

Forced marriages in Pakistan: Causes and Consequences.

1 Introduction:

- 2 Decoding the term 'Forced marriages'.
- 3 Causes of forced marriages in Pakistan.
 - a Lack of education limiting awareness regarding marriages.
 - b Cultural and social norms keeping marriage a priority.
 - c Poor socioeconomic class seeking fortune in marriage.
 - d Religious misinterpretation as a tool for forced marriages.
 - e Climate disasters force marriages as a relief in the burden of responsibilities.
 - f Marriages assumed as a responsibility of Parents.
 - g Unregulated marriage practices by the state authorities.

4 Consequences of forced marriages in Pakistan

- a Unhealthy marital relationship filled with resentment and chaos.
- b Poor parental responsibilities affecting the lives of their children.

- 3 limited time for economic prosperity
halting national progress.
- 4 Neglected education of the next generation
keeping the vicious cycle going
- 5 Giving way to crimes like domestic violence.

Conclusion.

while the ratio of forced marriages is high across the globe, Pakistan is at high risks because of poor socioeconomic condition, lack of education, cultural and social norms, climate change and a number of other reasons. This cause not only resentment and chaos but also halt national progress.

Salma, a twenty five year old lady, from Swabi, just completed her Bachelor in Computer Science from a prestigious university. She got a call from two reputable universities offering scholarship to her for her post graduation. As she went to announce the news to her family, she was thunder-struck when her family told her about the marriage arranged for her with her distant cousin. She was required to give up dreams for her dream shall now be to build and raise a family. Forced marriages are a concept quite famous to South Asia that the rest of the world, where children are given into marriages without their due consent. These marriages are often arranged by the elderly members of the family and no choice is left to the one who marries. The most common causes of forced marriages are lack of education, deep rooted cliché social

norms, unregulated marriages act by the government, and currently the surging menace of climate catastrophes. All this leads to consequences that are so grave that can halt economic growth, cause resentment for the rest of one's life, unhealthy parenting practices resulting in affected growth of children, halting the overall national progress of the state.

Early marriages are a common practice in the entire world but the ratio in Pakistan raises concerns at an alarming stage.

Children are forced to marry without their consent or will by the elders.

They are considered either too immature or asking them would lead to rejection which isn't the option for many to avail.

Students, often brilliant, are set in for marriages leaving their future at stake. While the rest of the world suffers but Pakistan is in the depths of despair because no regulation by the state ensures safeguards against forced marriages, even if they do they are far from implementation in most of the cases.

Out of the many causes of forced marriages, the one topping the list is lack of education. Education can give an insight to the proper timing and awareness of the intricate matter. Lack of education creates gap between the reality of and the assumption of marriages. Marriages are often dealt in the way they used to be centuries ago. No toleration is shown to the growing trends of consent for marriage or marriage by will. In Pakistan, the elder literacy ratio lies between twenty-five to twenty-seven percent. This shows that only a bunch of people are educated enough to understand marriage in modern ways the rest deal with the same way their elders did. This shows that lack of education further rift the cut of forced marriages.

Another reason for the growing and never ending menace of forced marriages is cultural and societal norms. Our

Society has a way of doing things without allowing latest intervention or advices for improvement. Society regards marriage as an obligation which shall be performed without delay. This haste in marriage is often considered a burden. Under the societal ~~norms~~^{pressure}, parents often haste in making finding a suitable partner for their children. The mismatched or compromised match often leads to marriage that is forced upon one or both the partners. According to UN Department of Economic and social affairs, (UNDESA), every one in 7 Pakistanis are forced into marriage due to the pressure imposed by the society. This shows that the evil of forced marriages are deeply rooted in the society.

One main reason other than the above two is the poor socioeconomic conditions leading to forced marriages in poor class societies. The cost of rising

Living in Pakistan is growing day by day. Economic needs are growing because inflation is rising at an alarming stage. These conditions lead to poor living and marriage is sought as a relief of economic burden. Parents or guardians often arrange marriage with a person of high socioeconomic background leading to forced marriage. This is regarded as a guarantee of better socioeconomic conditions and prosperous future. Acc. to a report of humanitarian crisis survey, the girls exposed to forced marriage for money in the upper parts of the country like Chitral and Gilgit is a grave crime and is against all humanitarian laws. This shows that poor socioeconomic conditions are a cause of ~~forced~~ forced marriage.

Of the all reasons the most alarming one for religious forced marriages is religious misinterpretations. Religion is being used as a tool since time immemorial

to achieve personal gains. The advice of finding a good spouse by the parents will is misinterpreted to finding partners who suits your interest better. Parents often shut the children up as religion is moulded for their crime.

In the last sermon, Prophet (PBUH) has advised to not only choose the partners by themselves but the Quran also gives full responsibility to say no to forced marriages. Lack of religious education is often the cause of forced marriages.

Currently, the most suitable and widely acceptable reason for forced marriages is climate catastrophes. The menace of climate change is like a disaster that affects everyone equally.

Parents often arrange forced marriages of their children to give away from their children's responsibility. This often affects girls more than the boys.

According the Climate Disaster and its impacts on young girls report (July 2025),

climate brides is a concept practiced in parts of Sindh and ~~the~~ Southern Punjab where young girls are married off against their will to ease their responsibility as parents. Thus climate change is the cause of crime such as early marriage and forced marriages in Pakistan.

One more reason for forced marriage is parents responsibility of marriage. Parents are required to fulfill this responsibility in a Pakistani society. To fulfill this responsibility, parents often use their authority to set any match for their children. Children are often not allowed to express their will. This gives parents a free hand for playing with future. According to a Muslim scholar, Nouman Ali Khan, parents in South Asia waste their children's potential and brilliance by forcing or pressurizing them into marriages they don't assent to. This leaves the children in no way capable for progress of themselves and of their marriages. Hence, parental responsibility is one of the

main causes of forced child marriages.

Subsequently, an important and often neglected cause of repeated forced marriages in Pakistan is lack of functioning and vigilant authority. Government authorities have paid a deaf ear to the matters that are associated with family.

The state often lacks rules on forced marriages and the ones that are present are often overlooked. Government have little intervention in forced marriage crimes which has left the situation

unbridled. Quick and easy access to family laws and nuptial ~~and~~ rules and regulations can put a stop to the situation. This is an evidence to the fact that forced marriages are often exacerbated by lack of rules and regulations.

The causes of forced marriages were explained in the essay above. ~~now~~ The consequences that are resulted due to these causes are explained below.

Forced marriages often lead to unhealthy relationships after marriage. Resentment that comes after forced marriage cause unhealthy relationship. The relationship are either strained or after ended that are formed on the weak foundations of lack of consent. Forced marriages often end in domestic violence and crimes that end life. The most deading consequence of forced marriage is chaos and resentment for the rest of the life of partners.

While Parents need to assume the responsibility of their children, but forcing them into marriage against their consent should be the least practiced one. In Pakistan, the younger generation is already facing the stark realities of ~~socioeconomic~~, finances, education, unemployment, inflation. Burdening them further with forced marriages would break their backbone. The causes shall be address and to prevent the consequences to make the young able to fight for their nation.