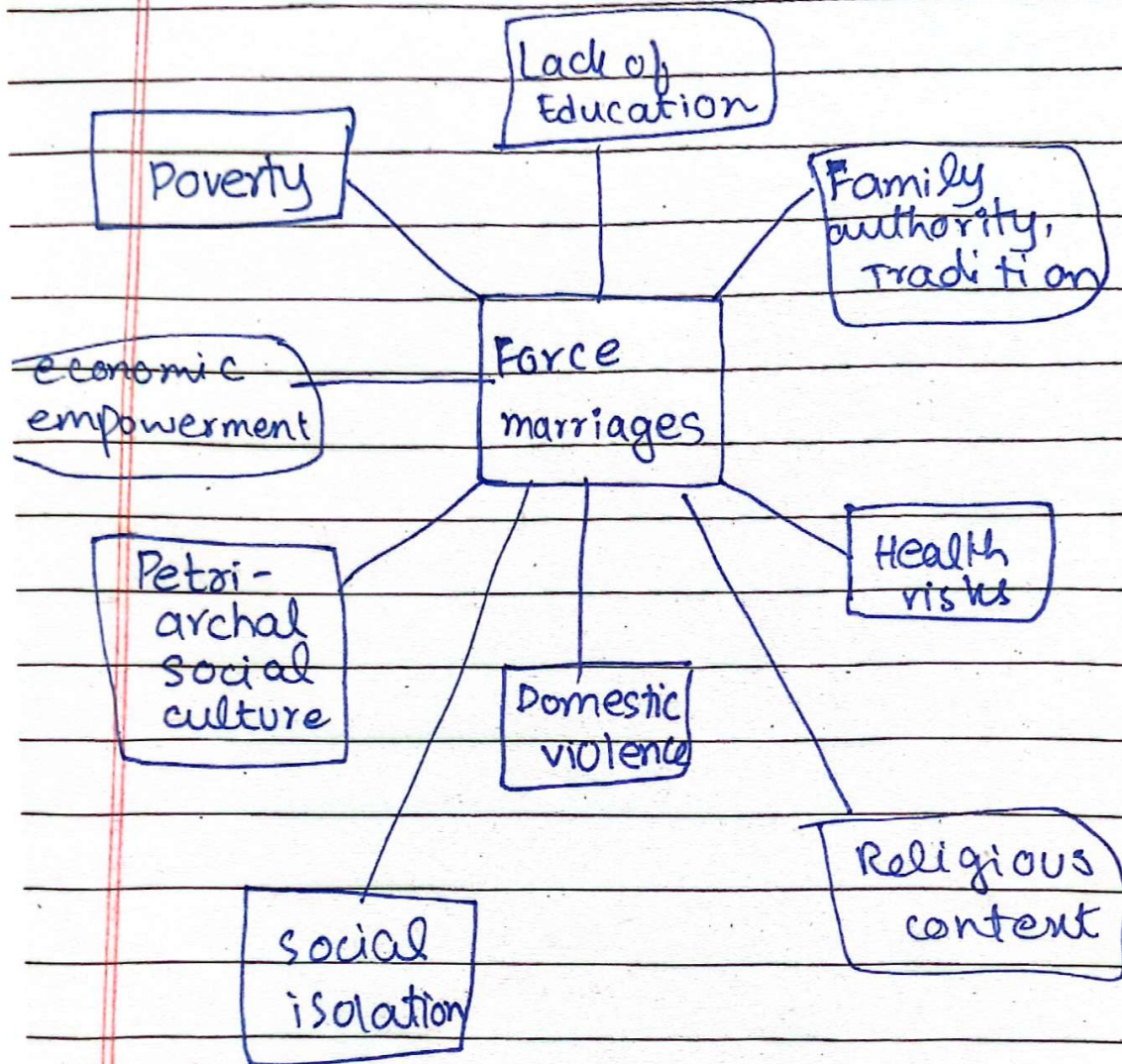


Date: _____

Brainstorming 8-



Date: _____

Day: _____

Forced Marriages in Pakistan, Causes & Consequences.

Outline

1) Introduction:-

1.1 Hook

1.2 Background

1.3 Thesis statement: Forced marriages continue to thrive under guise of Tradition, honour and poverty, exposing systemic failures in law enforcement & social awareness that demand immediate state intervention & community based reform.

2) What is forced marriage?

3) Causes of forced marriage:

3.1 Poverty & economic insecurity

3.1.1 Low income

3.1.2 Economic Burden

3.1.3 Exploitation of Family

3.2 Preservation of property

3.2.1 Loss of lands

3.2.2 Marriage within caste

3.2.3 Loss of wealth

3.3 Traditions in Family

3.3.1 Elders decision for marriage

Date: _____

Day: _____

3.3.2 Family honour

3.3.3 Reputation protection

3.4 Persuasion of Nationality

3.4.1 Migration

3.4.2 Secure Foreign Nationality

3.4.3 Pressurize by Family

4) Consequences of forced marriages

4.1 Health risks

4.1.1 Physical Health risks

4.1.2 Reproductive Health risks

4.1.3 Immature Births

4.2 Mental Health

4.2.1 Depression, Anxiety

4.2.2 Abuse (physical)

4.2.3 Loss of autonomy

4.3 Education Limitation

4.3.1 Future economic prospects

4.3.2 Domestic responsibilities

4.3.3 Financial constraint

4.4 Domestic violence

4.4.1 Abuse by in-laws

4.4.2 Economic stress

4.4.3 Social skills

5) Solutions

5.1 Economic empowerment

5.2 Support services for survivors

5.3 Community level awareness

5.4 Access to justice

6) Conclusion

The Essay

In a small village of Punjab, a teenage girl was married off to a man twice her age in exchange for settling a family dispute. Her Tears silenced by weight of tradition. Her story is not unique but a reflection of countless unheard voices across Pakistan.

Main causes of forced marriages are poverty & economic insecurity, Preservation of property, Family Traditions as well as persuasion of Nationality. These lead to Health risks, Mental Health, Education limitation, & Domestic violence.

Unless there are some solutions available to eliminate the culture of forced marriages especially in rural areas.

To Begin with, there are many root causes of forced marriages.

First come the cause is poverty & economic insecurity. Families in low income households often see early and forced marriages as a means to reduce economic burden as they can't afford living

Date: _____

Day: _____

expenses and for that purpose they secure future of a daughter. The economic rationale pushes parents to marry daughters to older men. As there is low income that will lead to exploitation of their children and Family. Parents marry their daughters to reduce their burden but that leads to future exploitation. Parents believe that marrying their daughters early will reduce Household expenses such as food, clothing, education costs. Their mindset turns marriage into strategy for survival than a choice based on maturity. Poor Families fear that their daughters might face dishonour if left unmarried. To protect their "honour" they marry them.

Strong norms favour marriage within caste or social class & are used to keep property in their family. In many Traditional Families of Pakistan, Property & inheritance are central to social power & Family honour. To preserve land, wealth & Family assets within same

Date: _____

Day: _____

lineage. Families often arrange early or intra-family marriages such as cousin marriages. Even when individuals are too young. Families bear if daughters marry outside family or caste their property may be divided and transferred to another family through inheritance. To prevent this they marry their daughters within close relatives at early age. Families that break tradition of being married in another caste lead to strong priority than child's education. Such marriages lead to lack of compatibility.

Family Traditions are also a leading cause of forced marriages. In Pakistan traditional society, family customs have more authority than an individual choice. Many Families arrange marriages on basis of Traditions believing that preserving Family Honour is more important than personal compatibility. In such families, elders Decisions are final & unquestionable & young men & women are forced to obey

Date: _____

Day: _____

their parents without resistance.

Individual often has no-say, leading to force marriages for their family respect. Families consider marriage a reflection of reputation & Honour in society, prioritize maintaining relationships within the caste than allowing children to choose freely. Fear of gossip, dishonour leads to arrange marriages quickly.

In a globalized world, many Pakistani families consider marriage to a foreign national a shortcut to financial stability & immigration opportunities. Desire to gain the foreign nationality, residence often leads families to force young women into arranged marriages. Families with relatives living in countries like UK, Canada compel their daughters to marry. They often want to secure a visa, citizenship or better financial support from overseas. These marriages are less about the Family Bonds & more about economic & legal advantages. And a Foreign family is

Date: _____

Day: _____

generally considered as a symbol of success. Parents believe it will elevate their social status. Such marriages end in abuse, emotional isolation & loss of autonomy.

Unlike causes these are various consequences of forced marriages.

One of the consequence is Health risks. Force marriage expose individuals especially young girls to severe physical, reproductive Health risks. Since such marriages often occur without medical awareness and mutual consent they lead to long term Health complications.

Similarly, forced marriages also lead to Early Pregnancy & maternal complications. Girls forced into marriage at a young age are pushed into early Pregnancies while their bodies are not Biologically mature enough to Handle child-Birth. This results in High maternal mortality rates, anemia & other complications. Child born to very young mothers are more likely to suffer from low Birth weight, malnutrition, lack of maternal Health Education & poor access

Date: _____

Day: _____

to Healthcare in such marriages worsen child Health outcomes.

Force marriage deeply affects a person mental & emotional well-being. Being force into marriage means losing control over one's personal life decision, That leads to feelings of Helplessness, anxiety. Many victims experience depressive episodes after being married. Loss of autonomy and exposure to marital rape and abuse create mental Harm.

Force marriage deeply affects an individual life especially women in a way that leads to trauma, psychological distress, identity conflict and many other causes.

Forced marriages often leads to abrupt end to educational opportunities especially for girls. Once married young brides are expected to take on domestic, childcare &

Family responsibilities that end in no freedom or support for continuing their studies. In most of the cases girls get married before completing their studies.

After marriage, women face

Date: _____

Day: _____

restrictions from their husbands or in-laws who view education as unnecessary or inappropriate for married women. They discourage attending college and professional training institutes cutting off path to empowerment without Education, women have limited access to the employment & remain financially dependent on their spouse or families.

Forced marriage often becomes a breeding ground for domestic violence, as it join 2 individuals without understanding or compatibility.

When one partner is emotionally unprepared and relationship lack Trust & respect that leads to conflict, control & abuse. Force marriages lead to economic instability & Financial stress when individuals involve are too young, uneducated & unprepared for the responsibilities of married life.

most victims of forced marriages are forced to leave school before acquiring skills needs for employment. with little or no education, they cannot earn independently which leads to financial dependency on

Date: _____

Day: _____

spouses and in-laws. The cost of starting and maintaining Household with early pregnancy create severe financial strain. That pressure lead to conflict and domestic violence.

Yet, there are solutions available to mitigate forced marriages. As economic empowerment & social protection provide conditional cash transfers scholarships & livelihood programs for poor families so marriage cannot be seen as an economic necessity. Expanding girls access to Education will also decrease forced marriages Traditions. Similarly, laws should be enforce to decrease rate of forced marriages.

Another option should be create a safe shelters, counselling services legal aid & medical support to survivors of forced marriage and associated abuse. Ensurance of protection should be mendatory. Religious leadership engagement must be done. Launching awareness campaigns that will clarify Legal rights and religious

Date: _____

Day: _____

position on consent that involve local religious leaders, teachers, community leaders to challenge Honour based norms.

Reform procedural barriers that allow victims to file complaints, train police, prosecutors & judges should response sensitively & promptly to force marriage case and specialized units should be established for complaints.

Force Marriage is not a private Family matter, it is multifaceted violation of rights that injures individuals and disrupt social development. Mandi Bahauddin case study paints clear picture: poverty, patriarchal norms, endogamy, institutional neglect, ill-founded religious beliefs. Effective prevention demands legal reform, community engagement, economic measures & survivor centred services combined with sustain political will. Only then, Pakistan move closer to securing basic Human right of free choice in marriage for all its citizens.