

Forced marriages in Pakistan: Causes and Consequences

Outlines

1. Introduction

a) Attention Grabber
b) General Statement
c) Basis Statement: Forced marriages in Pakistan stem from poverty and economic pressure, gender inequality and patriarchal structure, tradition and custom practices, lack of education and awareness, property, caste and tribal factors lead to physical and reproductive health problems, psychological and emotional trauma, educational disruption, domestic violence, effect on children and next generation.

2. Causes of forced marriages

- 2.1 poverty and economic pressure
 - 2.1.1 Family view daughter as financial burden
 - 2.1.2 Marriage as coping strategies for debt or poverty
 - 2.1.3 Rural vulnerability and economic insecurity
- 2.2 Gender inequality and patriarchal structures
 - 2.2.1 Male dominance &

Ghazi Papers

control over female autonomy
 2.2.2 cultural notion of
 women as property
 2.2.3 Restriction on female
 choice & freedom

2.3 Tradition and customary
 practices

2.3.1 Swayam / Vani: girls given
 in marriages as compensation

2.3.2 Watta / Satta: exchange
 marriages.

2.3.3 customary authority of
 jirgas and panchayats

2.4 Lack of education & awareness

2.4.1 Illiteracy among parents
 and daughters

2.4.2 Lack of awareness of legal
 rights and alternatives.

2.5 Property, caste and tribal factor

2.5.1 Marriages arranged to retain
 property within family

2.5.2 Prohibition on inter-caste or
 intertribal marriages

3. Consequences of forced marriages

3.1 Physical and reproductive
 problems.

3.1.1 Early pregnancy and
 childbirth complications

3.1.2 Increased maternal and
 infant mortality.

3.2 Psychological and emotional Trauma

3.2.1 Depression, anxiety and loss of self esteem

3.2.2 Isolation from family and friends

3.2.3 Trauma from domestic abuse

3.3 Educational disruption

3.3.1 Termination of schooling for married girls

3.3.2 Reduced opportunities for personal development

3.4 Domestic violence

3.4.1 Higher risk of physical & sexual violence

3.4.2 Use of marriage as compensation dehumanize women

3.5 Effect on children and next generation

3.5.1 poor child health and educational outcomes

3.5.2 Continuation of gender inequality and early marriages.

4. Recommendations

5. Conclusion

Essay

Force marriage is a serious human right issue around the world. In the context of Pakistan, it takes on particular cultural, legal, economic and social dimension. A forced marriage is a marriage in which one or both parties do not give their full and free consent to the union and pressure is exerted by family or by other social actors while force marriage can affect both sexes, globally and in Pakistan it affects females more than male. In Pakistan, such marriages, child marriages, marriages as compensation, exchange marriage or marriage forced for other reasons continue dispute laws and international commitments. According to some estimates about 30% of marriages in Pakistan fall in the category of childhood marriages. Forced marriages in Pakistan stem from poverty & economic pressure, gender inequality and patriarchal structure, tradition and custom practices.

Ghazi Papers

Lack of education and awareness, property caste and Tribal factors lead to physical and reproductive health problems, psychological and emotional trauma, educational disruption, Domestic violence, and effect on children and next generation.

Economic insecurity is one of the most frequently cited driver of forced marriages. Family's whoes suffer from economic insecurity often marriage off a daughter as a revealing of economic burden, saving lesser responsibility on the household and getting bride-price that help financially. In rural area where agriculture is unstable or where land has been lost or livelihood disrupted, marrying off daughters early becomes a coping strategies. The financial cost of keeping a girl until adulthood, the fear of providing a larger dowry or of social scandals push parent towards forced marriages.

Gender inequality and patriarchal structure also lead to forced marriages. In many contexts, girls are seen as a burden while sons are considered assets.

The values often assigned to girls is lower so families may think marriage will reduce the burden or protect the girl from honour by placing her in a husband's home.

Moreover in patriarchal societies the control of female sexuality and choice is often closely guarded. One of the motives of forced marriages is controlling unwanted behavior particularly the behavior of female. The tight control on women's behavior of sexuality including dictating whom she can or cannot marry lead to widespread violence & rights violation.

Tradition & customary practices are still present in Pakistan which is the cause of forced marriages, especially in rural & tribal regions.

These include marriages as a compensation of crime (Swara / Uani) where a daughter

is given to other party as compensation of crime instead of son, another reason of forced marriages in weddo/satta (exchange marriages) involves simultaneous marriages between two ~~are~~ families (often a brother-sister pair) and is used to balance social obligations. In these customs, the consent of the bride and sometime even the groom may be secondary. Social or familial pressure may mean the young person has little real choice.

Lack of education and awareness play a vital role in forced marriages when girls have limited access to education the opportunity to refuse marriage is low and the capacity to assert choice is weak. Parents with little education may not aware of rights legal protection, alternatives of forced marriages lead to forced marriage. Lack of awareness and lack of proper education as key motive for forced marriage. Children who are not in school are at drop out early.

were vulnerable to being married off. However limited educational reduce employment opportunities for women, which in turn reduce the incentive for family to invest in keeping daughters at home or in school.

In some case, marriage is used as a mechanism to stay with in the same tribe and maintain control over land and property. Marrying with the clan or choosing the spouse as a bride that reduce risk of losing the land outside the family. ensuring land remain with in the family as a motive for forced marriages.

The impact of forced marriage is profound and wide ranging as the young girl pregnant early in forced marriage which expose them to higher risks of maternal mortality. Their bodies may not yet be fully mature for childbirth which lead to alot of complication in delivery. Sometime it may lead to a death of mother.

during delivery because of young age on top of their forced sexual relations, lack of autonomy in reproduction decisions, and multiple intensity health risk. early pregnancy from forced marriage resulting in increasing the likelihood of complication during child birth, contributing to higher risk of maternal and infant mortality.

Being forced into marriage, especially at a young age, often cause psychological and emotional damage. Subject may suffer from depression, anxiety, low self-esteem. Girl may experience extreme emotional distress due to the sudden transition in adulthood and the responsibilities of married life. Moreover, force marriage often entails power imbalances, lack of autonomy in decision making, isolation from family and limited social support which can lead to

mental health problems
isolation and domestic abuse
is one of the biggest
problem facing victim of
forced marriages.

Forced marriage often result
the immediate or eventual
discontinuation of education
for the girls once married,
the responsibilities of home,
husband and children
can not allow women to
pursue schooling or
skill development. Forced
marriage reduced the opportunities
of personal development
and employment as education
is a key of economic
independence and empowerment
of women, losing that
opportunity due to forced
marriage has far reaching
consequence for the
individual, family &
society.

In forced marriage women
mostly faced domestic
violence. In forced marriages
there were higher risks
of domestic and physical
and sexual abuse in
many cases females were

not ready to start physical reaction (sometime groom also not liking bride) which turn in to physical and sexual violence. Male aggression also lead to sexual and physical violence. marriage is also use as compensation for crimes where the use female to dehumanize them. This is how female face domestic violence in forced marriages.

forced marriages effects children and next generation childrens weak physical and mental health because the relationship between their parent is not normal, all the time they seen their parents fighting which can effect their mental & physical health. They cannot give their children proper education because of their economic instability. Moreover, children growing up in homes where the mother was forced into marriage men experience higher rates of domestic violence, poor maternal health and their perpetuates the cycle into the next generation.

Ghazi Papers

While the problems are multifaceted and the solutions must be like wire, some strategic direction including increasing awareness of existing laws in schools, communities, mosques, Training of police & judiciary and local administration to handle force marriages cases sensibly, providing legal aid and safe shelters for victims, ensuring registration of all marriages, ensuring access of quality education for girls in rural and urban areas, providing employment opportunities for women. Educating parents about long-term benefit of educating girls versus early marriages. Conducting awareness campaigns on the harm of forced marriages, child marriages, and value of consent by combining legal, social and economic strategies, Pakistan can reduce the prevalence of forced marriages.

In conclusion, forced marriages in Pakistan is not simply a custom problem or a remote problem; it is a manifestation of structured gender inequality.

poverty & economic pressure, tradition and custom practices, lack of education and awareness, attributed factors. The consequences are profound and longlasting physical and reproductive health risk, psychological and emotional trauma, loss of education, domestic violence, effect on children and next generation.

The reason of forced marriages were viewing daughter as a burden and marrying a daughter is compensation male in the society wants to control the unwanted behavior by female by marrying them off. Tradition and custom such as watta satta shaped forced marriages. Female lack of education and awareness led them to forced marriages. Securing the land and property in the same family they prefer cousin marriages. Forced marriage leaves it consequence on female in the form of delivery complication, depression, anxiety, isolation and because

lack of social support.
 Forced marriage terminates
 female education immediately.
 The next ab upturning
 generations also faced the
 consequence of forced
 marriage, ~~force~~ although
 force marriage is not
 something which cannot
 be handled it can be
 prevented through educating
 women, communities,
 parents and by changing
 the typical social
 norms, providing legal
 aid and help to
 victim and survivors.