

Determining the Concept of Female Child Marriage, Including Its Implications for Global Public Health

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ABSTRACT: *Child marriage occurs when a girl or boy under the age of 18 marries and lives with her spouse. Child marriage affects both girls and boys, but mostly females. For example, in certain cases, mothers are reluctant to work because they fear that their children may stay unmarried as adults. Unhappiness with the girl's health, resulting in an extended time of fertility, leads to early pregnancy. This severe impact causes infant and mother death. Other methods of child marriage include expulsion from school and discouragement from further study. Some parents utilized child marriage to protect their children from possible personal connections and, more crucially, pre-marital sexual activity. They need to avoid illegitimate pregnancies that may arise from this kind of relationship. Despite numerous international and national agreements, child marriage affects millions of minors worldwide. Child marriage hinders females from getting an education, connecting with others their age, growing, and ultimately selecting life mates. Educate communities, involve local and religious leaders, raise awareness, and encourage females to offer education and employment. The most effective ways to combat child marriage are to require girls to stay in school and finish their higher education. This study examines child marriage prevention initiatives in depth and offers alternatives to child marriage. In the future, the awareness among the public about the consequences of the child marriage can help to decrease the cases for the same significantly.*

KEYWORDS: *Child Marriage, Early Marriage, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Maternal, Mortality.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Child marriage is defined by a young person's marriage less than 18 years, followed by an ancient and general tradition. Early marriage is ambiguous, since it is not essential that it only refers to young people, because it tends from the beginning to be extremely late for certain people. In the majority of instances, young women have not seen or even met their spouse. Child marriage has been seen as an important problem and is regarded by the public as a breach of fundamental freedoms as worldwide networks. In order to overcome this problem, supporters pledge to update various methods, assets and activities. It also looks at the past efforts and it was very beneficial to handle the circumstances and the changes needed. It was a provocative task to find arrangements against younger marriage due to the lack of the whole registered venture programme.

There is a requirement to disseminate awareness among people of the conceptual medical difficulties to decrease fundamental concerns like HIV/AIDS among young adults and to transport babies that may lead to the unforeseeable passage of the mother or children. Nearly 52 million young ladies under the age of 18 were wedded in 2002, and around 25,000 young women under the age of 18 were married every day, while the figure is also estimated to be doubled in ten years. Ladies aged between 15 and 24 years must deal most of the time with young relatives in South Asia, some 48% of them are less than 18 years, Africa provides 42%, and Latin America along with Caribbean contributes 29%. Essentially, child marriage has a social and well-being implications for young lady's, irrespective of whether it involves young men on the grounds that young women under 18 are usually young ladies. According to the information, the young woman in Mali, Kenya and the US: child ratio is 72:1, 21:1 and 8:1 in marriage under the age of 18 [1].

During the last decade, several articles were released on the findings as components of the marriage of children. The study of these documents suggests that social and acceptable behaviors change the age at which a young girl is probably hit. In addition, the early marriage of the young woman child has many causes such as instruction levels, financial position and the network scenario. The highest rates of child marriage have been seen in needy countries with fewer assets and possibilities for young women. Audit suggests that in the school speculation choices of a family, young lady kids are organized rather than guardians, who focus more on early marriage, as young lady kids are seen as a weight that can be settled by marriage. There are fewer instances in which young women may choose to marry at any time or whatsoever. Endowment is the main aim of marriage in which a husband's family gives the lady of the hour's family assets in a matrimonial battle. A more established and less educated lady of the hour receives lesser remedies in comparison to the younger and educated, this benefit is recognized by guardians who wed their daughters at an early age to spend money on them. These temporary financial considerations influence the parenting choice, which conflicts with the government support provided by young women [2].

The important investigation is that preventative methods may be used to discard the root of young marriage. An assessment by children's marriage organizations shows that the modification in the legitimate strategy system is an important but inadequate solution to the problem. Younger marriage is politically influenced by social, social and stringent beliefs in most networks for a long time, but the links between conviction and children's marriage are strange. To make strong preparations for the elimination of young marriage, pioneers of the network and religious organizations need to attract attention to the reasons as well as early marriage consequences. Contest with pioneers in confidence and networking may be important for discussions about changes in family law and a wider discussion on women's enhancement, but success is certainly not achieved. The aim of this essay is to provide helpful statistics by showing how young women, who are struck in the early stages of their lives, their children and their relatives are affected by young marriages[3].

The consequences of these numerous assessments lead to reformist findings which show that arrangements for the strengthening, enhanced tutoring, reciprocal preparation and changes in the strategy and monetary consolations of young women have improved information, performance and perspectives for the shirking of young marriages. In a subset of initiatives that provide realities, skills and frameworks to young women in combination with mutual preparation, the most robust and extreme solid results are presented. The different children marriage counteraction plans began to look for opportunities that provide evidence that extensive operational efforts coordinated for various goals like education, well-being, as well as a decline in need, are opening the window to connect with younger marriage avoidance systems. A small but growing arrangement of these initiatives provides dubious yet promising assessment findings that create the foundation for the creation of new organizations and the accessibility of limited assets. More than 60 million young women under 18 years of age, nearly 31 million of them in Southern Asia, 14 million in sub-Saharan Africa and 6.6 million in Caribbean and Latin America, suffered early marriages[4].

1.1 The Economic Consequences of Child Marriage:

Today, more than 700 million women worldwide married before 18 years of age. Every year, an extra 15 million girls, most of them in poor nations, are married as minors. Child marriage is generally seen as human rights violations and is also a significant barrier to equality between men and women. It significantly impacts the chances not only of children's brides, but also of their offspring. And as a research we have published this week indicates, it also has substantial economic consequences. Every day we learn more about children's marriage motivations in various settings and how to help put a stop to this destructive practice. Too far, however, we have little evidence on the detrimental effects of this practice in different nations and very little comprehension of its economic implications.

The International Center for Women's Study (ICRW) and the World Bank collaborated to evaluate these effects and costs in a multi-year research effort. In particular, we examined the effects of child marriage on early childhood, fertility, contraception, intimate partner violence, educational achievement, wages in adulthood and decision-making in the family. We also looked at the effects of children's brides, including their chance of stunning and dying before 5 years of age. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Foundation of the Children's Investment Fund and the Global Education Partnership support our collaboration. The conclusion is that child marriage imposes very significant economic and social costs, not only at the individual level but also for societies and for transmission of poverty across generations. Figure 1 illustrates the decrease of chances of child marriage.

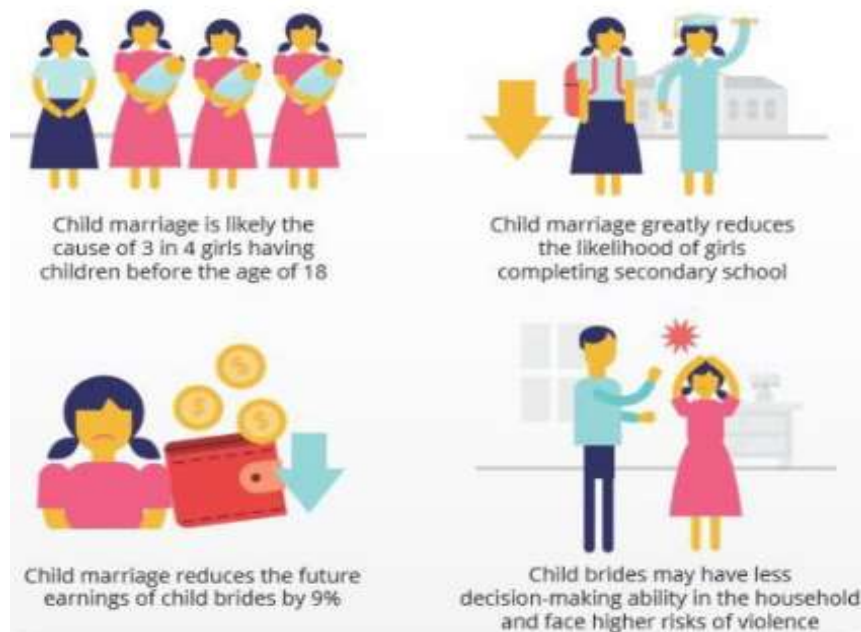


Figure 1: Illustrates the Loss of Opportunities Due to Child Marriage [ADOLESCENTSOURFUTURE].

1.2 A Study of the Phenomenon of Child Marriage from an Economic Perspective:

As defined by the United Nations, child marriage is any marriage that takes place before the age of 18. It is strongly ingrained in many communities, to the point that 41,000 girls are married off every day as a result of it. According to Human Rights Watch, statistics from across the world indicates that girls from the poorest 20 percent of households are twice as likely as girls from the wealthiest 20 percent of families to marry before the age of 18. Historically, females have been seen as financial liabilities rather than prospective wage earners, which has contributed to this situation. Families living in poverty with many children sometimes resort to child marriage as a means of alleviating their financial burden. According to them, having one less daughter means having one less person to feed, clothe, and educate them. Families often resort to child marriage as a means of avoiding food poverty. Girls are also used as a replacement for money in order to pay off debts and resolve disputes between families. Early marriage is associated with a reduced bride price in societies where the bride's family is expected to contribute to the bride's education. In societies where the groom's family pays the dowry in return for the bride, younger ladies command a greater dowry price than older women. Parents who cannot afford to raise their daughters may see child marriage as the best option and a source of money for their daughters[5].

The practice of underage marriage is reinforced by poverty. In developing nations, more than half of the girls from the poorest households are married while they are young. For many families, and frequently for the young women themselves, marriage is a way of securing their financial future. Following humanitarian crises such as wars and natural disasters, the prevalence of child marriage grows as families struggling with poverty and violence turn to the practice as a coping strategy. It is really possible to classify nine out of ten nations that have the highest rates of child marriage under the category of fragile states, which are developing countries with insufficient state capacity and therefore unable to safeguard their most vulnerable people.

According to the article "Child Brides" published in the Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, parental preference for boys over girls is responsible for the development of the circumstances that allow child marriage to continue in poor cultures. The desire for sons leads to families devoting less time and money to care for their young daughters, resulting in more boys than females reaching conventional marriage age. Additionally, in order to be able to provide for their preferred boys, some parents choose to dispose of their unwanted girls by marrying them off early. As a result, there is an imbalance in the sex ratio, which causes some males to look for a wife among younger girls. In order to support its hypothesis, the author examines data from India[6].

1.3 The Economic Consequences of Child Marriage:

Child marriage has a disproportionately negative impact on girls, and it is a major cause of school dropouts among teenage females in many countries. Every year of marriage before the age of 18 lowers the probability of completing secondary education by 4 to 6 percentage points for every year of marriage beyond the age of 18. Child marriage and the accompanying high incidence of school dropouts reduce the likelihood of females obtaining higher earnings by 9 percent over the course of their lives. Female victims are more likely than male

victims to live in poverty, to hold employment less often, and to be less productive. Marriage as a child limits their capacity to gain economic resources and contributes to the perpetuation of their subjugation. It is because they have less negotiating and decision-making authority in their homes that they are more vulnerable to domestic and intimate partner violence. Early delivery is a direct result of child marriage, and thus adds to the high rate of maternal death in the developing world. Male victims of child marriage may be forced to drop out of school early and take low-wage jobs in order to maintain their newly established families[7]. The consequences of the child marriage are shown in the Figure 2.

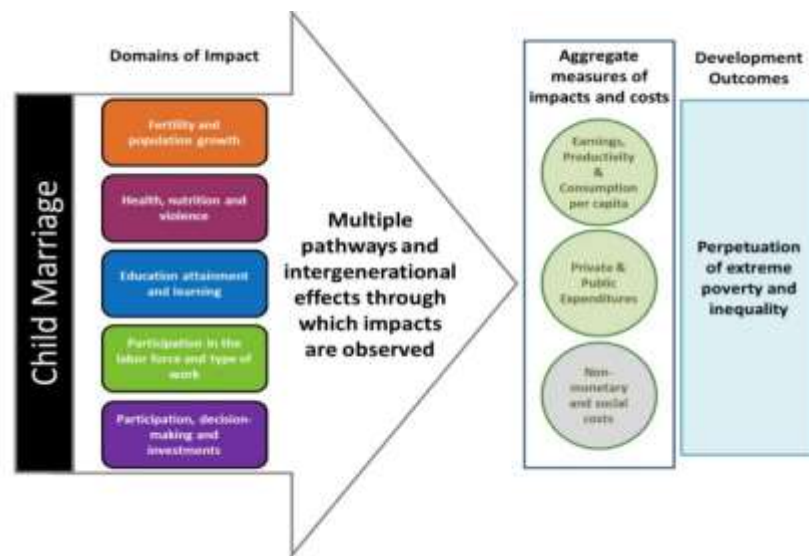


Figure 2: Illustrates the Impact of Child Marriage.

When children marry young, they have a high rate of fertility, which results in high expenses for families and a lower quality of life. Having additional children lowers a family's capacity to pay for necessities such as food, education, and medical care. Because schooling is the only viable option to child marriage, the opportunity cost deprives families of a possible source of income.

Child marriage is projected to cost countries at least 1.7 percent of their gross domestic product (GDP) per year. It has been shown to enhance overall female fertility by 17 percent, which is detrimental to emerging nations dealing with rapid population expansion. High fertility rates impose substantial costs on national economies, resulting from the increased demand for basic services by an ever-increasing population, which increases the cost of living. It delays the generational dividend that may be realized as a result of lower fertility and increased investment in education. It is estimated that billions of dollars in purchasing power parity would be lost to the global economy between now and 2030 as a result of this. Child marriage has a negative impact on the accumulation of human capital because of the school dropouts and withdrawal from labor markets that are connected with it, as well as the negative impacts on young girls' health. It contributes to the perpetuation of severe poverty and the impediment of attempts to achieve economic development and equality. Figure 2 shows the impact of child marriage.

1.4 Ending Child Marriage Economic Case:

Ending child marriage would provide greater opportunities for young girls: better education, fewer children, higher life expectancy wages, better family revenues, less violence in the partner's intimate spouse, and more decision-making capacity. The prospects of families and the economy affect the way females attend higher education. The opportunity to educate females improves the chances of their children becoming educated, thus increasing the human capital of the economy's future workforce.

Curbing rapid population growth in emerging nations would improve economic development and help to economic stability, saving \$566 trillion in the global economy by 2030. Governments would benefit from financial savings by abandoning the costs of supporting a growing population with basic education, health care and other social services. By 2030 lower population growth would save countries 5% or more of their education expenditure. The advantages would be significantly felt by poorer parts of the population and would contribute to poverty reduction. A reduction of 10% in child marriages would lead to a 76% decrease in maternal mortality. Annual benefits to reduce mortality and hunger are projected at 98 billion dollars by 2030[8].

A three-year study project called the "Economic Impacts of Child Marriage" was carried out by the World Bank and ICRW and found that the elimination of the practice may save world economy billions of dollars by 2030.

They think that recognizing the economic advantages would boost donor and government financing to postpone the marriage age.

1.5 Economic Approaches to Child Marriage Termination:

BRAC addresses child marriage practice via the introduction of economic incentives. The NGO educates females financial literacy, business and banking practices, allowing them to participate and expand their agency. The University of Kent created an overlapping marriage market model in developing nations by mapping a desired female characteristic whose value declines with time spent in the marriage market to ensure quality of age. This model shows that young prospective brides, in the absence of intervention, are encouraged to accept a marriage offer sooner than later. Using their model, they demonstrated how large-scale interventions such as offering parents incentives to postpone marriage, provide girls with new possibilities for skills and alternatives to the conventional route of early marriage may be successful. Some young women may therefore reject marriage to seek other possibilities or use their greater negotiating power to negotiate more advantageous marriages, making it harder for males to take young uneducated wives[9].

2. DISCUSSION

In addition to the fact that education always comes to an end, which prevents them from acquiring skills and knowledge that would provide them with a secure existence, when a female child is married before the age of majority, her qualification is severely compromised. An educated woman may advance in her career and be regarded as a valuable part of her family and community if she has the opportunity to pursue further education and training. Despite this, they are often cut off from the support system that schools provide for their students. The age at which a person marries is directly related to the stage at which a person qualifies. Because of her poor educational attainment, the girl gets married at a young age in her life, according to the statistics. Girls' chances of finishing their high school education may decrease by 4 to 6 percent if they get married before the age of 18, but it may also have an impact on the literacy rate in certain instances if the female child is married before the age of 18. Data from answers to domestic surveys from parents and teachers reveal that child marriage is a significant factor in the dropout of girls from school, and that child marriage has a negative impact on the completion of secondary education[10].

When females are married, they are assigned to the husband's home activities, where they eventually take on the position of wife as a domestic worker and as a mother, depending on the circumstances. It is possible that these new houses will be in any town or hamlet, and that they will not be pleasant. Because parents have paid a big dowry in comparison to their children, husbands are often considerably older than their wives and therefore have little in common with their wives. When they are married, the new brides are more likely to reproduce at a quicker rate, which may have serious consequences for their health. In certain parts of the country, it is also common for males to marry several women since the girls feel abandoned and lonely. Some young women believe that adapting to one's surroundings is the most effective means of surviving. They not only lose out on their youth, but they also miss out on the opportunity to play, make friends, and further their education, which contributes to the girl's kid feeling lonely and depressed.

Premature or low-birth weight babies are more likely to be born to mothers under the age of 18 when compared to mothers over the age of 19. The infant mortality rate is over 60% when the mother is under the age of 18 and the infant mortality rate is over 60% when the mother is older than 19. However, even though they survived the first year, the children under the age of 5 years in the cohort of the young mother had a 28 percent greater death rate than the general population. Inadequate education for young women, a lack of access to abortion care, physical and mental immaturity, and a greater risk of infection, in particular, are all factors that contribute to this elevated death rate.

Parents have a strong conviction that marrying their daughters at a young age would prevent them from contracting HIV/AIDS; however, research shows that this is not true. Girls under the age of 20 years are especially vulnerable to HIV infection when they marry young men. In Kenya, married females are 50 percent more likely to acquire HIV than unmarried girls to contract the virus. In Zambia, the likelihood is much greater, at 59 percent. In Uganda, the HIV incidence rate among married girls and unmarried girls in the age groups of 15 and 19 years is 89 percent and 66 percent, respectively, in the age groups of 15 and 19 years. These women are infected by their husbands, and they engage in illegal sexual relations with their husbands who have already had intimate relationships with numerous individuals in order to demonstrate their fertility. Additionally, the girls' virginal status increases the risk of HIV transmission in addition to genital, vaginal, and cervical lacerations. Additionally, according to the study, child marriage increases the likelihood of developing cervical cancer and contracting the human papillomavirus.

3. CONCLUSION

Child labor is one of the most terrible curses that mankind has ever known. Girls who are married before the age of eighteen have some influence over decision-making inside the marital household. Kid marriage encompasses all of the activities that a child is supposed to do in while they are still young. Early pregnancy is associated with substantial health hazards for both the mother and the child since females are marrying before the age of 18. It is possible to give birth to a baby who is malnourished or underweight and who may endanger the mother's life during the child's delivery. Girls who get pregnant at a young age are more likely than women who marry later in life to have sick, hazardous, and difficult pregnancies, which results in fewer stable babies being born.

The risk of maternal death is much higher among young women than among older moms. This article discusses the need of increasing public awareness of the negative effects of child marriage on a kid's mental health. It is common to find a broad range of psychiatric disorders in a young woman who marries at an early period of her life. We also suggest that women under the age of 18 who are married should get psychiatric help as soon as possible after their marriage. Stringent law enforcement is also needed to eliminate child marriage from society's core, and laws must be changed to deal with the issue in order to accomplish the same.

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