

Forced Marriages in Pakistan: Causes and Consequences:

Outline

(1) Introduction

Hook

Thesis Statement: Forced marriage in Pakistan is a complex problem. The major causes of forced marriage include: Family honour and social pressure, cultural and tribal traditions, Lack of education, Gender inequality, and weak law enforcement and judicial delays. As a result of these factors the consequences are both personal and societal like, Early divorce, Domestic violence and marital abuse, Psychological affect, denial of education and career opportunities, Health risks, Generational impact, and damage of Pakistan's international reputation.

(2) Causes of forced marriage in Pakistan:

(A) Family honour and Social pressure

- (i) Avoid love scandals
 - (ii) pressure of society, family, relatives
- Case in point + Multan Case (2021)

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(B) Cultural and tribal traditions:

- (i) vanni
 - (ii) Watta Satta (Exchange marriage)
 - (iii) Pre-birth engagement.
- Case in point → (Muzaffargarh case) 2016

(C) Lack of education and awareness

- (i) unawareness of religious teachings
 - (ii) Lack of knowledge about legal rights
- Case in point → (Unicef report 2016)

(D) Gender inequality

- (i) patriarchal mindset
- Case in point → Aurat foundation report 201

(E) Weak law enforcement and judicial delays.

- (i) poor implementation of process
- Case in point → (HRCp annual report 2016)

(3) Consequences of forced marriage in Pakistan

- 3.1 Early divorce
- 3.2 Domestic violence and marital abuse
- 3.3 Denial of education and career opportunities
- 3.4 Generational impact
- 3.5 Psychological impact
- 3.6 Damage of Pakistan's international reputation

(4) Conclusion.

Essay

"Marriage is a bond of
love, not a chain
of Compulsion"

Although marriage is a beautiful relationship, but in many parts of the world, including Pakistan, this relationship or bond turned into a burden through force marriage. Instead of being a union of mutual respect and freedom, it becomes a threat to dignity. It became a complex problem in Pakistan. The ~~marriage~~ causes of forced marriage include family honour and social pressure, cultural and tribal traditions, lack of education, gender inequality, and weak law enforcement and judicial delays. As a result of these factors, the consequences are both personal and societal like Early divorce, Domestic violence and marital abuse, Psychological impact, Denial of education and career opportunities, Generational impact, Health risks and Damage of Pakistan's international reputation. Considering these problems, the Government should have to make campaigns in order to aware the people about harmful impacts of forced marriage.

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Firstly, the major cause of forced marriage is family honour and societal pressure. In many parts of Pakistan people do their children marriage in early ages in order to avoid a love scandal, because in Pakistan many societies give importance to the concept of family honour (Izzat). Honour is everything for them, so they often force their girls into marriage to protect their reputation and avoid gossip of societies. Moreover, the societal pressure like in growing age is also becoming a problem for people to force the girls for marriage. Express Tribune reported in 2021 that a girl of 17 years old in Multan was forced by her family to marry her cousin after she rejected a proposal. Her refusal was seen as a dishonour for her family and as a result without her willingness, they did her forced marriage...

Secondly, cultural and tribal traditions also became an issue of forced marriage. Pakistan tribal areas especially in rural Punjab and KPK, forced marriages are justified in the name of old customs and tribal customs. Though we live in modern age, still the concepts of dower, exchange of marriages and prebirth engagement

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exist. People often do vanni their daughters as a retribution of their crime. A case is highlighted by Aural foundation in 2017, that a 18 year old girl in Muzafargarh was married off as vanni to settle a murder case. In addition to this,

exchange of marriage is also a cause of forced marriage, as people without the consent and willingness of their children settle their marriages.

Furthermore, in some cases people decide and choose their children's groom or bride before the birth of their children which later became an issue and then they forcibly done their marriages.

Thirdly, lack of education and awareness also plays a big role in forced marriage. People specially in rural areas they are unaware of religious teaching and legal rights.

As stated in Sahih Bukhari, Our beloved prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said; "without the consent of both partner in marriage is invalid", but in our societies, people have lack of education and knowledge, they never know about this and if their children refuse them it lead to dishonour of parents. Also they are unaware of legal rights, Islam

as well as. Constitution according to Article 9 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973, Every citizen has the right to life and liberty which includes freedom of choice of marriage. According to unicef report 2020, In the villages of Tharparkar and Khuzdar, parents forced their daughters into marriage at age of 14 or 16 because they did know that Islam and law forbid it.

Fourthly, Gender inequality is prevalent in Pakistan and contribute to forced marriage, as the social structure of Pakistan is patriarchal means men holds the whole authority of decision making. Daughters are view as their property as a source of izzat rather than individuals with equal rights. They believed in the idea that **"Men knows what's the best"** So, men like father

brother or tribal elders follows the policy and decide in girls marriage without their consent.

Aural foundation presented a report in 2021 that in rural Sindh, and Punjab in many families, women's opinion about marriage

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are never asked. Decisions are made by male elders to preserve family unity.

Lastly, weak law enforcement and judicial delays also a reason of forced marriage. Though forced marriage is prohibited in Islam as well as in law but in Pakistan poor

implementation of legal process allow these practices to continue. As

Someone well said, **"Justice delayed, is justice denied."** Many girls

and victims of forced marriage losing hopes because they never rise their voice due to ~~their~~ family influence, and fear. They have

no only hope of justice from court but low process discouraging victims to seek justice and encourage criminals to continue these

practices. According to HRCP annual report, A 14 years old girl was married under tribal customs in

Jaccoabad. Despite proof and complaint from NGOs, police delayed action for months due to pressure from local feudal leaders.

After discussing all these above mention causes, that are deeply rooted in Pakistani societies, there are some consequences that are personal, societal as well international

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First of all, one of the most and serious consequence of forced marriage is Early divorce. People did teen girls force marriage but lack of understanding of each other and poor communication that leads to misunderstanding, arguments, and resultantly they divorce each other.

Moreover the failure of expectation that one can have about his or her partner may lead to divorce.

Secondly, the physical as well as in mental abuse of partner become a major cause of forced marriage. As in force marriage like in vash based marriage.

The girl sacrifices for their male brother or father crime and send her to a home, where she faces every type of abuse, Domestic violence because she was there to pay for the crime which he never did.

thirdly, Denial of education and career opportunities. In some cases, girls forced marriage in very early age and then she was not allow to continue her education because of family responsibilities and in laws pressure.

Fourthly, the early age force marriage

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lead to severe health issues, as the victim of force marriage does not mature and not ready for life long commitments but still early pregnancy and health concerns arise.

Fifthly, forced marriage has generational impact also, if a girl was forced to do early marriage, then she was unable to continue her education. So daughters of uneducated, and forced marriage victims are faces early marriage too.

Moreover, force marriage victims often ~~for~~ become a psychological patient, because, continuously, abuse and humiliation impact on his psyche and became a patient of anxiety, stress, and BP.

Lastly, Reports of forced and child marriage harm Pakistan international and global image, regarding human rights. UN and amnesty international regularly rights Pakistan for poor implementation of women protection laws.

Above highlighted all consequences there is also some solution in order to protect the girls becoming the victims of forced

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marriage:

First, Government should have to organize a survey committee to know about its major areas of forced marriage. Then it should have to send some committee to aware its people about its harmful impact of forced marriage. Secondly, its illiteracy rate is very high in Pak, so it should be mandatory to teach all people and give knowledge about its legal rights as well as Islam teaching of girls marriage.

Also, to ensure its speedy justice and remove all types of jirgas and feudal system who became its God in Allah's earth and make decision of girls life without her consent.

In Conclusion: forced marriage in Pakistan became a widespread issue due to complex issue rooted in societies, cultural traditions patriarchal norms and its illiteracy rate, its consequences is also very high ranging from psychological trauma, health issue, humiliation, early divorce and generation.

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impact. In order to tackle these issues, Pakistan should have to enforce speedy justice, awareness campaign, female education and elimination of feudal customs. Only through these reforms, forced marriages can be reduced and Pakistan become a prosper country.

"Change begins when women are given the freedom to decide their own destiny."

