

ROLE OF UNICEF IN CURBING CHILD MARRIAGE

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ABSTRACT

This paper analyses one of the most horrendous act practiced all across the world against under-age girls. Child Marriage has become so common nowadays that it is often seen as an accepted norm of the society. The author has emphasized over the extent to which child-marriage is practiced all across the world. Attempt has also been made to reflect upon the negative consequences of the Child-marriage over the physical, mental and societal state of girl-child who is subjected to child-marriage. Positive impact of not marrying a girl-child at very young age has also been highlighted. Author has also shown the impact and the level of attempts made by various international organizations to curb the rate of child-marriage.

INTRODUCTION

Child Marriage - A violation of Human Rights

Marriage before the age of 18 years is an infringement of human rights. Numerous factors which interact to put a child in jeopardy of marriage, including property, the perception that marriage will give 'insurance', family honour, accepted practices, customary laws that overlook the practices, a deficient legislative structure and the condition of a nation's considerate enlistment framework. While the training is more normal among children, it is an infringement of rights "regardless to sex".

The girl's whole life gets jeopardised due to marrying at such an early age taking apart her social life as well as restricting her opportunities in her career as education has been interrupted. These types of marriages often lead to making them pregnant at an very early age keeping their health at stake, the young girl's also become the target of domestic violence .Not

only for girl's but also for boys the problems are similar they also are not prepared for the pressure to earn not only for himself but for the whole family.

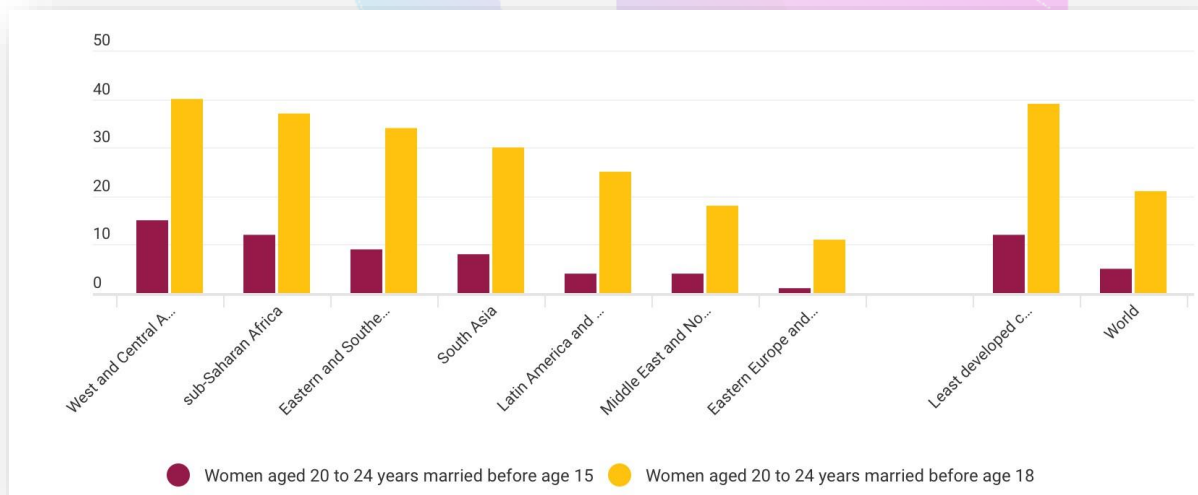
“Cohabitation – when a couple lives ‘in union’, as if married – raises the same human rights concerns as marriage”. Once the couple started living it is assumed that they are adults, in spite of the fact that either of them are still under the age of 18years. The children in the informal cohabitation are much tenderer or easily affected in various way as compared to those formally married.

The subject matter of child marriage has been acted toward by various international conventions and agreements like “Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women” which protect the right to protection from child marriage under Article 16 which clearly states that “The betrothal and the marriage of a child shall have no legal effect, and all necessary action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage...”.The “*Universal declaration of Human rights*” also have attached importance to the right to “free and full” consent to marriage, which pronounces that in child marriage there is no free and full consent as the parties involved are immature to make such an important life decision. These Agreements and Convention may not directly mentions Rights related to child or child marriage but they are closely related to “right to life , right to freedom of speech and expression, the right to protection against any form of abuse” these right become the topic of debate by the various committees upon the “rights of child”. There are also other international agreements like “Convention on Consent to Marriage Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages”, the “African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child” and the “Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights” on the Rights of Women in Africa.

Child marriage among girls

“Over the globe, levels of child marriage are most noteworthy in sub-Saharan Africa, where about 4 out of 10 young ladies were forced to be married before age of 18, trailed by South Asia, where about 3 out of 10 marries before the age of 18yrs”. The places were there lower percentage of child marriages were observed are in “Latin America and Caribbean (25%), the Middle East, North Africa (18 %), Eastern Europe & the Central Asia (11 %)”.

The most elevated levels of child marriage can be observed in sub-Saharan Africa. Level of women with a age of 20 to 24 years who were married or were in Cohabitation before age 15 and before age 18, by locale. The commonness of child marriage is slowly diminishing worldwide, with the most advancement in the previous decade that can be observed in South Asia, where a young lady's danger of marrying in adolescence has dropped, from about 50 percent to 30 percent. In any case, the absolute number of young girls getting married still remains at 12 million every year, and progress must be altogether quickened so as to end the practise by 2030 the objective set out in the “Sustainable Development Goals”. “Without further acceleration, more than 120 million additional girls will marry before their 18th birthday by 2030”.ⁱ



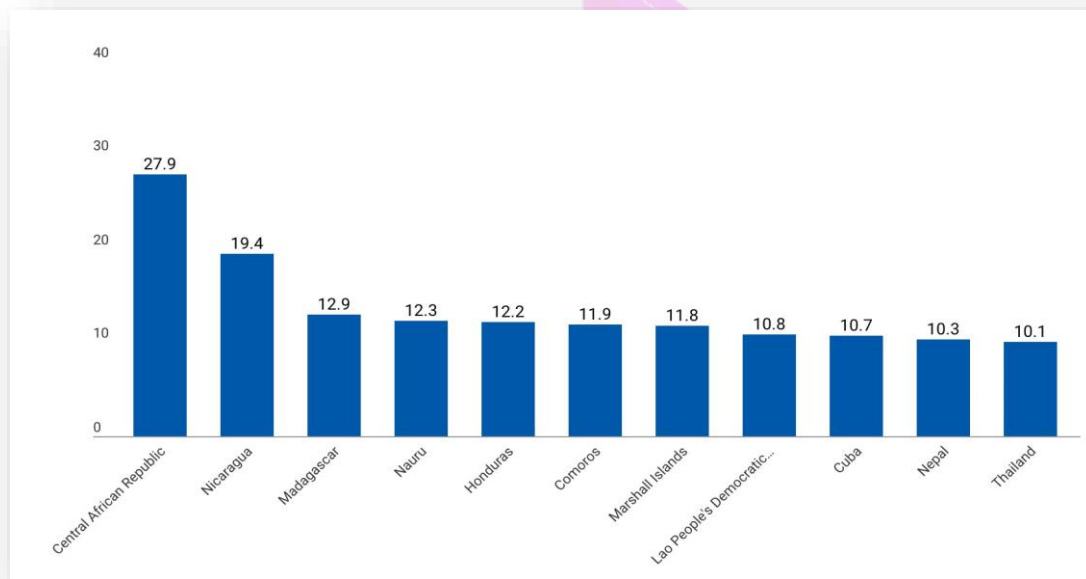
Child marriage among boys

In the child marriage they both don't face the similar dangers and consequences due to the social believes, such practices in any way is undoubtedly the violation of human rights of both sexes.

Just like the girls, boys are also burdened with responsibilities for which they are unprepared like bringing the responsibility to carry out the duties of a father at such a young age. Due to this they have to work double in comparison to their age to run their house; it may also jeopardize their education ant their future constraining their career opportunities

All over world, 115 million boys and men were married before age 18. “The countries in which child marriage among boys is most common are geographically diverse and differ from the countries in which the practice is most common among girls”.ⁱⁱ

(“Percentage of men aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in a union before age 18, in countries where child marriage prevalence is above 10 per cent”)



EARLY MARRIAGE: THE REALITY

Prevalence of Child Marriage In India

Marriage before the period of majority may be a sprightful truth of numerous young ladies all over the world. This matter brings the state of agitation and worry that even we have achieved 73 years of independence, the cases of child marriage are uncontrollable in India. Child marriage of young girls is till now an ignored social issue in India and is only occasionally given due consideration by strategy creators and law implementation hardware and academicians. It is in spite of the way that child marriage is an unmistakable infringement of basic freedoms showing itself as a genuine type of sexual brutality happening at family level. Child marriage is still considering itself as a grave socially atrocious which not just encroaches upon the privileges of the child esteemed by different UN instruments yet in addition disregards the Constitutional duty within the DPSP of the Indian construction.

This marriage deals with the basic freedoms of both genders of kids which are involved however by one way or another the examples of dissimilarity, disparity and segregation are showed all the more seriously in case of young girl children. Child marriage takes away the very crucial time of a young girl's life important to grow physically, intellectually, sincerely and mentally as it prompts an endless loop of early pregnancy, unhealthiest and maternal mortality. This type of marriage not just denies the young lady youngster her regenerative rights yet in addition hampers her instructive and business probabilities definitely which further influences her improvement negatively. In early pregnancy, there are grave odds of fatal distortions in the event of its endurance and high danger is posed upon to lives of childlike well as the mother. Consequently, the wellbeing and advancement of two ages of kids – the young mother and the new infant, endure as a result of early pregnancy.

At the national level, “child marriages contribute to a major extent in population explosion”.ⁱⁱⁱ

The practice of child marriage is widely accepted in India regardless of its horrible and immoral effect on the individual as well on the society. Especially in the states like Gujarat, M.P., Rajasthan, etc. were it is still practised moreover the special days like “Akshaya Tritiya” are chosen for wedding's... There is only one exclusive authentic source which provides all data related to child marriage are the surveys done by “National Family Health Survey and District Level Household and Facility Survey”. It was also observed through various surveys that approx.23 million girls all over India face the truth of child marriage. There had been observed an inverse relation between the country's growing rate average and child marriages for example if the growing rate is 8% the rate of child marriage is 1%.

The legislative endorsement in India

It is heartbreaking to take note of that while from one viewpoint, the law accommodates penal ramifications for solemnization of kid marriage, then again, various administrative authorizations which still includes various provisions and loopholes, which basically consolidate and support the idea of legitimacy of child marriage. An outlook of such provisions are as per the following.

There are some section relating to a unique ground of separation in Hindu Marriage Act, 1995 for a girl who has still not attained the age of 15 and who disavows the marriage between 15-

18 years. It is irrelevant to know whether the marriage is fulfilled or not. The presence of such section in the act related to Divorce undoubtedly shows that the law makers have unmistakably acknowledged the legitimacy of child marriage as at exactly that point, they could have mulled over separation in such a case. It is appropriate to call attention to that if the girl doesn't practice the choice of adolescence before she finishes 18 years old, her marriage could be valid .It's still a topic of discussion a begging to be proven whether the option to renounce the marriage can be practiced by the girl at all as it is about incomprehensible that she can practice her decision in a "socio-cultural milieu" that doesn't recognize the need of her agree to the marriage, in the first place.

Another legitimate irregularity is made, in this specific circumstance, by Operation of Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. The situation of the girl child is additionally intensified by the way that if there should be an occurrence of her withdrawal from the wedding relationship, her better half is legitimately qualified for clamming "restitution of conjugal rights" against her and it would be no reason that she was minor at the hour of solemnisation of marriage. The preamble to the "Indian Majority Act, 1875", contains the clauses for accomplishing consistency and sureness regarding the period of majority. The Act sets down 18 years as the period of majority, yet the non-obstante provision which spares certain issues from the appropriateness of the Act, prepares for heaps of ambiguities. The clause saves the issues vital in a person's life like marriage, adoption, separation and dower from the operation of the Act and therefore the period of greater part of a person in these issues is administered by the individual law to which he is a subject. The "Indian Penal Code, 1860," contains another distinct outline of legislative support and assent to the child marriage in Sec. 375 which explains "rape". The exceptional case to this part unmistakably sets out that the "sexual intercourse" of a man with his significant other, the spouse not being under 15 years old isn't assault, along these lines precluding the chance of conjugal assault when the wife is more than 15 years. "The law presumes the man's entitlement to have sexual relationship with his better half under all conditions, in any event, when she is a young girl of 15 years of age 76 and accords any insusceptibility to her from the coercive intercourse by her significant.

The Legislature not only allowed but also made the child marriage legitimate by lowering the age of consent of marital intercourse. Also, after the amendment of 2013 the husband are free from any punishment, they received special relaxation under section 376 of Indian Penal code

for those who raped their wives, even if she is between the age of 12-15 years there is a maximum sentence of 2yrs or fine or both could be imposed upon the husband. These provisions not only allow them to rape their wife who can be young as 15 yrs old but also gives the husband full authority over her body.

Similarly there are another act “Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act,2012” which provides even more better provision for protection of girl children and puts a stop on the discrimination caused on the basis of the marital status of the girl .Whereas at the same time there are provision in the “Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956” which states that if a minor girl gets married the husband automatically becomes her natural guardian, this remain the same even if the boy is also a minor.

India has unfortunately seen decades and centuries of the thriving of the practise of child marriage. “It has been an age-old custom in the country which has so far been fairly uprooted thanks to the many interventions which have impacted the influencing factors that have been the cause for the perpetuation of the practise”. The development of laws started only in the 20th century with the coming into force the British colonial law of “Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929”. This was the first act that emphasised the issues of child marriage and it was violating our human rights and that it had to be stopped.

Governments, coordination, monitoring and implementation. In the last nearly one year of this Plan being adopted, this NCAG has not been set-up which plays a central role in the implementation of this National Plan of Action for Children.

In order to ensure that policies, plan and strategies that are created to end child marriage are implemented, an effective inter-sectoral convergence plan within the Government functionaries as well as Government and Non- governmental functionaries needs to be soundly established. However long irreconcilable circumstances control the way, this truth of youngster marriage will proceed with unabated. The Government needs to put greater emphasis on the issue of child marriage but having sufficient funds allocated specifically for this area. Those funds need to be invested into creating an environment of effective convergence. The times today demand that Government functionaries need to be skilled in the art of working together with all its other departments. Once this convergence is made a reality then the practise of child marriage can be effectively brought to an end.

“There have been changes in that last almost 90 years in the way that the child marriage has been perceived”. The Convention on the “Rights of the Child” as well as the Convention on ending all forms of Discrimination against Women were efforts made in the 20th century at the international level to highlight issues relating to children who had so far not been considered holders of rights. The Indian scenario has been somewhere deeply influenced by the international efforts too. International obligations translated into local demands too which soon saw the enactment of many child and women friendly laws in early 21st century. India enacted its “Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 which was a definite improvement over the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929”. This has its own effects too. “There are other factors such as education too that has helped in reducing figures of child marriage incidence in India”. “Nevertheless, it is absolutely shattering to see many children especially girls become victims to this practise in this age and century. There is a global as well as a national pressing need to bring an end to this practise”.^{iv}

The “Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929” nevertheless failed to achieve the objective for which it was enacted and child marriages continued to take place unabated. The time was such that there was enough social sanction to the practise which led to its continuance. “Another 70-80 years showed little progress in law making an effective change in the status of these marriages”. In India the population is growing at a very high rate making it difficult to keep the record of the newly born making it difficult for the law to be implemented. The enactment of Prohibition of “Child Marriage Act” was a great advancement in as it brought about the changes that were sought for. Child marriages were now made voidable at the option of the minor child. This empowers girls to go to courts to seek justice and get their child marriages dissolved. However, the social sanction for this practice has still not been eradicated. This is the cause that child marriage still exists in India. India is regrettably still a victim to the practise of child marriage on account of which lives of many children especially girls comes under risk. The challenges posed are too many. “There are many programmes in place for the protection of girls from child marriage but their implementation is inconsistent”. The programmes do not necessarily reach the beneficiaries always. India still lacks acomprehensive national policy on the specific theme of ending child marriage. The ones that exist are still at Draft stage. “The National Plan of Action for Children 2016 was adopted on 24th January, 2017”. It commits to appointing a National Co-ordination and Action Group

(NCAG) composed of Senior Central Government officials from all sectors concerned with children. The Committee has been entrusted with the role of guiding the Central and State

UNICEF & CHILD MARRIAGE

Curbing the Child Marriage

The factors which affect and boosts child marriage needs to be recognised. There are various factors which contribute to the prevalent practise of child-marriage like cultural practise, lack of education, limited opportunity to access healthcare, limited educational access etc. In order to reduce the economic burden over the family, parents agree to marry their daughter at very early age and many parents think that marrying their daughter at early age will secure their future. Stereotypes which believe that the girls are only meant to serve their marital home after marriage and other fear arising from socio-economic risk of marrying outside marriage also let the marriage of under-age girls.

UNICEF has been working with many grass-root levels organisations and stakeholders and emphasise on recognising systematic barriers like gender equality and reproductive health behind the aggravating child-marriage rate.

In the year 2017, UNICEF in association with UNFPA initiated campaign, 'Global Programme to End Child Marriage' whose main aim was to empower young aged girls who were compelled to get married and also those girls who were already in a marriage association. Under this campaign, 3 million adolescents were helped with life-training skills and school attendance support till the end of 2018. Under this programme, 14 million social media and community influencers were engaged in promoting and supporting adolescent girls. Aim of UNICEF is to ensure the end of every sort of violence and exploitation.

To that end, UNICEF works across the globe to:

- Increase awareness and knowledge about the problem of girl-marriage and motivate the governments to commit to end child-marriage.
- Ensure the development and supporting the implementation and appropriation of appropriate laws under statutes.

- Support the community-transformative attempts to change social norms and practices.
- Empower women and girls all across the world so that they are aware about their rights.
- Prevention, protection and care services to be provided to each and every girl who has been subjected to child-marriage.
- Government ownership and control over programme and campaigns towards reducing the ill-practise of child-marriage.
- Strengthening data collection, recording the number of child marriage and proper analysis of such data.

UNICEF'S Strategic Plan of 2020-2021 reaffirms and reinvigorates the commitment to stop the spread and practise of Child-marriage. Now "United Nations Population Fund" UNFPA and UNICEF collaborated to end the practise of "Female Genital Mutilation: Accelerating Change and the Global Programme to End Child Marriage." This programme will reach to over 14 million girls across 12 countries all over the world including Africa, the Middle East and South Asia by rendering services. The programme launched in the year 2016 facilitates the providing of health, education benefits as well. Traditional and World Leaders have joined this programme to achieve the target till the year of 2030. "Since its launch, the Global Programme has saved millions of girls from unwanted marriage," said "UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore". "Yet we must not forget the 12 million girls who still get married every year, causing irreversible damage to their future, health and well-being. The next four years of the programme provide a new opportunity to build on our momentum so far and end this devastating practice once and for all."

The second period of the program – dispatched with regards to the Generation Equality crusade and during the time of the 25th commemoration of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action – will keep on zeroing in on demonstrated systems, including expanding young ladies' admittance to training and medical care administrations, abilities improvement, instructing guardians and networks on the threats of youngster marriage just as advancing sexual orientation fair mentalities, building organizations for monetary help to families, and reinforcing and authorizing laws that set up 18 as the base time of marriage. The program will likewise stress the significance of utilizing vigorous information and proof to illuminate strategies identified with young adult young ladies. "However long young ladies are being

hitched as kids, we can't accomplish the sexual orientation equivalent world that youngsters are requesting. Young ladies ought to have the ability to settle on their own decisions - about when and whom they will wed, about proceeding with their training, and about whether and when they have kids," said "UNFPA Executive Director Dr Natalia Kanem".

It is commendable to see how few countries especially in South Asia are proving themselves in reducing the number of child-marriages, though the increasing amount of child-marriage prevalent in Sub-Saharan region is difficult to cope up with where rates of progress need to be scaled up dramatically to offset population growth. 1 out of 3 child brides accounted in survey are in Sub-Saharan region it is worse than 1 decade ago when 1 out of 5 were accounted as child-bride. In United States of America and Caribbean region the level of Child-marriage rate is lower. Through this data we come to conclusion that in developed nations child marriage is not widely practised in comparison to developing nation but the scenario in under developed is worst due to various factors which have been discussed earlier.

About UNFPA

UNFPA is the agency which has been entrusted upon by the United Nations as the agency of sexual and reproductive matters. The main aim of this agency is to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every delivery of childbirth is safe and potential of every individual is achieved and fulfilled. UNICEF played a very important role in raising awareness regarding negative impact of marriage and child-birth on the girl's health by working over the data collected through surveys and through analysis of those reports in association with the national authorities. UNICEF has also initiated its campaign in Indonesia where UNICEF in collaboration with "Statistics Indonesia (BPS) will release a trend after the analysis of 10 year data on child marriage as a follow up to the 2016 report Progress on Pause: An Analysis of Child Marriage Data in Indonesia".

There is a lot of work which is needed to be done in this direction but it can be seen as a very effective initiative and we can celebrate the victory for children.

UNICEF works in those corners of the world which extremely secluded and can be termed as the toughest place to reach to help disadvantaged people. Across 190 countries UNICEF has expanded his work and operation to help people in disadvantage.

The Way Ahead

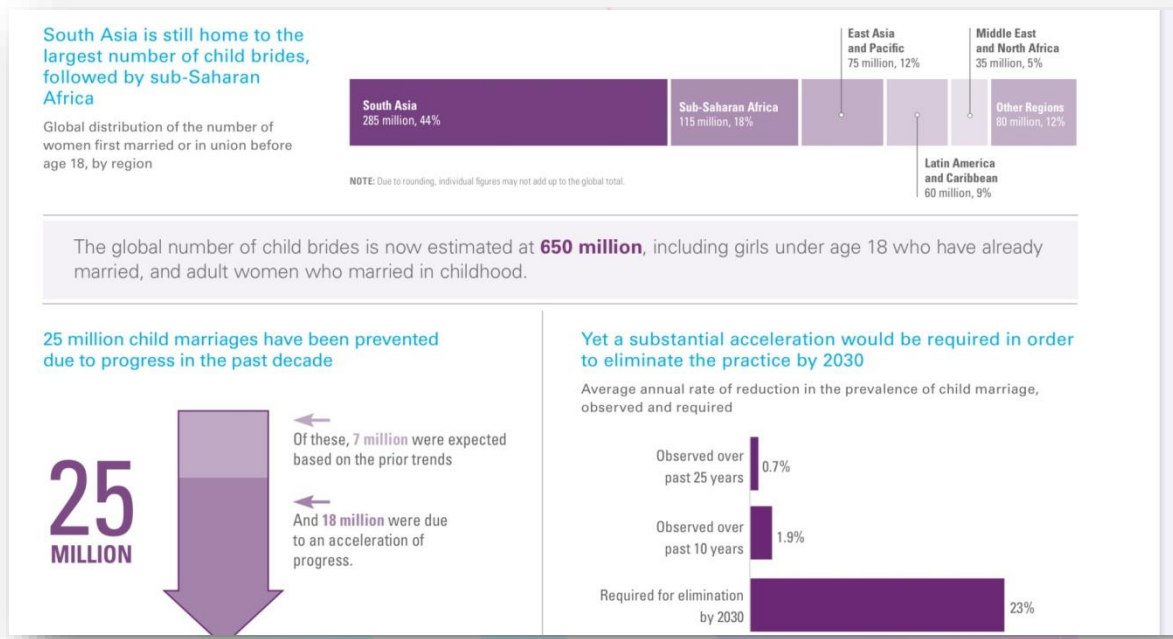
Recent data have shown that rate of child-marriage is declining day by day. During the past decade, 15% decline was seen in the number of women getting married in early age from 1 in 4 (25%) to approximately 1 in 5 (21%). Despite of improvement many few countries seem to follow the track of eliminating Child Marriage according to “Sustainable Development Goal target of eliminating this harmful practice by 2030”.^v

Child marriage is a horrifying infringement of each youngster's entitlement to contact her or his maximum capacity. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) revere an objective to dispense with this training by 2030. “The act of youngster marriage has kept on declining far and wide”. In view of the most recent information accessible from every nation, 21 percent of young ladies were hitched as kids. This speaks to a decline from 25 percent 10 years prior, driven overwhelmingly by progress in India. This decrease additionally denotes a quickening of patterns. An expected 25 million kid relationships have been forestalled because of progress during the previous decade. Of these, 7 million were normal dependent on the earlier patterns and 18 million were because of an increasing speed of progress. In any case, roughly 650 million young ladies and ladies alive today were hitched before their eighteenth birthday celebration.

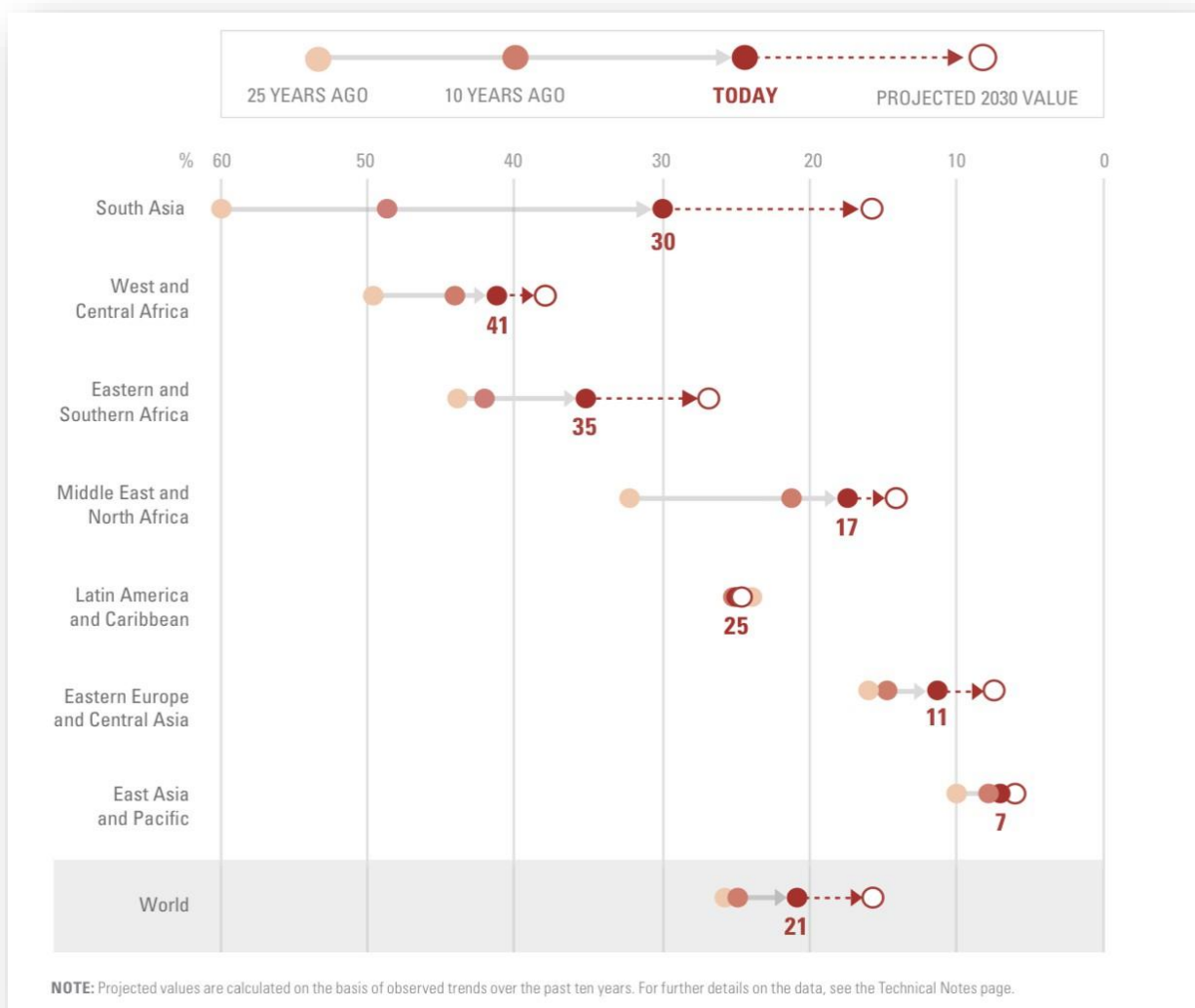
As the assigned overseer organization for observing advancement towards arriving at this objective, UNICEF is answerable for creating occasional worldwide evaluations of kid marriage. These assessments are created essentially from broadly agent family unit studies, and for a minority of nations, from registration information. The assessments in this report supplant those in past distributions, as they depend on new information for various nations. These incorporate India and Ethiopia, which have as of late observed a decrease in the commonness of youngster marriage, and China, for which information were already not accessible in UNICEF's worldwide data sets. These updates have empowered a refinement of the assessment of the size of the training around the world, at a somewhat lower level than assessed in earlier years.

The act of youngster marriage has kept on declining far and wide. During the previous decade, the extent of young ladies who were hitched as youngsters diminished by 15 percent, from 1 out of 4 (25%) to roughly 1 out of 5 (21%). In South Asia, a young lady's danger of wedding in adolescence has declined by in excess of a third, from about 50 percent 10 years back to 30

percent today, generally determined by incredible steps in decreasing the pervasiveness of youngster marriage in India. In any case, South Asia stays home to the biggest absolute number of kid ladies, with more than 40 percent of the worldwide weight. This is expected both to the tradition of how normal kid marriage was in past ages and to the area's huge populace.



The wave of Child-marriage is surely increasing in the region of Sub-Saharan region and the condition in South Asian region is improving in terms of child-marriage rate. In Ethiopia, is of the top countries known for high rates of child-marriage, though the rates have shown certain improvement. Over 25 years, Middle East and North Africa has shown substantial progress in reducing the rate of child marriage, but within 10 years progress has slowed down. In the Caribbean region the condition is as same as it was 25 years back.



Calculation of global figures

To survey the commonness of youngster marriage, this examination utilized SDG pointer 5.3.1 – the level of ladies matured 20 to 24 years who were first hitched or in association before age 18. This data is accessible from information assortment instruments, principally family overviews that get some information about their conjugal status and their age from the outset marriage or association. All references to 'marriage' remember both conventional relationships and casual associations for which ladies began living respectively with an accomplice as though wedded. The current worldwide gauge of the predominance of kid marriage, alluded to as the level "today", is determined based on the most recent accessible information for every nation, inside the range of 2010 to 2016. Public qualities are not extrapolated to a typical reference

year. The worldwide weight of kid marriage is characterized as the quantity of young ladies under age 18 who have just hitched in addition to the quantity of grown-up ladies who were hitched before age 18.

The weight is determined by applying the predominance of youngster marriage for each age associate from 18 to 49 years to the individual female populace. Outside this range we don't have direct gauges of the commonness, so the accompanying suppositions are made:

- 0–9years—all are thought to be unmarried.
- 10–17years—circuitous evaluations are created utilizing related pointers, including the level of young ladies wedded before age 15, the level of teenagers matured 15 to 19 as of now wedded, and the extent of relationships during pre-adulthood that happen before age 18.
- 50+years—predominance of ladies aged 45–49 years is utilized, except if in any case noted.

The quantity of kid relationships turned away is determined as the contrast between the quantity of ladies wedded before age 18 during the past 10 years and the number who might have been hitched if levels had stayed consistent at the commonness 10 years prior.

CONCLUSION

Marriage is seen as a sacramental thread which ties a man and a woman in a relationship of love, care and happiness. But this does not hold truth for those girls who get married at very early age. According to surveys it has been revealed that in this rapidly developing world one among 3 girls get married before the age of 18 whereas one in nine girls get married before the tender age of mere 15. Human Rights Watch Investigation has observed that those women who get married very early have to face dire consequences for the rest of their lifetime in terms of their health condition and they often do not have any knowledge about their basic human rights. Other negative impact of early marriage is marital rape, elevated rate of domestic violence, risk of HIV transmission and very risky child-bearing.

Child Marriage get more aggravated when it is fuelled by poverty, discrimination against girls and most importantly dowry demand. The pressure of feeding the whole family combined with the stress of paying dowry to get their daughter wedded compels the parents to get their daughters married at early age. As in countries like Bangladesh, the younger the girl is the

lesser dowries have to be paid. But the problem arises when a very young girl is married to a man and the age gap contributes to domestic violence, sexual and mental trauma. This factor affects the girls more in those countries where there is no provision of marital rape and the girl has to silently suffer the wrath of husband.

Less information about the sexual and reproductive information and services add to the sufferings of the girls who get married at early age. As a result, consequences are unbearable and fatal and the early child bearing can be seen as second gravest reason for the death of girls between the age group of 15 to 19. On the other hand extreme health condition like tearing of skin tissues vaginal region or obstetric fistulas can be the cause of early pregnancy and after the child is born the girl is abandoned by the family which make their life miserable.

It has also been observed that 74% of HIV infectious women are those who were married at very early age and pressure to give birth to a child compel the girl to not use the condom and eventually they contract HIV.

It sounds very unclear when we say that the problem of child marriage is also connected with Environmental Factor. Parts of the world which are vulnerable to natural disasters like flood in Bangladesh region compel the parents to marry their daughter at tender age. Hastened worry and economic pressure compel them to do so it has been observed.

We discussed about various negative consequences if we continue to follow the practise of child marriage but it is also important to draw attention towards benefits arising from ending this practise. Ending child-marriage would empower women to take part in various economic activities as they are not burdened with the load of handling their child and marital home. The end of child marriage would make education, health awareness; participation in the social life more accessible to women and will freed them from violence and torture of daily life.

Various leaders all across the world including “Sheikh Hasina, the prime minister of Bangladesh, and Joyce Banda, the former president of Malawi” are staunchly raising their voice against the prevalent rate of child marriage in their respective countries. But the legislation passed by Bangladesh is contradictory to the statements made by Sheikh Hasina against child marriage. Legislation has been passed under which the age of girl’s marriage has been reduced from 18 to 16. International organisations like “United Nations agencies” and civil society like “Girls Not Brides” and more than other 500 organisations are constantly raising their voices

against child marriage but this menace still stands formidable. The “United Sustainable Development Goals” adopted in September 2015 aims at eliminating the menace of Child Marriage within the year of 2030 and building path of gender equality. This target can only be achieved when the women’s rights are allocated to and those rights extends from representing one’s political will and equal right over the said resources available to the other gender, empowerment through disseminating information, coordination and cooperation within sectors like health, justice and economic.

In order to make child-marriage restrictive, it is very important to make cohesive national laws to which supports and upholds internationally recognised human rights of girls as well. To make sure this happens it is very important to make 18 years as a stringent age under which no one can be married. Loopholes or excuses present in most of the statutory provisions like parental consent, free consent of both the spouses shall not be allowed and age-proof should be asked before discharging the marriage certificate, shall be strictly observed. Governments shall also observe that certain statutes shall not consider any exceptions like customary laws and traditions and thus no shall be allowed to get married before 18 years of age.

It is also very important to very clearly scrutinise the international agreements which is needed to be signed so that it suits the national. We have also observed that government often refrain from talking on those matters which are supported by the people of the nation so in those countries where people highly conduct ill-practices like child marriage, the government won’t do much to mitigate it otherwise they will lose their power of governance.

It is very important that the government shall openly oppose menace practises like child marriage and promote its negative consequences over the lives of girls who are married against their will. Spreading Awareness among general public shall be focussed upon in order to make world a better place for girl-child to live in. When the government would make more strict laws without loopholes people would refrain from getting their daughter married at young age. Along with this the girl shall be educated to make them aware about their rights in society so that they can also make their life better.

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