

General instructions to be followed to pass essay

1- Spend time on rightly comprehension of the topic, you won't pass the essay unless and until you addressed the asked part

## Forced Marriage in Pakistan : Causes and Consequences

2- Try to make your main heading in the outline from the words in the question statement

### Outline

3- Try to add hook in the introduction. The length of introduction must be of 2 sides

#### A. INTRODUCTION :

4- your topic sentence in your argument must be aligned with the ending sentence

- 1). Define forced marriage
- 2). Child marriage, the most common form of forced marriage in Pakistan

5- Avoid firstly, secondly, thirdly etc. in outline

6- add references in your arguments with proper source. Go for diversification of references

#### B. CAUSES OF Forced Marriage

- 1). Patriarchy driven Society :

7- Do not add new idea or point in Conclusion

Correlation between female autonomy and higher rates of

8- You won't pass the essay if make more than 4-5 grammatical mistakes

Child marriage (UNICEF, 2018)

9- outlines that are not self explanatory or does not aligned to with the essay statement are liable to mark 0 and the essay would become null and void

- 2). Controlling of Female Sexuality and Honour :

Early marriage as protective measure to guard family honour

10- always try to be relevant to the topic, if even your 1 or 2 arguments are irrelevant, the examiner would not pass your essay.

UNICEF (2013)

### 3). Feudal and Tribal System as a Cause :

- + Vani or Swara System as Customary practices.

### 4). Religious Misinterpretation regarding Forced / Child marriage .

- Justified through religious sentiments

### 5). Disaster and Humanitarian Crisis :

- Mean of protecting girls from violence, food shortage and financial instability  
(Plan International)

### 6). Inadequate laws and policies, and weak implementation

- Customs overriding laws and policies.

### 7). Poverty urging parents to Marry off their girls :

- poverty and economic insecurity leading cause of forced marriage

UNICEF (2023)

- Daughter seen as economic burden

### 8). Lack of Education and Economic Alternatives :

- girls poorest family, three times more likely to marry from the richest NPS and ICF (2017-18)

## 3. Consequences of Forced Marriage :

### 1). Violence of consent and body autonomy.

- Crushing the idea of human dignity giving zero consent to girls.

## 2). limited Education Opportunities

- Significant factor of School dropouts of girls.
- Compromise Empowerment.

## 3). Health Issues After Marriage:

- lack of sexual education and reproductive health.
- Unintended pregnancies.
- Causes of mortality of infant or mother.

## 4). Domestic Violence:

- lack of understanding and immaturity of bride making her vulnerable to violence.

## 5. Legal And Human Rights Context:

laws on forced and child marriage (PPC section 498-B, 498-C, Sindh Child marriage restrain Act).

## E. Conclusion :

- Reinforce Forced and Child marriage laws and policies.
- Emphasizing need for education awareness and empowerment :

You haven't understood the topic properly.

First part isn't comprehended however the second is comprehended well.

Work on your topic comprehension

Improve your phrasing and expressions

Must work on your topic comprehension and words selection

Must attend the tutorial session for further suggestions and mistakes

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**INTRODUCTION:** Never provide heading in your essay

For many girls marriage is not a choice, It's a sentence written by tradition, sealed by silence. In Pakistan's patriarchal and feudal landscape, marriage is often less about love and more about control.

Forced marriage, especially of young girls, expose how deeply power, tradition and gender intertwine to silence consent.

According to European Institute of Gender Equality, Forced marriage

is a form of violence against women that entails serious

violation of human rights and in particular of women and girls, rights to physical integrity, mental health, sexual and reproductive health, education, private life, freedom, autonomy. The

Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/20

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

most prevalent form of Forced marriage is the "Child Marriage" very common practice in Pakistani culture specifically. In Pakistan, 29% of girls are married by 18, 4% marry before the age of 15. Pakistan is among the top 10 worldwide, unfortunately with highest absolute numbers of women married before age 18.

It's a multifactorial challenge which roots originates from the patriarchal system of Pakistan, where poverty and Disaster and humanitarian Crisis makes it worse. Lack of policy and law implementation, makes this horrendous act more prevalent. It has disastrous impact on society and humanity over all, causing decline in education and literacy rate of women, and increase likelihood of violence.

Forced marriages, mostly in the form of child marriage remains a critical challenge for Pakistan. Driven by multiple factors, such as patriarchy, feudal and tribal systems. It leads to number of social issues like, domestic violence and health issues with increased mortality rates. With a proper legal system and collective efforts of media, and civil society, forced and child marriage can be eradicated from Pakistani society.

The major driving force of forced marriage is the patriarchy. It gives the sole power in the hands of male figure of the family, which is supposed to decide the future of female members of the family without

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Day: \_\_\_\_\_

considering their consent. It is even very common that in the absence of father figure the decisions are to be made by the son, even though if he is younger than other siblings, he will be considered as the head of the family. It legitimizes the control of men over women's choice. Pakistan demographic and health survey (2017-18) shows strong correlation between low female autonomy and higher rate of forced child marriage in rural region. Thus patriarchal social order maintains the tradition of men ruling over women, having the ultimate authority for decision making, which includes decision about their education, health and even as important as the decision of marriage.

Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/20\_\_\_

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

The Concept of 'izzat', honour is tied to women's chastity and obedience. Families often marry their daughter off early to protect them from alleged immoral corruption or premarital relationship. Not to be shocked of the fact that even if the female refuse to accept the marriage proposal, it will be taken as if she has ruined the honour of the family and compromised her chastity. It is reported by UNICEF (2023) and Human Rights Watch (2019) that early forced marriage is often seen as a protective measure to guard family honour in patriarchal settings. It is quite evident that how honour is being used as shield to dictate women's life, especially in regard to the marriage matters.

Date:    /    / 20

Day:           

Feudal and tribal system, unfortunately still dominates in many rural areas of Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan. Land

~~You are just providing me the information. Your own thoughts are missing.~~

~~owning elites often exercise social and political power that shape local norms around marriage. To strengthen their alliances or maintain loyalty feudal landlords often arrange marriages between families of lower class socio-economic status.~~

According to Girls Not Brides (2020) and UNFPA (2021) child marriage in Pakistan is often used as tool to cement feudal or tribal alliances.

They treat women as a commodity using it for the benefits of their business and a mean to express their power over the peasant families. It is also used to settle disputes, known as Vani or Swara. These

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practices though illegal under the Pakistan Penal Code, continue under Jirga system, overriding state's law.

These Early and forced marriages are usually backed by religious misinterpretation. After the bill of banning child marriage was passed in Islamabad, many religious leaders protested the law. The irony is that these so called religious leaders call such law as a forcing law for age of child marriage, disregarding the actual "forced" factor of the forced and child marriage. "We should not be forcing the age of child marriage," Says Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri-<sup>religious</sup> These ~~un~~religious leaders can always be seen protesting for good but never be seen to advocate for women's right or speak

Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/20

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

against forced and child marriage -  
Usually it has been  
witnessed that with any  
disaster like flood, displaced  
families causing dire human-  
itarian crisis. Such situation

leads to number of cases  
of early forced marriages.

According to **Plan International**

It has been a re-occurring  
phenomena, that parents think  
of marriage as a mean of  
protecting girls from violence,  
food shortage and financial  
instability due to <sup>the</sup> lack of  
resources at home. As this

patriarchal society deem male  
figure supervision as compulsory  
for female existence, this also  
leads to early and forced  
marriages.

In Pakistan either there  
is no law or if it exist

Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/20

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

The culprits always finds away  
 to overrule the law. although  
 there are laws for forced  
 marriage, but a large number  
 of Pakistani population accumulates  
 around rural areas, covering  
 around 70% of the population.  
 The rural areas are much  
 driven by "jirga" system,  
 where few head of the  
 tribes, essentially male figures  
 executes the cases and  
 pass laws and punishments  
 overriding the state's law.  
 This crude and rough system leave  
 the women and young girls  
 of that area in the mercy of  
 those feudal landlords and  
 unempathetic men of the society.  
 Countries Economic disruption,  
 inflation and economic insecurity  
 and instability is no news  
 to us. People living in

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Rural areas are more dependent on agriculture means. with the flood and inflation overall these areas suffers the most thus urging parents to send their male child for work, causing the child labour issue and marrying off their child girls so as to shed off their shoulder from the burden of girls. And also it considers Broom as a mean of financial stability **UNICEF (2023)** notes poverty and economic insecurity as the leading factors compelling families to marry their daughters early. In addition to that, child marriage is used to strengthen social and economic ties between families (**Human Rights Watch (2019)**). Thus poverty contributing to the forced marriages and child marriage in particular.

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Day:    

Lack of education and economic alternatives makes a way for forced and early marriages. Education provides awareness and a hope and mean to have economic sustainability in future. In the absence of education opportunities families only look for possible ways to get their child settle, specially in case of girls out of school. Families prefer them to make them of their home, as it is considered to be the final destination for a girl. As seen in NIPS and ICF reports (2017-18) girls from poorest family and out of school are three times more likely to marry ~~as~~ compared to the rich est. It shows the impact of Social indicators as cause of forced marriage.

The major consequence of forced marriages usually to be seen are different form of violence, starting with the violence of consent.

Even in Islam it is strictly stated that no marriage is possible without the consent of girl. In this case all the Religious entities bury their face of, speaking nothing for such terrible occurrences of society where no consent is considered for girls. It can be seen in extreme form in child marriage, where a young, child not knowing of her good and bad is <sup>being</sup> pushed into such high responsibility commitment. This eventually leads to many issues in her life ahead.

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limited Education opportunities is a significant factor of School dropouts. Forced marriage and child marriage, leaves girls with no education opportunities, compromising their personality development, financial stability and autonomy. It not only impact an individual's life but also affects the whole economy of country.

Forced and child marriage usually leads to severe health issues with high mortality rates of mother and new born child. Early pregnancy causes terrible issue in young girls body, usually in the form of malnutrition, bone weakening

and adverse effects on mental health overall. A child is suppose to play with toys at that age is forced to carry a living being with huge responsibility is indeed an unfair treatment -

Domestic violence is very prevent in forced and child marriages. In the forced marriage there is lack of understanding, trust and respect usually leads to violent events - Young bride with no confidence, maturity is highly vulnerable to such violence by husband and his family.

Pakistan has number of laws to eliminate forced marriages. Pakistan being a member of CEDAW and UN convention on Rights

g child (UNHCR) is required to take legal action to guarantee women's and children's right to bodily integrity and free consent in marriage - Sindh 2013 law and ICT 2025<sup>Act</sup> law is a huge step towards meeting Pakistan's treaty obligation -

Hence it is evident and clear from the above discussion that Forced marriages, especially in the most prevalent form of Child marriage exist in Pakistani society. due to number of factors, Patriarchy, low income due to economic issues and religious back extremist tendencies pave path to this challenge - It leads to number of issues such as, low literacy rate, domestic violence, and totally an invasion to women's right over all - State

must consider policies and laws and most importantly, implementation of those laws. It should abide to International laws such as laws of Convention on the elimination of all form of violence and UN convention on Rights of Child. Pakistan requires to make strong laws and implementation policies to eradicate the jirga system. who dictates the life of women of such areas. This must put to an end, because "Behind every forced marriage statistic lies a silence voice & a stolen childhood."