

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

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

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

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

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

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

7- Do not add new idea or point in Conclusion, but the way you have phrased

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

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

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.

DATE: _____ DAY: _____

Name: Sabina

Essay: Forced Marriages

Causes and Consequences

1. Introduction

1.1 Hook statement

1.2 Background

1.3 Thesis statement

2. Causes of Forced Marriage

2.1 Patriarchal Norms and Gender inequality

2.2 Economic pressure and poverty

2.3 Family pressure and community pressure

2.4 Gender displacement and Insecurity

2.5 Lack of legal protection and poor enforcement

2.6 Lack of education and awareness

2.7 Misinterpretation of religious and cultural beliefs

3. Consequences of Forced marriages

3.1 Psychological and emotional

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Trauma.

3.2. Physical and Reproductive health issues

3.3. Economic and educational marginalization

3.4. Intergenerational cycle of poverty and violence

3.5. Erosion of legal and civil law

3.6. Human rights violations and Global Repercussions

3.7. Security and social instability

These wouldn't be the consequences

4. Critical Analysis

4.1. The paradox of culture vs rights

4.2. The role of modernization

4.3. Limitations of current policy approaches

Your whole essay is your critical analysis

5. Recommendations

5.1. Strengthening legal enforcement

5.2. Promoting education and awareness

5.3. Economic empowerment of women

5.4. Reeducation and reintegration

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pretation of religion.

5.5 Survivor support system
and rehabilitation

5.6 Community based campaigns
and international cooperation

Conclusion

6.1 Reaffirmation of thesis

6.2 Moral and religious appeal
for consent and dignity

6.3 Call for society built on
choice, not coercion

The Essay

"Marriage should be the choice made by two hearts not a decision imposed by many hands." But across the continents, thousands are forced into marriages they never consented to. What is celebrated as the sacred bond often becomes a lifetime of servitude and trauma. Forced marriage, unlike consensual arranged marriage occurs when one or both individuals are forced to

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many against their will,
under physical, emotional
or social pressure. According
to UNICEF, 2014, over 66
million women and girls
were married before they
turned 18. 10 million were married
forcibly. In

Pakistan Human Rights Commis-
sion and Ainal Foundation
document hundreds of
such cases annually, particu-
larly in Sindh, Punjab
and tribal belts.

While defenders label it as
a family matter or tradition,
the essay examines the root
causes from patriarchy and
poverty to religious misinter-
pretations — and explores the
devastating effects on individ-
uals, society and national
development, concluding with
actionable reforms to eradicate
the centuries old justice.

Forced marriage is defined
by UN as "a marriage where
one or both parties have
not given their free and
full consent." It differs

Why are you providing me the information only. Where are your thoughts?

From arranged marriage, where families facilitate but individuals consent. Islam and international law both emphasize choice. "Do not prevent them from remaining their husbands if they agree between themselves in a lawful manner."

Legally, Pakistan's Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929 sets the minimum marriage age at 18 for boys and 16 for girls but regional enforcement remains uneven. Globally, despite the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, millions still face coercion through social norms, family pressure, or economic need.

At the root lies patriarchy, a social order that privileges male authority over female autonomy. In many parts of South Asia and Africa, women's identity is tied to family honour, purity and obedience. Marriages are arranged to consolidate property, power, or alliances.

Your arguments are completely irrelevant. It is because you are providing me the information. If examiner would want to get some piece of information, he would get it from Google. He won't require to read your essay. You are supposed to provide your own thoughts

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...customs like
...where
...off to settle
...main prevalent
despite legal bans under the
section 380-A of the Pakistan
Penal Code. Similar practices
exist in Afghanistan, where
daughters are exchanged to
restore tribal peace. These
traditions reflect not religion
but the deep-rooted gender
control: women as family
assets, not individuals.

Poverty and financial
insecurity drive many families
to marry off their daughters
early. Marriage is seen as a
means to reduce household
burdens or gain financial
advantage. After the 2010
floods in Pakistan, humani-
tarian organizations observed
a sharp increase in child
marriages in Sindh and
Southern Punjab as families
sought economic relief.
Across sub-Saharan Africa

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The bride price system commodifies girl as source of income. In countries like Somalia and South Sudan, families exchange daughters for livestock or cash. Poverty transforms marriage into transaction, making coercion as "necessity".

In many societies "honour" is a fragile social currency maintained through female compliance. When a girl is seen as violating family expectations by choosing her own partner, seeking education or rejecting marriage - forced marriage is used to restore the honour.

In Pakistan, honour-based marriages and killings remain intertwined. The murder of Qandeel Baloch (2016), though not a marriage case, revealed how patriarchal notion of honour police women's choice. Similarly, tribal jirgas and panchayats often decree marriages to settle disputes (sulah-e-Rasmi) ignoring human rights and constitutional

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safeguards.

War zones amplify women's vulnerability. Families, fearing sexual violence or insecurity, force their daughters into early marriages as protection. During the Syrian civil war, forced marriage among refugee girls in Jordan and Lebanon rose from 12% to 32% between 2011 and 2021 (UNHRC).

In Afghanistan, after Taliban's 2021 takeover, many parents married off their girls, fearing school closure and economic collapse. Similarly in Yemen, famine and conflict have pushed child marriage rates 60% in some provinces.

Even when laws exist, weak implementation sustains the problem. In Pakistan, while the Sindh sets 18 as legal age for girls to get married, Punjab and KP retains 16 - enabling loopholes. Police often treat forced marriages as "Family matters". In Nigeria, dual legal systems (customary and sharia) create

ambiguity about age and consent, allowing parents to justify coercion. The absence of enforcement mechanisms emboldens perpetrators and silences victims.

Education is the strongest defense against coercion. UNESCO (2023) reports that girls with secondary education are less likely to be forced into marriage. Yet in rural Pakistan, female literacy remains below 50%.

In areas like Tharparkar and Balochistan, early marriages correlate directly with dropout rates. Literacy strips the girls of awareness about rights, health and economic independence trapping them in life long dependence.

No religion sanctions forced marriage. Islam specifically demands free consent.

“A previously married woman shall not be married until her command is sought, and a virgin until her consent is sought.”

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Yet cultural practices often cloak coercion in religious legitimacy. Misinterpretation by local clerics or elders distorts faith into social control. Similar misuse occurs in Christian and Hindu communities, where "duty" to family overrides personal choice.

The first victim of coercion is mind. Victims of forced marriage experience chronic depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress. A UK Home Office (2019) study found that 80% of victims required psychological counselling. In Pakistan, NGOs like Rozan and Aural Foundation report growing cases of self-harm among young brides forced into marriages.

Early and forced marriages often result in premature pregnancies and mental health crises. According to WHO (2023) girls aged 15-19 are five times more likely to die

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during childbirth than women in their 20s. In rural Sindh and Southern Punjab, child brides face malnutrition, domestic violence, and obstetric complications like fistula. The lack of agency also means no control over contraception or spacing of children, worsening maternal and infant mortality.

Forced marriage interrupts education, cutting off girls from future opportunities.

Save the Children (2020) found that additional year of schooling reduces the likelihood of early marriage by 6%. In Pakistan, female participation in the workforce remains below 22% largely due to early withdrawal from education. Economically dependent and socially confined, women in forced marriages become trapped in the cycles of poverty and disempowerment.

The consequences of forced marriage ripple across gener-

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alison. Children born into unions often witness domestic violence and intersexual harassment. A study by UNFPA (2021) found that daughters of child brides are more likely to be married early themselves.

When state institutions fail to protect victims, people turn to informal systems like jirgas, creating trust in rule of law. In Pakistan, several panchayat mandated marriages sparked national outrage after being upheld by local authorities. When law enforcement legitimizes coercion, it signals that justice is selective - weakening national integrity and governance.

Forced marriages violate fundamental human rights: freedom, dignity, education and health - guaranteed under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 16) of countries. Failing to curb it risks diplomatic criticism.

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and international sanctions.
Under Sustainable Development
of goal (SDG) 5, nations are
obliged to eliminate all harm-
ful practices.

ISIs and Boko Haram
institutionalized sexual slavery
and forced union as strategies
of terror. In conflict regions, such
practices deepen ethnic and
sectarian tension, dispute
education, and destabilize
community.

~~Forced marriages exist despite
legal and moral opposition. In
Pakistan they are hide behind
the label of "arranged marriages".
This issue is rooted in patriarchy
and misuse of tradition rather
than religion. Laws exist but
weak enforcement and social
silence sustains problem.~~

~~Forced marriages violate
human dignity and Islamic
principles of free will. They
breed misery, injustice and
gender inequality. The solution
lies in education, strict
law enforcement, and community~~

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awareness. As the Quran reminds
There is no compulsion in
religion - the same truth
applies to marriage. Only a
consent-based society can
ensure harmony and justice