

PROBLEMS FACED BY MARRIED GIRL STUDENTS IN THEIR DAILY LIFE: A SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

C. GOBALAKRISHNAN¹ & K. SHUNMUGA PRIYA²

¹Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Periyar University, Salem, Tamil Nadu, India

²Student (Ex), Department of Sociology, Periyar University, Salem, Tamil Nadu, India

ABSTRACT

Dual carrier is always posing many problems to the concern individuals. The amount and nature of problem depends upon how the individual tackle the situation in a successful manner. The same type also arises in the life of the married girls students too. In their life they are facing many problems but basically two problems are major. The first one is they have to look after their family and the second one is they have to concentrate on their studies. The present paper deals about the problems face by married girl students in their daily life. The data were collected from 80 respondents by using snow-ball sampling method and the educational institutions were located in and around Salem city in Tamil Nadu.

KEYWORDS: Early Marriage, Married Girl Students, Daily Life and Problems

INTRODUCTION

Marriage is a social union between male and female. It can also be a legal contract. In order to govern this legal contact, every country has its own legal age for both male and female to marry. When any marriages conducted before this legal age is called as child marriage. In India, the legal age for male to marry is 21 years whereas for female it is 18 years. However it is advisable for both male and female to marry 24 and 21 years respectively. Because they are matured physiologically to lead a family life at this age only. The central and state governments also advise both male and female to marry 24 and 21 years respectively. Despite various efforts to control the child marriage, the practice is still prevalent in many parts of the country. In India, nearly half of young women (45 %) marry before the legal age of 18 years and this figure rises to 53 percent in rural areas (Moore et al., 2009).

Marriage at such early age exists because of several factors, which includes conventional gender norms, the value of virginity and parental concern regarding premarital sex, demand of marriage transaction, i.e. including dowry and poverty (Amin, Chong and Haberland, 2007). The marriage at an early age affects both male and female but female get more social, physical and psychological problems than male. Number of recent studies have narrated that early marriage is negatively related with health, education and economic outcomes of the girls (UNICEF, 2005; Mathur, Greene and Malhotra, 2003; Mensch, Singh and Casterline, 2005).

It is also argued that young women who get married early are more likely to experience of early school departure, lower earning capacity, early childbearing, repeated pregnancies, pregnancy complications, higher maternal and infant mortality (Singh and Samara, 1996; UNICEF, 2001; Miller and Lester, 2003). Jensen and Thornton (2003) mentioned that young who get married early are characterized by little decision-making power in the household and a greater likelihood of suffering domestic violence. Donaldson and Billy (1984) found that the offspring of younger women had consistently

lower birth-weights. Dixon-Mueller (1983) concluded that women who marry before age 19 have two or four times more children than those who marry after the age of 25.

METHODOLOGY

The universe for the present study is the girl students who are married in Salem. Similarly the students must pursue their degree courses in the regular mode either in the college or in the university. From the universe, there are three educational institutions have selected based upon its convenience and time. The selected educational institutions are Government College for Women, Salem, Sir Sakthi Kailash College of Arts and Science, Salem and Periyar University, Salem. From these three educational institutions, there are 80 respondents have been selected by using snow-ball sampling method. A structure interview schedule has been used as a tool of data collection. The interview schedule contains personal profile of the respondents, family particulars, age at marriage, opinion about suitable age for marriage, number of children, number of abortion, reasons for abortion, educational performance before and after marriage. Before collecting the data, the researchers established a good rapport with the respondents as well as created confidence among the respondents. The researchers spent 20 minutes to 30 minutes for each and every respondent. For analyzing the simple table, the researcher has used the percentile score, mean and standard deviation. For analyzing the two-way table, the researcher has used the chi-square techniques.

RESULTS

The age of the respondents is concerned, 37.5 per cent of the respondents are belonging to the age group of 20 – 22 years, each 25 per cent of the respondents are belonging to the age group of 18 – 20 years and 22 – 24 years respectively, and remaining 12.5 per cent of the respondents are belonging to the age group of 24 – 26 years. It is concluded that nearly two-fifth of the respondents are belonging to the age group of 20 – 22 years. The mean age of the respondents works out to 22.64 years with a standard deviation of 2.85.

With regard to respondents' age at marriage, 27.50 per cent of the respondents got marriage at the age of 19 years, 26.25 per cent of the respondents got marriage at the age of 20 years, 22.50 per cent of the respondents got marriage at the age of 18 years, 10 per cent of the respondents got marriage at the age 21 years, 7.5 per cent of the respondents got marriage at the age of 23 years and remaining 6.25 per cent of the respondents got marriage at the age of 22 years. The mean age at marriage works to 19.73 years with a standard deviation of 1.47.

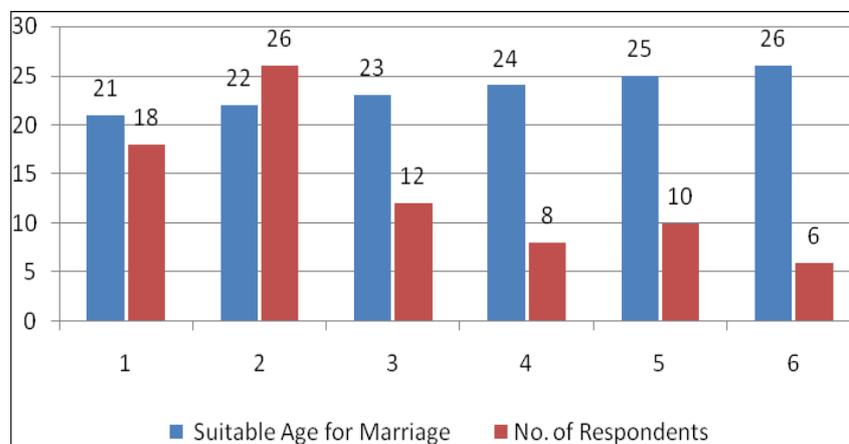


Figure 1: Distribution of the Respondents Based upon Their Opinion about Suitable Age for Marriage

The above Figure indicates that nearly one-third of the respondents (32.5 %) expressed that 22 years is the suitable age for marriage, nearly one-fourth of the respondents (22.5 %) mentioned that 21 years is the suitable age for marriage, 15 per cent of the respondents revealed that 23 years is the suitable age for marriage, 12.5 per cent of the respondents said that 25 years is the suitable age for marriage, 10 per cent of the respondents told that 24 years is the suitable age for marriage and remaining 7.5 per cent of the respondents indicated that 26 years is the suitable age for marriage. The respondents' opinion about mean suitable age for marriage works out to 22.80 years with a standard deviation of 1.58.

The respondents are asked about whether they have children and sex of the children, out of 80 respondents 60 respondents don't have any children, remaining 20 respondents 15 have male child and 5 have female child. These 20 respondents have conceived at the mean age of 20.47 years with a standard deviation of 1.32. Similarly the mean age of the children works out to 1.53 years with a standard deviation of 1.79.

With regard to present status of conception, nearly one-fourth of the respondents (22.5%) are conceived at present and more than three-fourths of the respondents (77.5 %) are not conceived at present. Among the respondents who are not conceived at present, more than three fifth of the respondents (61.29 %) mentioned that both husbands and themselves collectively decided to postpone the conception, more than one-third of the respondents indicated (35.48 %) that they themselves decided to postpone the conception and remaining 3.23 per cent of the respondents told that their husband only decided to postpone their conception.

With regard to abortion, nearly two-fifth of the respondents (37.50 %) mentioned that so far there was no abortion take place in their marital life, more than one-fourth of the respondents (28.50 %) indicated that they got abortion artificially by using pills, 11.50 per cent of the respondents reveals that they got abortion naturally either by heavy household activities or while traveling in the bus, and remaining 22.5 per cent of the respondents are presently conceived. Among the respondents who are experience of abortion in the marital life, 81.25 per cent of the respondents have had abortion in one time and 18.75 per cent of the respondents have had abortion in two times.

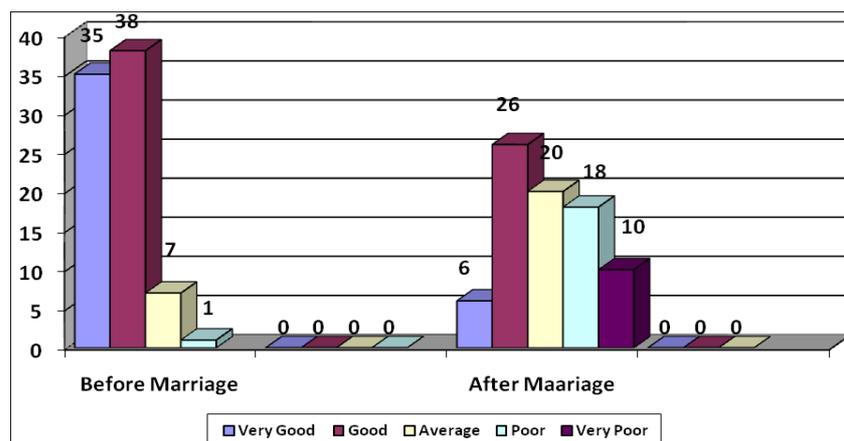


Figure 2: Distribution of the Respondents Based upon Their Level of Educational Performance before and after Marriage

The above Figure shows that more than two-fifth of the respondents (43.75 %) indicated that before marriage they performed very well in their studies but after marriage this percentage has been reduced to 7.5. Likewise nearly half of the respondents (47.5 %) mentioned that before marriage they performed well in their studies but after marriage this

percentage has been decreased to 32.5. On the other hand 7.5 per cent of the respondents revealed that before marriage their educational performance was average but after marriage this percentage has been increased to 25. Similarly before marriage 1.25 per cent of the respondents expressed that their educational performance was poor but after marriage this percentage has been increased to 22.5. Likewise before marriage none of the respondents mentioned that their educational performance was very poor but after marriage there are 12.5 per cent of the respondents mentioned their educational performance was very poor.

CONCLUSIONS

The results of the present paper show that the mean age at marriage of the respondents works out to 19.73 years. At the same time the respondents are also expressed that their opinion on the suitable age for marriage and they expressed that the suitable mean age for marriage is 22.80 years. Out of 80 respondents, 20 have children and these respondents conceived at the mean age of 20.47 years. Nearly one-fourth of the respondents (22.5 %) are conceived at present and 40 per cent of the respondents have had the experience of abortion and the mean age of the respondents works out to 22.64 years. Most of the respondents mentioned that after marriage they are not able to concentrate well in their studies. Thus the present paper concludes that the counseling and coping mechanism classes should be conducted in their institutions. The counseling may inculcate various safety methods of avoiding conception whereas the coping mechanism may concentrate how to cope up the real life situation in successful manner. Such two types of programs will enable the respondents to concentrate in their studies in best way and such type of education will empower them in their daily life.

LIMITATIONS

The present study conducted only minimum number respondents. For making generalizations of the conclusion then it required a considerable number respondents.

REFERENCES

1. Amin, S., Chong, E. and Haberland, N. (2007). Programs to Address Child Marriage: Framing the Problem. Retrieved from the Population Council web-site: <http://www.populationcouncil.org/pgy>
2. Dixon-Mueller R (1993). Population Policy and Women's Rights: Transforming Reproductive Choice. *Studies in Family Planning*, 24 (5), 269-282.
3. Donaldson P.J. and Billy J.O.G. (1984). The Impact of Prenatal Care on Birth Weight: Evidence from an International Data Set. *Medical Care*, 22 (2), 177-188.
4. Jensen R and Thornton R (2003). Early Female Marriage in the Developing World. *Gender and Development*, 11 (2), 9-19.
5. Mathur S., Greene M and Malhotra A. (2003). Too young to Wed: The Lives, Rights and Health of Young Married Girls. International Centre for Research on Women, citing Amin S et al. 1998. Transition to adulthood of female garment factory workers in Bangladesh. *Studies in Family Planning*, 21 (2), 185-200.
6. Mensch B.S., Singh S and Casterline J.B. (2005). Trends in the Timing of First Marriage among Men and Women in the Developing World. Lloyd C.B. et al (eds.) *The Changing Transition to Adulthood in Developing Countries: Selected Studies*, Washington, DC: The National Academic Press, 118-171.

7. Miller S and Lester F (December, 2003). Improving the Health and Well-being of Married Young First-time Mothers, Paper presented at the Technical Consultation on Married Adolescents, Organized by World Health Organization, Geneva, 9-12.
8. Moore A.M., Singh S, Ram U, Remez L and Audam S. (2009). Adolescent Marriage and Childbearing in India: Current Situation and Recent Trends. New York: Guttmacher Institute.
9. Singh S and Samara R (1996). Early Marriage among Women in Developing Countries. International Family Planning Perspectives, 22, 148-157.
10. UNICEF (March, 2001). Innocenti Research Centre, 2001. Early Marriage, Child Spouses: Innocenti Digest, No.7.
11. UNICEF (2005). Early Marriage, a Harmful Traditional Practice: A Statistical Exploration, 2005, New York, UNICEF.

