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## Factors Associated with Early Marriage of Chandannath Municipality Ward-3, Jumla

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### Abstract

**Introduction:** Early marriage is defined as the marriage or union between two people in which one or both parties are younger than 18 years of age. In Nepal, it is estimated that over 1.3 million adolescent girls are at risk of being married as children. Women aged 15-19 years almost a quarter are already married, while nearly half of those aged 20-49 were married before their 18th birthday. Child marriage is a serious violation of a girl's human rights, denying her voice, choice and control, robbing her of the right to choose her own future. So, this study was conducted to find out the knowledge regarding consequences and various factors associated with early marriage among parents and social leaders of Chandannath Municipality, Jumla.

**Material and Methods:** The study assesses the factors associated with early marriage of Chandannath Municipality ward 3, Jumla. Quantitative and descriptive, cross-sectional study was carried out and primary data collected through interview method. The study was a census study. Data was collected only from parents who had at least one child married. Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) in the computer was used to get the necessary results or outcomes of the research conducted.

**Results:** Among 304 households there are 158 households having married children and among them 81 were early married. Among total 51.2% household have early married cases.

**Conclusion:** In this study, - love marriage/self-initiated marriage, fun and curiosity, role of peer, use of mobile and technology, family culture and family income are the major factors leading early marriage.

**Keywords:** Factors, Early marriage

### INTRODUCTION

According to Constitution of Nepal 2072, the term 'early marriage' is used to refer to both formal marriages and informal unions in which a girl or boy lives with a partner as if married before the age

priority for daughters, lack of access to education are the contributory factors, while the caste system and patriarchal culture similarly play important roles [2,3].

Early marriage effectively ends a girl's childhood, curtails her education, minimizes her economic opportunities, increases her risk of domestic violence, and puts her at risk for early, frequent, and very high-risk pregnancies. Globally, one in every five girls is married before reaching age 18. In the least developed countries, that number doubles, i.e., 40 percent of girls are married before age 18, and 12 percent of girls are married before age 15. South Asia has the highest rates of child marriage in the world. Almost half i.e., 45% of all women aged 20-24 years reported being married before the age of 18. Almost one in five girls i.e., 17% are married before the age of 15 [4, 5, 6].

Many factors are responsible for placing a child at risk of marriage before age 18. Including poverty, the perception that marriage will provide protection to girl's child, family honor, and social norms. Child marriage is more common among poorer households, with many families marrying off their daughters to reduce their perceived economic burden. According to the NDHS 2016 report: Among women aged 25-49, 13% were married by age 15, while only 3% of men married that young. Fifty-two percent of women were married by age 18, as compared with 19% of men. Seventy-one percent of women aged 25-49 were married by age 20, far higher than the 38% of men who were married by that age. According to the census 2011, there are 55,442 children out of the total population of 118,000 and of which 69% of children are being victim of child marriage [2, 7, 8, 9].

Child marriage is a social problem which can threaten girls' lives and health, and it also limits their future prospects. Early marriage is the product of poverty and gender inequality. Girls who got early marriages tend to be less educated, unaware, and more likely to live in rural areas. The general objective of this article is to assess factors associated with early marriage of Chandannath Municipality ward 3, Jumla.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was quantitative and descriptive, cross-sectional study. Primary data collection was done through an interview method. The study site was Chandannath Municipality ward -3, Jumla. It is the rural area of our country where the rate of early marriage is comparatively high. It lies in western part of the country.

**Research design:** Community based cross-section study.

**Research methods:** Quantitative methods was taken with the help of bottle neck technique by taking ward office as center.

**Study area:** The study conducted on parents who had at least one child married at Chandannath Municipality, ward no-3, Jumla.

**Sample size:** Census (n=304)

**Sample technique:** All parents who had at least one child married at Chandannath Municipality, ward no-3, Jumla, by bottle neck technique.

**Inclusion criteria:** Participant of study should be permanent resident from ward and had at least one child married. Those who gave consent.

**Exclusion criteria:** Parents having children but none of them get married.

**Ethical consideration:** Ethical clearance letter was taken from Chakrabarti HaBi Education Academy (Ref: 106-077/078) Formal permission was taken from concern ward office. Written informed consent was taken from each Participant. Participants were assured

as information received from them was used for research purpose only. Participants dignity was maintained by providing right to withdraw from the interview at any time. Confidentiality of the participants was highly maintained.

## RESULTS

Table 1 shows that 32.60% of respondents were under 40-49 years of the age. The 46% of the respondent's husband had basic education but 51% of the respondent's mothers had only informal education. Regarding sources of information about early marriage, most of the respondents get information from radio/television i.e 57.70%

**Table 1: Demographic information of respondent**

	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Age of the respondents</b>		
20-29	31	10.20
30-39	84	27.60
40-49	99	32.60
50-59	70	23.00
60-69	14	4.60
70 above	6	2.00
Total	304	100
Mean age 45, Std. Deviation 11.082, Minimum 20 years, Maximum 75 years		
<b>Education status of the husbands</b>		
Illiterate	25	31.00
Informal education	5	6.00
Basic education	37	46.00
Secondary education	10	12.00
Higher secondary education	3	4.00
Bachelor and above	1	1.00
Total	81	100
<b>Education status of the mothers</b>		
Illiterate	36	44.00
Informal education	41	51.00
Basic education	3	4.00
Secondary education	0	0.00
Higher secondary education	1	1.00
Bachelor and above	0	0.00
Total	81	100
<b>Sources of information about early marriage (multiple response)</b>		
Radio/ Television	79	57.70
School teacher	13	9.70
Neighbor/ Friends	9	6.60
Children	11	8.00
Health Persons	21	15.30
Self-realization	4	2.90
Total	137	100

Table 2 shows that, among 304 participants, first child marriage was 32%, of age 16-18 years. Proper marriage time was 65%, of age 19 or more. Second child early marriage was 28%, of age below 18 years and proper marriage time was 72%, of age 18 and above years. The only 1 participant's child which have sixth child,

get married when child was more than 18 years of age. So majorities of participants child get married at proper time (18 years and above) and still 113 participants child get early marriage.

**Table 2: Age at marriage of respondent's children**

Age of marriage	Early marriage case		
	Yes	No	
	Frequency	Frequency	
<b>First child (n=158)</b>	12-15	6 (4.00%)	0 (0.00%)
	16-18	50 (32.00%)	0 (0.00%)
	19 & above	0 (0.00%)	102 (65.00%)
<b>Second child (n=106)</b>	Below 18 (1 child got married at 14)	30 (28.00%)	0 (0.00%)
	18 above	0 (0.00%)	76 (72.00%)
<b>Third child (n=64)</b>	Below 18	21 (33.00%)	0 (0.00%)
	18 above	0 (0.00%)	43 (67.00%)
<b>Fourth child (n=22)</b>	Below 18	3 (14.00%)	0 (0.00%)
	18 above	0 (0.00%)	19 (86.00%)
<b>Fifth child (n=5)</b>	Below 18	3 (60.00%)	0 (0.00%)
	18 above	0 (0.00%)	2 (40.00%)
<b>Sixth child (n=1)</b>	18 above	0 (0.00%)	1 (100%)
<b>Total</b>		113 (100%)	243 (100%)

Table 3 shows that factors associated with early marriage was high in love 19.10% followed by fun/curiosity 16.50% and only 0.70% was associated with gender inequality. The factors that lead child to get early marriage was high in child-initiated marriage 49.50% followed by role of peer 10.50% and only 1% unemployment was the least common factors that lead the child to get early marriage.

**Table 3: Factors associated with early marriage and leads their child to get early marriage**

	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Factors associated with early marriage</b>		
Gender inequality	3	0.70
Parental education	21	5.00
Family culture/religion	39	9.20
Role of peers	66	15.60
Fun/curiosity	70	16.50
Use of mobile and internet	61	14.40
Love	81	19.10

Family income	24	5.70
Family dispute (Family Tragedy)	25	5.90
Unemployment	11	2.60
Drop out	17	4.00
Never attended school	6	1.40
Total number of responses	424	100%
<b>Factors that lead their child to get early marriage (Multiple response)</b>		
Family culture/religion	9	9.50
Family dispute	6	6.30
Family income	9	9.50
Parental education	3	3.20
Child-initiated marriage	47	49.50
Fun and curiosity	5	5.30
Role of peer	10	10.50
School drops out	2	2.00
Unemployment	1	1.00
Use of mobile and internet	3	3.20
Total	95	

Table 4 shows that low education status of the community 38.90% was the most common reasons behind early marriage. Awareness programs on factors and consequences of early marriage 34.50% was most common method to control early marriage.

**Table 4: Reasons behind early marriage and control of early marriage**

## DISCUSSION

Early marriage is one of the serious problems of our western development region. Girls with little or no education are more likely to be married as children, suffer from domestic violence, live in poverty, and unable to make economic decisions for their own health care which harms them, their children, and the communities [10]. Early marriage is still a public health problem because in many rural areas there are still high incidences of early marriage. Its prevalence is high in Terai and western development regions.

The present study it was found that majorities of the respondents were under 40-49 years of age. Parent education is the one of the strong factors associated with early marriage. Maximum respondents husband had basic education 46.00% and only 51.00% of the respondents mother had only informal education. First child marriage was 32%, of age 16-18 years. Proper marriage time was 65%, of age 19 or more. The only 1 participant's child which have sixth child, get married when child was more than 18 years of age. So majorities of participants child get married at proper time (18 years and above) and still 113 participants child get early marriage.

Early marriage was high, in love 19.10% cases. The factors that lead child to get early marriage was high in child-initiated marriage 49.50% and only 1% unemployment was the least common factors that lead the child to get early marriage. Low education status of

the community 38.90% was the most common reasons behind early marriage. Awareness programs on factors and consequences of early marriage 34.50% was most common method to control early marriage.

## CONCLUSION

According to the study among 304 households there are 158 households having married children and among them 81 were early married. It means among total married households 51.2% households have early married cases. Headquarter of Chandannath Municipality is located in Ward-3. There is quality education and health facilities in comparison to other rural parts of Karnali Province.

According to study results, we can see many of women have got informal education or prauth shiksha (51%) and many of male have basic education (46%). From this, we can conclude that they can read and write and could understand information related to early marriage that was given by many methods and Medias. When talking about sources of information, the local radio broadcast service seems effective because many respondents got information on early marriage from radio. Study shows that, the main reasons behind early marriage in this ward are - love marriage. Only a few parents accepted that they got their child married before 18 years of age due to culture/religion. According to respondents, education status of people, culture and development status are the main reason behind high early marriage cases in mid-western development region. According to them, awareness program on factors and consequences of early marriage, introducing strict rules against early marriage, education to children including girls child and education to parents probably reduce or control early marriage cases in that region.

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