

Early Marriage in Sulu: Causes and Reactions

Nurhida A. Julbasari-Alih¹, Narjeadyanne N. Hassan – Julbasari¹, Altamir A. Salamuddin¹,
Almarezza L. Alvarez¹

¹Mindanao State University-Sulu Capitol Hills, Jolo Sulu, 7401 Philippines

Abstract

Early marriage is common. More than 650 million women and girls were married before their 18th birthday. This paper tackles the causes of early marriage and reaction of parents as well as educators to early marriage. Identified causes perceived by students are: Internet exposure, peer's influence, tradition, unintended pregnancy, unestablished law for marriageable age, lack of parental guidance, lack of parent's affection and abduction. As for reactions of parents, they do not agree: early marriage; marrying early as a solution to one's poverty; conducting early marriage awareness in school; readiness of young married individuals for the responsibilities; that divorce happens in young married couple; and that a youth of higher socio-economic family has a higher probability of not to engage in early marriage. In addition, parents suggest that the proper marriageable age should start at 25. As for reactions of educators, they disagree on the following: early marriage; that the increase in early marriage could affect economic status of the community; that the divorce happens in young married couple; that early marriage prevents youth from reaching their dreams; that education is the key or solution to prevent early marriage; that unschooled individual has a greater chance of getting into early marriage; and creating school programs regarding early marriage. However, they are not sure of the following: that early marriage is one cause of school drop outs; and heterosexual relationship happens without parent consent. Based on the findings and conclusion, Parents must guide the youth to prevent the increasing of early marriage.

Keywords: Early marriage, Child marriage, Parents, Causes, Educators

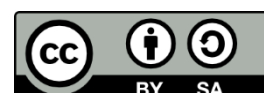
1. Introduction

Many societies have norms that limit the age of young girls to enter into marriage, but in some cases the age limit does not take into consideration their physiological readiness for childbearing. Marriage often takes place at ages much earlier than the legally approved minimum age. Early marriage is the marriage of children and teenagers below the age of 18 (Ishita & Kumar, 2016).

Every third young woman in the developing countries excluding China continues to marry as a child, that is before age 18. Recent studies reiterate the adverse health consequences of early marriage among young women and their children even after a host of confounding factors are controlled. The current evidence is conclusive with regard to many indicators: unintended pregnancy, pregnancy-related complications, preterm delivery, delivery of low birth weight babies, fetal mortality and violence within marriage. However, findings present a mixed picture with regard to many other indicators, the risk of HIV and the risk of neonatal, infant and early childhood mortality (Santhya, 2011).

*Corresponding author

DOI <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7936583#76>



The practice of early marriage is taken for granted as a normal way of life increasingly resulting in marriage of children of all ages of every family before they reach age 18. It is also found that early married children face a number of problems: fear to play with their peers both in and out of the school; reduced confidence and school dropout. Economic and cultural reasons, and peer influence are the main reasons for parents to marry their children while all children accept their parents' decisions as a matter of good conduct; immaturity to decide on their life and socio-economic deprivation. Unlike to parents of other Ethiopian societies following Orthodox Christian religion who marry their children, at least theoretically, unto their death, all parents in the studied communities marry their children with full knowledge of their divorce (Mulugeta & Mekuriew, 2017).

Married couples who married young, did not have a mature and mature thought and were not able to take care of their children properly. They often ignore, scold, yell, even treat them harshly such as pinching and even beating their children when they behave that they do not like or otherwise they spoil their children too much (Ibnus Salam, 2023).

The world has become easier and more accessible through technology, and so is the early marriage. In the current times, young individuals are quite interested in heterogenous relationships which have become the root for an early marriage to possibly happen. This phenomenon is widely happening in our nation, as well as in some countries. The researchers has observed that there are some of their senior high school students who already have children and spouses as an indication of an early marriage. Which is why the female students tends to drop out due to pregnancy, maternity labor and taking care of the baby, and while the male students have to have to find a job or other means, wherein he can financially provide and support his family for their daily needs and future necessary expenditures.

Filipinos have this belief in the saying that young individuals are future leaders of our country. Nonetheless, it seems that some of the people have forgotten that these individuals still need the guidance and support of their parents and educators alike in order for them to reach their full potential and achieve their dreams, same as in coming up to the terms of having a family. It is in the hands of the government, teachers and parents to address and minimize, or put an end to this phenomenon that is infecting our young individuals.

This paper tackles the causes of early marriage. Thereon, as well as how the students' perceptions towards such causes associates with their gender.

2. Methodology

The researcher used quantitative method - emphasize objective measurements and the statistical, mathematical, or numerical analysis of data collected through polls, questionnaires, and surveys, or by manipulating pre-existing statistical data using computational techniques (<https://libguides.usc.edu/writing-guide/quantitative>).The researcher used an Incidental Sampling, particularly on teacher and parent respondents. As for the student respondents, random sampling was used. The researcher used the research-made-instrument, a close ended questionnaire. The researcher chosed three faculty of Mindanao State University-Sulu for the validity of questionnaires. In validating the questionnaires, below each question were a column which indicates retain, revise and delete. If revised, the respective faculty writes his revision below the column. The researcher computed for the weighted mean per question. Question with mean values of 2.5-3.0 was retained; Question with mean values of 2.4-1.5 was revised; and question with mean values of 1.4-1.0 was deleted. After the validation of research instrument. After the validation of the research instrument, the researchers then have proceeded to administer the questionnaires to the chosen respondents which are the senior high school students. Then, the questionnaires were retrieved and data was analyzed. The respondents of the study were the selected population of 114 senior high school students, consisting of both genders – 57 female and 57 male of Mindanao State University-Sulu Senior High School. Also, the 10 respective parents and

10 educators of Mindanao State University-Sulu Faculty. The study was conducted in the premises of Sulu province of the Philippines in the Sulu Archipelago and part of the bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. Its capital Jolo is located on the island of the same name and Maimbung, the royal capital of the Sultanate of Sulu. Sulu is along the southern border of the Sulu Sea and the northern boundary of the Celebes Sea. Sulu has 21 municipality which are; Banguingui, Hadji Panglima Tahil, Indanan, Jolo, Kalinggalan Caluang, Lugus, Luuk, Maimbung, Omar, Panamao, Pandami, Panglima estino, Pangutaran, Parang, Pata, Patikul, Siasi, Talipao and Tapul.

3. Results

Presented in this chapter are the causes of early marriage together with the reactions of both parents and educators thereon. The respondents, therefore, were the 114 randomly selected senior high school students of Mindanao State University-Sulu Senior High School, both male and female genders, 10 parents, and 10 educators of Mindanao State University-Sulu respectively.

Causes of Early Marriage

Portrayed in the Table 1 are the sixteen possible causes of early marriage, by which eight are found out as not among the true causes and eight as the affirmed true causes (or factors) of early marriage.

The following mentioned are not considered as the true factors which are; poverty, illiteracy, culture, lower dowry if early, fear of getting unmarried in the years to come, fear of not having offspring/s if marriage is delayed, to avoid premarital marriage and protection, on which the respondents have answered a “strongly disagree”. On the other hand, the respondents have agreed that the following are the true causes (or factors) of early marriage that are namely the: Internet exposure, peer’s influence, tradition, unintended pregnancy, unestablished laws of Marriageable Age, lack of parent’s guidance, lack of parent’s affection and not to forget, abduction.

Due to the great exposure to the internet, or its excessive use by the children without any sufficient parental guidance, an early marriage usually occurs as perceived. Primarily, for the influences of what they have seen and learned from it, so the internet exposure is one of among the many forces that drives the young adults to tie the knot earlier. Peer’s influence adds to such as well. As much as friendship is rampant in early age, and so its influence is strong for some young adults. Furthermore, the tradition of a certain culture or individual plays a role to causing an early marriage to happen. For there are beliefs that are deeply ingrained in the self especially among the elders of the families of the young adults. An example of such is in the belief that if marriage is intently proposed for them, it is improper to refuse the proposal, as long as the gentleman’s side is capable enough, with good intentions and are well-liked by the lady’s family.

Although rare, unintended pregnancy happens to be among of the numerous reasons why the marriage of a young age is considered as a sealed deal. This may be true to those who have strongly been driven by the excessive human desire, even perhaps without the intentions of wanting to get married. But, as the deed has been done by the individuals involved, getting married and solemnization are at utmost necessity. Another would be the fact that there is the absence of established laws of marriageable age. In such case, since there is no available written nor verbal covenant, or policy of what specific age is permissible for marriage to be allowed, in some countries families proceed with the marriage and at times, even the law is present some choose to ignore said law. Some believe that as long as an indicator of adulthood takes place, like menstruation in the case of the females, getting married is now permissible. As for early marriage, it is necessary, for without parental guidance, young adults may feel that they are free to get married for as long as it is done in the legal way. In most situations, education and counselling to the parents is highly recommended and needed for them to guide their children well.

Not to mention, abduction, as found out is amongst the cause of early marriage, is totally illegal and this is very particular in the provinces of Sulu. This manner of initiating marriage usually occurs when proposal for marriage has either been refused or rejected without any clear reasons, or it is because the lady's family is not in favor with the gentleman's side. Accordingly, it may happen in a very rare case when the stated dowry is very high in amount to the extent that the gentleman's family, or the parents could not afford to shoulder and such is based on some narrations.

Table 1 Causes of early marriage

	Indications	Mean	Verbal Description
1.	Poverty	3.43	Strongly Disagree
2.	Internet Exposure	3.95	Agree
3.	Illiteracy	3.48	Strongly Disagree
4.	Peer's influence	3.78	Agree
5.	Culture	3.47	Strongly Disagree
6.	Tradition	3.52	Agree
7.	Unintended Pregnancy	4.28	Agree
8.	Unestablished laws of Marriageable Age	3.54	Agree
9.	Lower Dowry if Early	3.22	Strongly Disagree
10.	Lack of parent's guidance	3.93	Agree
11.	Lack of parent's affection	3.70	Agree
12.	Fear of getting unmarried in the years to come	3.17	Strongly Disagree
13.	Fear of not having offspring if marriage is delayed	3.11	Strongly Disagree
14.	To avoid premarital affairs	3.33	Strongly Disagree
15.	Abduction	3.59	Agree
16.	Protection	3.26	Strongly Disagree

Legend: 4.50-5.0 (Strongly Agree), 3.50-4.49 (Agree), 2.50-3.49 (Strongly Disagree), 1.50-2.49 (Disagree), 1.00-1.49 (Undecided)

3.1 Reactions of Parents

As can be seen in the Table 2, the reactions of the parents towards early marriage are presented. Selected parents were used to participate as the respondents corresponding to the study, and thus they were supplied with 12 possible reactions for them to think over.

Accordingly, it resulted to the fact that parents are not in favor of early marriage, nor recommend it to the said offspring. They recommend that their sons and daughters to have their studies finished and land a job firstly before getting married, as this could aide them in facing some of the difficulties that could arise once they have settled down. They also believed that early marriage is not the solution to one's poverty: rather, it is one amongst the possible cause that leads to poverty (Items no. 1,2, 3). Therefore, the utmost importance

and emphasis of finishing school and grabbing opportunities for them to earn money to sustain their daily living.

In regards to the introducing of marriage awareness in schools, parents have stressed their negative stance on it. They do not even want their children to be able to hear as well as know something about early marriage; perhaps, they want to protect their children as well as to avoid and possibly feel what early marriage is (Item no. 4) and other things in relation to said matter. In this case, as based on these reactions, there is no need for the school curriculum to include discussions regarding early marriage knowledge and awareness. It seems that even a simple assembly, or a seminar related to the aforementioned should not be tackled, as they think that the more it is emphasized, the door towards getting married at a younger age could inevitably be easily opened.

Furthermore, they believe that individuals who get married early are not yet ready to handle the presenting and existing responsibilities of what a married couple should. It is the stance of parents that these young adults are not yet ready for the position of either being a father or mother; Especially, when it comes to financial matters, as it is one of the greatest task and obligations present (Item no. 5) that must be resolved when it arises. Thus, financial stability is difficult to them and such thing could possibly make the life of the young married couple more of a problem instead of a happy milestone to their lives.

However, it is not in the point of view of the parents that divorce usually happens in the case of a young married couple (Item no. 6). Based on their perspectives, said divorce may occur even in the case of an old married couple; for that circumstance usually happens when something unfavorable and which they cannot handle takes place. So, it is their choice whether to do or not do it.

Accordingly, they had stated their agreement on the matter that the proper marriageable age should be of the 25 to 30 years of age (Item no. 7). This may be due to the fact that getting married early may lead to financial instability especially on the part of the gentleman, as he is the person mostly obliged to find a source of income (Item no. 7) in order to provide for his family and for other future expenses, most likely when another member is added to the family. Nevertheless, increase in the number of early marriages is not necessarily a factor that affects the economic status of the community or the nation as a whole; rather, the government has a greater impact on the community economic stability (Item no.9). In other words, based on their view, economic status depends on the intervention of the said government.

Heterosexual relationships may happen with or without the parental guidance. But, it is recommended that parents should intervene and do a great extent in helping their child when it comes to decision making (Item no. 10), especially in the critical parts of their lives. For it is believed that the parents are the first teachers that children encounter, therefore they have the knowledge and experience to impart to their child about what is right and wrong. Similarly speaking, engaging in an early marriage is not related to the socio-economic status of a family. For example, it is not true that, as the parents have claimed, the youth of a higher socio-economic family has a greater chance of not engaging in early marriage (Item no. 11), it can still happen. Whether the young adult is at the top or lowest part of the socio-economic standing in the society, early marriage is still possible and another thing that can lead for that to happen is the occurrence of an arranged marriage.

Arranged marriage in early age does not lead to disrespect or disobedience of the young adults towards their parents, for arranged marriages are set within the agreement of the both sides of families and the person to be set up for marriage. Sometimes, a young adult may have the rights to refusal in an arranged marriage in early age (Item no. 12). Accordingly, this refusal is based on the fact that most children have their privilege to choose the path they will take.

Table 2 Reactions of Parents

Indications	Mean	Verbal Description
1) Are you in favor with early marriage ?	2	No, I am not.
2) Will you recommend early marriage to your offspring ?	1.9	No, because I want them to finish their study and have job before marriage.
3) Is marrying early a solution to one's poverty ?	2	No, it is never a solution to one's poverty instead engaging in early marriage will add to poverty.
4) Will you agree to have an early marriage awareness in schools?	2.4	No, I don't want my children to hear those kind of stuff.
5) Do you think individuals who got married early are ready for the responsibilities of married couple ?	1.9	No, they are not. More than emotions, the greatest responsibilities they could not handle is financial stability. Sustainance will be their greatest problem.
6) Do you agree that divorce will highly happen in young married couple?	2.4	No, I don't agree. It was a choice which they can already handle.
7) From your perspective, what is the proper marriageable age ?	2.8	25-30
8) In a young married couple, who do you think suffers more?	1.5	The boy, because he must immediately find a source of income.
9) Can increase in early marriage affect negatively the economical status of the community or nation as a whole?	2.8	Economical status problem will depend to the government
10) Do you agree that most heterosexual relationship happened without parent consent?	2.4	No, I don't agree. Parents are always involve in their child's decisions.
11) From your perspective,youth with a higher socioeconomic family has a higher probability not to engage in early marriage?	2	No, because early marriage affects all youth.
12) Do you believe that a young individual who refuses arranged marriage in early age shows disrespect to parents? Or shows disobedience to parents	1.75	No, they have the privilege to choose the path they will take.

Legend: 1-1.49 (1) 1.5-2.49 (2) 2.5-3.49 (3)

3.2 Reactions of Educators

As shown in Table 3, the reactions of educators can be found. The educators have expressed that they are not in favor of early marriage, and neither are the parents (Item no.1). But, this perception does not indicate that early marriage is one of the causes of dropouts in the school (Item no.2). As a matter of fact, they are not sure of this as a circumstance or a situation of young married couple varies from person to person.

As regards to the age, the educators, just like parents, have stated their agreement on the part that the ages of 25 to 30 years should be of the marriageable age (Item no. 3) for a couple to marry. This may be because the boy or the gentleman, as stated previously, may find it challenging on their part to support and sustain his family financially and may suffer once getting married takes place in an early age (Item no.4). However, this opinion does not point out that increase in the number of early marriage could affect the community or the society economically (Item no.5).

Additionally, they have shown their disagreement on the matter that heterosexual relationships among the young adult happens without parental consent. According to them, it primarily depends on the level of leniency of parents towards their children (Item no.6). as some parents are aware of the heterosexual relationships that their children have. Also, they do not have the belief that divorce usually happens in the case of a young married couple (Item no. 7), which is the same stance of the parents. Divorce usually takes

place when a situation becomes too much, or to put it in more simpler terms, unfavorable to the extent that both sides are in favor of separation. In fact, as observed by a lot of people including the researchers, there is really an unusual circumstances wherein there is too much discouragement in either side or both sides that it causes tension to the young married couple. At times even a family feud can interfere with the couple's relationship, and another case may be of the fact that individual flexibility is difficult to practice by either party.

Not to mention, getting married early does not prevent the youth from reaching the dreams they want to achieve in life (Item no. 8). Educators still have their point of views that the youths can still reach their dreams, say, by persevering to continue their study and pursuits of the career they want, despite their varied responsibilities in the family. It is now the question as to whether education is the solution/key to prevent early marriage for the increasing phenomenon. In the stance of educators, even well-educated individual cannot escape from this phenomenon (Item no.9). In the writer's opinion, it is the uncontrolled excessive marriage desire that can lead one young adult to get married early: getting educated or having finished a degree does not guarantee to prevent one from doing so. In the same manner, the chances of getting married early may be true regardless of whether he/she is a schooled or unschooled individual (Item no.10). To be more precise, an early marriage has nothing to do with the level of education attained by either the male or female married individual. The respondent-educators also does not agree in the terms of creating school programs to discuss or explain what is early marriage. For this might bring confusion, or a misinterpretation of the youth about the vision of the school; thereby, misleading them (Item no. 11), which inclines to the point of view of the parents. So, the schools does not need to propose any plans and programs to discuss the so called-early marriage.

Lastly, early marriage does not neglect the children's right. Even if they are married, they can still pursue their dreams (Item no.12) and have the very right to exercise the ability to make decisions for themselves as this is something that should be present and be respected by the parents themselves.

3.3 Perceived Causes of Early Marriage: Relationship to students' Gender

In analyzing the association between these causes and the students' gender, only those things which are perceived as causes are taken into consideration and they are as mentioned- internet exposure, peer's influence, tradition, unintended pregnancy, unestablished laws of marriageable age, lack of the parental guidance, lack of parents' affection, and lastly, abduction. The perceptions of the males and the females in each identified causes were fully and duly noted by the researchers in the study. Each of the identified causes as given in the questionnaire was rated following the 5 options of the answers.

As shown in the Table 3, the result of the Chi-square analysis is presented in a simplified form. Note that, in the statistics, this so-called p-value is the smallest level of significance for which the observed sample statistics tells us to reject H_0 , the null hypothesis.

Table 3 Causes of Early Marriage according to Gender

Identified Causes (Please refer it to Table 4)	Statistical Tool	Df	P-value	Decision for H_0 (If $P > \alpha$, accept H_0 , otherwise reject H_0)
Internet exposure	Chi-Square	3	0.32	Accept
Peer's Influence	Chi-Square	3	0.09	Accept
Tradition	Chi-Square	4	0.37	Accept
Unintended pregnancy	Chi-Square	3	0.06	Accept
No established law of marriageable age	Chi-Square	4	0.48	Accept
Lack of parental guidance	Chi-Square	4	0.52	Accept
Lack of parent's affection	Chi-Square	4	0.64	Accept
Abduction	Chi-Square	4	0.49	Accept

As based on the analysis presented on the table above, the p -value (probability of chance) of each of the identified causes is greater than .05 level of significance. This suggests to accept the null hypothesis of no difference between perceptions of males and females. No significant difference has been observed in the perceptions according to gender for all identified causes. This means that the males and the females have the same stance on the fact that the following mentioned are really the causes of early marriage which are the: internet exposure, peer's influence, tradition, unintended pregnancy, no established laws of marriageable age, lack of the parental guidance, lack of parents' affection, and more so, abduction.

4. Conclusion

In as much as this has been focusing on the causes of and reactions on early marriage, the finding of this study is now therefore deemed significant to the government, school administrators, parents and teachers, as it has addressed the research. They may get aware of what possible actions that parents, school administrators, or the government in general can do to minimize such early marriage phenomenon of which these authorities are not in favor, in as much as, by adhering to the method, the findings about causes of early marriage as perceived by students, including the reactions of parents and educators thereon are found as mentioned earlier. With the findings herein, there is a need to have further research on possible adverse effect of not allowing young adults to get married early. In some cases, however, some parents force their young daughters or even their young sons to get married early. Why do some people do this? Therefore, a case study thereof is highly suggested. It is believed that there is still remaining app of knowledge concerning these matters. Again, as regards this particular research, the researcher wishes to bring to the attention of readers that this is done scholarly, and therefore, it is academic. This is done completely with the limited method; however, further and more researches are still open.

Funding Information

The authors did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

Declaration of Conflict

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

References

1. Assaad, R., Krafft, C., & Selwaness, I. (2022, January 21). The Impact of Marriage on Women's Employment in the Middle East and North Africa. *Feminist Economics*, 28(2), 247–279. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13545701.2021.2007415>
2. Alanen, J. (2012). Shattering the Silence Surrounding Forced and Early Marriage in the United States. *SSRN Electronic Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2143910>
3. Burgoyne, C. B., Reibstein, J., Edmunds, A., & Dolman, V. (2007, April). Money management systems in early marriage: Factors influencing change and stability. *Journal of Economic Psychology*, 28(2), 214–228. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joep.2006.02.003>
4. Batyra, E., & Pesando, L. M. (2021, June). Trends in child marriage and new evidence on the selective impact of changes in age-at-marriage laws on early marriage. *SSM - Population Health*, 14, 100811. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2021.100811>
5. BİNDİK, S. (2021, September 20). EARLY MARRIAGE IN WOMEN WITH CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES. *IEDSR Association*, 6(15), 541–551. <https://doi.org/10.46872/pj.411>
6. Bayer, A. E. (1968, November). Early Dating and Early Marriage. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 30(4), 628. <https://doi.org/10.2307/349506>

7. Clark, S. (2004, September). Early Marriage and HIV Risks in Sub-Saharan Africa. *Studies in Family Planning*, 35(3), 149–160. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1728-4465.2004.00019.x>
8. Delprato, M., Akyeampong, K., & Dunne, M. (2017, March). Intergenerational Education Effects of Early Marriage in Sub-Saharan Africa. *World Development*, 91, 173–192. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2016.11.010>
9. Early Marriage Impact on Female. (2016, March 5). *International Journal of Science and Research (IJSR)*, 5(3), 363–369. <https://doi.org/10.21275/v5i3.nov161827>
10. Erulkar, A. (2013, March). Early Marriage, Marital Relations and Intimate Partner Violence in Ethiopia. *International Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 39(01), 006–013. <https://doi.org/10.1363/3900613>
11. Hardiani, H., & Junaidi, J. (2018, January 31). DETERMINANTS OF EARLY MARRIAGE AND MODEL OF MATURING MARRIAGE AGE POLICY. *Innovative Issues and Approaches in Social Sciences*, 11(1). <https://doi.org/10.12959/issn.1855-0541.iias-2018-no1-art5>
12. Hao, L., & Cherlin, A. J. (2004, February). Welfare Reform and Teenage Pregnancy, Childbirth, and School Dropout. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 66(1), 179–194. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.0022-2445.2004.00013.>
13. Ishita R & Amit Kumar S 2016, March 5). Early Marriage Impact on Female. (*International Journal of Science and Research (IJSR)*, 5(3), 363–369. <https://doi.org/10.21275/v5i3.nov161827>
14. Ibnu Salam, A. (2023, February 16). Analysis of The Impact of Early Marriage On Children’s Parenting Patterns. *Journal Transnational Universal Studies*, 1(1), 1–5. <https://doi.org/10.58631/jtus.v1i1.1>
15. Jensen, R., & Thornton, R. (2003, July). Early female marriage in the developing world. *Gender & Development*, 11(2), 9–19. <https://doi.org/10.1080/741954311>
16. Javed, R., & Mughal, M. (2020, December 7). Girls not brides: Evolution of child marriage in Pakistan. *Journal of Public Affairs*, 21(3). <https://doi.org/10.1002/pa.2582>
17. KIM CHOE, M., THAPA, S., & MISHRA, V. (2004, March 16). EARLY MARRIAGE AND EARLY MOTHERHOOD IN NEPAL. *Journal of Biosocial Science*, 37(2), 143–162. <https://doi.org/10.1017/s0021932003006527>
18. Kyari, G. V., & Ayodele, J. (2014, July 1). The Socio-Economic Effect of Early Marriage in North Western Nigeria. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences*. <https://doi.org/10.5901/mjss.2014.v5n14p582>
19. KNIGHT, B. J., OSBORN, S. G., & WEST, D. J. (1977, October). EARLY MARRIAGE AND CRIMINAL TENDENCY IN MALES. *The British Journal of Criminology*, 17(4), 348–360. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordjournals.bjc.a046842>
20. Mulugeta, E., & Mekuriew, D. (2017, April 1). Early Marriage: Trends, Causes, Consequences and Prospects in Selected Kebeles of East Gojjam Administrative Zone, Amhara National Regional State, North Western Ethiopia. *International Journal of Innovative Research and Development*, 6(4). <https://doi.org/10.24940/ijird/2017/v6/i4/apr17022>
21. Montazeri, S., Gharacheh, M., Mohammadi, N., Alaghband Rad, J., & Eftekhar Ardabili, H. (2016). Determinants of Early Marriage from Married Girls’ Perspectives in Iranian Setting: A Qualitative Study. *Journal of Environmental and Public Health*, 2016, 1–8. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2016/8615929>
22. Murphy, C. M., & O’Leary, K. D. (1989). Psychological aggression predicts physical aggression in early marriage. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 57(5), 579–582. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-006x.57.5.579>
23. Noller, P., Feeney, J. A., Bonnell, D., & Callan, V. J. (1994, May). A Longitudinal Study of Conflict in Early Marriage. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 11(2), 233–252. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0265407594112005>
24. Nishat, J. F., Shovo, T. E. A., Ahammed, B., Islam, M. A., Rahman, M. M., & Hossain, M. T. (2023, January 5). Mental health status of early married girls during the COVID-19 pandemic: A study in the southwestern region of Bangladesh. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 13. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsy.2022.1074208>
25. O’Leary, K. D., Malone, J., & Tyree, A. (1994, June). Physical aggression in early marriage: Prerelationship and relationship effects. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 62(3), 594–602. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-006x.62.3.594>
26. Otoo-Oyortey, N., & Pobi, S. (2003, July). Early marriage and poverty: exploring links and key policy issues. *Gender & Development*, 11(2), 42–51. <https://doi.org/10.1080/741954315>

27. Perception of Causes and Consequences of Early Marriage: The Case of Gewane District, Afar Region, Ethiopia. (2019, October). *Developing Country Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.7176/dcs/9-10-03>
28. Reid, K. (2022, December 28). *Child marriage: Facts, FAQs, and how to help end it*. Child Marriage: Facts, FAQs, and How to Help End It | World Vision. <https://www.worldvision.org/child-protection-news-stories/child-marriage-facts>
29. *Research Guides: Organizing Your Social Sciences Research Paper: Quantitative Methods*. (2023, June 22). Quantitative Methods - Organizing Your Social Sciences Research Paper - Research Guides at University of Southern California. <https://libguides.usc.edu/writingguide/quantitative>
30. Singh, S., & Samara, R. (1996, December). Early Marriage Among Women in Developing Countries. *International Family Planning Perspectives*, 22(4), 148. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2950812>
31. Santhya, K. (2011, October). Early marriage and sexual and reproductive health vulnerabilities of young women. *Current Opinion in Obstetrics & Gynecology*, 23(5), 334–339. <https://doi.org/10.1097/gco.0b013e32834a93d2>
32. Santhya, K., Ram, U., Acharya, R., Jejeebhoy, S. J., Ram, F., & Singh, A. (2010, September). Associations Between Early Marriage and Young Women’s Marital and Reproductive Health Outcomes: Evidence from India. *International Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 36(03), 132–139. <https://doi.org/10.1363/3613210S>
33. Solomon M. & Shewayiref (2021,June). Determinant of Early Age Sexual Initiation: The Associated Factors Among Rural Women in Ethiopia: Evidence from EDHS 2016. (2022, June 22). *Advances in Sexual & Reproductive Health Research*, 1(1). <https://doi.org/10.33140/asrhr.01.01.03>
34. The Lancet. (2022, July). Ending child marriage: ensuring healthy futures for girls. *The Lancet*, 400(10345), 1. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736\(22\)01241-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(22)01241-7)
35. Tremayne, S. (2006, January). MODERNITY AND EARLY MARRIAGE IN IRAN: A VIEW FROM WITHIN. *Journal of Middle East Women’s Studies*, 2(1), 65–94. <https://doi.org/10.2979/mew.2006.2.1.65>
36. Tallman, I., & Hsiao, Y. L. (2004, June). Resources, Cooperation, and Problem Solving In Early Marriage. *Social Psychology Quarterly*, 67(2), 172–188. <https://doi.org/10.1177/019027250406700204>
37. TILSON, D., & LARSEN, U. (2000, July). DIVORCE IN ETHIOPIA: THE IMPACT OF EARLY MARRIAGE AND CHILDLESSNESS. *Journal of Biosocial Science*, 32(3), 355–372. <https://doi.org/10.1017/s0021932000003552>
38. Uecker, J. E., & Stokes, C. E. (2008, October 23). Early Marriage in the United States. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 70(4), 835–846. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1741-3737.2008.00530.x>
39. Uecker, J. E. (2014, June). Religion and Early Marriage in the United States: Evidence from the Add Health Study. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 53(2), 392–415. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jssr.12114>
40. Whitton, S. W., Olmos-Gallo, P. A., Stanley, S. M., Prado, L. M., Kline, G. H., St. Peters, M., & Markman, H. J. (2007, June). Depressive symptoms in early marriage: Predictions from relationship confidence and negative marital interaction. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 21(2), 297–306. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0893-3200.21.2.297>

Appendix

PART I - Demographic Profile of the Respondents General Instructions: Please fill out the necessary information that pertains to you.

NAME (Optional) _____

Religion _____

Address _____

GENDER: Male

Female

AGE: 25 - 30

35 - 40

45 - 50

55 - 60

65 - 70

Employment: Government

Non- Government

Self- Employed

Specify _____

Specify _____

Specify _____

Salary Anually: _____

Academic Background

School last attended:

Elementary : _____

High School : _____

College: _____

Master's: _____

Doctorate: _____

PART II - What are the reactions of parents regarding early marriage?

Instructions: Encircle your chosen answer.

- 1) Are you in favor with early marriage ?
 1. Yes, I am.
 2. No, I am not.
 3. Neither/No decision
- 2) Will you recommend early marriage to your offspring ?
 1. Yes, because it is better to marry early than be a bachelor/old maid.
 2. No, because I want them to finish their study and have job before marriage.
 3. I am a supportive parent. I will respect their choices.
- 3) Is marrying early a solution to one's poverty ?
 1. Yes, when the in laws are rich. My daughter/son will have a good life and it will be beneficial also to us.
 2. No, it is never a solution to one's poverty instead engaging in early marriage will add to poverty.
 3. Early marriage will not make someone's poor or rich. It will depend on the effort of the individual engaged in it. It can either inspires them to reach their dreams or destroys their future.
- 4) Will you agree to have an early marriage awareness in schools?
 1. Yes, they will have knowledge with regards to its pros and cons.
 2. No, I don't want my children to hear those kind of stuff.
 3. I'll either agree or disagree. It depends on the significance of the event in the respective schools or community.
- 5) Do you think individuals who got married early are ready for the responsibilities of married couple ?

1. Yes, they are already capable on meeting the responsibilities of marriage because of being physically and emotionally ready.
 2. No, they are not. More than emotions, the greatest responsibilities they could not handle is financial stability. Sustainance will be their greatest problem.
 3. It depends on the willingness of the couple to change themselves to cope up with the responsibilities.
- 6) Do you agree that divorce will highly happen in young married couple?
1. Yes, I agree. Their incapability to meet the responsibilities of marriage and unstable decision making will resort to divorce.
 2. No, I don't agree. It was a choice which they can already handle.
 3. It will depend on the commitment of each individual. If they are committed to be with one another whatever imperfections they have or adversities they meet. It will never end up into divorce.
- 7) From your perspective, what is the proper marriageable age ?
1. 12-17
 2. 18-24
 3. 25-30
- 8) In a young married couple, who do you think suffers more?
1. The girl, because early marriage indicates early pregnancy. Due to pregnancy, girls have no choice except to stop their study and be at home.
 2. The boy, because he must immediately find a source of income.
 3. Both of them because they will have different responsibilities on their shoulder.
- 9) Can increase in early marriage affect negatively the economical status of the community or nation as a whole?
1. Yes, the increasing engagement of the youth in this phenomenon affects our economical status. It adds human population which can results to scarcity of resources.
 2. No. It will not have any effect to the economical status of the community.
 3. Economical status problem will depend to the government
- 10) Do you agree that most heterosexual relationship happened without parent consent?
1. Yes, most parents are not informed about the relationship of their children. Nowadays, youth tend to hide many things from their parents.
 2. No, I don't agree. Parents are always involve in their child's decisions.
 3. It depends on the level of leniency of the parents.
- 11) From your perspective,youth with a higher socioeconomic family has a higher probability not to engage in early marriage?
1. Yes, because youth with a higher socioeconomic family has a more profound knowledge and well education than youth with lower economic family.
 2. No, because early marriage affects all youth.
 3. Family status will not be the basis of success or failure as well as early marriage. It depends on the person's perseverance and patience in reaching their goal in life.
- 12) Do you believe that a young individual who refuses arranged marriage in early age shows disrespect to parents? Or shows disobedience to parents?
1. Yes, it is disobedience toward their parents. Respecting the decision of the parents are one role of the children.
 2. No, they have the privilege to choose the path they will take.
 3. It depends on the age of the child. It can be disobedience if the child is in proper age to marry but if the child is not yet in the proper age to marry, it will not be considered ad disobedience but rather rights.

Survey Questionnaire

PART I - Demographic Profile of the Respondents

General Instructions: Please fill out the necessary information that pertains to you.

NAME(Optional) _____

Religion _____

GENDER: Male

AGE: 25 - 30

Female

35 - 40

45 - 50

55 - 60

65 - 70

Employment: _____

Rank: _____

Salary Anually: _____

Academic Background

School last attended:

Elementary : _____

High School : _____

College: _____

Master's: _____

Doctorate: _____

Part II - What are the reactions of educators regarding early marriage ?

Instructions: Encircle your chosen answer.

- 1) Are you in favor with early marriage ?
 1. Yes, I am.
 2. No, I am not.
 3. Neither
- 2) Is early marriage one of the caused of dropped outs ?
 1. Yes, due to early pregnancy or needed to sustain their family. Early married individual chooses to drop outs.
 2. No, I have not encountered you dropping out with that kind of reason.
 3. I'm not sure
- 3) What is the proper marriageble age ?
 1. 12-17
 2. 18-24
 3. 25-30
- 4) In a young married couple, who do you think suffers more?
 1. The girl because early marriage indicates early pregnancy. Due to pregnancy, girls have no choice than to stop their study and be at home.
 2. The boy because he must immidiately find a source of income.
 3. Both of them because they will have different responsibilities on their shoulder.
- 5) Do you believe increasing early marriage affects the economical status of the community or society as a whole?
 1. Yes, the increasing engagement of the youth in this phenomenon affects our economical status. It adds human population which can results to scarcity of resources.
 2. No. It will not have any effect to the economical status of the community.
 3. Economical status problem will depend to the head of the community or society.
- 6) Will you agree that most heterosexual relationship happened without parent consent?
 1. Yes, most parents are not informed about the relationship of their children. Nowadays, youth tend to hide many things from their parents.
 2. No, I don't agee. Parents are always involve in their child's decisions.

3. It depends on the level of leniency of the parents.
- 7) Do you agree that divorce will highly happen in young married couple?
 1. Yes, I agree. Their incapability to meet the responsibilities of marriage and unstable decision making will resort to divorce.
 2. No, I don't agree. It was a choice which they can already handle.
 3. It will depend on the commitment of each individual. If they are committed to be with one another whatever imperfections they have or adversities they meet. It will never end up into divorce.
 - 8) Do you agree early marriage prevents youth from reaching their dreams ?
 1. Yes, it prevents them from reaching dreams and living their dreams because of the early responsibilities.
 2. No, they can still reach their dreams by persevering to continue their study despite of all the responsibilities.
 3. It depends on the individual
 - 9) Is education the solution/key to prevent childmarriage for this increasing phenomenon?
 1. Yes, education is the key to prevent early marriage. A well-education will give enough insight to the youth about the cons of early marriage.
 2. No, even well educated individual cannot escape from this phenomenon.
 3. I cannot decide
 - 10) Do you believe that unschooled individual had a higher chance of getting into early marriage?
 1. Yes, unschooled individual will have a higher chance of getting into early marriage due to ignorance and lack of goals in life.
 2. No, Chances og getting marriage is both High in those individual who are in school or not.
 3. It depends on individual
 - 11) Will you agree that schools must create programs with regards to early marriage?
 1. Yes, school must spearhead in creating programs to prevent or deteriorate early marriage.
 2. No, youth might misinterpret the vision of thre school in creating this kind of program or it can create confusion or curiosity which can mislead them.
 3. Maybe, it depends on the preparation or vision of the school in implementing such program.
 - 12) Does early marriage neglects children's right?
 1. Yes, it neglects children's right. Also, it hinders children in reaching their dreams and having a brighter future.
 2. I don't think so even they are married, they can still pursue their dreams.
 3. It depends on the individual