

**INFLUENCING FACTORS OF CHILD MARRIAGE IN
RURAL MUNICIPALITIES OF MYAGDI**

A Thesis Submitted to:

The Department of Sociology and Rural Development
Prithvi Narayan Campus Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
For the Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements of
the Masters of Arts in Sociology

Submitted by:

Bal Kumari Pun Magar
Symbol No.: 480278/074
T.U. Reg. No.: 6-3-48-2489-2014
Campus Roll No.: 67/071

Tribhuvan University
Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara
March, 2021

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

It is certified that Ms. Bal Kumari Pun Magar has completed the dissertation entitled **"Influencing Factors of Child Marriage in Rural Municipalities of Myagdi"** under my guidance and supervision. I therefore recommended this dissertation for final approval and acceptance.

.....

Narayani Sigdel

Supervisor

Department of Sociology and Rural Development

Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara

Date: March, 2021

LETTER OF APPROVAL

This Thesis by **Bal Kumari Pun Magar** entitled "**Influencing Factors of Child Marriage in Rural Municipalities of Myagdi**" has been accepted as partial fulfillment of the requirement of master's Degree in sociology.

Members of Dissertation Evaluation Committee

.....

Narayani Sigdel

Research Supervisor

Department of Sociology and Rural Development

Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara

.....

Ram Chandra Baral

External Examiner

Department of Sociology and Rural Development

Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara

.....

Prof. Dr. Bishow Kalyan Parajuli

Head of Department of Sociology and Rural Development

Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara

Date: March, 2021

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It gives me immense pleasure to acknowledge and thank all those who have given consistent guidance, advice and encouragement in my endeavor. I fully owe a favor to my academe Tribhuvan University, Department of Sociology and I gratefully acknowledge my sincere gratitude to my supervisor lecture Ms. Narayani Sigdel for his close supervision and invaluable suggestions throughout my study. I also especially thanks to our faculty lecturer Mr. Tej Raj Subedi who lent a hand at different stages of the research process. Also, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks Ram Chandra Baral, External Examiner, for providing invaluable suggestions and assistance in completing this research paper. I am indeed grateful to the Prof. Dr. Bisow Kalyan Parajuli, Head of the Department of Sociology and Rural Development, Prithvi Narayan Campus for his generous support and encouragement during my thesis writing.

I am very indebted to the Rural Municipalities of Myagdi, District Public Health office Myagdi and ward chairperson of selected ward and HMG for granting me permission to carry out the research.

Last but not the least, with the respect, I would humbly like to thanks my family from the bottom of my heart for their financial support, prayer, inspiration and guidance that lead me the will and strength to complete my study.

Late on, I would be ill-fated rather than purposeful if someone or anyone is not acknowledged. I am thankful to all who have helped me directly or indirectly.

Bal Kumari Pun Magar

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ABSTRACT

Introduction:

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. 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.

Methodology: A community based descriptive cross-sectional design that used both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection was conducted on 230 mothers having under 2 year children in rural municipalities of Myagdi districts, Nepal. This study used multi stage cluster sampling technique was used for this study. Five clusters were taken five rural municipalities and two communities of each municipality was taken randomly and finally Snowball sampling technique was used for data collection. Quantitative Data were collected using a pretested semi-structured administered questionnaire and qualitative data were collected by Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) guideline and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) guideline. Data analysis was carried out using Statistical Package for Social Sciences version 16.0 for descriptive variables.

Result:

Out of the 230 respondents 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. Caste could not determine the early marriage although Dalit community have more practice to marry in early age. Educational status of her or her family background refers to marry in early. KII said poor educational background family doesn't motive to teach or family doesn't believe to study well so puss to household work and marry in early age. 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. More than one third (37.5 & 30.2 %) part of the respondents was answered got married due to peer pressure and own desire. FGD and KII reported Girls and boys were got married by own desire.

Media and mobile phone were highly promoted to get child marriage. Among >20 years married women, more than half of respondent were reported to feeling regret of child marriage for low education and poverty. From the FGD and KII, Negative effect of child marriage are mental stress, depression, quarrel, divorce, second marriage.

Conclusion: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 motive to teach or family doesn't believe to study well so puss to household work and marry in early age. 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 issue