

DETERMINANT OF CHILD MARRIAGE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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ABSTRACT

The study adopted explanatory research, qualitative research approach, the research strategy used was cross-sectional survey, the population of the study were 8 authors, the sampling design were research papers published by academic journals and research papers published at the various websites, the source of data collection was primary source and the method of data collection was research. The problems statement of the study was "Determinant of child marriage in the 21st century". The objectives of the study were achieved and the background of the study was brief introduction of child marriage. The study found out causes of child marriage, side-effects of child marriage, myths about child marriage, emperical evidence of child marriage, psychological effects of child marriage and solution for child marriage. The study generalized that child had negatively affect the life of man. The study recommended that church leaders should educate church members to know the causes and the side-effects of child marriage. Government must create a platform to enlighten the general public to know the side-effects of child marriage.

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

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Introduction

Child marriage is a marital relationship in which one or both couples are 18 years old. The standard definition of a child is a person who is below 18 years. A few countries accept that adulthood is attained before 18 years but many countries considered a person as adult when he or she is married. Countries that 18 years and above as adult age marriage are regarded as mature. Million of people see child marriage as the solution to come out of hardship. The age children usually marry are 16 and 17 years. Marriage that occur before 15 years regarded as "very early marriage" (unfpa,2022). Throughout centuries, there are a lot of nations and tribes that have been practicing child marriage as long-lasting tradition. Child marriage is formal and informal union in which a girl stays with a man before the age of 18 years. Child marriage is practiced in many parts of the developing countries. In developing countries except China young women continue to marry as

a child. In Sub-Saharan Africa a number of girls marry before 18 years.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To find out causes of child marriage
- To find out side-effects of child marriage
- To find out myths about child marriage
- To find out emperical evidence of child marriage
- To find out solution for child marriage
- To find out psychological effects of child marriage.

THE BRIEF HISTORY OF CHILD MARRIAGE

Before industrial revolution, women in India, China and Eastern Europe decided to marry after puberty stage. This practice continue to the 19th century which resulted to large rural population. Men refused to marry until they got sufficient wealth to assist a new family. They married at mature age to adolescent girls who contributed to dowry to the family finance. During the ancient and medieval societies girls were betrothed at puberty stage or before puberty. Many girls married before 15 years. Around the Middle Ages girls were allowed to marry

at the puberty age. A girl who was twelve and half years was regarded as an adult. Early marriage and teenage motherhood among girls existed during the Gracian era. Boys married at their teen stage. At the time of Romans Empire girls married at 12 years and boys married around 14 years. During Middle Age English laws derived from Roman laws permitted man to marry before 16 years. The people of Northwest Europe did not marry early until in their 20s or 30s This happens around 14th century and reflected in English common laws which became first in Western Europe to make statutory rape laws and age for marriage. Around Middle Ages among the Jews marriage was allowed during puberty stage. British Colonial Administration introduced marriage age restrictions to Hindus and Muslim girls on the Indian subcontinent.

CAUSES OF CHILD MARRIAGE

Disobedience: Nowadays the youth want to live their lives like the young celebrities who have just married. Others desire to live the lifestyle of Romeo and Juliet who discovered one love for the world.

Sexual education: The modern world is governed by it's rules and free from restrictions. The youth of today lack education about sexual relationship and how to prevent unwanted pregnancy. Many countries do not allow abortions and those who do abortion are charged with criminal liability. To avoid legal punishment the youth are encouraged to marry.

Tribute: Parents are proud of preserving the tradition and contract marriages because of the custom inherited from their ancestors

Poverty: Young girls from poor homes are compelled to marry early. Their parents encourage them to marry early in order to come of their miserable state.

The family: Parents force their children into marriage at tender age in order to preserve dignity and honor.

Purpose: Parents encourage their children to marry early so that they can involve in building strong relationship between families.

Education: The main causes of high rate of child marriage are lack of access to formal education, economic opportunity and health services and weak legal enforcement mechanism.

Legal loopholes and parental consent:

About 190 United Nations Member States confirm that the convention on the right of child 12 percent has no legal age for marriage that guides girls who are 18 years old. The minimum age for girls and boys differ and permits children to marry through the knowledge of their parents. Because of this, parents are able to influence their children and decide for them.

Birth registration: Universally about 230 million children who are 5 years have not registered their births. There are more than 100 developing countries which lack public birth registration centers. This implies that million of children do not have birth certificates. Birth certificate does not only give data on child's identity and place of birth but helps to check child marriage and violation like trafficking and child labor.

Menstruation: When a girl menstruates, she is ready to be a mother and she is not physically or emotionally mature for marriage, pregnancy and childbirth until adulthood. WHO report declare that pregnancy and childbirth are the next leading cause of death for girls around 15 years. The starting of a girl's menstruation can ends her education due to fear, shame, embarrassment and stigma that goes with menstruation. It is possible for girls who are not attending school to become child brides. According to girls who are not brides illiterate girls marry early at the age of 18 years.

Climate: In Africa the change of climate has negative effects on poor families and the changing weather patterns decrease crop production. In Malawi and Mozambique faming families who were able to provide for their children are now suffering from poverty. Because of this, the parents allow their daughters to marry early.

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study found out causes of child marriage, side-effects of child marriage, myths about child marriage, empirical evidence of child marriage, psychological effects of child marriage and solution for child marriage

SIDE-EFFECTS OF CHILD MARRIAGE

Poverty: Women who are working spend about 90 percent of their salaries on their families, children, siblings to them to come out of poverty. When a girl marries, it can end his educational life and makes her financially independent. This kills a girl desire to lift up a family and a community of poverty. When intergenerational cycle of poverty continues, unemployment becomes a problem and economic stability creates conflict and migration.

Maternal mortality: Teenage pregnancy goes with high risk of complications during pregnancy and childbirth which affect the mother and the child. Teenage birth rate higher when child marriage is common. The danger of maternal mortality is high among adolescent girls around 15 years. Problems in pregnancy

and childbirth among adolescent girls in developing countries create orphan children.

Childbrides: Adolescent girls usually affected by HIV. Married adolescent girls to men who have had sexual intercourse with many women are likely to get HIV because of lack of sexual reproductive health information and unable to have safe sex.

Premature: Survival of premature childbirth creates health problems like obstetric fistula, inability to walk.

Gender equality: Teenage girls who have married encounter domestic violence and regarded inferior in the society. Because childbrides do not have access to use their right to further education, employment or entrepreneurial opportunities. The more childbrides, the more a nation loses future leaders such as teachers, doctors, scientists or political leaders. This creates inefficient capital and decrease economic growth resulting to trillions of dollars for developing countries by 2030.

Social insecurity: A lot of people accept that married women are secured from societal vices than those who have not married. Unmarried women are filled with bad intention that make people to suspect crimes against them. In order to escape these vices parents rush their daughters into marriage. This happens soon after menstruation.

Ancestral property: In India rural people accept all their ancestral properties belong to their sons. If parents allow their daughters to marry early, the daughters will not be able to share the properties with their sons.

Early pregnancy: Child marriage causes early pregnancy which creates health complications. Due to lack of knowledge about changes that goes on in the teenage girl's body during puberty. The teenage girl is not able to endure the changes her body during pregnancy. At this modern times parents are not capable to educate their daughters about what happens in their bodies during pregnancy. In the olden days parents handled the situation

during pregnancy, delivering and post-delivery.

High fertility: If a girl marries at early age, she will produce more children and experience unwanted pregnancies. Because she does not have access to moderate medical facilities and she will be forced have pregnancy.

Manage: A lot of young girls lack the ability to control their own children and less ability to make decisions about nutrition, health care and house management.

Sexual effects: Young girls experience physical pain that goes with sexual intercourse due to physiological immaturity of their organs. Early pregnancy creates problems like perforation of the bladder because of prolonged labor and HIV.

Desire: Because of the desire to give birth to male child, young women continue to conceive until they give birth to male child.

Age: The age between the bride and the bride groom are not the same. In child

marriage it is the bride who is younger and not the bride groom. When the bride groom, he controls the bride and he does not allow her to speak her mind.

Population: Girl child between 2022 and 2030 will cost trillions of dollars to population growth in developing countries.

Education: Child marriage makes girls unable to complete secondary education. It is one of the reasons why adolescent girls drop out of school. The possibility of a girl who marries before 18 years not able to finish school is 4-10 percent depending on the country.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Many authors have written papers which condemn child marriage. Notwithstanding the views of the authors, the study investigated into determinant of child marriage in the 21st century. Because of this, the study considered authors who had written papers about the subject under study. In reference to (unicef,n.d) an article written entitled "child marriage" state that child marriage

affects the lives, well-being and future of girls. Universally child marriage has decreased from one out of four girls married 10 years ago. Before COVID-19 disease, more than 100 million girls should have married before 18 years in the next decade. Now about 10 girls will be child bride because of COVID-19 pandemic. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals has taken measures to stop this human rights violation by 2030. Male child marriage is one sixth among girls. Child marriage affects girls' childhood, endanger their health and lives. Girls who marry before 18 years face economic and health problems than unmarried girls. This problem may pass on to their own children and affects a country's ability to provide quality health and education services. Child marriage makes girls to isolate themselves from friends, family and not able to involve in their community which have an impact on their physical and psychological well-being. In reference to (Wikipedia,n.d) an article written entitled "Child marriage" confirms that majority of child marriages

are marital relationship between a girl and a man but legal age for adulthood and marriage age are 18 years and they differ from one country to another. Marriage age may be above 18 years or below 18 years depending on the laws of a country. Child marriage has long-term effects on both child brides and child grooms. Girls lack access to education and career opportunities. With regards to child marriage, little research is done on boys but it is related to child betrothal. With respect to the views of the authors, the study investigated into causes of child marriage, side-effects of child marriage, empirical evidence of child marriage, myths about child marriage psychological effects of child marriage and solution for child marriage.

MYTHS ABOUT CHILD MARRIAGE

Myth: Child marriage occurs only in Africa.

Fact: Child marriage is universal problem which happens in countries, regions, cultures and religion.

Myth: Child marriage is practiced by only girls.

Fact: According to UNICEF report 156 men get married before 18 years.

Myth: Parents show concern when their daughters marry.

Fact: Child marriage goes beyond parents' decision.

Myth: Child marriage is practiced by young girls and old men.

Fact: In Nepal adolescent girls and boys decide to marry.

Myth: Child marriage is created by family.

Fact: About 12 million girls marry due to poverty, inequality.

Myth: Religion create child marriage.

Fact: Religious leaders make sure that the bride and the bride groom are above 18 years before religious wedding is done.

EMPERICAL EVIDENCE OF CHILD MARRIAGE

It is estimated that 650 million woman and girls who are living today married as child. That is, universally about 12 percent of young women. Every year 12 million girls at the age of 18 years become childbride. Throughout the world, everyday women and girls are forced to marry men they don't like. Every marriage negatively affect development and well-being of girls such as rape, domestic violence; limited education.

About 12 million girls marry before 18 years which is nearly half of the Australian population. 1 out of 5 girls marry before 18 years. In the least developed countries 40 percent marry before 18 years and 12 percent marry before 15 years. Sub-Saharan Africa recorded the highest rate of child marriage 37 percent of young women marry before 18 years. According to Plan International Asia had high rate of child marriage and young girls were forced into early marriage. High rate of child marriage in areas such as Bangladesh, Pakistan and Indonesia. In these areas girls around 12-14 years were allowed to marry. A 17 year old girl said in Bangladesh if a girl refused to marry people would gossip about her and she would lose her reputation. People would think that she had an affair with someone. There are high rate of female child marriage and 73 percent marry before 18 years. About 27 percent married between 12 and 14 years. About 2.8 percent of male child marriage in Bangladesh. In Indonesia 38 percent women married at the age of 18 years and 3.7 percent of men married before 18 years. Pakistan recorded the lowest rate of female child marriage of three countries 34.8 percent; 15.2 percent married at the age of 15 years. Male child marriage had 13 percent. Every year 12 million girls become bride child. Force marriage and child marriage are complex issues affecting girls in the entire world. About 82 percent of children

married before 18 years were girls. Everyday 41000 girls marry before 18 years. That is 15 million girls every year. Child marriage have effects on girls and boys but the impact on girls is higher than boys. About 90 percent of teenage births happen within the context of marriage. Almost 50 percent of girls who marry before 15 years experience partner violence than those who do not marry early. Girls pass through female genital mutilation and child marriage in Sudan is 50 percent, Somaliland 52 percent, Sierra Leone 37 percent, Burkina Faso 39 percent and Ethiopia 36 percent. Ghana is among the countries in the world that child marriage occur before 18 years. According to research conducted in 2018 proved that over 19 percent of girls married before 18 years and 5 percent married before 15 years. Ghana was among the lowest rates of child marriage in Western and Central Africa. In Ghana Northern and Upper East Regions had the highest rates which was 28 percent each. Greater Accra had the lowest rates that was 8 percent. The rate of child marriage in Africa is high and 40 percent of girls married before 18 years.

SOLUTION FOR CHILD MARRIAGE

Education: Formal education helps girls to do away with child marriage. The more a girl stays in school the possibility to marry and bear children are not certain.

Education enables girls to acquire skills and knowledge to find work and assist their families. This helps to break the cycle of poverty and to avoid child marriage.

Empowering: Every girl should be taught to know her right and the need to rule her own destiny. When girls know their rights, they are capable to fight against injustice like child marriage.

Income: Creating livelihood opportunities like microfinance loan is a means to prevent child marriage.

Girls' right: Parents and community leaders decide for girls when and whom to marry. According to tradition marriage enables girls to be safe, protected and their husbands supply their needs. If parents and community leaders are enlightened about the results of child marriage, it will help them to change their views, speak on behalf of girls' right.

Laws: Countries with high rates of child marriage government should change the minimum age for marriage.

- Registering birth certificates and marriages are the means to prevent child marriage.

- Giving girls information, skills and assist network

- Providing economic help and incentives to girls and their families.

IMPACT OF CHILD MARRIAGE ON BOYS

- Inability to provide for the family.

- Early fatherhood

- Lack of access to education and career opportunities.

PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF CHILD MARRIAGE

Child brides encounter problems such as anxiety, depression and get little assistance in their marital home. According to sociological study conducted by University of Calicut about 600 women who married before 18 years fought with their husbands and others in their marital home. They were forced to control household chores and procreate children early. Expression of opinion was seen as challenge and when girls drop out

of school, they lose companionship. They cannot free meet their friends and it creates distress. Sometimes they experience sorrow and violence ends up in scars

METHOLOGY

This chapter deals with research design, research strategy, research approach, population of the study, the sampling design, the source of data and the method of data collection. The study used explanatory research design because it was the best method of achieving the objectives of the study. The method of achieving the objectives of the study were thoroughly explained.

The research strategy used for the study was cross-sectional survey where research papers published were examined. The approach to the study was qualitative research approach. Through this, the study found out determinant of child marriage. The population of the study, the sampling design, the source of data collection and the method of data collection were thoroughly investigated.

SAMPLING DESIGN::The study considered papers published by academic journals and papers published at the various websites.

POPULATION OF THE STUDY: The study selected 8: authors as the population of the study.

THE SOURCE OF DATA

COLLECTION:: The source of collecting data for the study was primary source.

THE METHOD OF DATA

COLLECTION: The study adopted research as a method of data collection.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS,

CONCLUSION AND

RECOMMENDATION

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The study found out the youth compare their lives to the young celebrities who have just married and want to be like them. People lack education about sexual relationship and how to prevent unwanted pregnancies. Women who are working spend about 90 Percent of their salaries on their families, children and siblings to help them to out of poverty.

Adolescent girls are usually affected HIV. Child marriage happens only in Africa, Child marriage is practiced by young girls and old men. It is estimated that 650 million women and girls who are living today married as child. About 12 million girls marry before 18 years which nearly half of the Australian population. Creating opportunity for girls to have access to quality education prevent child marriage. Educating girls to know their rights and the need to rule their own destiny help them to fight against injustice like child marriage.

CONCLUSION

The study discovered that child marriage has negatively affected life of man in the 21st century.

RECOMMENDATION

Church

Church leaders should educate church members to know the causes and side-effects of child marriage. Through this, parents will not encourage their daughters and sons to marry early. It helps the children to take good care of

themselves in order avoid unwanted pregnancies which later lead to marriage.

Education

Government ought to create platform to educate the general public about the side-effects of child marriage and how to prevent child marriage. The education can be done on radio, television and social media like Facebook, WhatsApp.

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