest households are more than three times more likely to force their girls for forced marriage.

D - Cultural Practices

1. 'Wani' and 'Swara'
2. 'Watta Satta'

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E- Climate catastrophes

According to "Girls Not Brides," climate-induced loss of livelihood, displacement and increased threat of sexual violence leads family to marry off their daughters as soon as possible.

IV - Consequences of Forced Marriages

A- Unstable Marriage Life

- 1- As per a survey conducted by 'Women First' NGO in rural areas of Pakistan, 15 out of 15 couples who were forced into marriage were living a compromised and unsatisfactory life.

B- Domestic Abuse

- 1- Research indicates that women and girls in forced marriages have a significantly

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higher risk of experiencing
Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

C- Marital Rape

- 1- The UNICEF and Girls Not Brides indicate that men, in most of forced marriages, do not consider consent as important for any physical intimacy.

D- Psychological Problems

- 1- A systematic review by multiple NGOs highlight severe psychological distress and mental health deterioration as a common consequences of non-consensual unions.

E- Adverse impacts over children

- Low learning outcomes
- Higher chances of being abusive in adulthood.

V- Recommendations

A- Leverage the help

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of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to spread awareness

B- Expand social security networks such as BISP to include vulnerable girls

C- Empower local Authorities to target this problem

D- Implement laws and acts passed by Parliament

VI- Conclusion

- Forced marriages
- Causes and Consequences
- Measures needed

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The destiny of Pakistan is shaped by a number of problems and crises. One such problem is the forced marriages of girls. This problem runs deep into the cultural roots of the country. Even before independence, ~~Pakistan~~ the sub-continent region was considered as a central to forced marriages. Among many other burdens of partition, marriages by coercion is one that Pakistan keeps carrying. However, the 21st century has seen a high rise in such marriages due to a number of factors. These driving factors include the potential economic gains from marrying off a daughter or a sister in the form of dowry and other material benefits. Similarly, familial pressure, poverty-ridden households and some religious practices also contribute to this misery. In addition, there are some cultural practices too such as 'swara' and 'Watta-Satta' which force girls to marry, without paying any regard for their consent. Climate-induced catastrophe adds on another layer to

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this evil practice. Furthermore, ~~the~~ forced marriages result in some adverse impacts as well. It can lead to an unsatisfactory marriage life, a higher chances of domestic violence and also marital rape. Similarly, psychological problems such as stress, anxiety and other mental illnesses are said to be prevalent in such couples. Besides, these children born to such couples who are forced into marriage are often observed to be lacking in learning capabilities in school, and other mental abilities. All these factors paints a grim picture of the country's marriage profile. The country has to take several pragmatic steps in order to mitigate this problematic practice. The country can leverage the help of Non-governmental organization to spread awareness in people. It can also expand the BISP and other social security programs to include girls living in vulnerable area to forced marriages. Other steps include empowering local governance for particularly targeting this problem. Although, the situation is dismal, however, there is always light at the end

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of the tunnel. Pakistan can prevent this practice if considers taking serious measures.

[Attempted an outline & introductory paragraph only]