

## **ABSTRACT**

The objective of the study is to assess the intergenerational patterns of weddings in Lahore and to analyze the relationship between total wedding cost of bride-side and the resources of managing these costs. The resources of managing such costs include incomes, savings, borrowings, personal assets and other additional sources for meeting the dowry and marriage expenditures. An intergenerational study has been done in Lahore by conducting semi-structured interviews where we first quantified the monetary value of a female wedding in both generations and then evaluated the impact of savings, borrowings and other additional means of income on the total wedding cost. The results show that the two generations under study respond approximately alike. In both the generations, average percentage of dowry and marriage celebrations is more or less similar. This indicates no dowry-inflation and the repetition of typical traditions since decades. In both times, emphasis on dowry was found uttermost, which indicates that dowry seems to be the major concern of getting a daughter married. The key finding was that in both generations, savings are a major source of wealth for a girl's marriage. Parents have been saving for dowry of their daughters for many years; in some cases, since their births in the form of an asset (plot, gold, bank account, insurance, etc.). Result also reveals that in many cases, amount of borrowings and support from relatives and other people was found actually a major portion of the total amount spent on a daughter's wedding. On the whole, results show the positive associations among total wedding costs and all the resources of managing bride-side expenses in both the generations. One might argue that spending on marriages and dowry is already a well-established convention, but such expenditures that lead to excessive borrowings can be seen as an indicator of socio-economic burden for the society in future.