



Effect of early marriage and its implication on girl child education in bade emirate. Yobe state, Nigeria

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Abstract

The Effect of Early Marriage and its Implications on Girl Child Education has been studied in Bade Emirate council which includes Bade and Jakusko Local Government Areas. An opinion survey research design was used in which a total of one hundred (100) respondents were randomly sampled (50 from each LGA). These consist of married and unmarried males and females aged between 14-25 years. A validated questionnaire was used as an instrument of data collection. The questionnaire is divided into two sections A and B, section A is for personal information while section B is for the four (4) figure scale (S.A = strongly agree, A = agree, S.D = strongly disagree, D = disagree). The result indicates that there are lots of negative social, educational and health implications on Girl Child that marry only in Bade Emirate Council as shown in Tables 1,2,3and 4.

Keywords: early marriage, education, implication, girl child, vasco virginal fistula.

Introduction

Early marriage is defined as a formal marriages or customary and statutory unions recognised as a marriage before the age of 18 (at 18 a girl is still considered a child under the convention on the right of the child except in countries where the age of maturity is lower): following marriage a girl is expected to set aside her childhood and assume the role of a woman, embarking immediately upon a life that include sex, motherhood and all the household duties traditionally expected of a wife. (Solivetti, 1994) ^[3]

Early marriage refers to any marriage of a child younger than 18 years in accordance to article 1 of convention on the rights of the child. (Unicef, 2005) ^[5]

Although early marriage extends to boys as well, the number of girls involved is far greater. According to an analysis of a household survey data for 49 developing countries conducted by Unicef (2005) ^[5], 48% of south Asia females aged 15-24 had married before the age of 18. The corresponding figures in the 29 countries far Latin America and the Caribbean are 42% and 29% respectively.

Early marriage can be a violation of children's basic right- to a childhood, to an education, to good health and to make decisions about their own lives, the physical, emotional and social effects of early marriage are varied, but one of the most common outcomes is the withdrawal of girl child from formal education. (Lewis, 2006) ^[2] Early marriage also has physical implications for young girl's notably pre-matured pregnancy and child birth, which entails vastly increased risk of maternal and neonatal mortality. Pregnancy-related death are the leading causes of mortality for 15-19 years old girls world-wide, either they are married or not and those under 15 are five times more likely to die than women in their 20's (Unicef, 2006) ^[6]

While early child marriage affects both sexes, girls are disproportionately affected as they are the majority of the victims. There overall development is compromised, living them socially isolated with little education, skills and opportunities for employment and self-realization. This leaves child bride more vulnerable to poverty, poor parental care, a consequence of child marriage as well as a cause. (Ichild network & support, 2017) ^[4] Early marriage is now widely recognised as a violation of children's right a direct form of discrimination against the girl child who as a result of the practice is often deprived of her basic rights to health, educational and social developments. Tradition, religious extremism and poverty continue to fuel the practice of child marriage, despite its strong association with adverse reproductive health outcomes and the lack of education of girl. (Ichild network & support, 2017) ^[4]

Studies indicates that women who marry at a young ages are more likely to believe that it is sometimes acceptable for a husband to bet his wife, and are therefore more likely to experience domestic violence themselves. Violent behaviour can take the form of physical harm, psychological attack, threatening behaviour and forced sexual acts including rape. (Ichild network & support, 2017) ^[4]

Child marriage is also a strategy for economic survival as families marry off their daughter at an early age to reduce their economic burden. (Unicef, 2016) ^[8]

Statement of the Problem

In addition to educational setback, early marriage vastly increases risk of maternal and neonatal mortality and is a leading cause of pregnancy-related deaths for 15-19 year old girls world-wide.

Objectives of the study

- To find out whether or not early marriage has an adverse effect on girl child education.
- To determine the causes of early marriage in Bade Emirate.

Significance of the study

- The result of the study will be used to advice the parents and the government on the adverse social, educational, economic and health setbacks associated with early marriage of girl child.
- Restraining from this allows girl child to pursue her education and go into economic business.

Methodology

An opinion survey research design was used to carry out the research work, among married and unmarried men and women of 14-25 years. The target of the study includes all the married and unmarried young girls and boys in Bade emirate council among which the sample of 100 respondents were randomly drawn for the study. 100 validated Questionnaires were used for the data collection. The questionnaire was divided into two sections A and B, section A is for personal information while section B is for the four (4) figure scale. Research assistants were used to assist the respondents in completing the questionnaire and retrieval of the

questionnaires. The 4 figure scale questions includes: S.A = strongly agree, A = agree, S.D = strongly disagree, D = disagree. The questionnaires were distributed to the respondents as mentioned earlier; the entire questionnaires were successfully retrieved. The data collected were analysed using percentages.

Result and Discussion

Table 1 below shows the result of reasons for early marriage, the result shows that 80% of the respondents strongly agreed that ignorance is one of the leading factors for early marriage, 70% of the respondents were of the opinion that poverty is also a factor that causes early marriage where poor parents give their daughters in marriage to wealthy people in the society, this corresponds to the findings of Lewis, (2006) [2] who stated that early marriage leaves amateur bride more vulnerable to poverty, which is a consequence of early marriage as well as a cause. Over 84% of the respondents strongly agreed agree that culture is also a major factor that influence early marriage in Bade emirate, while 76% of the respondents strongly agree that religion is another causes of early marriage, 60% of the respondents strongly agree that prestige is what causes early marriage in bade emirate as most parents prefer giving their daughters hand in marriage to someone who is rich or wealthy in anticipation for financial assistance at any time.

Table 1: Research question; what are the reasons for early marriage?

S/N	Reason	S. A	%	A	%	D. A	%	S. D	%
1.	Ignorance	80	80%	20	20%				
2.	Poverty	70	70%	30	30%				
3.	Culture	84	84%	16	16%				
4.	Religion	76	76%	24	24%				
5.	Prestige	60	60%			40	40%		

Table 2 below shows that 72% of the respondents strongly agree that early divorce is a leading problem of early marriage, 88% of the respondents strongly agree that early marriage causes poor parental care, 76% of the respondents strongly agree that mortality rate is the major problem caused by early marriage in Bade emirate this is in conformity with the findings of state of the world children, 2006 which says Early marriage also has physical implications for young girl’s notably pre-matured pregnancy and child birth,

which entails vastly increased risk of maternal and neonatal mortality. 70% of the respondents strongly agree that early marriage causes regret by the couples at a later time when they realised some of the implications it causes to them. 80% of the respondents strongly agree that early marriage causes birth complication this is also in conformity with the findings of state of the world children, 2006 were it says early marriage has physical implications for young girls notably pre-matured pregnancy and child birth complication.

Table 2: Early marriage is the cause of the following problems in a society

S/N	Problem	S. A	%	A	%	D. A	%	S. D	%
1.	Early divorce	72	72%	28	28%				
2.	Poor parental care	84	88%	16	16%				
3.	Mortality rate	76	76%	24	24%				
4.	The couples are regretting	70	70%	30	30%				
5.	Birth complication	80	80%	20	20%				

Table 3 below shows that early marriage is believed to entail the following problems; educational setback which was strongly agreed by 90% of the respondents, 80% of the respondents strongly believed that it leads to girl child drop out from school, 84% of the respondents strongly agree that early marriage leads to underdevelopment of the society, 70% of the respondents were of the opinion that early marriage is the cause of domestic

violence, this finding corresponds to the findings of 1child network & support which says Studies indicates that women who marry at a young ages are more likely to believe that it is sometimes acceptable for a husband to bet his wife, and are therefore more likely to experience domestic violence themselves. 80% of the respondents strongly agree that poor knowledge of health related problems is caused by early marriage

as girls who marry at a young age lack the knowledge of parenthood.

Table 3: Early marriage is believed to have the following implications

S/N	Implication	S. A	%	A	%	D. A	%	S. D	%
1.	Educational setback	90	90%			10	10%		
2.	Drop out	80	80%	20	20%				
3.	Domestic violence	70	70%			30	30%		
4.	Under development	84	84%	16	16%				
5.	Poor knowledge of health issues	80	80%			20	20%		

In Table 4 results indicate that 84% of the respondents strongly agreed that enlightenment by the government reduce early marriage related problems, literacy campaign can also reduce or prevent parents from indulging in such an act as 88% of the respondents strongly agree, 92% of the respondents were of the opinion that government should provide a backing law against early marriage in the society, 90% of the respondents strongly agree that proper counselling of the parents will solve early marriage related issues or problems, 80% of the respondents strongly agree that problem of early marriage in Bade emirate can be reduced through religious activities such as Da’ awa, Islamic/Christian symposium, Friday sermon and Sunday service.

Table 4: Can the following activities reduce early marriage related problems?

S/N	Solution	S. A	%	A	%	D. A	%	S. D	%
1.	Enlightenment by the government	84	84%			16			
2.	Literacy campaign	88	88%			12			
3.	Provision of law to back	92	92%			8			
4.	Proper counselling	90	90%			10			
5.	Religious activities	80	80%	10	10%	10	10%		

Conclusion

The result of the findings indicated that 90% of the respondents were of the view that early marriage is responsible for girl child educational setback, 80% of the respondents were of the view that early marriage brings about high rate of girl child dropout and poor educational background. 80% of the respondents were of the view that early marriage bring about birth related complications and increased child and maternal mortality. Based on the responses 80% of them were of the opinion that ignorance, poverty, religious and cultural traditions are the causes of early marriage in the study area.

Recommendation

It can be recommended based on the opinion of the respondents which indicates 80% believed that early marriage can be reduced by the following activities;

1. Enlightenment by the government
2. Literacy campaign
3. Provision of backing law against early marriage
4. Proper counselling of both the parents and the girl child, and
5. Religious activities

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