

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Child marriage which is also referred to as early marriage is an emerging economic and health concern across the world and remains a widespread problem especially in developing countries including Nepal. Early marriage is the marriage of children and adolescents below the age of 20 years, before the girl is physically, physiologically and psychologically ready to shoulder the responsibilities of marriage and childbearing. By custom, however, some communities have been arranging the marriage of children under the age of 18 for generations. Child marriage has numerous adverse effects on the overall wellbeing of children under the age of 18 for generations.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the convention on the rights of the child, the convention on the elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention against Torture and other cruel, Inhuman or degrading Treatment or Punishment among other charters and conventions all directly forbid the degrading and mistreatment of girls inherent in child marriage.

In Nepal, The National Civil (Code) Act, 2017 (2074) Marriage may be concluded: (1) Subject to this Chapter, a marriage may be concluded between a man and a woman on the following conditions: (a) If the man and the woman agree to accept each other as husband and wife, (b) If the man and the woman are not relatives, punishable by law on incest, (c) If matrimonial relationship of both the man and the woman does not exist, if both have attained twenty years of age. Marriage age at before 20 is illegal (Civil code, 2074).

Marriage is an important part of human life. It is an association which demands maturity, ability and responsibility, however, Child marriage in Nepal is a customary, socially-established institution that has been practiced for generations. Religion has endorsed it, and society has ensured its stability. While boys are also the victims of this norm, the religious Hindu texts of ancient time contain strict moral laws that

instruct parents to marry off their daughters before they reach puberty (Plan Nepal, Save the Children, World Vision, 2012).

International Centre for Research on Women (2010) revealed that one third of the world's population of about 7.2 billion is girls. Statistics indicate that in the year 2010, sixty-seven (67) million women aged 20-24 around the world got married before the age of 18, and was also projected that in the next decade, over 142 million girls would be married before their 18th birthday provided that the present trends on child marriages continue (ICRW, 2010).

A study report released by the Central Bureau of Statistics shows that two out of 10 women between 15 and 49 years of age were first married before the age of 15. According to Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey- 2014, child marriage still persists in the Nepali society although the minimum legal age for marriage is 20 years for both male and female.

According to the child marriage in Nepal, the major causes of child marriage were family pressure (32.1%), children's own desires (32.1%), and the need for support in carrying out household activities (14.2%), where as those who had married young said parental pressure (52.2% for male and 67.1% for female) and the need for support in carrying out household chores (45.2% for male and 1.2% for female).

The people who married young had suffered physically health related consequences. All 41 of the maternal deaths identified occurred among females who married young and 51.5% males who married young reported that their wives suffered from illness who married early stated they suffered from pain in the lower abdomen (35.1%) and a foul smelling vaginal discharge (18.5%). The educational consequences of child marriage include dropping out of school (67.1% of males and 33.1 % of females) and not being able to study because of the need to care for child (24.7% of males and 45.9% of females) (Plan Nepal, Save the Children, World Vision, 2012).

Early marriage put teenagers at risk because they are not fully physically developed to care for pregnancy, early marriage results in early and frequent child birth and subsequently an increase in family size. Early marriage also denies girls the right to enjoy their childhood, the right to education and the right to a husband of her own choice and of her age. Girls in the age group 15 to 19 are two times more likely to die during pregnancy or child birth when compared to their counterparts in their 20s.

According to Walker, (2012), girls who are younger than 15 years are 5 times more likely to suffer child birth complications (Yowela JM, 2016)

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

According to the Nepal demographic survey 2016, the issue of adolescent fertility is important for both health and social reasons. Children born to very young mothers are at increased risk of sickness and death. Teenage mothers are more likely to experience adverse pregnancy outcomes and to be constrained in their ability to pursue educational opportunities than young women who delay childbearing. 17% of women age 15-19 had begun childbearing, 13% had had a live birth and 4% were pregnant at the time of the interview. The proportion of teenagers who had begun childbearing rises rapidly with age, from 2% at age 15 to 36% at age 19. Rural teenagers tend to start childbearing earlier than urban teenagers (MICS, 2014).

According to the multi indicator cluster survey Nepal 2014, women aged 15–49 years who were first married or in union before age 15 is 16% and women aged 20–49 years who were first married or in union before age 18 is 49% (NDHS, 2011).

Child marriage is most common among the poorest households and it is closely linked to poverty and low levels of economic development. In addition, culture also promotes child marriages especially in rural communities. Child marriage creates problems to both sexes although girls are more affected since they are most vulnerable to early marriage and are the majority victims. Child marriage limits the child's education, affects the general health, and puts the affected in disadvantaged position. For instance, children engaged in an early marriage are more likely to drop out of school, have little or no education, be unemployed or low paid, live in poor housing condition and have a lot of children.

The cycle would continue as these children are more likely to have no education, and would end up in an early marriage as well. If not addressed, child marriages may undermine all developmental efforts in the country. It is from this background information that this study was designed to investigate that factors influencing high prevalence of child marriages among married men and women. Child marriage is not only a human rights violation but it is also a barrier to development (Jain & Kurz, 2007), (Yowela JM, 2016).

### **1.3 Research Questions**

- ) What were the demographic characteristics of individuals involved in child marriages?
- ) Were the people of Myagdi district aware of effects of child marriage?
- ) What were the influences of cultural practices on the prevalence of child marriages in Myagdi district?
- ) Did the socio-economic status of an individual/family influence child marriages in Myagdi district?

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of the study is to determine the factor that influences prevalence of child marriage in rural municipalities of Myagdi. The specific objectives are:

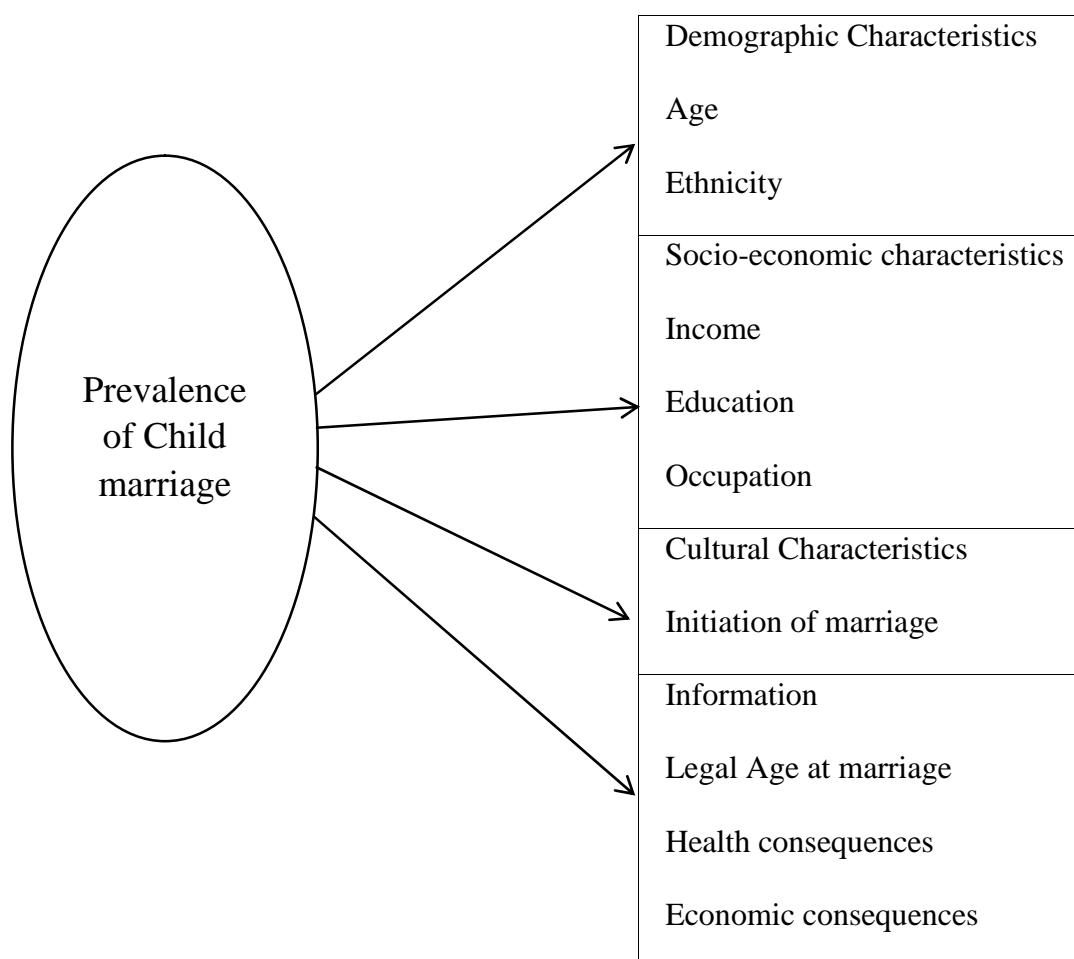
- ) To investigate the influence of socio-economic status of individuals/families in influencing child marriages
- ) To determine the influence of cultural practices on the prevalence of child marriages in Myagdi district

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

According to the survey of UNICEF 2019, Nepal is also high prevalence country on child marriage. Out of ten boys 1 boy is got early marriage in age group of 20 to 24. According to the multi indicator cluster survey Nepal 2014, women aged 15–49 years who were first married or in union before age 15 is 16% and women aged 20–49 years who were first married or in union before age 18 is 49%. Child marriage is illegal and local government is doing strictly but it is happening in our society. Love marriage is prone than arrange marriage. This study identifies causes and effect of child marriage and knowledge regarding health effect of early marriage before married that helps to made strategy to eliminate child marriage in our community.

## 1.6 Conceptual Framework

**Fig. 1.1: Conceptual Framework**



The diagram above shows a conceptual framework of the expected outcome of the results on factors influencing child marriages. Although data had not been collected, intuition and existing data favored the prediction that people with little information about the effects or dangers of engaging in child marriages would highly practice early marriages. There also seemed to be a correlation between accessibility of information and some demographic variables such as education. People with higher education would be more likely to access and receive sensitization information on the effects of child marriages hence would not engage in early marriage. In addition, people with higher levels of education would not engage in early marriage due to the prolonged duration of schooling, and the opposite also applies.

The available data also indicates that there was a correlation between the bridal family's socioeconomic status and the decision to engage in early marriage. Families

with limited resources saw child marriage as way to provide for their daughter's future (Nasrin and Rahman, 2012). In families where poverty was acute, young girls could be regarded as an economic burden hence parents would prefer an early marriage as an alternative way of reducing the burden.

Furthermore, another relationship existed between culture and child marriages. Certain cultures marry off the girl child at a tender age to reduce the chances of her losing her virginity and also to avoid the embarrassment of pregnancy in the mother's home. On the other hand, boys who impregnated would be forced to marry the same girl even when they were young.

## 1.7 Study Variables

**Table 1.1: Study Variables Table**

<b>Table Variable Type Indicators</b>	<b>Operational Definition</b>	<b>Type Indicators</b>	<b>Scale of measurement</b>
Dependent variables: 1. Prevalence of child marriages	Marriages below the age of age years	1. Proportion/number of those married below 18year 2. Reasons for those marriages	- Percentage – Proportions
Independent Variables 1. Demographic characteristics 1) Age:	One's age at last birthday	1. Number of those below age 18 years 2. Number of those above age 18 years	- Count
2) Sex	Biological condition of being male or female	1. Number of males 2. Number of females	- Proportion - Counts
3) Marital status	The condition of being married or unmarried	1. Single 2. Married 3. Widowed 4. Divorced	- Proportion
4) Ethnicity	A category of people who identify with each other based on common language, tribe experiences	Categories as government of Nepal categories as government i) Dalit ii) Disadvantaged Janajatis iii) Disadvantaged non Dalit Terai caste iv) Religious minorities v) Relatively advantaged Janajatis and vi)Upper caste group.	- Proportion

<b>Table Variable Type Indicators</b>	<b>Operational Definition</b>	<b>Type Indicators</b>	<b>Scale of measurement</b>
5) Education	status/level  One's educational attainment or lack of it	Primary level 2. Secondary level 3. Tertiary level 4. Never attended school	1.  - Proportions  - counts
6) Occupation	One's usual or principal work or business, especially as a means of earning a living	1. Businessman 2. Peasant farmer 3. Employed	Proportions  - Counts
7) Income	Monthly income of household is classified into four categories based on Nepal Demographic Health survey.	Classification; Monthly salary up to 15,000 was considered as lowest Quintile, 15,001 to 20,000 as second quintile, 20,001 to 25,000 as third quintile and above 25,000 as highest quintile.	- Proportions
Independent Variables:  2. Access to information on child marriages	Availability and access to information on child marriages	- Availability of information on child marriages  - Sources of information on child marriages  - Types of information provided on child marriages	- Counts  - Proportions
3. Cultural practices	Manifestation of a culture especially in regard to the traditional and customary practices of a particular ethnic or other cultural group in relation to child marriages	- Presence of cultural belief/moral in marriage  - Types of cultural practices  - Reasons for practices  - Reactions to traditional values	- Nominal

## **1.8 Limitations of the Study**

This study was carried out in only rural municipality of Myagdi which may not be generalized in other district.

## **1.9 Organization of the Study**

This Study divided in to five chapters. The first chapter deals with the background of the study, problem statement, objectives of the study, Significance of the study, Conceptual framework, and study variables, limitation of the study and organization of the study.

The Second Chapter focuses on review of related literature to child marriage in different country and geography of Nepal with prevalence, causes and consequences of child marriage and theoretical review on radical feminist theory.

The third chapter deals with the methodological part. Methodological part includes the study design, population and sampling, tools and techniques, data collection procedure and methods of analysis.

The fourth chapter deals with the discussion of the findings. The main focus of the study is to explore the influencing factor of child marriage.

The final chapter presents summary, conclusion and recommendations. The summary includes a brief description about the objectives, methodology, data processing etc.

The last part of the thesis ends with the references list and annexes

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Theoretical Review**

##### **a. Radical Feminist Theory**

This study was guided by radical feminist theory which emerged in the 18th century. Radical feminist theory analyzes patriarchy as the primary cause of women's oppression (Pilcher and Imelda, 2008:50). One of the proponents of this theory is Susan Brownmiller who argues that women are subordinated and exploited by men because of patriarchy. The feminists further assert that women can only be liberated through debates of overhauling patriarchal structures (Pilcher and Imelda, 2008:51). They blame the exploitation of women on men because they see society as patriarchal - it is dominated and ruled by men (Walby, 1990:7). Radical feminists are distinguished by the analysis of gender inequality in which men as a group dominate women as a group and are the main beneficiaries of the subordination of women (Bryson, 1999:15). From this point of view, they further argue that men are the ruling class, and women the subject class.

According to Walby (1990:9), patriarchy is indispensable for an analysis of gender inequality. She further argues that there are six patriarchal structures which restrict women and help maintain male domination, and these are paid work relations within the household, patriarchal culture, sexuality, male violence towards women and the state. In terms of their interrelation, Walby argues that each of these structures impacts upon one another but are also relatively autonomous. Their interrelationships constitute the different "forms" of patriarchy present in a particular society (Haralambos and Holborn, 2008:110). In the patriarchal nature of African culture, value is placed on the boy-child's education than that of the girl-child. Girls are subordinated and undervalued such that they do not have educational.

#### **2.2 Review of the Previous Literature**

The incidence of child marriage is not only in Nepal but also in the world. It is mostly in South Asia, Africa, and Latin America. High incidence rate of child marriage in

Nepal among South Asian countries is the key alarm in terms of child protection. However, child marriage occurs in poor, economically deprived and dalit communities of Terai. There were major three forces those drive child marriages i.e. poverty, the need to reinforce social ties and the belief that it offers protection. It directly affected the girls' health and education. Most of the girls' drop out from school even not completing their primary or basic education. Worsen health of girls due to maximum workload at home i.e. engaged in cooking, grass cutting. Girls' became pregnant early in spite of maturity and led to maternal and child mortality rate. Girls' faced domestic violence from mother in law at home. Most of them suffer from sexually transmitted infection. Therefore, these are the central concern of this paper. Therefore, this paper studies the causes and consequences of the child marriage. Furthermore, this paper will bring the possible solution for the reduction or elimination of child marriage especially in Terai region of Nepal (IJSER, 2016).

This study set out to explore the causes and effects of early marriage on the girl-child in Suba sub-County. The specific objectives were to investigate and to determine the causes and effects of early marriage on the girl-children in the sub-County. The study was guided by radical feminist theory which analyzes patriarchy as the cause of women's oppression and this in turn hinders them from participating in educational activities equal to men. Data were collected through survey method, focus group discussions, direct observation, key informant interviews and narratives. The study found that girls drop out of school at an early age due to poverty and end up marrying early because of not having anything meaningful to do. The study, therefore, concludes that early marriage exists and it affects the girl-child education in this sub-County. The study recommends that the law prohibiting early marriage be enforced. Finally, it recommends parents to counsel their daughters once they reach adolescent stage and equip them with necessary materials such as sanitary towels, books and a little pocket money for lunch to protect them from the lures of fishermen (Reuben MA, 2014).

Child marriage is still a massive problem in many developing countries. The issue is more concentrated in countries of Sub Saharan Africa and South Asia. This paper, through literature review attempts to assess the situation, the consequences, various programmes and recommendations on the reduction of child marriage. In this article it is reinforced that, consequences of child marriage put the girls at risk of early

pregnancies with life-threatening conditions. This paper suggests that each country should set up its own midterm and long-term goals to bring about significant reduction in child marriages (Ahmed T, 2015).

Child marriage is a global problem which affects millions of people across the world. It is considered a human rights violation because it deprives those involved, especially girls, of education and health services, the chance to learn skills and develop their personalities, and leaves them vulnerable indeed. The main aim of the study was to understand the embedded reasons for child marriage. A mix quantitative and qualitative methodology was followed to conduct the research and analysis. Altogether, the team surveyed 649 household heads from 15 districts covering of Nepal. In addition, 95 males and 334 females who married young were surveyed. To gather qualitative information, 31 focus group discussions (FGDs) 25 Key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted and a few cases studies develop. The findings of the study are, at the current age group of 20-24, the average prevalence of child marriage among both sexes was 46.2% (52.3% among females and 33.88% among males). Child marriage was most prevalent among the illiterate and the Janjati (indigenous ethnic groups) and the Dalit (the so called untouchables in the Hindu caste system). Aware parents sought to delay the marriages of their children but the children themselves to part in love marriage" at an early age. According to the household heads, the major causes of child marriage were family pressure (32.1%), Children's own desire (32.1%), and the need for support in carrying out household activities (14.2%), whereas those who had married young said parental pressure (52.7% for male and 67.1% for female) and the need for support in caring out household chores (45.2% for male and 1.2% for female). Parents and key informants blamed mobile phones and mass media for early marriage based on love (Plan Nepal, Save the Children, World Vision, 2012).

This paper examines age patterns of first marriage and motherhood and covariates of early marriage, delayed consummation of marriage and early motherhood in Nepal using data from the 2000 Nepal Adolescent and Young Adult Survey (NAYA). Both unmarried and married male and female youths (age 14–22) were included in the survey. The analysis is based on 2800 urban youths and 5075 rural youths with complete information on the variables examined. Proportional hazard models are used to estimate covariates of early marriage and early motherhood, and logistic regression

models are used to estimate covariates of delayed consummation of marriage. The results show that early marriage and early motherhood are quite common among Nepalese women, especially in rural areas. Early marriage is much less common among men. Delayed consummation of marriage is common among very young brides, especially in rural areas. The main covariates associated with early marriage and early motherhood are respondent's education, region of residence and ethnicity. The main covariates of delayed consummation of marriage are age at first marriage, region of residence and ethnicity. The study highlights the need to focus on less educated female youths in the Terai region in order to reduce the reproductive and child health risks associated with early marriage and early childbearing (J. Biosoc, 2004).

This paper explores the issue of early marriage in Africa. It sheds light specifically on reason behind its perpetuation, its harmful consequences, shows how it constitutes a barrier to education and enjoyment of girl's human rights and how it further threatens the development of countries. The findings from an extensive reading of materials related to early marriage suggest that early marriage is due to various factors including among others, the search for economic survival, protection of young girls, peer group and family pressure, controlling female behavior and sexuality, wars and civil conflicts and socio-cultural and religious values. It is a violation of girl's human rights as it deprives her from freedom, opportunity for personal development, and other rights. It also a developmental challenge for population pressure, health care costs and lost opportunities of human development. It is barrier to girl's education as young girls drop out from school to get married which impacts negatively on the community as whole and on the wellbeing of future generation. This practice stands in direct conflict with the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); such as the promotion of basic education, fight against poverty, the prevention of HIV/AIDS and reduction maternal mortality rate. To deal with the problem a number of strategies have been suggested mainly providing economic opportunities to young girls, promoting education of girls and using mass media to increase the awareness of the whole community about the consequences of early marriage on girls themselves, their family and on the community as a whole (Bayisenge J, 2009).

Child marriage, though a criminal offense, has been practiced for generations in Nepal. Globally, Nepal has one of the highest rates of child marriage: 37% of Nepali

women ages 20-24 years were first married by age 18, and 10% were married by age 15. According to Nepal's 2011 national census, of the married women who were surveyed, approximately 75% were married before their 20th birthday, and over 100,000 girls were given away in marriage before the age of 10. The prevalence of child marriage in Nepal varies by sex, with far more women being married as children than men, and by geographic location, with a significantly higher prevalence in rural areas. Additional variations are found based on region, education levels, household wealth, and caste and ethnicity (JURI Nepal, 2016).

School dropout and child marriage are interrelated outcomes that have an enormous impact on adolescent girls. However, the literature reveals gaps in the empirical evidence on the link between child marriage and the dropout of girls from school. This study identifies the 'tipping point' school grades in Nepal when the risk of dropout due to marriage is highest, measures the effect of child marriage on girls' school dropout rates, and assesses associated risk factors. Weighted percentages were calculated to examine the grades at highest risk and the distribution of reasons for discontinuing school. Using the Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2014 data, we estimated the effect of marriage on school attendance and dropout among girls aged 15–17 by constructing logistic regression models. A multivariate logistic regression model was used to assess risk factors of school dropout due to child marriage. It was found that early marriage is the most common reason given for leaving school. Overall, the risk of school dropout due to marriage heightens after girls complete the fifth or sixth grade. The risk of girls' dropping out peaks in the seventh and eighth grades and remains noteworthy in the ninth and tenth grades. Married girls in Nepal are 10 times more likely to drop out than their unmarried peers. Little or no education of the household head, belonging to the Kirat religion, and membership of a traditionally disadvantaged social class each elevate the risk of school dropout due to early marriage. The findings underscore the need to delay girl's marriage so as to reduce girls' school dropout in Nepal. School based programs aimed at preventing child marriage should target girls from the fifth grade because they are at increased risk of dropping out, as well as prioritizing girls from disadvantaged groups (Sekine K, 2017).

Child marriage is extremely prevalent in some regions of the world, particularly in the developing countries. In the northern Nigeria for example has the highest rate of early

marriage. Nearly about 48% of girls were married by age 15. Globally, around 40% of women are married under 18 years old. Poverty, cultural beliefs and societal conflicts have been the major factors leading to and resulting from girls marrying early. Most of these young girls are implored, forced or deceived into marriage. It has been compellingly argued that the conditions child brides find themselves in are incompatible with certain laws. Child marriage infringes upon the rights and freedoms, and damages the health and autonomy, of young girls. Child early marriage affects the girls' school enrolment which affects the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It adds to the poverty increases in any nation. Many of these young girls who have become young mothers experience life-threatening complications during pregnancy and childbirth. These young brides cannot make decision in their marriage or engage in mutual negotiation with their husbands, and therefore they are subjected to emotional disturbances, sexual abuse and domestic violence, and as a result many have suffered psychosocial trauma and sometimes many abscond or attempt suicide. It is should be considered illegal to marry off a child below the age of 18, and therefore government should ensure an effective implementation of Child Right, and effect strong policies to dissuade child early marriage (Daniel MI, 2016).

This article analyses trends in early marriage in Turkey over a period of 30 years from 1978 to 2008, and factors associated with early marriage, based on data from the 1978 Turkish Fertility Survey and 2008 Turkey Demographic and Health Survey. The proportion of all women aged 20 to 24 who married before age 18 declined from 38% in 1978 to 14% in 2008. For ever-married women aged 20 to 24 years, the article examines risk factors for the common explanatory variables such as educational level of women, childhood place of residence, type of place of residence, region and spousal age gap, using logistic regression analysis. For women, early marriage is associated with all the explanatory variables in both surveys. Increasing women's education and achievement of gender equality in all spheres of life emerge as essential steps to cope with the problem of early marriage and to eliminate child marriage (JFII, 2014).

Child marriage, also referred to as early marriage is an emerging economic and health concern across the world and remains a widespread problem especially in developing countries including Zambia. Early or child marriages recorded a national average of

42 percent in 2010 in Zambia and the situation has not changed much. The study investigated factors that influence prevalence of child marriages in Chibombo District of Central Province in Zambia among the married men and woman. Child marriages have an effect on maternal health. The general objective of this study was to investigate factors that influence the prevalence of early marriages in Chibombo district of Central Province. The study used a mixed methods approach (convergent parallel) design which uses quantitative and qualitative data collection. The quantitative part of this study utilized a descriptive cross sectional approach which involved random sampling methods to select respondents (n=385); a total of 300 respondents were interviewed using an administered questionnaire. The qualitative aspect employed the phenomenological approach and it involved, six (6) FGDs involving ten (6-10) participants in each group with equal representation of gender, and 5 Key Informants (traditional leaders) were interviewed. All the participants were drawn from Chibombo district from three sampled communities, namely: Chisamba, Chamuka and Chibombo. Quantitative data was analyzed using SPSS version 20 while qualitative data through content analysis involving identification of major themes. Data was presented in frequency tables and charts. Chi square tests were conducted and data presented. The research findings revealed that the prevalence of early marriages in Chibombo was high at 39 percent, slightly below the national prevalence rate which was reported at 42 percent in 2010. The study ascertained that various factors influence high prevalence of child marriages but the most prominent ones were low education levels, lack of sufficient awareness information, traditional cultural practices and high poverty levels. Child marriages were more prevalent among girls due to forced marriages which were driven by poverty and the mean age at marriage was 20.4 years with a SD=4.6 years. This study recommends that awareness of consequences and effects of child marriages be intensified. Encourage girls and boys to be more focused on education (Yowela JM, 2016).

# CHAPTER THREE

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is the systematic method of finding solution to a problem i.e. systematic collection, recording, analysis, interpretation and reporting of information about various facts of phenomenon under study. It is concerned with research design, population, sampling procedure, source of data and analysis of data.

### 3.1 Rational of Site Selection or Study Area

For the study, five rural municipalities (Dhawalagiri, Malika, Mangala, Annapurna and Raghuganga RM) was taken cluster sampled and it's included two ward (first and last Ward) from each rural Municipality. From these ward, proportionately married women having less than 2 years children were taken from each ward for the interview which makes the sample size of 230. 10 key persons were taken for the KII and 10 HMGs were taken for GFD. Numbers of married women having less than 2 years children were selected snow balling sampling from the each ward. Others rationales for the study area selection were as followings;

- ) Its represents different ethnic groups.
- ) These wards have cultural mix of different castes
- ) Married Women in these areas are mostly prone in reproductive health
- ) Frequently child married (love marriage) has been seen and try to manage by respective Palikas
- ) From the data of police Office Myagdi, Women violence cases are more registered it might be cause of child marriage
- ) The researcher knows some of the aspect of socio-cultural, economic and political situation of the places.
- ) The area is the familiar to the researcher. Before the visit for this study the researcher visited the site many times as the area is nearby

### **3.2 Research Design**

The study was conducted a descriptive cross-sectional study design that used both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection. Descriptive studies provide the means for obtaining initial about the interrelationships among phenomena and types of relevant determinants that might be measured. The basic purpose of this type of research is to get extensive information about the child marriage. This study takes descriptive cross sectional study, it entails the data collection of the data on a cross section, i.e. single point of time of a population. The quantitative data wascollectedthrough semi-structurequestionnaire, while qualitative data was collected through KII and focus group discussions.

### **3.3 Nature and Sources of Data**

Data Collection is an important procedure in this research. Both primary as well as secondary sources was used in this study. Primary data has collected from the field survey with the help of questionnaire, key informant interview guideline and focus group discussion guideline.

Primary and secondary data was collected using both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection. Qualitative data has been collected using tools like key informant interview and focus group discussion. While quantitative information was collected using questionnaire survey.

Apart from primary sources, following methods will be taken in account to collect secondary data.

#### **a. Library Method:**

Library has been used extensively. The published data, records, information sheets, magazines, newspapers, journals and reference books has been referred.

#### **b. Internet:**

As the easiest and most relevant source of information, many official website of Governmental and Non-Governmental organizations, especially the child marriage were referred. Also the E-magazines, E-journals, articles from different scholars etc. were also studied.

### **3.4 Universe and Sampling**

Sampling is key to survey research. No matter how well a study is done in other ways, if the sample has not been properly found, the results cannot be regarded as correct. Universe of the sample was not found in actual data in this study area so sample size was calculated on the basis of prevalence of early marriage is 10 % in Nepal (According to the UNFPA-UNICEF, Nepal 2019. This study was carried out in 12 countries on early marriage) so sample size is 230. For the FGD and KII, 1 HMG and 1 person was taken as a representative of each cluster.

This study was used multi stage cluster sampling and following stages were done.

Stage I: Out of the 6 Urban/Rural Municipalities of Myagdi, 5 Rural Municipality namely Dhawalari RM, Malika RM, Mangala RM, Raghuganga RM and Annpurna RM were selected as rural municipality.

Stage II: Two wards (first and last ward) from each selected rural municipality were selected randomly again. And hence there are all total 10 clusters (5 RM\*2 wards) (28%) were selected for the study. These ward are Lulang, Takam, Niskot, Bima, Kuhun, Arman, Begkhola, Kuinemangale, Dowa and Ramche

Stage III: The number of households included for the study was determined proportionately according to the number of households in each selected cluster.

Stage IV: The actual household from where the information is to be collected is selected by randomly and finally snowball sampling techniques was used for identify the married women having less than two year children. This technique is useful for identify sample unit in community.

### **3.5 Methods of Data Collection**

The study is based on field survey various data collection technique has been used to collect the primary data. The following methods was used.

#### **Interview Schedule (See Annex I)**

Quantitative data was collected using a semi- structured interview schedule which mostly consisted of closed ended questions and a few open ended questions. A semi structured interview schedule was adopted because it makes it easy to answer from a respondent point of view in that enumerator would be available to clarify if the

question is not clear and would help the researcher to analyses data in a systematic way. Face to face, interview encourages capturing of respondent's perception in their own words and is a very desirable strategy in qualitative data collection. This type of research method guarantees a high response rate and makes it easier to explain things to respondents.

#### **Key Informants Interview (See Annex II)**

The Key informant interview was used to gather more information through key informant interview guideline which is an important tool to collect a qualitative data. Key informant interviews provides an in depth understanding of the topic being investigated because the interview provides room for flexibility of questioning to explore more issues as they came out from the respondents. In key informant interview pre- designed questionnaire was used. The main key informants were ward chairpersons, Chairperson of health mother group, FCHVs, local leader, elderly and intellectual peoples of the study area.

#### **Focus Group Discussion (See Annex III)**

Focus group discussion was carried out with health mother group. Qualitative data was assisted in providing the content, thus additional information for the analysis and interpretation of the results. Qualitative data was also used to cross check with the data that was collected from different sources to determine whether the findings reached at the same conclusion.

### **3.6 Data Analysis and Presentation**

When a mass of data is collected, it is necessary to arrange them in some kind of concise and logical order. Data processing and analysis was conducted with the help of conventional qualitative content analysis (CQCA) process. First of all, the record was listened properly and transcribe into word. Then the transcribed information was categorized in different relative category. The information was shortening through minor and major category with the help of variables included. At last, the actual themes were carried out from the study.

- Field note review and translation
- Coding of the translation

- Sorting of the information by content analysis
- Summarization

Collected data was processed and analyzed through reviewing all the comments and notes made and grouped them into emerging themes. Once data get organized into themes, key findings waswritten in English with the direct quotes translating from Nepali to English.

Qualitative data, checking, compiling, and editing will be done manually on the same day of data collection. Data was entered and analyzed by using SPSS version 16.0. Descriptive statistics like frequency, distribution and percentage calculation was worked out for most of the variables.

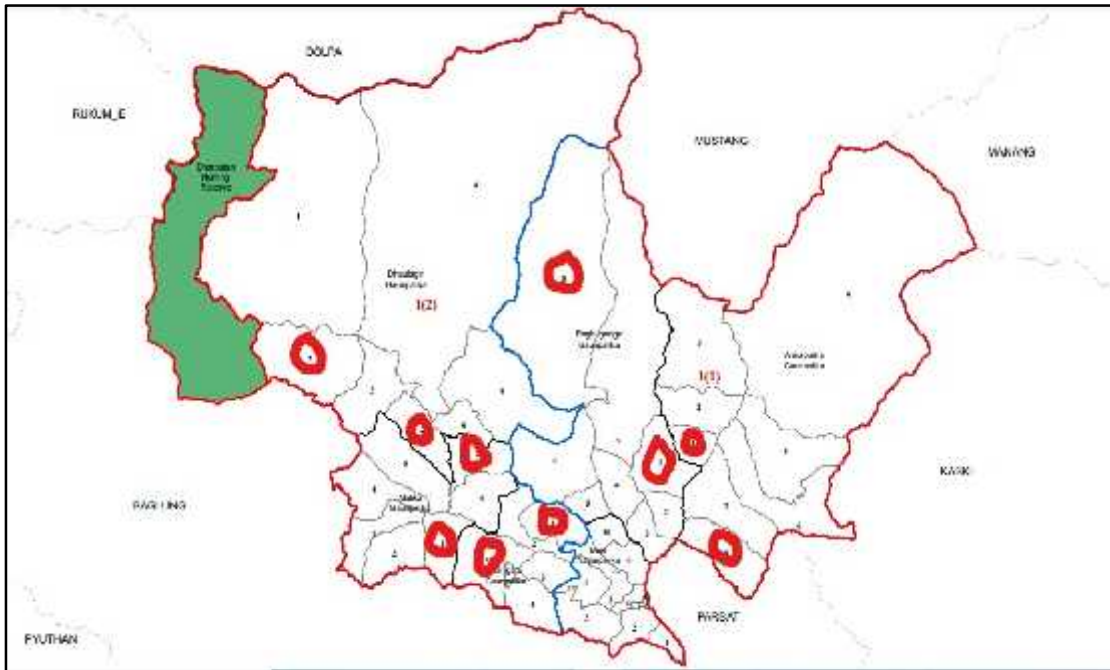
## CHAPTER FOUR

### BACKGROUND OF RESPONDENT

#### 4.1 Sociography/Social History

Myagdi district is a mountain district which lies in Province No. 4 of the Federal Republic of Nepal. This district has its own historical identity. The district is named after the name of a river “Myagdi” which originates from mount Dhawalagiri and flows from North-West to the South-East of the district. This district has its boundary with Kaski & Parbat in the east, Baglung, Rukum & Dolpa in the west, Mustang & Dolpa in the north and Baglung in the south. Its covers of an area of 2,297 km<sup>2</sup> and has a population (2011) of 113,641. According to the census 2056, Household of the Myagdi districts are 27762. Near about forty percent of household are Magar and followed by Chhetri 17.17% and Kami 15.31% in Myagdi. Myagdi District divided in to one Beni Municipality and 5 rural municipalities namely Dhawalagiri RM, Malika RM, Mangala RM, Annapurna RM and Raghuganga RM.

**Map of Myagdi District with Highlighted Study Area**



Study area are shown on table.

**Table 4.1: Sample Ward of Each RM**

<b>Name of RM</b>	<b>Name of Ward</b>
Annapurna RM	Dowa and Ramche
Dhawalagiri RM	Lulang and Takam
Malika RM	Niskot and Bima
Mangala RM	Kuhun and Arman
Raghuganga RM	Begkhola and Kinemangale

## **4.2 Caste/Ethnicity Composition of Respondents**

Each ethnic group has different beliefs about the importance of early marriage. The result of the child marriage revealed that women from the disadvantage Janajati and Dalit were more common than other caste. Out of the total sample responding to the in depth interview, more than one-third (44.8 %) of them from disadvantage Janajati and followed by Dalit 27 % and upper caste group 21.7 %. Relatively advantage are 6.5% in this study. Its suggesting that child marriage is most prevalent among Janajati community.

FGDs with HMG and KIIs with distinguished person in different community identified that Dalit community having the highest number of child marriages in Dhawalagiri and Malika RM. Besides this palikas, Janajati castes and upper caste group having some issues in child marriage.

It is noticeable that all informants reported that Dalits and other disadvantages castes were more involved in child marriages than socio- economically advantaged ones. The Dalits of Rural Municipalities are a disadvantaged group facing several social and cultural biases, their poor economic status has resulted in high prevalence of child marriage among them

**Table 4.2: Caste Composition of Respondents**

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Respondents (n=230)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Dalit (Kami, Damai and Sarki)	62	27.0
Disadvantage Janajati (Magar)	103	44.8
Relatively Advantage Janajati (Newar, Gurung and Thakali)	15	6.5
Upper Caste group (Braman, Chhetri)	50	21.7

### 4.3 Educational Status of Respondents

Education plays a significant role in determining age at marriage. The educated are more likely to marry after the legal age of marriage than the uneducated and illiterate. Most (58.7%) of the respondents were passed secondary level education although early marriage practiced are happened in this period. That's why health education is needed to prevent child marriage from school and community level. Family education status also prefer to early marriage. Those respondent's family have lower education they were taking easy to early marriage either own desire or forced by family.

Table also shows that education is statistically significant in influencing age at marriage among females.

**Table 4.3: Educational Status of Respondents**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Respondent (n=230)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
<b>Education</b>		
Primary level	31	13.5
Secondary level	135	58.7
Bachelor and above	64	27.8

In most FGDs, Children said that education had reduced child marriage to its present level but also agreed that the greatest number of child marriages was due to love affairs in school settings. Children are now aware of child rights through schools but that have used their rights to marry at an early age. (KII: Roka male, 31 years, Malika)

#### 4.4 Income of Respondent's Family

Regarding the economic status of the respondents, more than one-third of them (37.8 %) belonged to third quintile which was followed by second quintile. Respondents from the lowest quintile family are more force to marry and self-interest to marry due to her low income level. They expect to spend her life easily by doing marriage with rich people and husband earned to serve and everything so not facing more difficulties in life. In another hand, most of the respondent from more income family were getting love marriage in early age.

**Table 4.4: Income of Respondent's Family**

Variables	Respondent (n=230)	Percentage (%)
<b>Income</b>		
Lowest Quintile	30	13.0
Second Quintile	66	28.7
Third Quintile	87	37.8
Highest quintile	47	20.4
Mean income 18622.53(5000-50000)		

#### 4.5 Health Status

##### 4.5.1 Information Regarding Knowledge on Child Marriage

Most (94.3%) of the respondents were received information regarding minimum age of marriage for women. Among them, Question was asked what are the negative outcomes if married before the 20 years? Majority of the respondents answered legal consequences, poor health, low education and poverty problems might be occurred. Nearly half (48.2%) were answered, I was married before 20 years. Among them, more than half of the respondents have not knowledge on health effect of child marriage. Only 47 percentage of respondent were received the knowledge on health effect of child marriage. Among them, most of the respondent knows about uterine prolapse and followed by reproductive health. They have little bit knowledge on child health like low birth weight, malnutrition of the mother and child.

**Table 4.5: Information Regarding Minimum Age of Marriage for Women**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Respondent (N=230)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
15 year	1	.4
18 Year	11	4.8
20 Year	217	94.3
22 Year	1	.4

From the FGD, all participants reported minimum age of marriage is 20 years for women. They reported Negative effect of child marriage are mental stress, depression, quarrel, divorce, second marriage. From the KII, Child marriage is immature marriage that leads immature life so drop out the school (Low Education), no education no job and no incomes, its promoted poor status in family and being a bad relation, Women faced the violence so they could not provide nutritious food to her and her child, frequently sick.

**Table 4.6: Information Regarding Negative Outcomes of Child Marriage**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Respondent (N=230)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Legal Consequence	225	97.8
Poor Health	224	97.4
Low education	225	97.8
Poverty	218	94.8

There are various negative effects of child marriage on the young couple, especially the girl. UNICEF (2006) links the consequences of child marriage with MDGs. According to it, child marriage is both a response to deprivation and harmful practice that keeps families ensured in poverty. Married children are generally isolated, removed from their immediate families, taken out of school and denied interaction with their peers and communities, early pregnancy including death during delivery. Table shows that reproductive health problems, uterine prolapse low birth weight and malnourished children are common effect due to child marriage.

**Table 4.7: Information Regarding Knowledge on Health Effect of Child Marriage**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Respondent (N=56)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Reproductive Health problem	29	51.7
Uterine prolapse	48	85.7
Low birth weight	22	39.2
Malnourished child	19	33.9

## CHAPTER FIVE

### CULTURAL PRACTICE AND CHILD MARRIAGE

#### 5.1 Information Regarding Cultural Practice and Child Marriage

Majority (87.8%) of the respondent answered culture not influence child marriage. Only twelve percent of the respondents were answered culture influence the child marriage. They reported festival related fair, conservative family and followed elder sister trends. FGD and KII reported, cultural practice for child marriage is not seen in our community but girls are married while going on MELA and PARBA. Some of the family forced to marriage her girls to Laure or some are married due to their poor status. girls are feeling to be happy while married with rich person. Girls' became pregnant early in spite of maturity and led to maternal and child mortality rate

**Table 5.1: Information Regarding Cultural Influence Child Marriage**

Variables	Frequency (N=230)	Percentage (%)
Yes (Culture Influence)	28	12.2
No (Culture not influence)	202	87.8

#### 5.2 Information Regarding Cause of Child Marriage

From the Interview questionnaire, more than one third (37.5 & 30.2 %) part of the respondents were answered got married due to peer pressure and own desire. one forth (24.1%) of the respondents reported got married due to family desire or pressure. Only 8.2 % respondents were reported unknown the reason. From the FGD and KII, Girls and boys were got married by own desire. Media and mobile phone were highly promoted to get child marriage. Friends can be made through mobile phone and getting love marriage and after some years break the relation.

**Table 5.2: Information Regarding Causes of Child Marriage**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Respondent (N=230)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Family Pressure	58	24.1
Girls own desire	87	37.5
Peer pressure	70	30.2
Unknown reason	19	8.2

Among >20 years married women, more than half of respondent were reported to feeling regrets of child marriage. Among them, majority (81%) of respondent were reported to regret low level of education and followed poverty in sixty-three percent. only nineteen percentage of respondents were reported large family size.

**Table 5.3: Information Regarding Regret of Child Marriage**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Respondent (N=58)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
low level of education	47	81
Poverty	37	63
Large family size	11	19

## CHAPTER SIX

### SUMMARY, FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

#### 6.1 Summary

The result of the child marriage revealed that women from the Dalit and disadvantage Janajati were more common than other caste. Out of the total sample responding to the in depth interview, more than one-third (38.7 %) of them from disadvantage Janjati and followed by Dalit 27 % and upper caste group 21.7 %.

Data indicates that lack of education can promote to get early marriage or vulnerability to being child marriage. Most (58.7%) of the respondents were passed secondary level education although early marriage practiced are happened in this period. Family education status also prefer to early marriage. Those respondent's family have lower education they were taking easy to early marriage either own desire or forced by family.

Respondents from the lowest quintile family are more force to marry and self-interest to marry due to her low income level.

In another hand, most of the respondent from more income family were getting love marriage in early age.

Most (94.3%) of the respondents were received information regarding minimum age of marriage for women.

Nearly half (48.2%) were answered, I was married before 20 years. Among them, more than half of the respondents have not knowledge on health effect of child marriage.

Among getting child marriage, most of the respondent knows about uterine prolapse and followed by reproductive health. They have little bit knowledge on child health like low birth weight, malnutrition of the mother and child.

FGD reported Negative effect of child marriage are mental stress, depression, quarrel, divorce, second marriage.

Only twelve percent of the respondents were answered culture influence the child marriage. They reported festival related fair, conservative family and followed elder

sister trends. FGD and KII reported, cultural practice for child marriage is not seen in our community but girls are married while going on MELA and PARBA.

From the FGD and KII, Girls and boys were got married by own desire. Media and mobile phone were highly promoted to get child marriage. Friends can be made through mobile phone and getting love marriage and after some years break the relation.

Among >20 years married women, more than half of respondent were reported to feeling regrets of child marriage. Among them, majority (81%) of respondent were reported to regret low level of education and followed poverty in sixty-three percent.

## **6.2 Findings**

This section presents the overall findings and conclusions of the study based on the objectives set. Child marriage is still a massive problem in many developing countries. This study aimed to **determine factor that influences prevalence of child marriage in rural municipalities of Myagdi**. The results are discussed rationally with respect to other similar studies on Child Marriage. More than one-third (38.7 %) of them were disadvantage Janjati and followed by Dalit and upper caste group. More than half (58.7 %) of respondent were completed secondary level education. Regarding the economic status of the respondents, more than one-third of them (37.8 %) belonged to third quintile which was followed by second quintile.

This study shows that Most (94.3%) of the respondents were received information regarding minimum age of marriage for women and they reported negative effect of child marriage were legal consequences, poor health, low education and poverty. Among the poor health, they were reported reproductive health, uterine prolapse, mental stress and malnutrition which was similar with study in Nigeria. Many of these young girls who have become young mothers experience life-threatening complications during pregnancy and childbirth. These young brides cannot make decision in their marriage or engage in mutual negotiation with their husbands, and therefore they are subjected to emotional disturbances, sexual abuse and domestic violence, and as a result many have suffered psychosocial trauma and sometimes many abscond or attempt suicide (Daniel MI, 2016).

The qualitative data revealed that parents were aware of the need to delay the marriages of their children but that children themselves got involved in love marriage. Love marriages among teenagers are increasing these days, though the total percentage of love based child marriage is lower than that of arranged marriage.

In addition, parent's pressure is now less significant than love and fulfilment of sexual desire and the occurrence of child marriage has moved from exclusively rural setting.

This study shows that 51 % of respondents were married before 20 years it's higher than global study. It might be a small sample size in limited geographical area. Nearly about 48% of girls were married by age 15. Globally, around 40% of women are married under 18 years old. Poverty, cultural beliefs and societal conflicts have been the major factors leading to and resulting from girls marrying early (Daniel MI, 2016).

This study shows that education no difference in child marriage. From the group discussion and KII reported low education due to child marriage. Child marriage were occurred in Dalit and Janajati its similar with the world vision study. Child marriage was most prevalent among the illiterate and the Janjati (indigenous ethnic groups) and the Dalit (the so-called untouchables in the Hindu caste system). Aware parents sought to delay the marriages of their children but the children themselves to part in love marriage" at an early age (Plan Nepal, Save the Children, World Vision, 2012).

This study shows that 37.5% of girls were married due to Family pressure and 30.2 % girls were married due to children's own desire. Which is similar study conducted in Nepal. According to the household heads, the major causes of child marriage were family pressure (32.1%), Children's own desire (32.1%). Parents and key informants blamed mobile phones and mass media for early marriage based on love. [Plan Nepal, Save the Children, World Vision, 2012] early marriage is due to various factors including among others, the search for economic survival, protection of young girls, peer group and family pressure, controlling female behavior and sexuality, wars and civil conflicts and socio-cultural and religious values (Bayisenge J, 2009). Child marriages were more prevalent among girls due to forced marriages which were driven by poverty and the mean age at marriage was 20.4 years with a SD=4.6 years (Yowela JM, 2016).

FGD and KII findings revealed that mobile phones and mass media had caused early love marriages among some children. It was also discovered that school serves as a place to form attachments and date. Children seem to use mobiles and mass media for courting and dating purposes rather than for increasing their knowledge.

This study shows that, Majority of the respondents were regret to child marriage for low education, poverty and poor health. Other study shows that Married girls in Nepal are 10 times more likely to drop out than their unmarried peers. Little or no education of the household head, belonging to the Kirat religion, and membership of a traditionally disadvantaged social class each elevate the risk of school dropout due to early marriage (Sekine K, 2017).

Early married females have to face social problems such as discrimination, poor socialization, and lack of leadership as well as being divorced or widowed by their husbands, many of whom are older. These problems reflect the poor social status of women. The economic consequences of child marriage are found to be joblessness, difficulty in earning a livelihood and increase in expenses.

### **6.3 Conclusion**

The findings have highlighted many things about the child marriage in rural municipalities of Myagdi. Child marriage causes, effect and status were reviewed in this study. This study is a small attempt to provide information on child marriage. The study showed that nearly half of the girls were got married before 20 years. Educational status of her or her family background refers to marry in early. KII said poor educational background family doesn't motivate to teach or family doesn't believe to study well so push to household work and marry in early age. Caste could not determine the early marriage although Dalit community have more practice to marry in early age and following by Janajati

Among them most of the respondents were regret to married in early age for low education and poverty. Local Mela/Parba are influencing to search male mate and desire to marry in early age. This Study showed that child marriage was promoted by own desires and peer pressure. Parents and KII reported mobile and mass media promoted to child marriage. Somewhat Family also pressured for the marriage. Child marriage is increasing by own desire and peer pressure. This is emerging issues.

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**Appendix I**  
**Interview Schedule**

**Tribhuvan University**  
Department of sociology  
Prithivi Narayan Campus

**Influencing factors of Child Marriage in Rural Municipalities of  
Myagdi**

Code .....

**Consent Form**

Namaskar! I am Bal Kumari Pun Magar a student of department of sociology, Tribhuvan University. I am doing a research study on “**Influencing factors of Child Marriage in Rural Municipalities of Myagdi**”. The objective of my study is to determine the factor that influences prevalence of child marriage in rural municipalities of Myagdi. Your participation in this survey is very important and is completely voluntary. If you agree to participate you will be asked to fill the questionnaire which will be provided to you related to child marriage. The questionnaire will take approximately 15 minutes to be filled. All the participants will be assigned a code number and confidentiality of the information collected will be maintained. Information will be used for the scientific research purpose only to fulfill the objectives of the study.

Name of interviewer: ..... Signature .....

Date..... District.....

Rural Municipality ..... ward no. ....

Community.....

**SectionA : demographic characteristic of respondent**

1. What is your age at last birthday (n completed years) .....
2. what is your marital status?
  - a. Married
  - c.divorce
  - d. Never Marred e. other specify
4. what is your ethnicity? .....
5. what is your highest level of education?  
.....

**Section B: Awareness of child marriage**

6. Are you married? a. yes b. No  
If yes when did you get married?
7. What is your age of spouse? .....
8. Do you have children? a. Yes b. No  
If yes how many children do you have?
9. Have you ever received information on the minimum age at which a person can get married? a. yes b. No  
If yes, what is the minimum age at which a person can get married? .....
10. Are there any consequences of marrying early? a. Yes b. No  
If yes, what are the those consequences ( multiple response )
  - a. face legal consequences
  2. Poor health
  3. Low education levels
  4. Low in poverty
  5. Other specify .....
11. This consequences were you known before marriage?

**Section C: cultural practices and childmarriage**

11. Is there any cultural nation that a person has to go through to prepare hm/her for marriage in your community? a. Yes b. No  
If yes, Name the cultural practices that a person has to undergo marriage ?  
.....

12. At what age is a person initiated n to the cultural practicesmention above ? ....

How old were you at your firstmarriage ?

- a. Below 15 years
- b. 15-18 years
- c. above 18 years

If not above 18 years, do you have any regrets for having married early?

- a. Yes
- b. no

If yes , what makes you regret to have marred early ( multiple response)

- a. Contributes to low level of education
- b. Contributes to poverty
- c. Contributes large family size
- d. Specify .....

**Section D: Socioeconomic status and childmarriage**

What is your estimated monthly income ?

.....

What do you think are the causes of child marriage n your community

.....

What do you think should done to end child marriage ?

.....

## Appendix II

### Key Informant Interview Guideline

1. What are your views on the issues of child marriages n your community?  
.....
2. Are the people n your community received information on the consequences of early marriage? If yes, highlight the sources of information.  
.....
3. Are there any causes of child marriage n your community? If yes, kindly explain how child marriages take place.  
.....
4. Have the people n your community received information effects of child marriage? If yes, briefly explain kind information received.  
.....
5. What factors influence child marriage?  
.....
6. S there any relationship between early marriage and girls child education ? If yes, explain.  
.....
7. Are there any mechanism put in places to reduce child marriages n your community? If yes, explain.  
.....
8. What do you think should be done to end child marriages in your community?  
.....

## Appendix III

### Focus Group Discussion Guideline

1. Are you aware of the existence of child marriages in your community? If yes, kindly explain how such marriages take place (probe for more information).

.....

2. Have you received information on the consequences of child marriage? If yes, mention the effects of child marriage.

.....

3. What are the causes of child marriages? (probe more as issues are coming out).

.....

4. Do parents in anyway plays a role in the practice of child marriages? If yes, explain, (Allow for discussion.

.....

5. Does culture in anyway play a role in the practice of child marriage? If yes, explain.

.....

6. Douse the socio-economic status in anyway play a role in the practice of child marriages? If yes, explain.

.....

## AppendixIV

### Ethnic Group

S.N	Ethnic Group	Caste
1	Dalit	
	Hill	Kami, Damai, Sarkii, Gaine, Badi
	Terai	Chamar, Mushar, Dhusah/Paswan, Tatma, Khatway, Bantar, Dom, Chidimar, Dhobi, Halkhor
2	Disadvantaged Janajati	
	Hill	Magar, Tamang, Rai, limbu, Sherpa, bhote, Walung, Byansi, hyolomo, Bhujel/Ghartri, Kuumal, sunsar, Baramu, Pahari, Yakkah, Chhantal, Jirel, Darai, Dura, Majhi, Danuwar, Thami, Lepcha, Chepang, Bote, Raji, Hayu, Raute, Kusunda
	Terai	Tharu, Dhanuk, Rajbansi, Tajpuriya, Gangai, Dhimarl, Meche, Kisan, Munda, Santhal/Satar, Dhangad/Jhangad, Koche, Pattarkatta/Kusbadiay
3	Disadvantage non dalit Terai Caste group	Yadav, Teli, Kalwar, Sudhi, Sonar, Lohar, Koiri, Kurmi, Kanu, Haluwai, Hajam/Thakur, Badhe, Bahae, Rajba Kewat, Mallah, Nuniya, Kumhar, Kahar, Lodhar, Bing/Banda, Bhediyar, Mali, Kumar, Dhunia
4	Religious Minorities	Muslims, Churoute
5	Relatively advantage Janajati	Newar, Thakali, Gurung
6	Upper caste group	Brahman (Hill), Chhetri, Thakuri, Sanyasi, Brahman(Terai), Rajput, Kayastha, Baniya, Marwadi, Jaine, Nuraang, Bengali