



Child Marriage in Bangladesh Due to The Result of Gender Inequality and Poverty: A Detrimental Issue to Society

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ABSTRACT

Child marriage, considering the girls under eighteen, is a substantial problem faced by many young girls each year. Even though child marriage is habitually accomplished to protect the physical security of young girls, marriage at these ages can posture various intimidations to their lives, wellbeing, and upcoming visions. In this journal I have focused the reasons and impact of child marriage in Bangladesh, while considered our social and economic aspect. Even though Bangladesh is a developing country, it has the eastern cultural impact as it is a part of south-east Asia. This piece of writing will present the demographic picture along with analysis, how the gender inequality, poverty, and social demand became a detrimental issue to the lives of young girls of Bangladesh.

Keywords: Demography, child-marriage, literacy, dwelling

INTRODUCTION

It is the most important obstacle to stop child marriage in Bangladesh as parents who choose to marry off girl children feel a genuine or alleged anxiety of sexual violence at the beginning of puberty of their daughter. Many married young girls experience and accept mental and sexual violence. Around 33 percent of young girls believe a husband is tolerable in beating his wife. Marrying children is also considered as sexual violence which is disagreeable by the majority of Bangladeshi parents. Therefore, the young women suffer from the risk of early pregnancy which impacts negative health condition. Girls are helpless in the matter of child marriage and hence their life is transferring into the context of natural disasters such as high density of population.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The females in the society of South East Asia are observed as financial burden to their family. Bangladesh is no exception to that and hence we observe the gender discrimination in our country regarding child marriage. The rate is decreasing over the past 30 years but very slowly. The two significant factors for child marriage are namely low literacy and poverty. Despite that fact it is practiced in all sorts of social backgrounds and boundaries. Parents intend to impose their influence in many decisions of their children's life in South Asian cultures and of those, the concern of marriage leads to the top. Girls are considered to be financial burden of the family since they are not encouraged to join the workforce in rural are. The gender discrimination becomes visible in the male dominating society. While a girl child reaches her puberty, parents worry about protecting her purity.

DATA & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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- Trends, patterns and determinants of marriage in Bangladesh, Population monograph, Volume-13.
- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 2019

METHODOLOGY

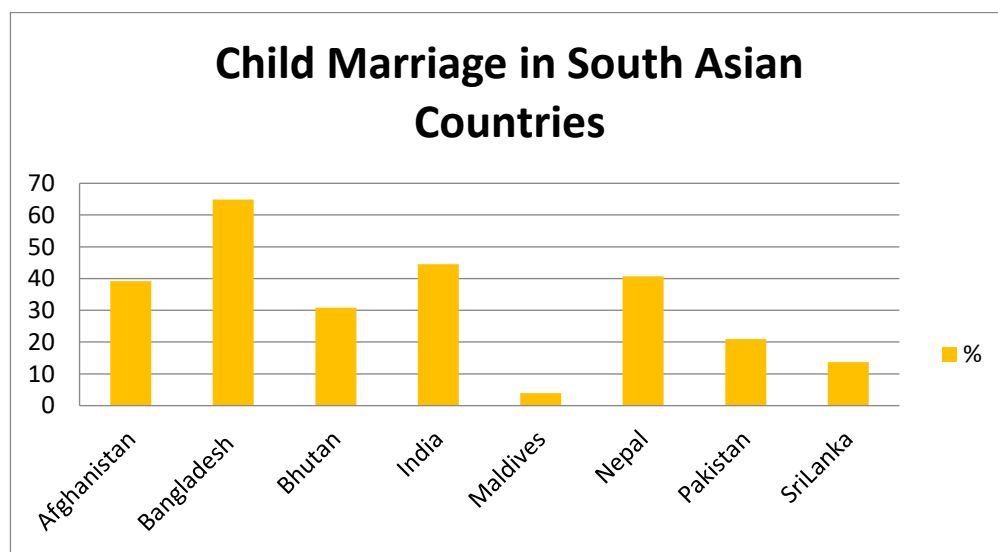
The trend of child marriage rate in the South Asian Countries have been observed based on the data collecting from Trends, patterns and determinants of marriage in Bangladesh, Population monograph, Volume-13. Later on, the focus of the demographic survey has conveyed to proportion of child marriage for under aged women classified under the divisions of Bangladesh while the observation has given attention to the place of residence and their dwelling status. Low literacy rate leads to early child marriage according to the report of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistic published in 2019. In this article the demographic statistical analysis has been executed.

Data 1

Child Marriage in South Asian Countries:

Source of Data: Trends, patterns and determinants of marriage in Bangladesh, Population monograph, Volume-13

Country	%
Afghanistan	39.2
Bangladesh	64.9
Bhutan	30.8
India	44.5
Maldives	3.9
Nepal	40.7
Pakistan	21
SriLanka	13.7

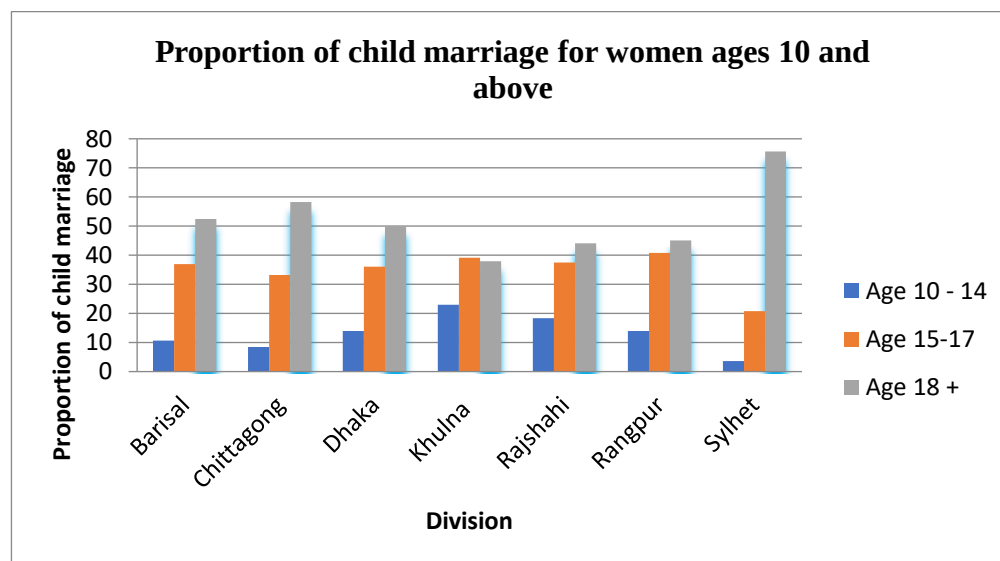


According to UNICEF report “Ending Child Marriage: A profile of progress in Bangladesh” based on the data from Bangladesh 2019 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, Bangladesh has the highest pervasiveness of child marriage in South Asia. According to the report 51% of young women are married in under 18. Thirty-eight million females out of the female population of Bangladesh are married before they turn 18 and thirteen million are married before they turn 15. It has been observed that the child marriage begins to decay for females who attend 10 years of schooling and pervasiveness falls below 50% amongst those with at least 12 years of schooling. The report also states that females with an education beyond secondary school are least likely to be victims, despite the fact that they live in poorer households and reside in rural areas. Approximately one in three child wives have a spouse who is at least 10 years older related to one in four young women who married in maturity.

Proportion of Child Marriage for Women Ages 10 and Above:

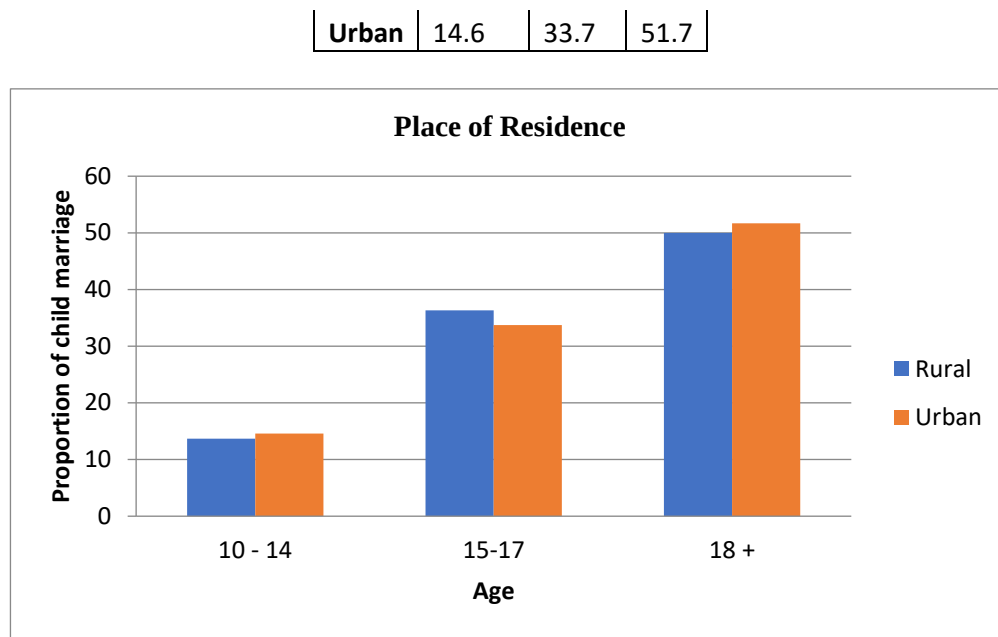
Source of Data: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics 2019

Division of BD	Age		
	10 - 14	15-17	18 +
Barisal	10.7	36.9	52.4
Chittagong	8.5	33.2	58.3
Dhaka	13.9	36.1	50
Khulna	23	39.1	37.9
Rajshahi	18.4	37.5	44.1
Rangpur	14	40.8	45.1
Sylhet	3.6	20.8	75.6



Place of Residence:

	Age		
	10 - 14	15-17	18 +
Rural	13.7	36.3	50



In Bangladesh, 51% girls are married before they turn 18 and 22% before 15. On the other hand, 4% of boys are married while they are minor.

Child marriage is commonly observed in rural areas as 60% of the female population under 18 are married in rural dwellings while 55% of under aged females of urban areas are married.

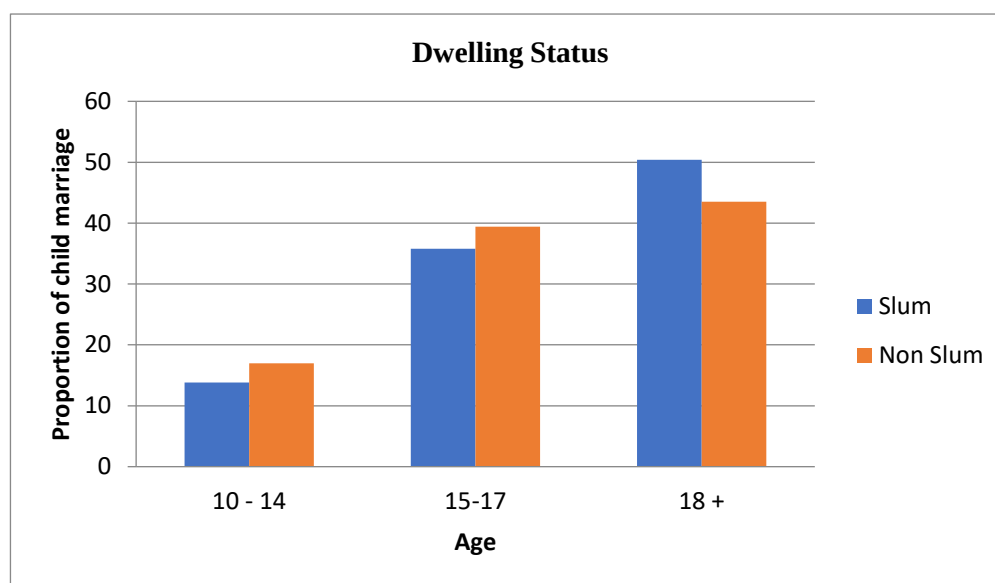
It has been observed that Rajshahi has the highest rates of child marriages as 70% of under 18 female population are married while Rangpur 67%, Barisal 65%, Mymensingh 64% Khulna 62% Dhaka 58% and Sylhet 35%.

Considering the female population of the country 38 million are married while they are minor (under 18) and 13 million are married before they turn 15.

According to the 2017 report of World Bank bases on the study of “International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)” the ending child marriage in Bangladesh could see a 12% upswing in earnings and efficiency for Bangladeshi women who married premature.

Dwelling Status:

	Age		
	10 - 14	15-17	18 +
Slum	13.8	35.8	50.4
Non-Slum	17	39.4	43.5



The slum areas are vivid in the big cities of Bangladesh mainly Dhaka and Chittagong. Lower class and lower middle-class household intend to live in the slum area where the cost of living is less compared to non-slum area.

Due to poverty young children, specially girls drop out of school, since the parents think it is better to invent the education cost on their sons rather daughters. Parents promptly accept marriage proposals.

Social insecurity is another important reason of early marriages of young girls. To avoid social violence, crimes and sexual harassments, fear of losing girl's family honor and growing occurrence of elopement due to love relationships among teenagers, there is a tendency of child marriage in the slum areas.

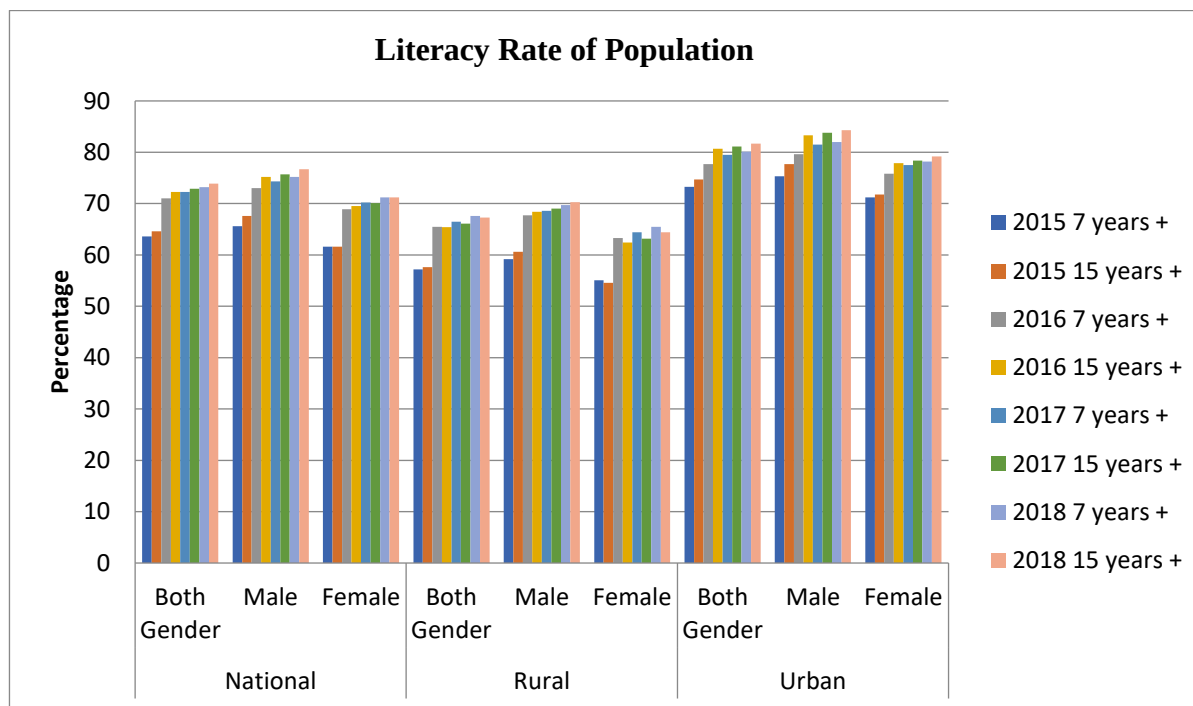
It has been observed that higher dowry is demanded for older girls. Patents are giving minor emphasis on daughter's education as they are not going to countable in terms of fulfilling financial need of the household. At their puberty, girls are considered matured enough to get married. Parents believe that the guardianship of a husband can protect their daughter from sexual violence. Therefore, the social and gender norms are also causing early marriages of female population in the slum areas.

Data 2

Literacy Rate of Population (Percent):

		2015		2016		2017		2018	
		7 years +	15 years +	7 years +	15 years +	7 years +	15 years +	7 years +	15 years +
National	Both Gender	63.6	64.6	71	72.3	72.3	72.9	73.2	73.9
	Male	65.6	67.6	73	75.2	74.3	75.7	75.2	76.7
	Female	61.6	61.6	68.9	69.5	70.2	70.1	71.2	71.2
Rural	Both Gender	57.2	57.6	65.5	65.4	66.5	66.1	67.6	67.3
	Male	59.2	60.6	67.7	68.4	68.6	69	69.7	70.3

	Female	55.1	54.6	63.3	62.4	64.4	63.2	65.5	64.4
Urban	Both Gender	73.3	74.7	77.7	80.7	79.5	81.1	80.1	81.7
	Male	75.3	77.7	79.6	83.3	81.5	83.8	82	84.3
	Female	71.2	71.8	75.8	77.9	77.5	78.4	78.2	79.2



The main problem for assessing the impression of child marriage on education accomplishment is that the decision by a girl or her guardians for an early marriage is a purpose of the termination of the process of her education. The girls who are academically weak intend to get married at their early age, since it is taken under consideration that they are not going to be the earning source for the family. These girls are more interested to get married rather continue the studies, also the parents find it not worth to spend money on their daughter's education, unless it comes convenient for the future. Hence the decision of education and marriage are made mutually.

Therefore, finding the active variable is important that clarify the decision of marriage rather than the education outcomes provisional on the choice of marriage.

CONCLUSION

Child marriage has huge undesirable impact on the young brides and their children and henceforth to the communities and societies as an entire. There are several issues that lashing the high frequency of child wedding in Bangladesh.

Gender discrimination influences social arrogances and customs that destruct girls at every phase of their lives and develops the country's enormously high rate of child marriage. Due to a handsome number of underprivileged dwellings in the society many parents find child

marriage is the best decision to protect their daughters' future. In fact, it is a good option to avoid the expenses of their daughter's feed and education also ensuing to safeguard their future.

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