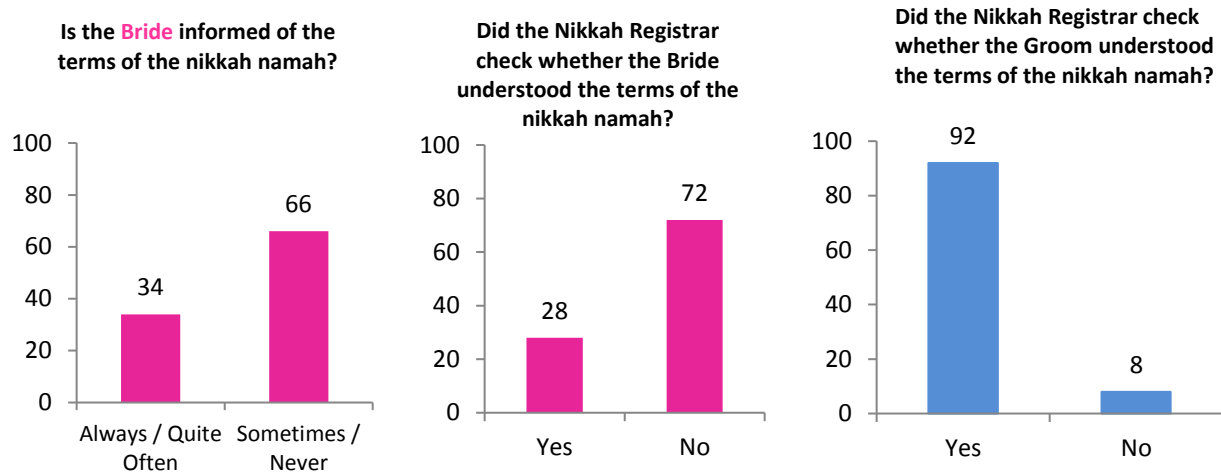


## Nikkah registrars should counsel bride and groom about the meaning of the provisions of the Nikkahnama to ensure they can give informed consent

The nikkah namah (marriage contract) is the most important binding legal contract that many women sign in their lifetimes. Its terms **affect a woman’s rights to dowry, divorce, and financial support.**

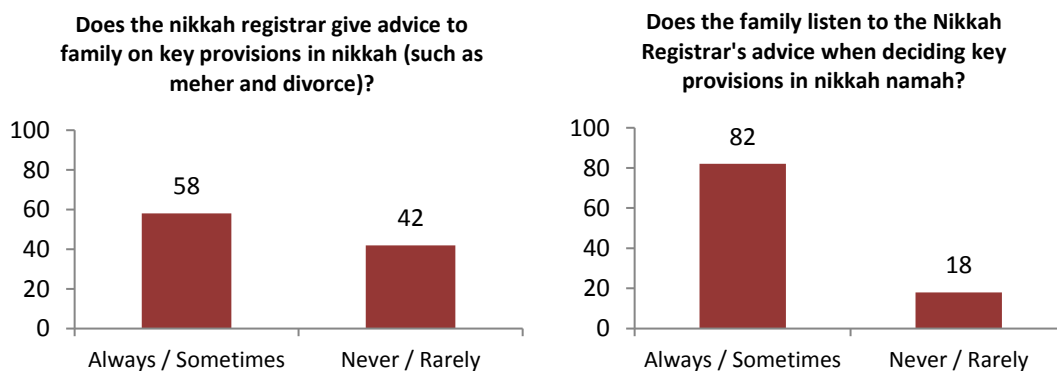
**Under the current law in Punjab**, the person conducting the nikkah must **fill out all of the columns** in the nikkahnama according to the answers given to him by the bride or the groom. Not complying with this could be punished with **one month imprisonment and a fine of 25,000 rupees.**<sup>1</sup>

**But self-reports of Nikkah registrars show that most brides are NOT informed** about the answers filled in the nikkahnama before signing.



Source: Self-reports by Nikkah Registrars – survey conducted by PCSW/CERP evaluation team 2017-2018

Nikkah registrars **can help in making sure that both the bride and groom understand the contract and give informed consent:** they **already advise family members** on key provisions of the nikkahnama, and family members of the bride and groom are **receptive to their advice.**



Source: Self-reports by Nikkah Registrars – Survey 2017-18 conducted by PCSW/CERP evaluation team

*This fact sheet was prepared in collaboration with PCSW by members of the Center for Economic Research in Pakistan Institutional Reform and de Facto Women’s Rights research team, including Hassan Mahmood, Hana Zahir and Kate Vyborny.*

<sup>1</sup> Subsection 2A incorporated in Section 5 of Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961 (Ordinance VIII) in March 2015