

Causes of Early Marriage on Socio-Ecological Levels

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Abstract

A quantity of child brides in the world is currently estimated at 650 million and UNICEF (2018) recommends that to end the practice of child marriage by 2030 according to the SDG's target, progress in reducing child marriage rates must be accelerated significantly, which is 12 times faster or more than 150 million additional girls will be married before their 18th birthday in 2030. Approaches from various socio-ecological levels can help understand a phenomenon in society and the impact of potential prevention strategies. *Methods:* This study uses a review of international articles. The articles used are sixteen articles published in the last ten years. *Result:* Individual levels that impacts early marriage are education, internal factors, and Working female job status. At the Relationship level that affects the level of education and religiosity of spouses and families, Parental roles and autonomy in decision-making, wealth, Relationships between 2 families, girls' high-risk sexual relationships. At the Community level, the influencing factors are social stigma, agents of solicitations for early marriage proposals, and Disappointment with continuing education. At the Societal level, the influences are geographic location, social culture, and legislation. *Conclusion:* The causes of early marriage are interrelated and influence each other at each level, both at the individual, relationship, community and societal levels. For this reason, it is hoped that women and children observers as well as the government can carry out comprehensive interventions through a socio-ecological approach in an effort to reduce the number of early marriages so that the Millennium Development Goals are achieved.

Keywords

early marriage; child marriage;
socio-ecology



I. Introduction

Early marriage is a global problem that truly cuts across countries, cultures, religions and ethnicities. The number of child brides in the world is currently estimated at 650 million, including married girls under the age of 18, and adult women who married in childhood. Global distribution of women who first married or married before the age of 18, by region i.e. South Asia (44%), Sub-Saharan Africa (18%), East Asia and Pacific (12%), Latin America and the Caribbean (9%), Middle East and North Africa (5%) and other regions (12%).(UNICEF, 2018)

UNFPA (2012) explains that ending child marriage will help countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and should be a top priority on the development agenda. UNICEF (2018) recommends that to end the practice of child marriage by 2030, according to the targets set out in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) progress in reducing child marriage rates should be significantly accelerated. Global progress will need to be 12 times faster than the rate observed over the last decade to meet elimination targets by 2030.

Without further acceleration, more than 150 million additional girls will be married before their 18th birthday by 2030.

Cross-sectoral policies are needed to delay marriage, including increasing the legal minimum age for marriage so that girls are also entitled to education, health, social skills and livelihoods to become empowered citizens (UNFPA, 2012). In line with this, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and WHO (2016) also recommend that legal, cultural, social and economic determinants need to be addressed comprehensively, using a holistic approach. Approaches from various socio-ecological levels can help understand a phenomenon in society and the impact of potential prevention strategies. Strategies to end early marriage include supporting and enforcing a law to increase the minimum age of marriage for girls to 18 years. Human Resources (HR) is the most important component in a company or organization to run the business it does. Organization must have a goal to be achieved by the organizational members (Niati et al., 2021). Development is a change towards improvement. Changes towards improvement require the mobilization of all human resources and reason to realize what is aspired (Shah et al, 2020). The development of human resources is a process of changing the human resources who belong to an organization, from one situation to another, which is better to prepare a future responsibility in achieving organizational goals (Werdhiastutie et al, 2020).

Humans and the environment interact with each other resulting in the occurrence of a phenomenon dynamically and interactively. The environment in this case is not only the physical environment but also includes the social environment that has multiple levels or arrangements including personal, family, personal and community interactions, social institutions and organizations and a broader order at the meso level, national level policies. City and local with regard to the physical and social environment. As well as in an effort to achieve the target or target of changing a phenomenon, individual and contextual changes are simultaneously more effective and greater in achieving goals than individual approaches. (Stokols, 1998)

Reviewing the phenomena that occur, this article will discuss the causes of early marriage in terms of individual, household and community level. This article is expected to be a consideration for the government in making a program.

II. Research Method

This literature review was searched using electronic databases such as Pro-Quest, Google Scholar, Google Scholar, PubMed, Science Direct, ijern, and also Springerlink. A literature review was carried out on articles published in the last ten years. The keywords used to search are determinants of early/child marriage, early/child marriage factors, early/child marriage causes. There were 41 scientific articles, then 16 articles were selected according to what had been determined to compile the literature review. The inclusion criteria of the selected articles are international articles and discuss the causes of early marriage. The results of this literature review are used to describe the causes of early marriage so that it can be used to assist the government or child and female agencies in an effort to reduce the incidence of early marriage which can help the country achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

III. Result and Discussion

Early marriage has become a phenomenon in society so that the causes of early marriage cannot be discussed only from one point of view. Because according to Stokols (1998): 1) Humans and the environment interact with each other resulting in the occurrence of illness and health dynamically and interactively. 2) The environment in this case is not only the physical environment but also includes the social environment that has multiple levels or arrangements including personal, family, personal and community interactions, social institutions and organizations and a broader order at the meso level, policy level national, city and local aspects related to the physical and social environment. 3) Individual and contextual changes simultaneously are more effective and achieve greater goals than individual approaches. These are the three principles in the socio-ecological approach.

CDC (2004) uses a four-level socio-ecological model to better understand a phenomenon and the effects of potential prevention strategies. This model considers the complex interactions between individual, relationship, community, and social factors. This allows us to understand the various factors that put people at risk for doing this.

Table 1. Study characteristics of 16 included articles in the literature review

No	Author	Year	Location	Study Type	Data Collection Source	Method
1.	Talukder <i>et al.</i> , 2019	2020	Bangladesh	Quantitative	Bangladesh DHS (2014)	Cross-sectional
2.	Modak, 2019	2019	India	Quantitative	DLHS-4 data	Three models of regression
3.	Malik, Nadeem, and Adil., 2022	2022	Pakistan	Quantitative	Pakistan DHS (2017-18)	Descriptive statistics, association tests, and logistic regression.
4.	Misunas <i>et al.</i> , 2021	2021	Burkina Faso and Tanzania	Quantitative	the Building Evidence to Delay Child Marriage Project in Burkina Faso and Tanzania	Logistic regression models.
5.	Mirzaee, et al., 2021	2021	Maneh and Samalqan, Iran	Qualitative	179 participants	Semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions
6.	Bhandari., 2019	2019	Nepal	Qualitative	60 schoolgirls from grade 9 to 10.	semi-structured interviews and conventional content analysis.
7.	Edmeades, MacQuarrie, and Acharya., 2021	2021	10 Countries	Quantitative	DHS and publicly available national-level data and presented in scatterplots	linear regression line.
8.	Motazeri., et al., 2016	2016	Iran	Qualitative	fifteen participants with purposeful sampling method	Semis-structured interviews and conventional content analysis.
9.	Rohmayanti and Mareta., 2019	2019	Magelang, Indonesia	Qualitative	8 people use snowball technique	semi-structured interviews and conventional content analysis.
10.	Jisun, 2016	2016	Bangladesh	Quantitative	Bangladesh DHS (2011)	Cross tabulation, Chi-Square tests and Logistic regression.
11.	Tekile, Woya and Basha., 2020	2020	Ethiopia	Quantitative	Ethiopian DHS (2016)	bivariate and multivariable binary logistic regression model cross-sectional
12.	Bezie and Addisu, 2019	2019	Ethiopia	Quantitative	373 women	
13.	Alem., et al., 2020	2020	Ethiopia	Quantitative	Ethiopian DHS (2016)	Multilevel logistic regression model
14.	Rumble., et al., 2018	2018	Indonesia	Quantitative	Indonesian DHS and the Adolescent Reproductive Health Survey (2012)	Multivariate models

*DHS : Demographic Health Survey

The four levels are described with the results of the journal reviews that have been collected in table 1, namely:

3.1 Individual

The first level identifies biological and personal historical factors that influence how individuals behave and increase their likelihood of deciding whether or not to comply with a regulation, including in early marriage (CDC, 2004). Things that affect the occurrence of early marriage at the individual level based on the results of journal reviews are:

a. Education

Based on the journals that have been collected, almost all the research conducted states that the level of education is very influential on the occurrence of early marriage. The higher the level of education, the lower the chances for early marriage, including literacy and literacy levels (Talukder et al., 2019; Malik, Nadeem, and Adil., 2022; Rohmayanti and Mareta., 2019; Jisun, 2016; Tekile, Woya and Basha., 2020; Alem et al., 2020; Bolarinwa et al., 2022; Hotchkiss et al., 2016).

Research in Bangladesh states that women with a secondary education were 45% less likely to engage in early marriage than women with no primary education, and women with above secondary education women were 9% less likely to be involved in early marriage compared to women with primary or no education (Talukder, 2019).

b. Internal factors

Based on the journals that have been collected, there are internal factors that influence the occurrence of early marriage, including the desire of the girl child, emotional, the timing of girls' sexual initiation and sexual needs.

Research in Tanzania and Burkina Faso states that early sexual initiation among girls was common and strongly associated with marriage during childhood (Misunas, 2021).

c. Working female job status

Job-status is another important determinant of early age marriages in research in Pakistan, the results indicate that as compared to working respondents, the respondents who are not working, are more likely to get married at an early age (Malik, 2022). Jisun's research (2016) in Bangladesh also agrees that early marriage among women who are unemployed and who are involved in agriculture based professions were 2,312 and 1,333 times higher and insignificant than the professional women.

3.2 Relationship

The second level discusses close relationships that can increase the risk of early marriage. Friends, partners, and immediate family members from one's social circle influence their behavior and contribute to their experiences. (CDC, 2004). Things that affect the occurrence of early marriage at the individual level based on the results of journal reviews are:

a. Educational level of spouse and family

The education level of spouses and families, especially parents, both formal and non-formal, greatly influences the decision for an early marriage. Research in Bangladesh shown that occurrence of early marriage is 1,796, 1,828 and 1,396 times more likely for those whose husbands have no education, primary and secondary education in comparison to those whose have higher education. (Jisun, 2016)

Non-formal educational level of the father was stated to have an effect on the incidence of early marriage in research in Ethiopia (Bezie and Addisu, 2019). In addition, another cause of early marriage is parents' unawareness about the consequences of early marriage (Mirzaee, 2021).

b. Couple and family religiosity

Religion has the significant effect on early marriage, namely Muslim women were 2,169 to get married earlier than non-Muslims (Jisun, 2016). Females who were followers of Hinduism or other religions were less likely to be involved in early marriage compared to females who belonged to the Muslim community (Talukder, 2019)

For most participants, marriage-connected decision-making was influenced by the adherence to religious beliefs. Mother and grandmother advised girl to marry as soon as possible because marriage is one of our prophet's recommendations” (Motazeri., et al., 2016).

c. Parental roles and autonomy in decision-making

The study results revealed that the participants intended to postpone their marriage but some determinants such as family structure, low autonomy in decision-making, and “forced marriage” (Motazeri (2016) and Mirzaee (2021)).

The role of parents is very significant in making decisions related to early marriage practices (Rohmayanti and Mareta., 2019). The decision to do an early marriage was made by parents. The odds of early marriage among women whose first marriage decision was made by their parents and relatives were 1.88 and 2.16 times higher than compared to those whose decision was made by themselves, respectively (Alem., et al., 2020).

d. Richness

Several journals agree that ownership of family wealth is the reason for early marriage, especially in poor families. Meanwhile, families with better household wealth status have fewer opportunities for early marriage (Talukder (2019), Malik (2022), Rohmayanti (2019), Bolarinwa (2022), and Hotchkiss (2016)).

Early marriage is strongly influenced by the financial capability of families and family monthly income (Mirzaee (2021) and Tekile (2020)). For example, research in Ethiopia states that what affects the occurrence of early marriage is the family's average monthly income <1000 Ethiopian birr and family size 7 so unable to cover to educate all children (Bezie, 2019).

e. Relationship between 2 families

Maintaining a good relationship between 2 families makes early marriage a binder. In fact, research reveals that the most reasons for early marriage are up to 74%, namely Increase bonding between two families (Bezie, 2019).

f. Girls' high-risk sexual relationships.

Bezie (2019) and Mirzaee (2021) in their research revealed that "parents' concern about girls' high-risk sexual relationships. Here is very important the value of virginity ". In addition, Misunas (2021) revealed that parents' fear of premarital sex and pregnancy also emerged as a significant factor in early marriage.

3.3 Community

The third level explores communities such as schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods, in which social relationships occur and seeks to identify characteristics at these levels that are associated with these phenomena. Strategies to achieve regulatory compliance at this level come from the social and physical environment (CDC, 2004).

a. Social stigma

Social stigma seems to be very significant for early marriage actors at the community level. This social stigma seems to make early marriage mandatory. Because, “Social stigma of being unmarried”, “fear of losing the ideal marriage opportunity or fear of staying single” are the reasons for the early marriage (Mirzaee, 2022)

- b. Agent of solicitations for marriage proposal
The community seems to be targeting girls who have their thirteenth birthday to be then matched. The girls noted that the primary agents of solicitations for marriage proposals to a family are their society, neighbors, senior citizens in their community, relatives and religious leaders (Bhandari, 2019).
- c. Disappointment with continuing education
Finding a job is much tougher for women than it is for men in the study area. When women are employed, they must to work in low-quality jobs. Lack of job opportunities for university graduates has disappointed young people and families from continuing education (Mirzaee, 2021).

3.4 Social

The fourth level looks at the factors of the wider community that help create a climate in which the incidence of early marriage is encouraged or inhibited. These factors include social and cultural norms that support early marriage. Other major social factors include health, economy, education and social policies that help to maintain economic or social inequalities between groups in society. (CDC, 2004).

- a. Geographical location
Geographical location is an important factor that has a significant effect on the prevalence of early marriage. The results of a journal review state that in rural areas the incidence of early marriage is higher than in urban areas (Talukder et al., 2019; Misunas et al., 2021; Jisun, 2016; Tekile, Woya and Basha., 2020; Hotchkiss, et al. ., 2016). Women in rural areas were more likely to express the attitude that child marriage is acceptable (Rumble et al., 2018)
- b. Social culture
Social stigma at the community level develops into a social culture and is passed down from generation to generation. Rohmayanti (2020) in his research in Indonesia found that Parents will feel ashamed if their teenage daughters are not married because they will be considered as spinsters in the village and will be the subject of discussion by the villagers.
- c. Legislation
Regulations that have been drafted in such a way as to reduce the number of early marriages seem to be in vain if they are not implemented in the community. For example, Mirzaee (2021) research in Iran states that the minimum legal age for marriage for girls in Iran is 13 years. Moreover, the age of religious obligation is nine years. The law stipulates that girls between the ages of 9 and 13 can marry if they get permission from the family court. But In most cases, families don't register marriage when they want to marry their daughter under the age of 13, and it will be registered a few years later.

Family courts also go hand in hand with the local patriarchy of the community and facilitate the early marriage of girls. Family court judges are responsible for considering the best interests of the child in their decisions (Mirzaee, 2021)

Discussing the causes of early marriage above, it seems that each level is interrelated. For example, individuals with low levels of education have low autonomy in decision-making. The decision is completely up to the parents. Rohmayanti (2019) found that the role of parents is very significant in making decisions related to early marriage practices, their decisions are influenced by the local social culture and economic factors. For this reason, the CDC (2004) describes a socio-ecological model in the form of an overlapping ring that describes how factors at one level affect factors at another level.

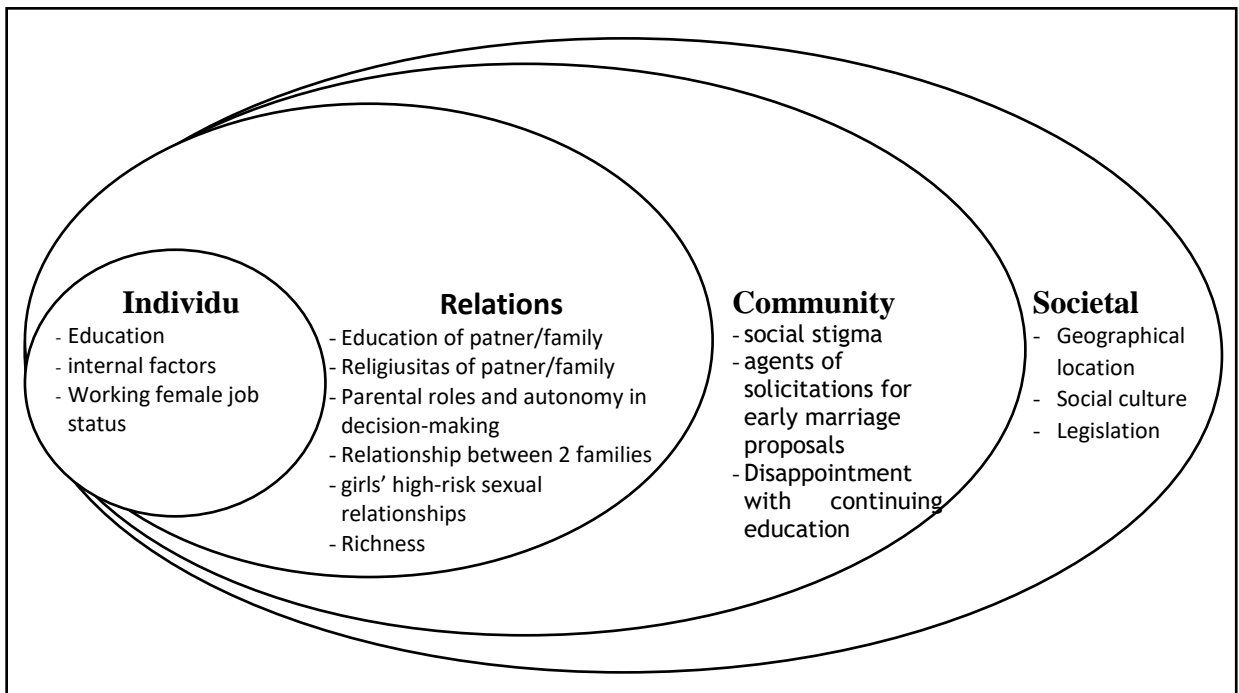


Figure 1. Causes of Early Marriage on Socio-Ecological Levels

The result of this article, namely the causes of early marriage, when described in a Socio-ecological model, is shown in Figure 1. In addition to helping clarify these factors, the model also suggests acting at various levels of the model at the same time. This approach is more likely to implement efforts over time than a single intervention.

IV. Conclusion

Turkey stands on the ruins of the Ottoman Empire, which ruled for nearly six centuries (1342-1924 AD). The Ottoman Empire reached its peak during the reign of Suleiman Akanuni. Istanbul, the capital of the Ottoman Empire, is one of the largest cities in the world. Turkey is so influential in Islamic-style countries in the Middle East, especially the Hijaz. But this glory slowly began to decline in 1571. As a result of attack after attack by the Portuguese and Russians, Ottoman Turks lost territory after territory. The Ottoman Empire was utterly ruined at the end of the early 19th century. The Turkish reform movement's emergence of the Tanzimat movement fostered a burning nationalist spirit that eventually abandoned its identity as an Islamic state. At its peak, the formation of a secular Turkish state, Mustafa, was led by Kamal Ataturk. The Ottoman Empire was officially abolished in 1922, forming the Republic of Turkey. Meanwhile. One of the essential acts of Westernization by the Kemalist regime was the adoption of Western laws and court systems. During 1924-1928, the government of Mustafa Kemal tried to abolish all institutions and symbols that referred to traditional Islam, which were considered to hinder the modernization of Turkey. After World War II, In 1983, democracy in Turkey was restored. Erdogan returned to politics through the Istanbul region's Welfare Party (Refah Partisi). On August 28, Erdogan was officially sworn in as the 12th President of Turkey. Erdogan's domestic political policies include: (a) Freeing education fees and (b)

Erdoan reinstating the old habit of teaching the Koran and Hadith in public schools. (c) The policy requires Islamic religious education from primary and secondary school to 12 levels. This is the new face of Turkey under Erdogan's political management, namely as a prophetic politics that leads to humanization, liberation, and transcendence.

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