

# Marriage and Livelihood Support for Underprivileged Youth in Bangladesh

## Background of the Project

In Bangladesh, marriage is a highly valued cultural and religious institution, yet many young people from impoverished backgrounds are unable to marry due to financial limitations. The cost of organizing marriage ceremonies, societal expectations for hosting communal gatherings, and customary gift-giving create financial burdens for both the bride's and groom's families. For many, this leads to delays in marriage, social pressure, and in some unfortunate cases, unethical practices such as dowry demands.

Despite dowry being illegal, the practice persists, often under the guise of "helping" the groom establish his livelihood. The inability to afford marriage often leads to distress, psychological issues, and even increases the risk of moral degradation and sexual crimes among youth.

The parents of daughters also struggle significantly, especially in poor rural areas, as they feel socially obligated to marry off their daughters at a reasonable age but lack the financial means. Thus, poverty becomes an obstacle to forming lawful, healthy families, impeding societal harmony.

## Socio-Economic Impact for Bangladeshi Youths

The youth population in Bangladesh constitutes a significant portion of the workforce. When supported and empowered, they have the potential to contribute immensely to economic and social stability. Marriage is a gateway not only to personal growth but also to responsible adulthood, community engagement, and social structure.

## Program Objectives

Marriage is a sacred institution in Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, and other major religions. Islam, in particular, places strong emphasis on early and lawful marriage to preserve morality and create peace in society. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, *"Marriage is my tradition. Whoever turns away from it is not from me."*

All major faiths view marriage as a divine bond that ensures mutual care, support, and the foundation for raising responsible future generations. By supporting marriages, we support moral order and human dignity.

## Importance of the Program

This program directly addresses multiple pressing issues in Bangladesh's socio-economic context:

- **Empowering youth** to form families legally and peacefully.
- **Reducing poverty** by supporting small business or entrepreneurial ventures post-marriage.
- **Preventing dowry** by alleviating financial burdens.
- **Reducing sexual crimes and frustration** by encouraging lawful unions.
- **Promoting peace and social cohesion** through family formation and economic stability.

## Objectives of the Program

1. Facilitate **safe and respectful marriage ceremonies** for financially poor youth.
2. Provide **income generation support** to newly married couples to begin sustainable livelihoods.
3. Combat illegal dowry practices by replacing financial dependency with structured support.
4. Foster a **morally responsible and economically empowered young generation**.
5. Strengthen social peace through marriage-based community stability.

## Budgetary Allocation and Appeal

Component	Unit Cost (USD)	Annual Target	Annual Budget (USD)	5-Year Total (USD)
Marriage Support (US\$300 x 2000/year)	\$300	2,000 couples	\$600,000	\$3,000,000 (for 10000 marriages)
Income Support (US\$500 x 2000/year)	\$500	2,000 couples	\$1,000,000	\$5,000,000 (for 10000 couples)
<b>Total Annual Budget</b>	—	—	<b>\$1,600,000</b>	<b>\$8,000,000</b>

## Year-wise Budget Breakdown

Year	Marriage Support	Income Support	Total Annual Budget
1	\$600,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,600,000
2	\$600,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,600,000
3	\$600,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,600,000
4	\$600,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,600,000
5	\$600,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,600,000

## Appeal for Support

**Education and Development Research Council (EDRC)** calls upon you to join hands in supporting this deeply impactful cause. Your contribution will directly change lives by:

- Allowing impoverished youth to marry with dignity,
- Providing them with a path toward financial independence,
- Preventing illegal dowry demands and social exploitation,
- Promoting lawful family life rooted in faith and morality.

This is more than a marriage assistance project — it is a comprehensive **youth empowerment and social transformation initiative**. Let us build a better, safer, and more compassionate society—one marriage at a time. **Together, let us gift hope, dignity, and a fresh beginning to those who deserve it most.**

### Bank Details

**Title of Account: Education and Development Research Council (EDRC)**

Name of Bank: Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC; Account # AWCA- 5410,

Swift Code of Bank: IBBLBDDH 131

Contact Number: 8801712661241, Email: [edrc.bdesh@gmail.com](mailto:edrc.bdesh@gmail.com)

[www.edrcbd.org](http://www.edrcbd.org)