



Student Researcher

# Perception of the Birth of Girls as an Anathema and Its Consequences in Pakistani Society

Subject: Causes and Consequences of Deeming of the Birth of Girls as a Curse and Burden on Family

# IJSER

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## Acknowledgment

**All praise is due to Allah Almighty who bequeathed me the strength and an aspiration to complete this research article**

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Ambreen Fatima

**Abstract--This is flabbergasting** to know that the birth of a baby girl is still deemed as a curse in conservative Pakistani families mostly living in rural areas. The girls are discriminated from the womb to death. Prenatal sex determination gives rise to abortions resulting in medical complications among the mothers. This discrimination prove a big hindrance for promoting equality and attaining of universal rights of children especially, in our country, where a patriarchal system of social relations predominates, parents prioritize the male child and this priority can be seen in their social and cultural rehearses, social prestige and economic potentiality. Such preferences negatively influence the girls' educational right, welfare, health and even survival opportunities. This study focuses on the causes and consequences of considering the girls as a curse or burden on family. Girls are considered someone else's property and threat to family honor. They are considered inferior to boys on the base of vulnerability to sexual exploitation and lesser potentiality to economic gain for family. The purpose of this study is to examine the causes and effects of deeming the girl as a curse or burden on the family. To achieve this purpose correlational research design was selected. The population of the study consists of approximately 800 married women and 130 women were selected using random sampling technique. The data were collected using validated and reliable questionnaire consisting of two clusters meant to gather information about the causes of considering girls as burden and about the impacts of these causes on girls' life. The overall value of Cronbach reliability was .846. The data collected with the help of questionnaire were analyzed through SPSS comparison of mean, ANOVA and regression analysis were done to find out the answer to the question and to test the hypothesis. The analysis and interpretation of proved the questions and hypotheses as true ones. Hence, it can be concluded that girls are deemed as curse and burden due to being someone else's treasure. They face prejudicial behaviours of parents and other kins in upbringing, nutrition, inheritance, education and health facilities.

KEY WORDS: Conservative, Deemed a curse, Economic potentiality, Flabbergasting, Prenatal sex determination, Patriarchal system, Survival opportunities, vulnerability to sexual exploitation.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

**The birth** of a baby girl is still mourned in many a poor and traditional family in Pakistani society. The parents and other members of family deem the girl as a curse on the family since she is a liability, someone else's treasure and a threat to family honour. The discrimination against girls starts in the womb and continues till death. Discrimination on the base of baby's sex has been studied comprehensively in the perspective of son predilection in South Asian countries, such as; India, Bangladesh and Pakistan [1]

Differential and distinctive treatment and care given to boys over girls indicated that girls are considered inferior to boys in potentiality and income perspectives, rather she is taken as moral responsibility, futile entity and as a member incapable of producing results according to the expectations of the parents. That is why prenatal sex-selective abortions have increased and resulted in millions missing women in India, Pakistan and China alone. Despite the legal efforts of the government, sex-selective abortions have risen in recent years in Pakistan, Bangladesh and India. [2], [3]

Differences in the prenatal health care facilities provided to women by family when they are pregnant with boys comparative to when they are pregnant with girls determine the status of girls in the family. If the girls are survived from

elimination in the womb and are born they are discriminated in upbringing, nutrition, resources allocation, education, health, inheritance and personal autonomy. At every step, a girl is in patriarchal manacles with no opportunity to escape and get liberated. [4], [5]

In society, she is compared to a commodity or a chattel and she has no autonomy to make choices or express her view and intentions. It is because of deep embedded biases and manifestations of patriarchal values. There are many underlying facts causal to the agonizing life of girls including female feticide, child abuse, undernourishment, child mortality, dowry, malpractices and misconducts in families and society.

These differing features are reflection of so called patriarchy that makes intrinsic differences between men and women, or could they at least partly be consequences of differential treatment and distribution of love, care and resources within the family setting? A better understanding of the existence and magnitude of gender discrimination early in life is crucial for addressing the pervasive gender inequities which continuous to womanhood. [6]

The purpose of this study is to explore the causes of considering the birth of baby girls as a curse and their subsequent effects on their whole life

## 1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This study aims at evincing the causes and consequences of deeming the birth of baby girl as a curse in most of the Pakistani families even in this modern age. Considering the girls curse or burden and ubiquitous discrimination against them in the traditional families of developing countries, like Pakistan; is a shocking reality. It results in millions of individual disasters, which deprive the society and country from half of human resources and development potentials.

## 1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To explore the causes of deeming birth of a baby girl as a curse
2. To find out the effects of deeming the girls as curse on their life.
3. To determine the relationship between the causes and consequences of deeming the girls as curse

## 1.4 QUESTIONS

The following question were structured to guide the study

- 1: Why are the girl deemed as a curse on the family in Pakistani society?
- 2: What are the effects of deeming the birth of baby girls as curse or burden on the family in Pakistani society?
- 3: Is there any statistical relationship between the causes and consequences of deeming the girls as burden on the family in Pakistani society?

## 1.5 HYPOTHESES

H01: There is no significant difference in the opinion of married women on the causes of girl as curse on the family based on family behaviour.

H02: There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of married women on the items of cluster 2 as being the effects of deeming the girls as curse, based on education level

H03: There is no significant relationship between the causes and consequences of considering baby girls as curse on the family.

## 1.6 DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

Delimitation of the study is related to the population. Population of this study consisted of 800 married men and women living in three adjacent villages of Tehsil Mianchannu (District Khanewal). Therefore, the results of the study cannot be generalized directly to all the girls, women and their parents in Pakistan. The results reflect the general condition of the specific sample comprising of 120 women.

## 2 REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

### 2.1. Girls are someone else's treasure (lesser investment on girls)

Discriminatory behaviour of parents and other kings against girls has been and still is an unending discussion among the social and cultural scholars. Predilections of having a son is accredited to subsidize girls' value and worth as human resources .Discrimination against girls, though also regarded as an artefact of the patriarchal customs and norms of the society. In cultures where determining or inheriting of descents happens through the male line , boys are prized exceedingly since they symbolize pedigree permanency whereas girls customarily join in matrimony of other peoples.in that lesser money and resources are invested on girls.[7].

The male-controlled family arrangement is common in Pakistani society, where boys or men are well-thought-out superior to girls or women in every facet and field of life on social, economic, personal, and domestic levels. Consequently, girls remain informally, contingent on the power of men. They are typically allocated to do the old-fashioned roles, for instance: domestic errands, child bearing and caring for husband's family and husband.

On the base of the perception that girls are someone else's treasure they are treated discriminately by her own family in regard to the apportionment of domestic means to the extent that it generates a gender disparity in some societies and countries like ours .. Families are often unwilling to invest in the education of girls if this investment is not perceived as bringing them direct economic gains. Girls are valued only as wives and mothers and parents think that their marriage would transmit their potential forthcoming gains from this investment to another family. [8]

In our society most of parents do not realize the complete potentials capabilities of girls or women in the Process of Economic uplift of family and society at large. Investment in the human resources, health and education, of women and girls incredibly prove beneficial to paternal family, family of in laws and the progeny. Educated girls or women would invest more in the schooling of their own offspring, and more probably they have fewer kids. Accordingly investment in production of human resources, has optimal short and long term results and proves fruitful for economic achievements and for the decrease in untenable population of the country.[9],[10],[11]

Parents spend less on girl children thinking that investment on them would be unprofitable for them rather it would be beneficial to someone else. So, girls no or less autonomy of decision making, restricted opportunities for education, socialization and movements. The happenings of discrimination, mistreatment and dominance due to patriarchy still prevail. Superstition and other related problems have been deep- rooted in our society because of the lack of education and awareness among the people. [12], [13]

### 2.2. Vulnerability to sexual provocation and harassment

In our traditional families girls are considered more vulnerable to sexual assault and seduction and thus they are more likely to bring discredit and calumny. When a young girl involve premarital or extramarital sexual affairs she transgress the boundaries of socially and religiously accepted normative sexual behaviour and her transgression is unpardonable and unredeemable. Her involvement in non-permissible sexual acts is considered as a stain or smudge on family honour, but what about the entanglement of family's boy's immersion in sinful sexual activities? Is family honor not at stake due to boy's such kind of perverted activities. It is also to be considered biased perception of our patriarchal society that family honor and reputation rest only upon girls. This prejudice against girls or women gives rise to honour killings in our society. [14], [15], [16], [17]

### **2.3 Family honor is at stake due to girl so kill them**

In Pakistani culture like other traditional culture family honor rests upon girls or women's social behavior and sexual tendencies. To comprehend the concept of murder of girls because of their inability to preserve chastity and virginity before marriage or honour killings, is exceedingly essential to be capable of having a complete understanding of the criminality. It is determinedly grounded in a patriarchal system, preoccupied with the idea of patrimonial hereditary derivation. [18]

The perception of men's honour is to be explored. Knudsen (Are Knudsen, License to kill: Honour Killings in Pakistan) describes it in relations of ancestral veneration and societal reputation. It is kindred between an individual's own emotions of amour-propre and that of the coevals' cluster to which he or she fits in. Honour is bequeathed at the directive of the social order and, therefore, it can also be revoked and must be recuperated. [19]

### **2.4. Though Girls or Women are deemed as Chattel or Commodity yet Family Honour rests upon them.**

This notion of women as entity is founded on our traditional culture. Girls or Women are deemed the property of someone else in paternal family and the property of the males in their in-laws' family nonetheless of their class, ethnicity or religiosity. The possessor of the chattels has the right to determine its destiny. The perception of proprietorship has rendered girls or women just as an artefact which can be exchanged, bought and sold. [20], [21], [22].

This commoditization of girls is directly associated with the mania of patrimony i.e. safeguarding possession of the girl's hymen and womb. A girl's or woman's only quality is to save her vaginal membrane from ravishing is seen as her distinction and she is appreciated for it. But if she exercises her right of any freedom, including autonomy of sexual choice, or dares transgress societal bounds of permissible sexual behaviour or attempts to break the clutches of men's

dominance, she puts at stake the whole social system, denying the proprietorship privileges of others to her body. [23], [24]

A girl's preserved chastity is of topmost significance, and with just a clue of illegitimate sexual affinity a girl is deprived of her inborn worth and rights as a body capable of possession and consequently her right to live. A man or boy even if he is involved in illicit sexual acts, will be considered reputable if he can control the sexual tendencies of his own wife, own daughters and own sisters. Therefore he desperately tries to control his own girls or women's activities, delimit their freedom of movement and thereby diminish their communication with outlandish men who may vilify honour of the family. To protect the integrity of the family, the sexual involvement of girls should be controlled at every cost. It seems that family's honour is vested in the virginity of its teenage girls. 'One of the main reasons of girls' early marriages that they would disgrace their families. Fear of social stigma associated with bearing a child outside wedlock is much stronger than the fear of negative health consequences of early pregnancy. [25]

This is an extreme kind of familial and societal hypocrisy that boys or men's adultery is tolerable while girls' character lapse is punishable. Hence girls have restricted sphere of activity, lesser autonomy of expression and socialization in our traditional society.

Domestic violence against girls and women, which often has deadly apprehensions, is prevalent in Pakistan; it is embedded in the belief of many men that women are their chattels and gratified to satisfy men's desires and requirements unquestionably and infallibly. This opinion is frequently pooled by women who are certain of that violence is one way or another they deserve or something they are not able to avoid. [26]

### **2.5. Discrimination against girls in Education**

Educated women can prepare girls to contribute to community and household development because educated women can exercise their rights to participate in political and economic decision making process both in society and in household matters. Although it is obvious that family and society will suffer economic loss, yet the girls are discriminated in education. As a result of their illiteracy or lower level of education girls or women have to face inequalities and difficulties in every sphere of life. [27]

Traditional beliefs impede girl child education to the great extent in our rural areas. The parents having traditional thoughts and beliefs discriminate their girls in education since girls would not carry on family name like boys.

Moreover some parents to get higher education on the pretext that highs with drawl their girls from school or they don't allow them to get higher education will decrease their chance of finding suitable husband. [28],[29]

## 2.6. Girls' discrimination in health nutrition and resources distribution

Girls have lesser or non- participation in education, poor health and poor nutrition. They have burden of household work, lesser time f or entertainment and play in many developing country. In household allocation of resources, parents prioritize boys over girls. In the distribution of property, time money and other facilities girls are prejudiced. The main reason behind the in equal resources allocation and lesser investment on girls in lesser hope of return than that of boys. In addition, the girl would not come up to their parent expectation for they are the property of someone else. Their natal parents tend to spend less money on their welfare and upbringing. [30]

Girls face discrimination in education recent studies have found that though the forms of gender discrimination against girls differ from place to place, family to family. In patriarchal society parents prefer the child who has cultural acceptance on the base of status, economic and work potential. This priority, usually affects children behavior and results in gender bias that has negative impacts on girls' right to education, welfare health and even survival. Basnet ,and Lila Dhoaj, [31],[32] Say that social and cultural beliefs, practices and parents behavior seldom support girls in their seeking of education to the same level as boys in our rural society. Within the household girls don't get equal distribution of resources and care in regard to upbringing, nutrition and health services. [33], [34]

## 2.7. Conventionalized perception, patriarchal society

Girls in most of the Pakistan family face discriminatory treatment from the very birth to death. In every sphere of life and at every steps girls are remain in the shackles of patriarchy having no opportunities to escape and liberate themselves. In many faction of society girls are thought of as commodities and chattels. They have no self-determination for choice or expression of their views. The deep rooted biases and internalized patriarchal values have confined the girls in the houses. [35]

There are so many factors which account for the tormenting life of girls such as female feticides, child abused, abortions malnourishment, increased child mortality dowry, malpractices in families. In most of Pakistani so called traditional families girls are still deemed as curse. She is eliminated before seeing the day-light. If she at all survives elimination or abortion after prenatal sex determination, she is subjected to everlasting exploitations. They are manipulated on financial, emotional, physical and

psychological. Women in our society yet more prenatal attention and care of the family. When pregnant with male baby according to a staggering study on the girls' health and survival. [36], [37],[38],39]

## 2.8. Discrimination against girls being even in the womb

In the society where men are dominated the researcher have found out that women who conceived boys were more likely to have prenatal medical care, take iron and vitamin supplement and deliver the baby in the health care centers. In the patriarchal nations like, china, Bangladesh and Pakistan evidence of discriminatory treatment in the womb exists still. In India and Pakistan, notwithstanding it is unlawful for a doctor to determine the sex of baby in the womb and illegal for a women to go through abortion on the base of baby's sex. Both the practices are frequently done despite of the restriction. The sex determination of a baby with the help of ultra sound may lead to discrimination for the women pregnant with baby girls. The boys are preferred over girls in prenatal treatment of most of the families residing in ruler areas of Pakistan. [40], [41]

## 2.9. Boys are consider superior to girls

Don't sit idle like girls at home, go out and play with mates, or don't cry like girls. These sounds commonly strike into ears and most of us might have uttered these very sentences. All of us are brought up for the same purpose, that s to inculcate in the minds of both a girl and a boy, how a boy is superior and superior will be throughout his life. [42]

Girls are perceived as inferior to boys. At the birth of boy, in most of developing countries, friends, and relatives congratulate the parents. For most of the parents in patriarchal society a son mean an insurance, he would inherit fathers property and get job to increase family income, while at the birth of a baby girl, the reaction is very different, some women of the family begin to mourn on the discovery of the baby born is a girl, for them a girl is just a liability just another expenses. Her place is inside the home not n outside the world of men. In rural areas of Pakistan it is a convention to welcome a new born girl by saying. The family has got a servant for domestic work. It is lamentable reality that girl and women are considered inferior to male member of the family. Frequent prejudice against girl result in numerous individual tragedies. [43].

## 2.10. Honor killings

Girls' virginity and chastity are valued in honor cultures like ours in Pakistan. Therefore they are expected, rather forced to restrain their sexual desire girls have to abstain from seduction, provocation and socialization to manage the deeply embedded traditional norms that determine what is accepted or not. A girl who dares violate/ transgress these normative boundaries and violate rules must be punished and the extremist form is killing, so called honor killing

approved by the community. This is because family honor is more valued than the life of girls, suppression, oppression and persecution on the pretext of honor, deprive girls from making choice about their own life. It prevents them from participating in mainstream social life and it is an extreme type of discrimination and violation against the loveliest creature of God, the women. [44]

Many a study on girls has proved that society's behavior towards women is directly associated to social and economic progress. The status of women is fundamental to the healthy society; if the parts suffer the whole suffers too. The perception of girls as being inferior to boys causes a loss of potential for the entire country. In poor families and in most of the rich but traditional families, the cost of upbringing and a dowry for girls is thought of as loss of money. Monetary drain of daughter is felt more severely in poor families. They are neglected in the provision of balanced and nutritious diet which stunts their growth and weakens their immunity to diseases. The previous study shows that the neglect of girls continues from infancy to youth. Young girls get less food, health care and fewer vaccinations than boys. [45]

### 2.11. Infanticide and sex selective abortion

A daughter in some families is always a liability. How can she be brought up in poverty? In extreme cases parents make the horrific decision of ending their baby girls to get rid of all problems, once for all. The rate of infanticide and sex selective abortion is on the increase in rural and even in urban areas of Pakistan. [46]

The consequence of deeming the girl a burden and liability are incredible. When a baby girl reaches the age of 7 to 8 she becomes vulnerable to physical harm and sexual assaults and threats of these assaults increase when she enters the age of puberty and it follows her throughout her life. Girls are vulnerable to abuse in every society. [47], [48].

## 3. METHODOLOGY

**3.1 Design** The correlational design was selected for the study. Correlational research is a type of non-experimental research which enables the researcher to measure two or more variables and assess the statistical relationship (i.e., the correlation) between them with little or no effort to control extraneous variables. [53], [54]

Here in this study causes of deeming girls are taken as independent variables and the effects of this perception on girls' life are represented by dependent variables. This research design was also selected on another reason that it would provide the researcher with the opportunity of sampling the opinions of a number of respondents who would be significant among the population to decide whether a relationship exists between the reasons behind considering girls as a curse and their influences on the life of girls.

### 2.12. Enforced Prostitution, Human Trafficking and Rape

Ignorance and traditional thoughts play a negative role in the forced prostitution of girls. Poverty and low socioeconomic condition of some parents also compel the girls to sell their body. Domestic discrimination and male treatment may also force the girls to turn to sex work for their sustenance. Pakistan is known to be a primarily male-controlled society. Women are exposed to ferocity and exploitation, arraignment, and ostracism due to numerous customary gender norms. These social features play a substantial role in making women susceptible to sex trafficking. A variety of reasons at the social and family levels upsurges the defenselessness of girls to trafficking for sexual exploitations in Pakistan. At the social level, societal and traditional rehearsals that discriminate against girls, such as deeming the girls as a burden, a threat to family honour, early marriages of girls and dowry, play a significant role in increasing risk of trafficking of girls. Moreover, these factions of society in which girls and women are customarily forced into sexual activities as an intra-generation practice. In these communities, elder members of the family and the community select the minor girls to be initiated into commercial sex exploitation for increasing family income. [49], [50], [51]

More than a few South Asian countries, together with Pakistan, are among the countries identified for widespread trading of girls for forced labour and sexual exploitation. Though Pakistan has made quite a lot of pledges towards abolishing human trafficking and has approved a number of transnational treaties, trafficking of women and girls for commercial sex exploitation but girls trafficking and forced prostitution still on the way to increase. Pakistan has been recognized as a home, terminus and shipment site for trading of women and girls for sexual exploitation and bonded labor. [52]

**3.2 Area of Population** Rural areas consisting of three villages of tehsil Mianchannu (District Khanewal) were included in the study.

**3.3 Population of the Study.** The population of the study consist of 800 married men and women living in rural areas of Tehsil Mianchannu (District Khanewal) Three villages were included in the study area; namely, Chak No 87/15.L, Toola, 106/15.L and 105/15.L.

**3.4 Sample of the study** Sample of the study consist of 120 married women selected randomly from the 800 men and women

**3.5 Data collection instrument.** The data for the study were selected using the questionnaire entitled cause and effects of deeming birth of girl is curse for family (BBGCQ). The questionnaire contains the personal information and items about the relevant to the statement of the problem. It is

divided into two clusters of items: the cluster-1 contained in the items being the causes of deeming girls as curse or burden on the family.

The cluster-2 comprised of the items being the influences of deeming girl as curse.

The 25 copies of questionnaire were distributed among the married men and women living in Jinnah Housing Scheme Mianchannu, to obtain data for reliability test.

**3.6. Reliability of the instrument:** To know whether the instrument is reliable or not, it was a trial tested by distributing 25 copies among married men and women living in Jinnah Town Mianchannu. The data collected were subjected to Cronbach’s Alpha test to determine the internal consistency. The Cronbach statistics gave  $\alpha$  value of .821 and for cluster-2  $\alpha$  was equal to .832.the overall value of  $\alpha$  was .826. This value of  $\alpha$  ensures that the instrument was reliable to be administered for the study.

**3.7. Method of Data Collection.** The data were collected by using validated and reliable questionnaire. The researcher personally distributed 130 copies of (BGCQ) were randomly

**4. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION.**

This chapter presents results of data analysis, interpretation and findings of the study as set out in the research methodology. To find out the answers to all three questions the results of analysis were shown in three tables and likewise to reject all three null hypotheses the results were displayed in separate tables.

**Q No. 1: Why are the girl deemed as a curse on the family in Pakistani society? (The causes of deeming the girls as curse or burden on traditional Pakistani family)**

**TABLE 1: Mean Ratings and standard deviation of respondents on causes of deeming the girls as curse on family based on family behavior.**

	ITEMS	Mn1(acceptable behaviour)	SD1	Dec1	Mn2.(unacceptable Behaviour)	SD2	Dec2
1:	The birth of a girl is considered as a burden on the family	4.32	.683	A	4.22	.815	A
2 :	:You think birth of girl is just another expense or more of a financial liability	4.22	.790	A	4.32	.935	A
3:	You think girls lesser potentials than boys.	4.10	.974	A	4.16	.912	A
4 :	Girl has less value being someone else’s treasure or property	3.94	1.185	A	4.04	1.029	A
5 :	:Girls are vulnerable to sexual provocation and harassment	3.96	1.124	A	4.10	.863	A
6 :	: Family’s honour rests upon girls. Or family’s honor is at stake due to girls	3.94	.966	A	4.02	1.059	A
7 :	Girl is inferior to boy since she does not carry on family name.	3.92	1.027	A	4.04	1.106	A
8	A girl gives lesser economic support to family.	4.20	.904	A	4.10	1.035	A

distributed among the sample with the help of two research assistants who were properly instructed and trained for administering the questionnaire. They were also made known to the sensitivity of the problem of research and social context where they would have to work.

**3.8. Data Analysis procedure.** The gathered data were analyzed using SPSS 20.To answer question 1 &2 means and standard deviation was compared. To find out the answer of the question 3, Pearson correlation analyses was done. To test the hypotheses the ANOVA and regression analysis was done. Pearson correlation coefficient  $\alpha$  was found out by using table-1 and table-3.Total mean of each item was taken as X and total mean of each item of table-2 was taken as Y.X represents independent variables (Causes of deeming the girls as curse or burden on family and Y denotes the dependent variables (influences of considering the girls as curse or burden). Thus 15 ordered pairs (X, Y) were obtained. Then putting the values on table- in the Pearson formula the value of ‘r’ was calculated manually. Thereafter, to supplement the result on table- 2sls regression analysis of data gathered with the help of cluster-1 and cluster-2 was done through SPSS 20.

9	: A girl needs extra protection in regard to the possibility of rape or sexual assault.	4.16	.934	A	3.96	1.195	A
10.	: A girl's little stunts may have serious repercussions	4.06	1.058	A	3.80	1.143	DA
11	: You think patriarchy is major cause of deeming girls inferior to boys.	4.14	1.010	A	4.04	1.009	A
12.	: You think girls are physically and mentally weaker than boys	4.02	.979	A	4.03	.968	A
13	Girls are not effective human resources	3.96	.989	A	3.94.	.966	A
14	Girls cannot defend themselves in dangers.	4.10	.974	A	4.14	.902	A
15	Girls should not participate in social activities.	3.95	.976	A	3.91	.987	A
	CLUSTER MEAN=3.90	4.08	.969		4.07	1.006	

**Key:** n = 100, criterion mean=3.90, A =Agree, D= Disagree, DEC =Decision

Results on Table- 1 showed the mean and standard deviations of respondents on the causes of deeming the girls curse on the family in the traditional faction of Pakistani society. Result shows that items 1 – 12 had mean ratings of 4.32 ,4.22 ,4.10 ,3.94 ,3.96 ,3.92 ,3.92 ,4.20 ,4.16 ,4.06 ,4.14 and 4.02 for the respondents whose family behavior is acceptable and 4.22 ,4.32 ,4.16 ,4.04 ,4.10 ,4.02 ,4.04 ,4.10 ,3.96 ,3.80 ,4.04 and 4.03 for the respondents whose family behavior is unacceptable for them. Since the mean values are above 3.90 set as criterion level, this means that both the group of respondents agreed that all the items are the causes of deeming the girls as curse or burden on the families in the population area of the study. However, only item 10 with mean of 3.80 for the respondents, whose family behavior is unacceptable for them, showed this is below the set criterion of 3.90. This implies that the respondents disagreed with this item being the cause of deeming the girls as curse or burden on the family.

**H01: There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of the respondents on the causes of deeming the girls as curse or burden on the family; based on respondents' family behavior (acceptable or unacceptable).**

To test the hypothesis H01 ANOVA analysis of cluster -1 was taken into use on the base of family behaviour as test variable.

**TABLE 2: ANOVA analysis of cluster -1**

ANOVA(Items 1-15)		Sum of Squares	D fs	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Equation	Regression	.994	1	.994	19.849	.000
1	Residual	4.907	98	.050		
	Total	5.901	99			

Table 2 shows ANOVA result on the difference in mean ratings of respondents on the causes of deeming the girls as curse or burden on the family ,based on the respondents ' family behavior The result of the ANOVA showed an F-ratio of 19.849 with the significant value of 0.000. Since the significant value is less than 0.05 set as level of significance, the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that, there is a significant difference between the mean ratings of respondents on the causes of deeming the girls as curse or burden on the family in the traditional faction of Pakistani society, based on the respondents' family behaviors. It means that the respondents whose family behavior is acceptable for them have given a slightly higher mean rating and showed lesser deviation than the respondents' whose family behavior is unacceptable for them.



**Q No 2: What are the effects of deeming the birth of baby girls as curse or burden on the family in Pakistani society?**

To find out the answer to the above question the mean rating and standard deviation of the respondents on the items of the cluster 2, were taken and compared using SPSS

**TABLE 3: Mean ratings of the respondents on the items as being the effects of deeming the girls as curse or burden on the family based on economic status.**

S/N+	ITEMS	Mn1(Dependent.ES)	SD1	Dec-01	Mn2 (Independent ES).	SD2	SDC2
1	You have ever gone through prenatal sex determination process.	4.48	.544	A	4.18	.983	A
2	You think the mother pregnant with baby girl is discriminated in nutrition and medical care.	4.44	.675	A	4.34	.872	A
3	You think prenatal sex discovery gives rise to illegal abortions.	4.18	1.082	A	4.10	.995	A
4	You think girls are discriminated in nourishment and nutrition	4.14	1.069	A	4.20	.948	A
5	Girls face prejudicial treatment in the family at every step.	4.30	.886	A	4.32	.819	A
6	You think girls are discriminated in education, health and household resources allocation in our society.	4.32	.882	A	4.28	.904	A
7	You think girls face discrimination in their share of inheritance or are even deprived.	3.86	1.212	DA	4.18	.962	A
8	You think girls are not allowed to express their opinions and intentions in domestic decisions.	4.08	1.066	A	4.38	.725	A
9	You think girls should be killed for honor's sake	4.08	1.140	A	4.12	1.003	A
10	You think girl should be confined to four walls of the house.	4.08	.986	A	3.84	1.113	A
11	You think some poor families may set their girls to prostitution to raise income.	4.18	.983	A	3.92	1.158	A
12	You think girls get no or restricted opportunities to entertainment, socialization.	3.98	1.220	A	4.30	.974	A
13	Girls face physical violence and mental torture at home	4.26	.899	A	4.20	.969	A
14	You think girls face malpractices in the family.	4.14	.969	A	3.90	1.129	DA
15	Girl is taken as just a commodity and chattel without emotions	4.16	.955	A	4.02	1.097	A
	CLUSTER MEAN.	4.18	.971		4.15	.977	

**Key:** n = 100, criterion mean=3.90, A =Agree, D= Disagree, DEC =Decision

Results on Table- 3 showed the means and standard deviations of respondents on the effects of deeming the girls curse on the family in the traditional faction of Pakistani society.

Result shows that items 1 – 15 had mean ratings for the respondents who had dependent economic status and who had independent economic status. Since the mean value for every item is above 3.90 set as criterion level, this means that both the group of respondents agreed that the items are the effects of deeming the girls as curse or burden on the families in the population area of the study. However, only item 7 with mean of 3.86 for the respondents, who had dependent economic status and item 14 with mean value of 3.90 for the respondent who had independent economic status, has lower value than the criterion mean with the value of 3.90. This implies that the respondents disagreed with this item as being the effect of deeming the girls as curse or burden on the family.

**H02: There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of married women on the items of cluster 2 as being the effects of deeming the girls as curse, based on economic status.**

**TABLE 4: ANOVA of cluster 2 on the base of economic status.**

ANOVA		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Equation	Regression	3.783	1	3.783	4.055	.012
1	Residual	91.421	98	.933		
	Total	95.204	99			

Table 4 shows ANOVA result on the difference in mean ratings of respondents on the effects of considering the girls as curse or burden on the family, based on the respondents' economic status. The result of the ANOVA showed an F-ratio of 4.055 with the significant value of 0.012. Since the significant value is lesser than 0.05 set as level of significance, the null hypothesis (H02) is rejected. This implies that, there is a significant difference between the mean ratings of respondents on the effects of considering the girls as curse or burden on the family in the traditional faction of Pakistani society, based on the respondents' economic status. It means that the respondents who had dependent economic status, have given a slightly higher mean rating and showed lesser deviation than the respondents' who had independent economic status.

**Q No 3: Is there any statistical relationship between the causes and consequences of deeming the girls as burden on the family in Pakistani society**

Here in the following table the combined averages of both the groups of respondents for every item of cluster-1 are taken as independent variables and combined averages of both the respondent groups for every item of cluster-2 are taken as dependent variables. The calculation of Pearson correlation coefficient r the following table was made taking values of X and Y from table -1 and table- 3: **Table-5**

Independent variables $X = \frac{X1 + X2}{2}$	Dependent. variables $Y = \frac{Y1 + Y2}{2}$	$X^2$	$Y^2$	$X * Y$
4.27	4.33	18.2329	18.7489	18.4891
4.27	4.39	18.2329	19.2721	18.7453
4.13	4.14	17.0569	17.1396	17.0982
3.99	4.17	15.9201	17.3889	16.6383
4.03	4.31	16.2409	18.5761	17.3693
3.98	4.3	15.8404	18.49	17.114
3.98	4.02	15.8404	16.1604	15.9996
4.15	4.23	17.2225	17.8929	17.5545
4.06	4.1	16.4836	16.81	16.646
3.93	3.96	15.4449	15.6816	15.5628
4.09	4.05	16.7281	16.4025	16.5645
4.025	4.14	16.20063	17.1396	16.6635
3.95	4.23	15.6025	17.8929	16.7085
4.12	4.02	16.9744	16.1604	16.5624
3.93	4.09	15.4449	16.7281	16.0737

$\Sigma X = 60.905$	$\Sigma Y = 62.48$	$\Sigma X^2 = 247.466$	$\Sigma Y^2 = 260.484$	$\Sigma XY = 253.7897$
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Now putting the respective values in Pearson correlation coefficient (r) Formula

$$r = \frac{N\Sigma xy - (\Sigma x)(\Sigma y)}{\sqrt{[N\Sigma x^2 - (\Sigma x)^2][N\Sigma y^2 - (\Sigma y)^2]}}$$

$$r = \frac{15(253.7897) - (60.905)(62.48)}{\sqrt{[15(247.466) - (60.905)^2][15(260.484) - (62.48)^2]}}$$

$r = 0.496$        $r^2 = 0.246$        $P = r^2 / N = 0.246/15$        $p = 0.016s$        $t = r \sqrt{N-2/1-r^2}$        $t = 2.05$        $df = N-2$  i.e. 13

Note; N is taken as total number of ordered pairs (x, y) from table-5

Table-6; using the above values table-6 was formed

Correlation			
		dependent	Independent
<b>(Effects) Dependent Variables</b>	Pearson Correlation	1	$r = 0.496^{**}$
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.016
	N	15	15
<b>(Causes) Independent Variables</b>	Pearson Correlation	$0.496^{**}$	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.016	
	N	15	15

Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table-6 shows Pearson Correlation result. The value of r is equal to 0.496 associated with probability value of 0.016. This value is lower than P value ( $P \leq 0.05$ ) set as critical value. The result is significant at  $P < .05$ . This implies that there is moderate positive statistical relationship between the independent and dependent variables. Moreover the value of t is equal to 2.059 which is greater than the critical value of 1.86 at the degree of freedom (d.f) of  $N-2 = (13)$ . It means that hypothesis of no significant relationship between the variables stands rejected. The value of  $r^2$  that is also called determination of R, is 0.246. It follows that about 24 % of the girls of the study area have to experience repressible consequences of deeming them as curse or burden on the family.

H03: There is no significant relationship between the causes and consequences of considering baby girls as curse on the family

To test the hypothesis H03 two stages least square regression analysis was done and the result is given as below in the table No. 5. **TABLE 7: Two stages least square regression analysis**

ANOVA						
		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Equation 1	Regression	4.434	1	4.434	3.393	.029
	Residual	128.068	98	1.307		
	Total	132.501	99			

Coefficients		Unstandardized Coefficients		Beta	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error			
Equation 1	(Constant)	5.736	.858		6.685	.000
	EDU.LEVE L	-.783	.425	-.636	-1.842	.029

The result on table No. 7 represents the F-ratio of 3.393 with probability value of .029. The significant value of .029 is smaller than the critical value of P ( $P \leq .050$ ). It implies that the value of F is significant. Therefore the hypothesis H03 that there is no significant relationship between the causes and consequences of considering baby girls as curse on the family is rejected. If we look at the t- ratio of 6.685 which is linked with the probability values 0.000 that is smaller than 0.050 as critical value of P. It also means that the null hypothesis H03 stands rejected. It implies that there is a significant statistical relationship between the independent variable (causes of deeming girls as curse on family) and the dependent variable (effects of deeming girls as curse of family)

## 5. FINDINGS. -----

### 5.1 Causes of Deeming the Birth of Baby Girls as Curse or Burden on the Family

The research question one is about the causes or factors accounting for the perception of girls as curse or burden on the family among the rural and traditional factions of Pakistani society. As regards this question the people responded that. the girls' little stunts may cause serious repercussions, may not be the cause of perceiving the girls as curse on the family(cluster 1 item 10 with mean of 3.80 for the respondents, whose family behavior).All the rest of statements have confirmed by all the respondents as being the causes of perception of girls as curse. The ANOVA analysis of cluster 1 on the base of family behavior indicated that there was a significant difference among the respondents on the statements as being the causes of deeming the girls as curse on family. The reason being that the respondents whose family behavior was unacceptable for them, gave marginally higher rating than those whose family behavior was acceptable for them. However, both the groups of respondents agreed upon equal number of items and disagreed upon only one item.

#### 5.1.2 The effects of deeming the birth of baby girls as curse or burden on the family in Pakistani society?

The result of in the tables three show that the statements: You think girls face discrimination in their share of inheritance or are even deprived and girls face malpractices in the family were not the effects of considering the girl as curse according to the both group of the respondents and the rest of the items in cluster 2 such as prenatal sex determination, the mother pregnant with baby girl is discriminated in nutrition and medical care, prenatal sex discovery gives rise to illegal

abortions, girls are discriminated in nourishment and nutrition, girls are discriminated in education and health and household resources allocation in our society etc. were effects of the perception of girl as curse on family according to all the respondents. The ANOVA analysis of cluster 2 showed that. : There was significant difference between the mean ratings of married women on the items of cluster 2 as being the effects of deeming the girls as curse, based on economic status. This implied that group of respondents who had dependent economic status gave slightly higher rating on the items than the respondents who had independent economic status. However, all the respondents agreed upon the items as being the effects of deeming the girl as curse on the family as the table 3 confirmed the findings.

#### 5.1.3 The relationship between the causes and influences of perceiving the girls as curse on the family

The findings on the statements 1-15 included in cluster-1 and the items 16-30 in cluster-2 were put to use in finding the answer to the question 3. The items 1-12 were used as independent variables and the items 16- 30 were set as dependent variables. The finding on the base of the results shown in the table 5 the Pearson correlation indicate that there exists a moderate positive relationship between the two variables, namely; the causes and impacts of considering on family. The value of Pearson coefficient  $\alpha$  is equal to 0.496 indicates rather strong statistical relationship between causes and effects of deeming the girls curse on family. The square of Alpha (0.496) suggests that about 24 % of girls are affected just with the perception of them as curse on the family in our traditional families. The regression analysis of the variables of cluster - 1 and cluster - 2 also supplemented the results of Pearson correlation analysis. Hence the findings show that the perception of girls as curse on family may exert devastating impacts on the girls and as well their families.

The results of regression analysis table-7 confirmed findings of the correlation table.-6.

## 5.2 Discussions

The girls are still considered as a burden or curse on the family and the evidences of the causes of deeming the girls as curse on the family can be found in traditional family setups. Since all the respondents perceived that the items or statements in the cluster No -1 as being the causes of deeming the girls as curse or burden on family except the item no 10 "A girl's little stunts may have serious repercussions" (this item is not considered to be the cause of deeming the girls as curse on the family according to the respondents whose family behavior is unacceptable for them). Now it can be found that most of the traditional families in the study area still considered the girls are curse not blessing for the family. Since they think that girls are financial liability, someone else's property and cause of sexual provocation. Moreover they have lesser potentials than boys and need extra protection. So they are of lesser value than that of boys. From the results of the table No. 3, it can be found that the effects of considering the girls as curse on family are unbelievable. This study evinces that perception of (baby girls) as curse gives rise to the rate of prenatal sex discovery, discrimination of mother in care and nutrition and number of illegal abortions. The girls have to experience prejudicial treatment in the distribution of household resources and other accessories of life. Moreover the girls mostly remain deprived of the share of inheritance. Their freedom of expression and intentions is strictly delimited. They are also considered vulnerable to sexual provocation and hence they may bring discredit to family. In the case of transgressing of normative demarcations of acceptable sexual behavior. They are more likely to be killed. This is termed as so called honor killing in the patriarchal society of ours. They are forced to do prostitution by some reckless parents. They are also docile to human trafficking, physical violence and mental torture.

Almost all the respondents agreed on all the items of table No. 3 as being the impacts of deeming the girls as curse. The respondents disagreed only on the item No. 7 and 14 as being effects of deeming the girls as curse on the family.

The result on the table No. 5 shows that there is significant relationship between the causes and consequences of

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deeming the girls as curse or burden on the family, since the hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between the causes and the effects of considering the girls as burden on the family was refuted.

## 5.3 Conclusions

Keeping in view the findings and discussions this study has construed that the girls are still considered as curse or liability on the family in traditional and rural factions of Pakistani patriarchal society. Major causes of deeming the girls as curse on the family are girls have lessor potential than boys, they are just expense and liability on the family, they are someone else's treasure so investment on them is just waste, they may put family's honour at stake due to being vulnerable to sexual provocation, harassment and abuse. They do not prove monetarily supportive paternal society. The impacts of the misperception of girls as curse are deteriorating not only for the girls but also for the family and society at large. The consideration of girls as curse causes to escalate prenatal sex discovery and prenatal illegal abortions, if the sex is determined as baby girl. The mother's pregnant with baby girl are discriminated in medical care, nutritious food and look after. The girls are prejudiced in education, nutrition and medication. Most of the rural families consider that family's honor is at risk due to girls since they are more likely to transgress boundaries of religiously and socially accepted, sexual behaviors and the subsequent consequence of committing this crime is their death which is usually given the name of honor killing. It can also be concluded that being considered inferior to boys, girls have lessor autonomy of speech movement and socialization. The perception of girls as curse give rise to human trafficking, force prostitution, girls' abduction and rape. The impacts of deeming the girls as curse are incredible and the researcher is dump founded the perception of deeming girls as curse as inferior to boys in potentials and as docile to sexual seduction still pervasive in many factions of our Pakistani society, where Islam as a code of life is followed and Islam as a religion lays stress upon equal rights for man and woman. The Holy Prophet (SAW) declared that the birth of baby girl proves an eternal blessing for the family i.e. the family where is no girl is present remain devoid of God's blessings.

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