

Forced Marriages in Pakistan: Causes and consequences

1- Introduction

a- Hook

b- general statements

c- Thesis statement

2- Main Body

A. Causes of forced marriages

A.1: Influence of traditions and customs

A.1.1. Recompense through girls (varti)

A.1.2. Reciprocal Marriage (watta/satta)

A.1.3. Elders decisions

A.2. Lack of awareness or education

A.2.1. Limited access to education

A.2.2. Societal Pressure and family expectation; Patriarchal norms

A.2.3. Lack of awareness about Health risks

A.3. Poverty and lack of Resources

A.3.1. Shaking off economic load

A.3.2. Money against match (walwar)

A.3.3. Marrying off idle girls

A.4. Insecurity and Lack of Protection

A.4.1. forced religion conversion marriage

A.4.2. fear of dishonour

A.4.3. To preserve property

B. Consequences of forced marriages

A.1. Restrict girls to obey marriage proposal without consent

- A.1.1. Takeaway girls right to live safe and healthy life
- A.1.2. Create insecurities and miss match
- A.1.3. Both girl and boy forced to go for arranged marriage

A.2. Lack of awareness & education promotes forced marriages

A.2.1. Deprived them of decent education opportunity and empowerment

A.2.2. Patriarchal influence causes early engagements and marriages

- stronger support in later age

- To maintain family unity and cast system

A.2.3. Medical implications

economic

A.3. Deprivation leads to forced marriages, consider girls as burden

A.3.1. No suitable match, girl forced to live a compromised life

A.3.2. Very young girls ^{have to} get marry to men much older than man

A.3.3. Girls restricted to house chores, cooking & despite of being educated to get marry at

early age.

A.4. Lack of legal protection encourages forced marriages

A.4.1. forced religious conversion spreading hate among people

- violation of human rights and minority protection

A.4.2. fear of dishonour leads to child marriages

A.4.3. Many feudalists forced girls to marry Quran and much younger and older cousin to protect property

- Legal Prevention and Suggestion

3. Conclusion

The Essay

Date:

"Let us become the first generation to decide to be the last that sees empty classrooms, last childhoods and wasted potentials. Let be this a last time that a girl forced into child marriage. Let begins ~~this~~ ending together, today, right here, right now." (Malala Yousufzai). Pakistan like other countries has been the center of center of cases of child marriage and forced marriages. Forced marriage, a global human right violation and dignity, is a pressing issue in Pakistan, because of poverty, illiteracy, and cultural traditions causing exploitation, trauma, physical and emotional distress for victims specially women and girls. This issue needs to be addressed, urgent need for legislative reforms, breaking stereotype, promoting gender equality and education. The impacts of ^{these} forced marriages are long lasting

One of the main cause of forced marriage is influence of culture and customs. People are deeply linked with old traditions and concept of family union. There is a deep influence of tribal traditions on marriage institution.

The tribal areas of KPK, Sindh and Punjab has their own rules for marriage. They have their own court known as "Jirga", the members of Jirga are influential feudalists, who pays no hesitation to ~~exploite~~ exploitation of rules and regulations.

In the socio culture frame of Pakistan, Vani is a custom of settling disputes through girls. Daughters or sisters in any age are given over to another family whom against any offense was committed. It mostly includes young girls, they have to sacrifice themselves to protect their brothers and father. In 2012, thirteen years old girl was subjected to Vani.

The another type of marriage is Reciprocal marriage known as Watta/Satta. This is the exchange of girls between two

Date: _____
families. Many men in old age marry young girls and in exchange they give away their own daughters/sisters/niece to any relative of bride. Reports reveal that, it is mostly practiced in rural areas of Pakistan, about 36% marriages are "barter of bride".

Forced marriages are caused by the decision by elders. Match making of son and daughter is all together a domain of family elders. When the elders of the family decide to marry daughter or sister, there is nearly no chance to disagree with the decision. The marriage has to take place be it a fortunate or misfortunate. In Pakistan 95% of marriages are arranged th by the elders. Only 5% marriages are love marriage.

The another cause of forced marriage is lack of awareness and education. There is a limited access to education, specially in rural areas. People has the stereotype that there is no need to educate girls as they have to manage home

and restrict their roles to home and child upbringing. Many conservative minded people dislike girls education as they educated girls can become rebel and can go against their will.

Patriarchal norms also plays the vital role in force marriages. Many families are restricted to inter caste marriages. Family wants to maintain family unity so they encourage cousin marriage. The Parents plan their children marriage with acknowledging the age difference and consent of boy and girl before finalizing their wedding. Parents are prompt to make their girls/boys engaged at early age.

The another cause of forced marriages is lack of awareness about Health risks. Cousin marriage can cause many blood related diseases to off-springs. Early marriage can affect health of mother and the baby, fertility and child upbringing. There is lack of education regarding marriage institution and many people take it as insult to consult doctor before marriage and

Day: _____

Date: _____

medical screening to identify genetic and other health issues.

The another reason for forced marriage increasing cases is Poverty and lack of resources. In some families, making expenses on girls is considered useless because ultimately they would be married away to live and work for some other household. They believe that girls are economic burden therefore they encourage early marriage to shake off the economic load. They consider girls as burden.

The another disgusting cause of forced marriage is Valvaram, money against match. It is actually bride's price. Many low income people sell their daughters to rich men in a monetary deal with groom and parents. Daughters are hand over to groom and certain amount demanded and received by parents, the money serves as a economic relief to bride's parents. It is mainly practiced in KPK. This monetary deal is also a cause of child trafficking.

There are many girls who are not schooled at all, may be because of expensive education and some school are far away. These girls do household works all the time and parents marrying their daughters to as they see only best option to get off the burden of daughters.

The another main reason for forced marriages in Pakistan are insecurities and lack of powerful law implementation. There are many cases of forced religion converted marriages are reported in Pakistan especially in Sindh rural areas. Hindu, Sikh and Christians girls forcefully abducted, converted and forced to marry muslim man. Hindu sisters Reena and Raveena became face of forced religious conversion. UN experts alarmed the lack of protection for minority girls.

In KPK and most tribal areas there is another reason of forced marriage specially early child marriage, they think if girl get active sexually before marriage it would be biggest dishonour for their families.

Many capitalist and landlords want to preserve their property so they don't marry their girls outside the family to keep girls inheritance right to themselves. Mostly the forced girl and boy within a family ignoring age difference and interest of the couple.

First come to consequences of forced marriages. Influence of traditions and customs influenced by girls to obey marriage proposal with consent. They have no right to say no. Vani based marriages are like hell for girls. They take away girls right to live safe and healthy life. They have to live as slave in their husband house because they are vani. Reciprocal marriage (Watta/satta) create insecurities and miss match. If girl of one family suffers, people have mind set to torture the another girl of that family to blackmail the another family and to avenge. In watta/satta marriage, there is a big age difference between

Day: _____

Date: _____

couples. They just live with each other as couple but the girl has to sacrifice her ego and respect to maintain her marriage.

The decisions taken by elderly to unite the family often lead to early marriages and they forced the boy and girl to get marry one another. Cousin marriages often cause familial disputes and separations later.

Forced marriages deprived the couple to get decent education and avail opportunities specially girls. Girls are forced to stay home and quit study after marriage, even they are not allowed to go for job. In the survey it is

reported that 50% of women in Pakistan graduated with the mbbs degree quit their practice after marriage.

Patriarchial influence causes forced marriages resulting in early engagements and marriages.

They think that getting marry earlier and bearing of children as early as possible would be beneficial because young son help man when

get too old.

Among the negative effects of early forced child marriage, health risks are rated high. There are multiple risks in early maternity and newborn.

Economic poverty and deprivation leads to un-matched marriages, which are often unsuccessful. The parents of girls consider her as burden and when they married her they advised her never to look back and your in laws are now your final residing place. Girl has to suffer torture, abuse just for the sake of parent's honour and she has no other option too. Many young girl forced to marry older men to reduce dowry pressure on parents. Girls are restricted to household tasks and upbringing of child. They have not given opportunity to get education and go side for work.

Many converted forcible marriage cases bring negative impact of Pakistan in the world. After proceedings ^{by} ~~from~~ the court and other hearings, converted marriages end, leaving the ^{grr} question mark on girl's life.

It spreads hate among minorities and muslims. forceful conversion is against Islam and constitution.

Tribal areas prompt early forced marriage to maintain their honour. They are against the girls education and forced them to get marry instead of going to school.

Many landowners and capitalist do not marry their women outside the family. They do not want to give inheritance right to women. They forced cousin marriage without any proper consent, sometimes girl is very younger, sometimes boy is very younger than his wife. If no one is available, the forced girl to marry Quran and stay in one room for whole life.

Legal Proventions:

Ignoring consent of girl in marriage is contrary to Islam.

The evil custom of Vani and Quran marriage have been outlawed through formal bill passed by parliament of Pakistan.

Muslim Family Law Ordinance 1964, the consent of the boy and girl is mandatory.

The new legislation child marriage
Restrained Bill is a landmark

Suggestions

- Promote girls education and make aware them of their legal rights
- Try to rebuild people's mindset by campaigns, seminars
- Law framed to stop child marriage must be enforced and implemented throughout the country.

Conclusion

In Conclusion forced marriage is a pervasive and complex issue in Pakistan, driven by the toxic mix of patriarchal norms, family rules, poverty and lack of education. The consequences of this practice are severe, affecting not only the victim but also their families and society as a whole. It restrict girls education, take away their rights to live freely and healthy life. Early forced marriage can

cause various health complications. Even cousin marriages are at the risk of genetic disorders in offsprings. Forced religious conversions represents the bad image of Pakistan to world and it is against Islam and human rights.

To address this issue it is essential to implement a law, legislative reforms and promote education. By working together we can promote gender equality, protect human rights and ensure that individuals particularly women and girls are able to make informed choices about their lives and marriage. It needs awareness campaigns but together society can make a change.
