



GIRL-CHILD MARRIAGE. A REVIEW ON ITS IMPLICATIONS IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This paper emphasizes on the implication of girl-child marriage on the girl-education. Globally this girl-child bridal violates international fundamental law, the implication for the girl-child brings dearth to schooling, self-control, also expose them to different infections i.e. vesicovaginal fistula, yet, in the third world state, young girls look at bridal by way of security for their future. The girl-child marriage violates the right of girls exposing them to danger as well as physically, emotionally disturbed therefore exit them informally without knowledge, skills, chances to work and be independent. These circumstances eventually create bridal to hardship. The present essay measured the rate of unwanted pregnancy, causes of girl-child marriage, its effect on education, strategies to control early marriages among secondary-school-age-girls. And also, culture and socio-economic condition parent were the major factors of girl-child marriage. The termination of education and delay in the educational pursuits are found to be a major effect on girl-child. Right to schooling and prevention campaigns were also found to be the main strategies that should be adopted in controlling girl-child marriage among secondary- school-age-girls.

Key words; Girl-child, Marriage, Bridal, Education, Poverty, Pregnancy,

1. INTRODUCTION

Many young ones go into the wedding been deprived of their right to choose. Several compulsory unions are impose to those child brides at a premature stage, are merely undeveloped to mark out well-versed choice around their life-spouse and also the consequence to get wedded early and then life for her will be convulsively terrible and also have high increased in reproductive health risk. UNICEF ^[1]critically analyzes, the sample size of the various state which child-bride take places below 18 years because of poverty, traditional and family pressure. The northern part of Nigeria called kebbi the standard period for the main wedding is 11 years, in Nepal is 19 years but 7% of child bridal are at 10 ages and 40% of girls-child are married at 15 years. In assessment to North America and Western Europe, child bridal is almost not practices and less than 1% of marriage involves younger daughters. The exercise of child bridal in Nigeria is widespread because Nigeria is separated on spiritual grounds. With the southern side been Christianity and northern Islam, however, the entire state is 'bound' by national constitution of Nigeria, some northern states in Nigeria practice sharia law. In Nigeria, the national act forbids child bride that stands below 18 years, however, those municipal that gears sharia rule does not forbid child bride. This inclines to form a clash of

acts and ethics and not the intervention of the central government. A child wedding is a customary bond that has been tolerable to live inside Nigeria. It was also emphasized that teenage marriage leads to paucity of developing societies which also become a problem to advanced nations while providing assistance. It was further stressed that the effects of teenage marriage on the life of the girl-child as creating a depressed and oppressed life to the victims. Islamic religion emphasized strength on early girl-child bridal practice, as well as conviction prohibits a teenage getting pregnant already before bridal. Teenage bridal has been in practice in Nigeria because Islam permits it on the condition that the teenage will be allowed to get matured enough to fulfil marital conditions. Concludes that most of these decisions are taken without the approval of the child.

2.OBJECTIVE/ METHODOLOGY

The aim of this study is to examine the impact of child marriage on their education and also to assess the socio-economic and consequences of the child bridal. The methodology source of this paper is based on secondary data form review literatures.

3. CONCEPT OF MARRIAGE

Marriage is seen as a union of single or more people that is accepted by custom or law'.Ging ^[2] defined marriage as 'a combination of representative of two different cognomens in relationship and in affection in order to continue the future of the former stages and to secure those who shall preside at the sacrifices to heaven and earth at those in their ancestral and those at the altar to the spirit of the land grain'. Gbile ^[3] definite marriage as 'matter of the relationship between man and woman.

4. CAUSES OF CHILD MARRIAGE

Main reasons for child bridal in Nigeria are as follows;

4.1Poverty in the country; child marriage happens mostly in rural areas. Most people who live in rural areas are struggling to survive. Girls suffer from it because they often get married against their will at the age of 10 years or even younger. The humanitarian crisis in Northeastern Nigeria let more than two million people displaced since 2016 families facing extreme poverty and living in refugee camps marry off their daughters because they lack alternate survival choices.

4.2 Gender inequality; there are still rural areas with ancient beliefs often people are influenced that boy child is good luck while girl child is not and she can only be used as a wife. Girls are not accepted as equal partners within marriage which contribute to a sense of low-self-worth political and economies. Some girl is married off by their parent to improve political and social alliances with rich families to increase their economic status.

4.3 Violence against girls; 276 Chibok School girls were abducted in 2014 by Boko haram, girls have been kidnapped and married off to Boko haram man, they attempt to dismay the communities and attract male recruits who are awarded 'wives' if they fight some parent have been killed for refusing to marry their daughters.

4.4 Insecurity; The female harassment rate keeps growing families are concerned about the future of their daughters, they arrange her marriage with the belief that she is in safe hands without any problem in the future.



4.5 Cultural traditions; Belief in different communities can vary some of them are based on old traditions and the communities are unwilling to change their lifestyle. As a result of this belief, children are getting married early.

4.6 Education; people are not educated on the implication of post-marriage and the consequences that will reason into health issue like, childbirth complication and also due to lack of education people tend to hold on to much unhealthy traditional belief.

5. CONSEQUENCE OF GIRL-CHILD MARRIAGE

Child marriage has a certain influence on those who are subjected to it, the consequences as follows.

5.1 Health risk; the child bride is exposed to sexual termitesdisease; Akpan ^[4]due to numerous associates between husbands with many wives. It is mostly recognized that childbearing between girls age 15-17 increases the hazard of dying gestation associated with the root contrast to girls in their twenties. Medical institution studies from Nepal have shown a linkamongadolescent pregnancies and pregnancy-induced hypertension and anemia the same studies found that fetal loss unusual parturition were higher among teenage mums.

5.2 Domestic violence; the girl-child is exposed to different can of abuses such as physically, emotionally, sexual, economically, etc. the husband and in-laws starts blaming the girls for everything after marriage, the child physiological health is still not strong in dealing with the complicated adult life, besides the violence against her can often result in physical and mental trauma.

5.3 Illiteracy; once the girls get married the parent stops educating her believing that she does not need education once she is married.

6. EFFECTS ON CHILD MARRIAGE

6.1 Economic effect; financial constraint is one of the major effect that extreme the girl –child to be considered as a monetary problem, UNICEF ^[5], destitution play a part in little girls wedding on usual ground for parent to inspire teenager in getting espouse, is trust that such bridal may ring both economic and public improvement to family.

6.2 Socio-cultural ideals; in a cultures, where premature bridal is widespread, there is heavy force on relatives to adapt the ancient idea of a perfect time for wedding the want for obedient partners, and other traditional obligations are all preserved in native customs or spiritual rules, Bayisenge ^[6]view main idea for ethics and integrity is a vitalissues that is supporting the custom of child bridal. The significance of keeping parentageintegrity and the great merit is put down to virginity, and pregnancy outside wedlock is not pleasing to many cultures. Yet, permitting the commonness of teen pregnancy may community settle for childbridal.

6.3Social effects; Child marriage can result to rejection of childhood and adolescent and also reduction to personal freedom and the lack of opportunity to develop a full sense of selfhood as well as the denial of psychological and emotional well-being maturity level becomes an issue as the girl-child is now expected to play the role of a mother.

7. THE IMPLICATION OF EARLY MARRIAGE ON GIRL-CHILD EDUCATION

The girl-child marriage has consequences on the well-being of families and societies as a whole. Where girls are uneducated and ill-prepared for the role of mothers, therefore, it affects not only the individual but also the nation as large. UNICEF ^[5]girl-child education get affected as the girls cannot continue her education any more due to family



responsibility, work opportunities become limited for the girl-child since their educational level is too little getting well-paid jobs to become impossible. Due to lack of education, the child bride becomes difficult taking care of her offspring, parental guidance is also not there. Child bridal outcomes is institution drip out and its course result. In northern part of Nigeria, 12 million child bride about 13-14 are wedded in the region. .

Lack of schooling exposes the female-child towards helpless and subservient feminine imbalance is a contemporary word issue that includes the girl-child education which leads to a lack of life skills and negotiating power. Child marriage under the millennium development goals (2&3) in order to achieve universal primary learning and encourage feminine imbalance and emancipate lady. 73% of Nigerian women with no formal education were married before 18 compared to only 9% who had completed higher education. Further, education is almost impossible for some girls who have little choice but to depend on their husbands for the rest of their lives. But girl-child marriage limits girl's educational opportunities. A study conducted by UNICEF ^[1] array that if the girl-child is tuition the rate of child bridal reduces. Successful entrance to the school will eradicate the feminine interval. Schooling is a vital strategy for terminating the exercise of child bridal.

8. COMMITMENT OF NIGERIA RULE TO ELIMINATE GIRL- CHILD MARRIAGE

The Nigerian government has dedicated to eliminate child forced marriage by 2030 with the rule of sustainable development goals (SDG) 5&3 target. These governments noted that most states in the northern part of the country manage a cash transfer program aimed at reducing girl's school drop-out rates due to girl-child marriage. Nigeria signs a joint declaration at the 2014 human rights council working on how to resolve the girl-child marriage. Nigeria ratified the convention on the right of the child. In 1991, convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) set a minimum age of marriage which is 18 years. In 1985 it requires all the state's government to ensure free and full consent to the marriage... In 2015 commonwealth countries including Nigeria, adopted the Kigali declaration which set out a framework for action by nation right institution on girl- child marriage at the conference on the social protection of child organized by Action Aid Nigeria. In 2016, the Nigerian vice president and minister of women affairs and social development launched a national strategy to end child bridal. The vice president Yemi osinbajo campaign against the girl-child marriage program that has immense sensitization to curtail and spread it within the African nations. The strategy's vision is to reduce girl-child marriage by 40% by 2020 and end the practice entirely by 2030.

9. STRATEGIES TO CONTROL GIRL- CHILD MARRIAGE

The more educated the girl becomes, the rarer possible this girl gets married as a child. To improve access to education for both girls and boys, therefore, eliminating the feminine gap of schooling remains significant strategies to terminate the exercise of child wedding. Lawmakers and activism should make schoolingable and necessary, as well as to increase schooling for all programming beyond the primary level. Also raising awareness about the issue because more people need to know about the problem and attempt to take cause and also the harm in it. Making the laws stricter is very important because there should be a powerful law against girl-child marriage.



10. CONCLUSION

Unwanted pregnancy is common among secondary school-age girls. There is also the issue of culture and socio-economic background of parents which has influenced early marriages among school-age girls, all in the name of integrity and believe of culture that a girl place is her matrimonial home only boys can be educated, for the causes of this girl-child marriage be resolved, it will not happen overnight but there are many programs led by Nigerian government and leaders among are education for people in rural areas, the battle against harassment and prejudice against women; termination and delay of educational pursuits are the major impacts of early marriage on the girl-child education. The education of girls should be given close attention; this is because a girl's education does not only contribute to their home but also nation-building. Girls should have the right to pursue their educational carriers irrespective of culture, tradition, gender, etc., pending the time they choose to get married.

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