

THE DOWRY AND BRIDAL GIFTS (RESTRICTION) ACT, 1976.

¹ACT No.XLIII OF 1976

[4th June, 1976]

An Act to provide for restrictions on dowry and bridal gifts.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for restrictions on dowry and bridal gifts and for matters connected therewith or ancillary thereto;

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. Short title, extent and commencement.—(1) This Act may be called the Dowry and Bridal Gifts (Restriction) Act, 1976.

(2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan and applies to all citizens of Pakistan.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context, —

- (a) "bridal gift" means any property given as a gift before, at or after the marriage, either directly or indirectly, by the bridegroom or his parents to the bride in connection with the marriage but does not include *Mehr*;
- (b) "dowry" means any property given before, at or after the marriage, either directly or indirectly, to the bride by her parents in connection with the marriage but it does not include property which the bride may inherit under the laws of inheritance and succession applicable to her;
- (c) "marriage" includes betrothal, *nikah* and *rukhsati*;
- (d) "parents" includes the guardian of a party to a marriage and any person who provides for dowry or bridal gifts and, in the case of a party to a marriage who has no parent, or whose marriage is solemnized in circumstances in which, or at a place at which, no parent is present, such party;
- (e) "present" means a gift of any property not being a bridal gift or dowry, given before, at or after the marriage, either directly or indirectly, to either party to a marriage in connection with the marriage or to the relatives of the bride or bridegroom but does not include *neundra* and *salami*;
- (f) "property" means property, both moveable and immovable, and includes any valuable security as defined in the Pakistan Penal Code (Act XLV of 1860); and
- (g) "Registrar" means a *Nikah* Registrar licensed under the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961(VIII of 1961.) and such other person as may be designated from time to time to perform the functions of the Registrar.

¹For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see Gaz., of P., 1976. Ext., Pt. 111. p. 460.