

# CHAPTER - I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Marriage from the beginning of human civilization is in practice as social phenomenon. It is a bond between two known / unknown male and female who promises to share their all happiness and grief till the last breathe. It is also known as a cultural phenomenon which is essential for the fulfillment of socio, cultural and biological need of husband and wife .Hence, marriage is done to continue the generation. It is a relationship between two individuals which can be or cannot be accepted by the society due to their certain problems. Marriage can be defined on the basis of social, cultural and religious values of the contemporary society.

“Marriage is one of the oldest, most universal and most distinctive of human institutions. There is no record of any society, however simple its economic and political system, that does not have marriage as one of the key elements of its social structure.”(Fuchs, 1983).The continuation of human institution is not possible without reproduction and maintenance of the institution is possible with marriage. The phenomenon of marriage is exist form the ancient time but the characteristics and the impact of age of marriage is different. Marriage is a social institution that unites people in a special form of mutual dependence for the purpose of founding and maintaining a family. As a social practice entered into through a public act, religious or traditional ceremony, it reflects the purposes, character, and customs of the society in which it is found. Many societies have norms that limit the age of young girls to enter into marriage, but in some cases the age limit does not take into consideration their physiological readiness for childbearing. Marriage often takes place at ages much earlier than the legally ratified minimum age. Early marriage is the marriage of children and adolescents below the age of 18.

Early marriage is clearly complex, but we can understand that early marriage and it’s Social impacts in terms of economics, social and culture impacts. In low-income families, the lack of economic alternatives contributes to the practice, as marriage to an older man may be seen as bringing economic security – for the girl and sometimes

for her entire family. Furthermore, disasters and emergencies may increase economic pressure on households making child marriage a common practice where it was not previously acceptable. In many contexts it is considered normal for young adolescent girls to marry older men and is justified as a tradition or customary practice essential to preserving a family's 'honor' and a girl's virginity. In a broader sense, the acceptance of marrying a girl as a child is part of a cluster of social norms and attitudes that do not value the human rights of girls. In this sense, child marriage is symptomatic of social and cultural traditions, attitudes, and beliefs that deny women and girls their rights and stifle their ability to play an equal role in their homes and communities. ( Lauro, G; Margaret E. G. 2013.) This phenomena exist in our country and even in the capital city of Nepal and it has supposed to have negative impact in different social and other spectra. Study is necessary to describe the impact in this regard in our society. The practice of early marriage is most common in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. In specific parts of West Africa, East Africa and South Asia, marriage before puberty is not unusual. In North Africa, the Middle East, and other parts of Asia marriage shortly after puberty is common among those living traditional lifestyles. Marriages of female adolescents between 16 and 18 years of age are also common in parts of Latin America and Eastern Europe. Among those marrying early, some are forced into this union, others are simply too young to make an informed decision. Because the child does not have the opportunity to exercise her right to choose, early marriages are also referred to as forced marriages. In its most extreme form, forced marriages are the result of abductions. Here, early marriage identifies the social impact, health impact, education impact and economic impact and the causative factors for early marriage such as poverty, less education, dowry system, cultural belief, family pressure, divorce and so on.

Similarly, Girls Not Brides summarizes the economic explanation: Where poverty is acute, giving a daughter in marriage allows parents to reduce family expenses by ensuring they have one less person to feed, clothe and educate. In communities where a dowry or 'bride price' is paid, it is often welcome income for poor families. (Fisher, H. 2013.)

In most of the cases, parents supports early marriage thinking that they have one less member to feed, educate, cloth and fulfill their wishes .Likewise, family allows early

marriage of a girl with a boy who is a divorce as a result they should not give dowry. They think their burden is not transferred to other.

Research supports the economic explanation by showing that poor families are less likely to educate girls.( Plan, 2013.)

There are many contributory factors for early marriage. One of them is supposed to be economic. Girls for rich family get marriage in late age as comparison to poor. Study done by ICRW showed Girls from poor families are nearly twice as likely to marry before they are women than girls from wealthy families (ICRW, 2008.) Where poverty is acute, giving a daughter in marriage allows parents to reduce family expenses by ensuring they have one less person to feed, clothe and educate .In communities where a dowry or bride price is paid, it is often welcome income for poor families.

Girls who marry young tend to drop out of school and are more likely to bear children during adolescence, thus effectively ensuring that they will not return to school or develop other work skills. Married girls receive little or no schooling. Seventy-three percent of married women have received no education, compared to 45 percent of never-married women (NDHS, 2005).

Early marriage is one way to ensure that a girl is protected, or placed firmly under male control; that she is submissive to her husband and works hard for her in-laws household; that the children she bears are legitimate'; and that bonds of affection between couples do not undermine the family unit. Parents may genuinely feel that their daughter will be better off and safer with a regular male guardian. One important impetus for marrying girls at an early age is that it helps prevent from premarital sex. Many societies prize virginity before marriage and this can be manifest itself in a number of practices designed to protect a girl from unsanctioned sexual activity. In effect, they amount to strict controls imposed upon the girl herself. She may, for example, be scheduled from social interaction outside the family. She may be told what she can and cannot wear.

This type of negative impact in society, girl's life and family as well as health inversely impact on the personal development as well as society. This is also the violation of human right. Such type of study on nepalese population and society in

respect to geographical area will help to implement the necessary action to come up the problem.

## **1.2 Statements of Problems**

Early marriage invites the growth of population. It can have harmful effects on the overall well being of a girl child who is not mentally, psychologically, emotionally or physically prepared for a conjugal life. Population growth has appeared as a threatening challenge to the very development and prosperity of human race like high birth rate and low death rate in the world The law have prescribed certain age for marriage, 18 years for girls and 22 years for boys respectively. The main cause is that they tend to be unaware among the existing legal provisions, and hence lack of self-confidence to fight for their rights .The highly gender discriminative Hindu marriage law permitted the marriage of a young girl with a very old man. It is most common in the developing countries like Nepal too.

For adolescent girls, early marriage or an unwanted pregnancy typically curtails schooling. Delaying marriage and childbearing allows them to gain more education and perhaps more earning opportunities as well as improved health, education and labor market success for their future children. (Lomberg, B and King, E. M. 2008.)

After marriage, pregnancy often follows, yet young adolescent girls' bodies are not physically ready to bear children. The risks of early childbirth include maternal death but also the newly born baby too. Many girls especially with 14 and 15 years are forced into marriage by parents or guardians or relatives therefore they facing a lot of For instance, those young female who forced to enter into early marriage does not able to cope with marriage life, because their age does not allow them to handle well the family matters. Adolescent mothers are also notable to reading the different gestures of their child such as illness, hunger, or pain. This puts both the mother and the child in poor health.

However, statistics show that girls who marry before the age of 18 are disproportionately affected by complicated pregnancies that may lead to maternal mortality and morbidity, Girls aged 10–14 are five times more likely to die in pregnancy or childbirth than women aged 20– 24; girls aged 15–19 are twice as likely to die. Many of these deaths take place within marriage. ( UNICEF, 2001).

Along with the age of marriage and the negative impact in morbidity and mortality, education is the next deterrent for the early marriage and more education is expected to be less chance of early marriage. When a girl in poverty completes secondary school, marries and has her first child later she helps to create economic growth, political and social stability. When a girl in the developing world enables to realize her full potential, she isn't the only one who escapes poverty. She brings her family, community and country with her. Economic, casteism, qualification, gender biasness, cultural beliefs plays a vital role to occur early marriage and most of the victims are females because there is a cultural belief that if they marry their girl before menstruation they can earn more "Dharma". For adolescent girls early marriage or unwanted pregnancy typically curtails schooling. Delaying marriage and child bearing allows them to gain more education and perhaps more earning opportunities as well as improved health, education and labor market success for their future children.

Mishra (1998) said that "Education beyond the primary school level lowers the probability of early marriage. Significantly, among male urban youths, only college or higher education has an effect of lowering the probability of early marriage. Significantly among the male youths. The effect of respondent's education on the timing of marriage begins to show at earlier levels. Primary school for females and secondary school for males. Among rural residents, respondents in more developed districts are more likely to marry early. This finding is contrary to expectation and suggests that youths from very poor may be postponing their marriage for economic reasons. Female early marriage is less common for most of the large ethnic groups, Brahmin, Chhetri, Magar Gurung, but it is in high range among the Dalits Sarki, Kissan, Nepali, Charmakar and so on.

Early marriage is not only a problem in our country but it is also a global problem. Though the reason differs but the results it brings are same world widely. Throughout the world, marriage is regarded as a moment of celebration and a milestone in adult life. The practice of early marriage gives no such cause for celebration. All too often, the imposition of a marriage partner upon a child means that a girl or boy's childhood is cut short and their fundamental rights are compromised. Over the last thirty years with UNICEF in Asia, I have encountered the phenomena of child marriage and early marriage on numerous occasions. While much of the impact remains hidden, it is

absolutely clear that millions of children and young people particularly girls suffer negative consequences.

Early marriage always doesn't takes place between same age people. In most of the case, early marriage refers to the second marriage (i.e. his first wife is dead) so he is ready to marry the girl who is very junior. Hence, she becomes the victim of early marriage. Many parents accept such kind of proposal because of poverty .They can't provide dowry to her daughter. Poverty is one of the vital causes of the early marriage. Due to poverty they are unable to get higher studies. They don't have knowledge about their rights too either in the selection of their life partner or what else. Thus, knowledge about reproductive health is far from their thinking. Early marriage is most common in developing countries like Nepal too so we can't imagine about the under developing countries. Early marriage mostly takes place in poor class people because they become failure to fulfill their needs and demands. Some people took early marriage as positively and some as negatively .As a result early marriage takes place which results to early motherhood. Hence, early marriage has its impact criticizing the early motherhood and its effect on reproductive health.

People think that in such developed country there is no probability of early marriage. They are in illusion. Despite of the all facilities, modernization, prosperous life style, 21<sup>st</sup> century people still early marriage takes place in Kathmandu and to make people known about the practices is my concern. From the beginning of human civilization early marriage is in practice as social phenomenon. Knowingly/unknowing people were bound in these relationships and were unknown about the implications that it brings. Maturity levels become an issue as the little girl is now expected to play the role of a mother. Girl children undergo several health problems like pregnancy and childbirth. Along with this their reproductive health is hampered but people were still unaware about those things. Instead of eradicating such problems, it increased day by day. The more early marriage took place, the more the health of young brides affected. Not only this, they were deprived of each and every thing that were needed for them. They had to depend upon their husband who are older than them and need to follow their instructions as they were taught like that in their home. They were not allowed to express their thoughts and were helpless of their wishes n desires. After marriage they have to abandon their whole life for their husband, kids and in laws.

Early marriage is also driven by patriarchal values and the desire to control female sexuality, for instance, how a girl should behave, how she should dress, who she should be allowed to see, to marry, etc which emphasize on patriarchy.

Early marriage has numerous problems a couple can face when marriage happens at an early age for them. It will almost certainly mean premature pregnancy and childbearing, and is likely to lead to a lifetime of domestic and sexual subservience over which they have no control. Early marriage and its social impacts attracts limited attention yet it has become a serious problem in most parts of the country; though in the capital city despite of all facilities, developing trends, modernization in cultural beliefs and thinking early marriage still exist in Kathmandu and the reasons behind it is to be explode out is the main concern of my research topic. Due to this, the question may arise like,

1. Why does early marriage takes place?
2. What are the consequences of early marriage?
3. What are the incidences of early marriage?

For answering these questions one has to analyze the society from grass level. Early marriage was in practice from the beginning of human civilization. Especially within Brahmin caste an old man gets married with a girl who refers to early marriage and results to early and immature pregnancy. Hence she gives birth to an immature child in teenage which also hampers her reproductive health. Early marriage is taken as normal thing in many parts of the world regarding that early marriage leads to early motherhood. Early pregnancy is one of the most dangerous causes and consequences of early marriage. Girls married early are more likely to experience domestic violence, abuse and forced sexual relations. They are more vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections including HIV. They are likely to die of complications during pregnancy because of immaturity reproductive health.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

Marriage is a cultural phenomenon which is essential for socio, cultural and biological need of husband and wife. Early marriage can have harmful effects on the overall well being of a girl child who is not mentally, psychologically, emotionally or physically prepared to tie a knot. Once married, she is expected to get into the multiple role of a

good wife, perfect daughter in law, diligent house keeper and responsible mother. This transition can be psychologically and emotionally stressful for a young girl deprived as a child and lacking maturity and skill to handle her personal, family, economic and social affairs. When we talk about early marriage as an illegal process, Nepal is only the country where there is the concept of early marriage in different norms and values. But due to lack of education and awareness it is deeply rooted in our community. It is the traditional problems in Nepal but never the solutions have been searched. Mostly people are unknown about the practices of early marriage that is still in practices in Kathmandu the capital city of Nepal where there is facility of everything, prosperous people living a better life, development in a footstep. To figure out the traditional practices that is still in existence and to aware the people about its social impact regarding its causes and effects are the main objective of my research. Hence, my objective was to search solution and stop early marriage. The special objective of the study area was to generate qualitative and quantitative information on:

1. To identify the causes of early marriage.
2. To identify the social impact of early marriage.

#### **1.4 Signification of the Study**

It attempted to analyze the causes and effects of Early Marriage and its Social Impacts. Till now, most available literature shows the cultural economic and social like making boyfriend and girlfriends are the major cause of early marriage and its effect on maternal mortality, curtailing of girls education and health consequences of new birth. Marriage is a cultural phenomenon which is essential for socio, cultural and biological need of husband and wife. It aims for the continuation of generation. Though, in early age or in appropriate age when a girl gets married she gives birth to a baby. She should be conscious regarding both of their health. The partner should have knowledge of birth spacing which refers to good reproductive health. From this, I tried to dig out the matter to depth and need to use methodologies which will help me out to find new concepts. It helps to reduce early marriage and its social impacts are decreased day by day.

There are lots of complications and even death in early pregnancy and childbirth of wives too young to safely bear children. Instead of being in school or playing, child



brides are working in near slave-like conditions in the homes of their in-laws. Likewise, education statistics revealing the large numbers of children, particularly girls, who drop out of school because of early marriage. And many married women of all ages lament the fact that they cannot even read because they had to leave school early to be married. We must work to change attitudes in families and in societies at large, extend opportunities for childhood learning and education, offer appropriate support to families and children, and seek to have all children girls and boys recognized as valuable members of society rather than economic burdens. Our intention is to raise awareness of the situation and, where necessary, to stimulate action. Where there is insufficient data on the practice and repercussions of early marriage, researchers and officials in both government and civil society are encouraged to initiate research in this area. In some countries, similar local Digests/ Magazines could be useful tools for raising awareness. And this research will help to see the impact in type of family, education, religion etc and it will give idea how to reduce it and make the healthier and wealthier society.

### **1.5 Organization of the study**

This study is divided into six chapters. The first chapter deals with the background of the study, statement of problems, objective of the study, study limitations, and organization of the study second chapter is related to literature to early marriage and its consequences. The third chapter is on the research methodologies which includes the research design and source of data. The fourth chapter deals with socio demographic characteristic of respondents. The fifth chapter deals with case studies and the sixth chapter deals with summary findings and conclusion.

### **1.6 Definition of terms**

**Age at marriage:** The age which female gets married and reproductive period life.

**Anemia:** Low level of hemoglobin in blood.

**Antenatal care:** Care of mother and her fetus during pregnancy.

**Breast feeding:** The mother feeds milk from her breast to her infant/child

**Colostrums:** The first coming fluid from the mothers breasts after child birth which contains more protein but less fat and sugar than true milk.

**Contraceptive:** method or tools for prevention of conception.

**Delivery:** The process by which the fetus and the placenta are expelled from the uterus.

**Early marriage:** Women who married below eighteen years.

**Postnatal care:** care of mother and her baby since delivery to 42 days.

**Pregnancy:** A physical condition of women during reproductive period in which development of fertilized ovum occurs within the maternal body.

**Reproductive:** A process of birth.

## CHAPTER - II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This chapter presents the reviewed literature from various scholars and researchers related to this Study of the factor which contribute to early marriage and it's social impact in Kathmandu despite of the capital city. It is not necessary that all literatures may be reviewed but we should have capability of finding subject matter among those relevant literatures.

Child marriage has been existed from time unmemorable in Nepal .Until about 25-30 years ago it was common to hear stories of children as small as 6 or 8 years old having already been married in match arranged by parents. Growing children were told by their elders that they had already been married. They had no other choice but to accept each other as spouses and being to cohabit when they came of age. Over time, however marriage among children less than 10 years of age has largely been eradicated. As of 1971, the last time the national census collected data on marriage among children under 10 years of age, only 2.4 percent of children in the 6-9 age groups were reported to have been formally married. (CBS 1955: 173).

A 1962 law set the minimum marriage ages of 14 years for females and 18 years for males. A later revision changed the minimum ages to 16 and 18 years respectively, with parental consent. Without parental consent the minimum age are now 18 for females and 21 for males (Banister and Thapa 1981). The law has most probably helped in increasing the age of marriages. A lack of universal birth and marriage registrations remains however.

The 1991 national census showed that the average age of marriage for girls is about 18 and for boys about 21 (CBS 1955:181). This suggested that a large proportion of female marriage is still taking place under 18 years of age. Nevertheless, significant changes have taken place over the years. Whereas in 1961 nearly 25 percent of female children in the age group 10-14 were married, as of 1991 it was only about 7 percent (CBS 1995:173). This implies that over the thirty years period, girl child marriage in the 10-14 years old population has been reduced by more than twice the 1991 level. The 7 percent represents over 82,000 children married before they reach the age of 15.

Further the 7 percent is a national average. It, therefore, conceals both the low and high variations. The national average of girl's marriage is 7.1% and the contributory cause is socio economic as shown by Ganga Thapa. (Girls child marriage in Nepal Its prevalence and correlates, CINAS /TU)

Early marriage also known as child marriage is defined as “any marriage carried out below the age of 18 years before the girl is physically, emotionally, physiologically ready to shoulder the responsibilities of marriage and child bearing. Early marriage is a marriage in which either the girl or the boy is underage, i.e., the girl is under 18 years of age or the boy is younger than 21 years. In early marriage, few people only get engaged according to their wishes and mostly get engaged with the force of their parents. Nepal has faced different complexities due to early marriage. Most of the problems have been seen in polygamy, divorce, dowry system, poverty, rape, prostitution, domestic violence and girl trafficking. Both boys and girls are the victim of early marriage but the girls are involved in higher level. Parents took boys as an economic assets as well as blood linkage where as girls from the early life, parents thinks that girl her ultimate goal in life is to get married, to bear children and serve husband and in laws. Parents train their daughters in such a way so that they can slip smoothly into the socially predetermined approved role of wife, mother and daughter in law. Women who are low paid in male dominated society, due to many problems many women work as agricultural laborers. Young girls work in tobacco and cotton units. It is not uncommon particularly why they are forced to work night. So, these types of condition focus on early marriage to the girls. In 21<sup>st</sup> century, education to girls is also in practices. Even now not enough girls are participating in education. Even though they are enrolled, girls are less likely to attend school in comparison with boys.

Although there is widespread awareness of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (child marriage bill 2011) and the illegality of child marriage, individually people feel that the traditions and norms are stronger than the law and the institutions and rarely report cases. On top of this, there is limited capacity among officials and lack of willingness to go against community decisions, since officials are themselves part of the community.

Girls are often seen as a liability with limited economic role. Women's work is confined to the household and is not valued. In addition, there is the problem of dowry. Despite the fact that dowry has been prohibited for five decades (Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961), it is still common for parents of girls in India to give gifts to the groom and /or his family either in cash or kind.

Girls married as children are more likely to drop out of school have a low-paid job and limited decision-making power at home. A girl with 10 years of education has a six times lower chance of being pushed into marriage before she is 18. Face violence, abuse and exposure to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases because they have fewer skills and less negotiating power. Nearly 13 per cent of married girls between 15-19 years of age experience sexual violence by their husbands compared with 10 per cent of women experiencing such violence between the age group of 30-39. Become pregnant as adolescents. One in six girls begins childbearing between the ages of 15 and 19 years. Early pregnancy increases the risk of delivery complications and maternal and child mortality. The Infant Mortality Rate is 76 per cent for women aged less than 20 years, compared with 50 per cent for women aged 20-29 years. (UNICEF).

In Nepal, over one third of women aged 20 to 24 who married before their 15th birthday had three or more children compared to one per cent of women who married as adults. Child brides are also less likely to receive proper medical care while pregnant (UNICEF). In most of the case, early marriage took place in expectations of different desires i.e. some girls want to continue their education and to continue it they leave their birthplace and went to Kathmandu. Day by day she has to suffer from "Gharelu Hinsha". One day she becomes pregnant as a result she become the victim of it despite of fulfilling her dreams.

## **2. Theoretical Review**

A theoretical review is a collection interrelated ideas based on theories. It is a literature review which attempts to clarify why things are the way they are based on theories. My thesis highly emphasizes on feminist point of view. Feminists believe that education is an agent of secondary socialization that helps to enforce patriarchy. Feminist theory is the extension of feminism into theoretical, fictional,

or philosophical discourse. It aims to understand the nature of gender inequality. It examines women's social roles, experience, interests, chores, and feminist politics in a variety of fields, such as anthropology and sociology, communication, psychoanalysis, home economics, literature, education, and philosophy.

The classic feminist theory explains the root of gender inequality is economic. Men are able to dominate women because they control the means of production and the distribution of economic surplus. Economic power is the source of political power, social status, and control of family life.

([http://www.colorado.edu/Sociology/Mayer/Contemporary%20Theory/Feminist%20Theory\\_files/frame.htm](http://www.colorado.edu/Sociology/Mayer/Contemporary%20Theory/Feminist%20Theory_files/frame.htm))

Feminist theory focuses on analyzing gender inequality. Themes explored in feminism

include discrimination, objectification (especially sexual objectification), oppression, patriarchy, stereotyping, art history and contemporary art, and aesthetics.

Sylvia Walby's 'Triple Systems Theory' (1999) argues that experiences of ethnicity and class complicate what it means to be female, so we have to combine patriarchy with capitalism and racism to understand how girls are affected. Liberal feminists argued that changes in equal opportunities and educational policies, e.g. The National Curriculum, will end patriarchy.

Marxist feminists argued that women's role in society is shaped by the needs of the economy and capitalism means women are socialized into supporting men in the home and at work, which

Education enforces. However Rampage tried to defining feature of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in Western civilization was a profound change in the roles women play in both private and public life. The field of couple therapy was influenced by that change and, to a limited extent, participated in it. Rampage, C. (2002)

According to Radical feminists, patriarchy will only end when women are freed from the physical and emotional violence inflicted by men in the classroom and the playground.

Post-feminists says women possess multiple identities, so there is no single meaning of what 'female' means.

Early marriage is a difficult problem to tackle because its causes are rooted in cultural beliefs and economic practices that have been prevalent for generations. Although no major religion endorses child marriage, religious belief has often been distorted to support it in some regions. Marriage is a socially supported union involving two or more individuals in what is regarded as a stable, enduring arrangement based at least in part on a sexual bond of some kind. Depending on the society, marriage may require religious and/or civil sanction, although some couples may come to be considered married simply by living together for a period of time (common law marriage). Marriage serves several functions. In most societies, it serves to socially identify children by defining kinship ties to a mother, father, and extended relatives. It also serves to regulate sexual behavior, to transfer, preserve, or consolidate property, prestige, and power, and most importantly, it is the basis for the institution of family.

Patriarchy is a social system in which males hold primary power, predominate in roles of political leadership, moral authority, social privilege and control of property. In the domain of the family, fathers or father-figures hold authority over women and children. Historically, the term patriarchy was used to refer to autocratic rule by the male head of a family. However, in modern times, it more generally refers to social systems in which power is primarily held by adult men. One example definition of patriarchy by Sylvia Walby is "a system of interrelated social structures which allow men to exploit women. Gender studies have ultimately inspired a greater respect for and appreciation of sexual differences and their potential to contribute positively to the development of man-kind in the broadest and richest sense of the word. As feminist have long argued, where and when women are able to contribute fully to public life then 'the world will be a safer more humane place for all of us' (Riker 1996).

Although there is a division of labor in human affairs between the sexes, there are changing social expectations, which are reflected in somewhat different gender roles at different times. Even if the same work is done by women they are paid lower wages too. Hence, it emphasizes on patriarchy .When I grew up, fathers were employed out of the home, and mothers tended to the household. That meant not only housekeeping

but taking primary responsibility for child upbringing. Now things are different. Most mothers work. Household responsibilities must be shared. But they are not shared equally. My reading of current expectations in marriage is that men still fix things and take care of the automobiles. Women still have primary responsibility for the proper maintenance of the home and the welfare of the children. If both parents work, for instance, it is more often the mother who takes off time to bring a sick child to the doctor unless the father's schedule is much more flexible. Most women although not all do the cooking and cleaning. Most men but not all do the repairs. Men are likely to assemble the furniture; women are likely to find themselves with the task of cleaning it. So I wanted to see whether only feminist theory explains the cause of early marriage or other factors also plays vital role for the causation and consequences for the early marriage.

## **2.2 Empirical Review**

The empirical review is a study of an interdisciplinary field of research which includes the socio, cultural, religious, psychology, Philosophy, the contextual study of literature, and the history of reading literary texts. Empirical literature review presents a review of the empirical literature examining the initial effects of witnessing domestic violence on children's functioning. Previous reviews of the literature suggested that witnessing was harmful to children, but they also indicated that the state of knowledge was quite limited due to an emphasis on exploratory methodologies, reliance on untested theories, and inconsistent findings. Nearly a decade of research has been conducted since the most recent review. Although results are still somewhat inconclusive regarding children's social, cognitive, and physical development, the findings of recently conducted investigations, when combined and compared with the previously reviewed literature, suggest much less equivocation concerning the negative effects of witnessing domestic violence on children's emotional and behavioral development. Theoretical developments and methodological refinements appear related to the recent findings.

But economic explanations don't suffice: Poverty is one reason that so many families marry their children of fear. Another is the fear of girls being carried off and married by force. But most important are cultural tradition and the belief that a young virginal



bride can best be shaped into a dutiful wife, according to comprehensive study of early marriage published by Sana University in 2006. (Worth, Robert F. 2008.)

Religion also plays a role: Hard-line Islamic conservatives, whose influence has grown enormously in the past two decades, defend it, pointing to the Prophet Muhammad's marriage to a 9-year-old. Child marriage is deeply rooted in local custom here, and even enshrined in an old tribal expression: "Give me a girl of 8, and I can give you a guarantee" for a good marriage.

A Plan report from Bangladesh found that parents feel obliged to find husbands for their girls. (Plan, 2013.) It also found that this was in spite of the fact that parents know of early marriage and its bad effects. When a girl in poverty completes secondary school, marries and has her first child later, she helps to create economic growth, political and social stability

There are various theoretical literatures regarding to the study of early marriage. The early writers concerned that there exists a practice of having early marriage. Later the demographic transition theory also supported such views.

Generally, early marriages are determined by the cultural, social and economic factors. So there are various theoretical, empirical and conceptual framework literatures regarding the study of early marriage and its social impact. This chapter will attempt to review the various relevant literature based as theoretical as well as empirical studies.

Birth, marriage and death are the standard trio of key events in most people's lives. But only one marriage is a matter of choice. The right to exercise that choice was recognized as a principle of law even in Roman times and has long been established in international human rights instruments. Yet many girls, and a smaller number of boys, enter marriage without any chance of exercising their right to choose. Some are forced into marriage at a very early age. Others are simply too young to make an informed decision about their marriage partner or about the implications of marriage itself. They may have given what passes for 'consent' in the eyes of custom or the law, but in reality, consent to their binding union has been made by others on their behalf. The assumption is that once a girl is married, she has become a woman – even if she is only 12. Equally, where a boy is made to marry, he is now a man and must

put away childish things. While the age of marriage is generally on the rise, early marriage, of children and adolescents below the age of 18 – is still widely practiced. While early marriage takes many different forms and has various causes, one issue is paramount. Whether it happens to a girl or a boy, early marriage is a violation of human rights. The right to free and full consent to a marriage is recognized in the 1948, UDHR and in many subsequent human rights instruments – consent that cannot be ‘free and full’ when at least one partner is very immature. For both girls and boys, early marriage has profound physical, intellectual, psychological and emotional impacts, cutting off educational opportunity and chances of personal growth. For girls, in addition, it will almost certainly mean premature pregnancy and childbearing, and is likely to lead to a lifetime of domestic and sexual subservience over which they have no control. Yet many societies, primarily in Africa and South Asia, continue to support the idea that girls should marry at or soon after puberty. Their spouses are likely to be a few years older than they are, but may be more than twice their age. Parents and heads of families make marital choices for daughters and sons with little regard for the personal implications. Rather, they look upon marriage as a family-building strategy, an economic arrangement or a way to protect girls from unwelcome sexual advances. The denial of education early marriage inevitably denies children of school age their right to the education they need for their personal development, their preparation for adulthood, and their effective contribution to the future wellbeing of their family and society. Indeed, married girls who would like to continue schooling may be both practically and legally excluded from doing so.

'A study of the Age at Marriage, the Reason for Marriage at Different Ages, the Age at First Birth and Pregnancy Outcome' found that about one third women marriage in early age. The impact of marriage on health of women was negative. The proportion of women's good health condition was significantly decreased after marriage. Only half of the women in early age got medical check- up and importance of medical check -up was not known by the most of the women, the use of family planning device was very low and more among the women of early age. More than one third of babies in sample were low birth babies, majority of low birth weight baby were born to women who are under 17 years of age. (Pokhrel, N 1989).

Early pregnancy is not of course, found only in the developing world. The teenage pregnancy rate has been called a major public health problem in the United States. It has been estimated that over half of the 21 million adolescent aged between 15 and 19 in the united states have been sexually active and more than a million teenage girls become pregnant early year, at least two third of them without planning to and while unmarried. Thirty thousand of those pregnancies affect girls under 15 and about 430000 teenagers have induced abortion each year (UNESCO, 1991).

People might think this happens only in under developing country but this might not be true. There is a perception in peoples mind that early marriage of girls is regarded as protection i.e. premarital sexual relations. Some people also considered early marriage as norms instead of that it places girls at high risk of domestic violence.

Although much has been learned from cross-sectional research on marriage, an understanding of how marriages develop, succeed, and fail is best achieved with longitudinal data. In view of growing interest in longitudinal research on marriage, the authors reviewed and evaluated the literature on how the quality and stability of marriages change over time. First, prevailing theoretical perspectives are examined for their ability to explain change in marital quality and stability. Second, the methods and findings of 115 longitudinal studies—representing over 45,000 marriages—are summarized and evaluated, yielding specific suggestions for improving this research. Finally, a model is outlined that integrates the strengths of previous theories of marriage, accounts for established findings, and indicates new directions for research on how marriages change.

Early marriage is most common in developing countries like Nepal. Research in Nepal shows that 22.05 percent girls are married before 14th birthday. Pregnancy adolescent below the age of 18 years is 2-3 times more likely to die than the pregnant women between 18 and 25 years. Low birth weight is more common among babies born to adolescent than the adult women. The high maternal death rates 539 in 100000 live birth which contributed by early child bearing and pregnancy complications (UNICEF ,1992)

According to 'Muluki Ain Civil Act, 2052', the legal age of marriage is 16 years for girls and 18 years for boys with the consent of parents. It is without consent the age

should be 18 and 21 respectively for girls and boys. There is a provision of legal punishment for both couples as well as guardians, if they marry against the law, punishment may be imprisonment of 3 months to 3 years or cash payment or both according to the marriage in different age.

Child marriage is becoming less common overall, but the pace of change is slow. In the six countries where child marriage is most prevalent, more than 60 per cent of women 20-24 years old married as children (*UNESCO*). 11 percentages in Eastern Europe and Central Asia between 2011 and 2020, more than 140 million girls will become child brides, according to United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). One girl out of three will be married before the age of 18 respectively in developing countries. Nepal is also facing with such statistics and UNICEF published the data as below. Eastern Region: 34%, Central Region: 40%, Western Region: 36%, Mid-western Region: 53%, Far-western Region: 48%

Nepal Multiple Cluster Indicator Survey, 2010 shows Nepalese men marry four years later than women. The median age at first marriage among women age 25-49 is 17.5 years, and the median age among men is 21.6 years. Nepalese women generally initiate sexual intercourse at the time of their first marriage. In contrast, men initiate intercourse a year earlier than their first marriage. Childbearing begins early in Nepal, with almost one quarter of women giving birth by age 18 and nearly half by age 20. Due to early marriage, girls often bear children at a young age, which has severe effects on their health and continuation of education. 17% of adolescent women age 15-19 are already mothers or pregnant with their first child. In the last five years, teenage pregnancy has fallen by 10 percent. Half of births occur within 3 years of a previous birth, with 21 % occurring within 24 months. The subsequent Nepal Demographic and Health Surveys (NDHS) (2001, 2006 and 2011) has indicated a steady decrease in child marriages, but still it is very significant and largely prevalent in Terai districts: NDHS (2001) - 40% of women aged 15-19 were married, where as NDHS (2006) - 32.2% of women and 10.4% of men aged 15-19 were married and NDHS (2011) - 28.8% of women and 6.9% of men aged 15-19 were married. 11.5 % of population was married below 14.

Population census 2011 shows an overwhelming progress in literacy, the rate of which rose to 65.9 percent from the 57.4 in 2001. However, the marriage status still

presents a gloomy picture. % of married population of age 10 and above who were married between 15 and 19 is 48.9% (Female-58.2%; and Male-37%).

Over half (51%) of the Nepalese women who are aged 20-24 years were married before they were 18 years old. Nepal is in the top 20 countries globally with high prevalence of child marriage. It is expected that only around half of the marriages that took place is registered. There are unusual trend, however, that parents are delaying the marriage of their child but children themselves opting for marriage. Prevalence of Child marriage is high among Hill/Terai Janjati, Hill/ Terai Dalit and some Terai ethnic group. Of the total female population of the age group 15-18, 23.1% of the girls are married.

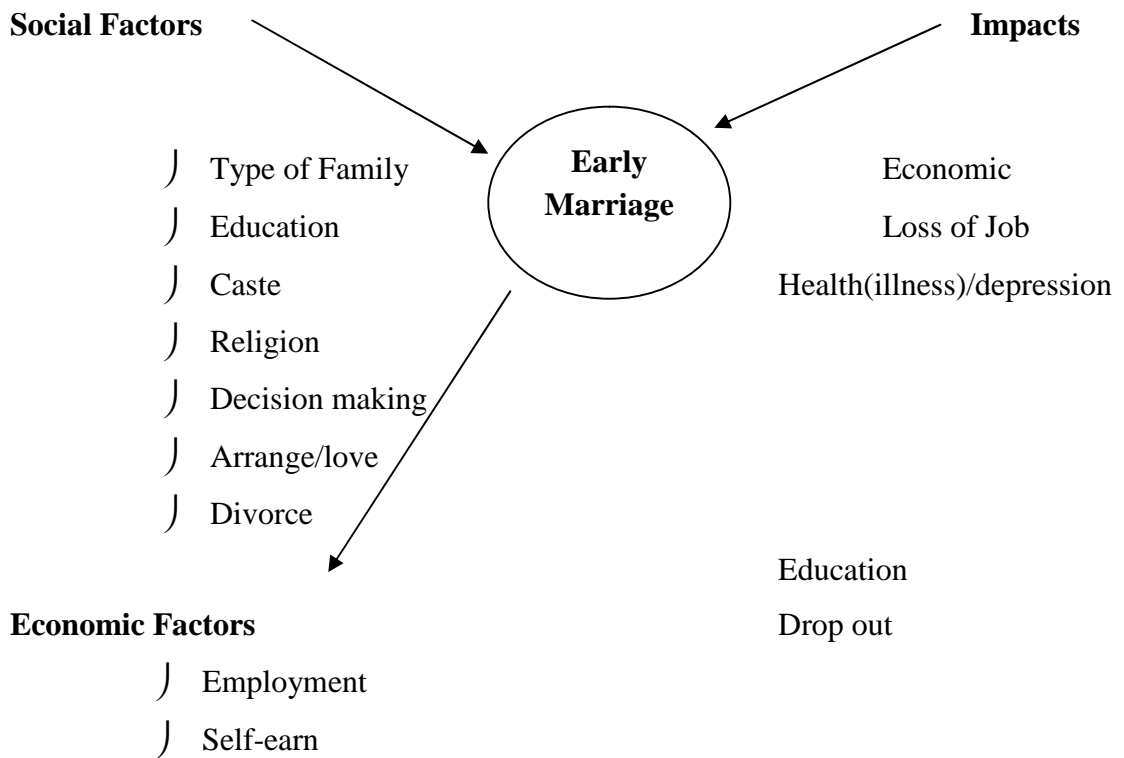
Thus, there is variation of early marriage indifferent places varying from Terai to Hilly region, low caste to higher caste and village to city and there should be some differences inside the city too as people are raising the voice about the poor of the city.

I preferred this research topic “Early Marriage and its Social Impacts” because I saw many cases like this within my family circle. Many scholars did research in this topic and found more relevant information to this topic. They too dig out the root causes of early marriage and its impacts only in rural areas but they failed to explore about the practices that is still in practice in capital city. Though the research is same its causes and effects are different. I emphasized the impacts of early marriage including poverty, education, gender biasness, socio, cultural, religious aspects and its awareness programs to eradicate it. Early marriage is in practice since ancient time till now. At work time, people were involved in early marriage without their wishes but now people got involved in early marriage according to their wish. They had to face lots of complication regarding household works to reproductive health but now according to my research they (respondent) expressed their views a bit easily. Most of them delivered their child at hospital. At past they used to deliver child at cow shed. So, there is more probability of maternal mortality and morbidity. Repeated childbirths and short spaces between the births, less care of own health, lack of nutrient food during pregnancy and after delivery makes women more susceptible to diseases. But now, this all trends diminished.

### 2.3 Conceptual Framework

The aim of the present study was to provide a systematic and empirical examination of socio-economic and psychological factors to emphasize the increasing trend of early marriage and its social impact. So the conceptual framework adopted for this study is as follows;

- Social Impact
- Economic Impact



## **CHAPTER- III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

To achieve the main objectives of the study, different research methodologies were applied. To get necessary information's, formal as well as informal procedures were used. To elaborate the content methodologies like interview schedule, case study and sampling, etc were applied.

#### **3.1 Rationale of the Selection of the Study Area**

Kathmandu is the largest and the capital city of Nepal. We all know that it is the most facilitated and modernized city. All facilities are available out here but in spite of such modernization too, early marriage is still in practice. In order to find out the relevant facts, for case study Chandragiri metropolitan of Kathmandu district has been selected. This study has concentrated in the relevant reviews of other scholars and tried to explore additional information related to the severe cause and impacts of the research topic. Generally, early marriage is common all over the world but my motive to select this study area is that I have keen interest to know the actual reasons of why early marriage still occurs in such a facilitated, civilized and modern city of Nepal. This is the emerging city inside Kathmandu valley this phenomenon is assumed to be prevalence in this areas. This area is convenient in other aspect too.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

The fundamental objective of this research is to investigate the facts, reasons and impact of the early marriage in Chandragiri metropolitan of Kathmandu city. So, both analytical and explorative research methods were used. It helps to analyze the aims of the main causes offending behavior, the socio economic and psychological determinants.

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

I used primary and secondary data to collect required information. Primary data were collected by interviewing the specified groups during field visit. The secondary data were obtained from census data, municipality registration data and different sources published books, journals, periodicals, publication etc.

### **3.4 Universe and Sampling**

As this study is intended to investigate the social impacts of early marriage. My target population is young married girls below. All married women population is universe of the study and married girls below 18 is within sampling frame. Purposive sampling was used based on the pre-determined clusters. In this sampling, random sampling was used. I have taken 20 samples (4 males and 16 are females.)

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

Structured and pretested questions were used to get the detail information about the early marriage and its social impact. I kept in mind that the target of the interview is to obtain the personal and family characteristics, caste, education, personal details, work experience, income, saving, expenditure, health and hygiene, sexual harassment, attitude towards work and future aspirations.

#### **3.5.1 Interview Schedule**

A set of questionnaire was prepared relating social, economic and psychological causes of early marriage and its social impacts. And it was used for data collection.

#### **3.5.2 Case Study**

A case study is a report about a person, group, or situation that has been studied, 1 case reports were taken of a female.

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

In this study both quantitative and qualitative analysis was used. Existing rules and regulations, available documents and studies related to early marriage was reviewed. Similarly, studies on economic condition of the young brides, reasons to take such step and socio economic changes were analyzed. Discussions have been made on the existing policy and programmed to protect and promote young girls from such practices. It is necessary to know the place of the origin, age group, ethnicity, family status, educational status. Finally, the data was interpreted with additional information.



### **3.7 Limitations of the Study**

This study covered the young brides below 18 years (some of the respondents are now 69 year but they got married below 18 years) of Kathmandu city. Time dimension and financial factors was the limitations of this study. This study might not reveal the complete picture of the early marriage due to the lack of proper responses from them. This study was done with limited sample so it might not be generalized.

## CHAPTER - IV

### SOCIO – DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTIC OF RESPONDENTS

#### 4.1 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Population means the number of people living in a defined area, which is important in every aspect of development of community. The number of Married population aged 10 years and above by age at first marriage is different in different districts. Following is the data of Kathmandu district according to census of 2011.

**Table no 1: The number of Married population aged below 10 to 19 in  
Kathmandu District**

S.N	Sex	Below 10	10-15	15-19	Total	Percentage (%)
1	Male	1304	9221	84848	95373	27.09
2	Female	5653	39987	210955	256595	72.91
	Total	6957	49208	295803	351968	100

Source : National Census, 2011

The above table shows that 27.09 % male were involved in early marriage aged below 10 – 19 years. Similarly, 72.91 % female were involved in early marriage aged below 10 – 19 years. It showed that females are highly involved in early marriage which destroys the girls childhood as well as reproductive health.

#### 4.2 Gender of Respondents

It is not possible to take the census of the Chandragiri and we have taken the sample of 20. It is true that early marriage is more prevalent in female than male. We tried to interview both male and female. Following table shows the sex distribution of the respondents.

**Table no. 2: Sex Distribution of Respondents**

S.N	Sex	No. of Respondent	Percentage (%)
1	Male	4	20
2	Female	16	80
	Total	20	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

Among the total population of the Chandragiri municipality, 20 households were selected as a sample size. In this study, the gender of respondents were classified in two different groups i.e. male and female gender, among them 4 (20 %) are males and 16(80 %) were females.

#### **4.3 Educational Status of Respondents:**

Educational background of a person was directly affected by the financial background of the family, family traditions and occupation. Education is important, which makes the skill better, attitude clear, increase the knowledge in mind and helps to be gentle in the social, political and economic behavior. Without education the future is black. It would be hardly possible to modernize social change, industrial and health sectors. Educational condition of community reflects the level of awareness of people. Therefore, it was important to know the level of education of the study area. The educational status of the study area is shown in the following table.

**Table no 3: Educational Status of the Respondents**

S.N	Educational Status	Male	Female	Total	Percentage (%)
1	Illiterate	1	3	4	20
2	Literate	2	6	8	40
3	Secondary	1	7	8	40
	Total	4	16	20	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

The above table no 3 shows the educational level of early marriage respondent of Chandragiri municipality. In this community, despite under schooling, the educational

level has been classified into three categories, i.e. illiterate, literate and secondary studies. Among 20 numbers of respondents 3 female and 1 male (20%) were illiterate and 6 female and 2 male (40%) were literate. 7 Female and 1 male (40%) completed their secondary level. This is higher than the national average as the literacy rate is around 63% but no one completed the higher education. This may be due to less priority of education after marriage and they might be entangled in many others for solving hand to mouth problem as well as this might be the bad educational consequences of early marriage. It seemed the literacy rate of female was higher in comparison with male. But this is not comparable as the male sample size is very low. Majority of the male were illiterate and the reason behind it was they did not have chance to study probably due to poverty, their increased responsibility, low income source and their traditional thinking.

#### 4.4 Age at Marriage

According to health survey 2012 A.D in Nepal about 60% of women adolescent had married at the age up to 20. The data below shows the distributions of respondents by age at marriage.

**Table no 4: Age at marriage**

S.N	Age	Male	Female	Total	Percentage (%)
1	Below 14	0	3	3	15
2	14-16	1	5	6	30
3	16-18	1	7	8	40
4	18-20	2	1	3	15
	Total	4	16	20	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

The above table shows that 3 female (15%) got married below 14 years age. Likewise, 1 male and 5 female (30%) got married in between 14 – 16 years age. In the age group 16 – 18, 1 male and 7 female (40%) were tied in a knot. Similarly, 2 male and 1 female (15%) got marriage at legal age. No one got married less than 10 years though the national survey 2011 shows marriage below 10 years in Kathmandu districts. Most of them were unaware about the legal age at marriage where the government has declared 18 years for female and 21 years for male respectively. Despite of the declaration too, no one raised their voice against their right.

#### 4.5 Religion of the Respondents

There is Hindu prevalence in our country and same is true in Chandragiri respondents. Religion plays a vital role to determine marriage as it is generally believed. Following is the religion of the respondent

**Table no 5: Religion of the Respondents**

S.N	Religion	Male	Female	Total	Percentage (%)
1	Hindu	4	10	14	70
2	Christian	0	3	3	15
3	Muslim	0	0	0	0
4	Buddhist	0	3	3	15

Source: Field Survey, 2073

Religion plays a vital role to determine marriage i.e. within Gurung people when a girl takes birth since that day her relationship is fixed within nearby relatives. Here, the highest respondents of early marriage are Hindu (70%) whereas Christian and Buddhist are in similar range (15%). No Muslim resides in that community.

#### 4.6 Ethnicity of the Respondents

Mostly people have the perception that castism is a key factor to determine early marriage but it might not be the real scenario. It's their qualification level, economic status, tradition and the thinking towards their child. Some people marry their children sooner because they think that if they will marry early then they can set their family. Chandragiri has encompasses all caste and following is the caste of the respondents.

**Table no. 6: Ethnicity of the Respondents**

S.N	Caste	Male	Female	Total	Percentage (%)
1	Brahmin	0	2	2	10
2	Chhetri	3	3	6	30
3	Newar	1	5	6	30
4	Janajati	0	6	6	30

Source: Field Survey, 2073

The above table shows that 10% of Brahmin, 30% Chhetri, 30 % Newar and 30% Janajati people were involved in early marriage. It was found early marriage is less common in Brahmin community as comparison to chettri, newar and other (Janajati: Tamang, Gurung, Magar, Damai, Century.)

#### 4.7 Types of Family of the Respondents

There is nuclear to extended families in Nepal and family system has directly affected the marriage age means it is thought to be the predictor of early marriage. Following is the family type of the respondents in Chandragiri.

**Table no 7: Family Type of the Respondents**

S.N	Family	Male	Female	Total	Percentage (%)
1	Joint	3	8	11	55
2	Nuclear	1	8	9	45
	Total	4	16	20	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

Among the selected 20 households of the Chandragiri village 55% people belonged to joint family and 45% people belonged to nuclear family. There is supposed to be familial influences in the marriage decision and complex family system might make the decision making complex and there might be less chance of making wrong decision as there might be more brains would have been involved but this turns out negative in case of Chandragiri in case early marriage. The higher percentage of respondent belonged to joint family.

#### 4.8 Causes of Early Marriage Practices

Marriage is also dependent on nature of community and their socio-culture tradition. Such as, somewhere or in some caste, there are practices of marriage by their self decision, in some caste by pressure or force. The question was also raised to respondent that how did you get marriage? They said that most of them got married by tradition and some of them by other reasons.

**Table no 8: Causes of Early Marriage Practices**

S.N	Causes	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
1	Tradition	1	6	7	35
2	Religious	2	2	4	20
3	Personal differences	0	7	7	35
4	Other	1	1	2	10
	Total	4	16	20	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

Out of total respondents, 35% women married either by tradition or personal differences. 20% women married by religious beliefs and 10% respondents by other process. It is their right to decide whom they marry and also necessary to know about marriage and its meaning. But in study area, they are still unknown about the social impacts of early marriage. Parents were uneducated. They want to earn religion by daughter's early marriage. They don't know it is very harmful to be pregnant before eighteen for the mother and new born. They keep their daughter in high level of risk.

#### **4.9 Types of Marriage**

Arrange marriage is the oldest type of marriage so far practiced in our society on the other hand love marriage also exist in our society and it is increasing day by day. Following table describes about the type of marriage.

**Table no 9: Types of Marriage**

S.N	Types of Marriage	Male	Female	Total	Percentage (%)
1	Arrange	2	6	8	40
2	Love	2	10	12	60
	Total	4	16	20	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

Among the sample household, 40% of respondents preferred arrange marriage and 60 % preferred love marriage. There is more frequency of love marriage in this survey which is contradictory to the current situation of Nepal. This might be the cause of

early marriage as girls find Mr. right very soon and get engaged and start to settle very soon.

#### **4.10 Knowledge and Causes of Early Marriage**

##### **4.10.1 Knowledge about Early Marriage**

Marriage from the beginning of human civilization is in practice as social phenomenon. It is a bond between two known/ unknown male and female who promises to share their all happiness and grief till the last breathe. It is also known as a cultural phenomenon which is essential for the fulfillment of socio, cultural and biological need of husband and wife .Hence, marriage is done to continue the generation. It is a relationship between two individuals which can be or cannot be accepted by the society due to their certain problems. Marriage can be defined on the basis of social, cultural and religious values of the contemporary society.

The knowledge about early marriage helps to control it. Those parents, who have knowledge about early marriage and complications, can help to stop such practice. In order to access the knowledge about early marriage among early married women, they were asked in your opinion “do you know about early marriage?” responses of the respondents are presented in table no 10 below.

**Table no 10: Knowledge about Early Marriage**

<b>S.N</b>	<b>Knowledge about Early Marriage</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage(%)</b>
1	Yes	2	11	13	65
2	No	2	5	7	35
	Total	4	16	20	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

Above table shows that 65 % respondents were aware about early marriage whereas 35% were unaware about early marriage. So, we know that little knowledge is one of the reasons of early marriage practice but only knowledge is not enough to have the decision as decision making is the complex process and influences by many factors.



#### 4.10.2 Knowledge about Legal Age at Marriage

According to Muluki Ain Legal age of marriage is 16 years for girls and 18 for boys with the consent of the parents. The age respectively should be 18 for girl and 21 years for boys without consent of the parent. There is provision of legal punishment for illegal/early marriage for both couple as well as guardian. Punishment is imprisonment of 3 years 3 months or cash payment or both according to the case. The respondents were asked "do you know about legal age of marriage?" They answered that all of them don't know about the legal age of marriage. If they had the knowledge about legal age for marriage and punishment for early marriage, early marriage practice would have been controlled. Thus, there is the lack of knowledge in the respondents about early marriage

**Table no 11: Knowledge about Legal Age at Marriage**

S.N	Knowledge about Legal age	Male	Female	Total	Percentage(%)
1	Yes	2	8	10	50
2	No	2	8	10	50
	Total	4	16	20	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

While conducting the interview scheduled, both male and female respondents were aware about the legal age at marriage in equal proportion (50%).

#### 4.10.3 Causes of Early Marriage

There are many reasons of early marriage such as socio-cultural, tradition, poverty, lack of education, gender discrimination. To access the reasons of early marriage, respondents in the study asked a question on "what is the reason of early marriage?" Their responses are presented in table below:

**Table no 12: Causes of Early Marriage**

S.N	Causes of Early Marriage	Male	Female	Total	Percentage (%)
1	Poverty	0	3	3	15
2	Force	1	4	5	25
3	Other	3	9	12	60
	Total	4	16	20	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

Above table showed that 15% respondents were married in early age due to poverty. 25% respondents were married due to force and 60% respondents were married due to other reason. It showed that cultural, economic status and lack of educational characteristics of the study population also plays an important role for determining the age of marriage.

#### **4.11 Health Problems of Early Marriage**

##### **4.11.1 Age at First Pregnancy**

By the reproductive health point of view, women age at first pregnancy is at least 20 years. Low age at first pregnancy invites the risk of complications and increases the maternal and child mortality rate. In the context of Nepal, 24% adolescent have been pregnant at the age of 15-18 (Demographic health survey 2012). The collected information about age at first pregnancy from respondents is presented in table 13 below:

**Table no 13: Age of First Pregnancy**

S.N	Age at First Pregnancy	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Below 14 years	1	6.75
2	14-16	1	6.75
3	17-18	4	24.50
4	19-20	2	12.50
5	More than 20	8	48.75
	Total	16	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

The above table no.5 showed that, the majority of the age of first pregnancy was more than 20 years age group.6.75% respondents had first pregnancy below 14 years as well as 14 – 16 years age group. Similarly, 24.50% respondents bore their first pregnancy between 16 – 18 years age group. Whereas 12.50% respondents had first pregnancy between 18-20 years of age group. There is tradition of early marriage and child birth just after marriage .Thus , this table showed that in spite of early marriage highest percent (48.75%) women bore their first pregnancy in age group more than 20 years which shows a bit awareness regarding their reproductive health. In most of the case the main reason behind it was found that they and their parents may have strong desire to be father and mother and grand- parents. They don't know it is considered an unsafe age for child birth.

#### 4.11.2. Antenatal Care Practice

Pregnancy is a special period. There are many chances of danger any time. It is essential health check up for mother and her fetus on antenatal period at least 2 times for normal pregnant women for safe delivery .The following table no 14 shows the practices of antenatal check up of the study population.

**Table 14: Antenatal Check-Up Practice**

S.N	Antenatal Check Up	No. of Respondents	Percentage(%)
1	Yes	7	43.75
2	No	9	56.25
	Total	16	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2073

The above table showed that out of 16 respondents, 7 respondents (43.75%) went for postnatal check–up because they were health conscious and 9 respondents (56.25%) didn't went for postnatal check- up due to various reasons such as poverty and lack of knowledge.

Most of none checked up women were illiterate. Nepal demographic and health survey (2009) reported backward community women never visit for check up during pregnancy. They go for check up only when they feel uneasy or critical problems.

According to the respondent's causes of postnatal check up is lack of knowledge, shyness, lack of time, lack of money, carelessness etc.

#### 4.11.3 Delivery Place

Places of delivery also affect maternal and child health too. Unhygienic delivery practices lead to the women so many problems like bleeding, tetanus, and uterine rapture. Usually in backward community there delivery practices is at home at cowshed and at kitchen with support of mother in law, sudden and other experienced women .Table no. 15 shows delivery place of respondents below.

**Table no.15: Delivery Place**

S.N	Place	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Home	4	25
2	Hospital	12	75
	Total	16	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

Table no.15 indicates delivery among respondents is good where 4 respondents (25%) delivery occurred at home and 12(75%) at hospital. In spite of the early marriage practices the delivery place sound better and it is above the average national level that is 45%. This shows the consciousness in reproductive areas.

#### 4.12 Condition of Baby Health after Delivery

Children condition is poor in Nepal .Every one in four children is born with less than 2.5 kg of weight. A mother status during pregnancy is important both for the child's intrauterine development and for protection against maternal morbidity and mortality (NDHS, 2006). Low pregnancy weight is often associated with pregnancy outcomes. The table no.16 shows the types of health problem when birth took place.

**Table no. 16: Condition of Baby Health**

<b>S.N</b>	<b>Condition of Baby Health after Delivery</b>	<b>No. of Respondent</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
1	Low birth weight	3	18.75
2	Disabled	1	6.25
4	Healthy	12	75
	Total	16	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

Table 16 shows 3 (18.75%) babies were low birth weight.1 (6.25%) was disabled. 12(75%) were healthy. Size of the baby at birth and mortality are negatively associated. As the mother gave birth after 20 though early marriage took place that might be the cause of low birth weight proportion is less than the national average.

#### **4.13 Family Planning Practice**

##### **4.13.1 Knowledge about using Contraceptive Method**

Family planning is a scheme of family pleasure and sound family life. It is an important aspect of reproductive health. The knowledge of family planning determines the safe motherhood and child care. It helps mother to keep birth spacing and child born on preferred time. The respondents they were asked if they had ever heard various methods of contraceptives devices that the couple could use to delay or stop getting pregnancy. Respondent's responses are presented in following table no 14 below:

**Table no 17: Method Used for Birth Spacing.**

<b>S.N</b>	<b>Method Used for Birth Spacing</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
1	Depo Provera	12	50
2	Pills	5	25
3	Condom	3	15

Source: Field Survey, 2073

Birth spacing is a very effective method to stop early marriage i.e. children in proper age gap which controls the population as well as the baby gets proper care and all the

needs required. Parents themselves doesn't feel that they have more people to feed, cloth, educate and so on when there is proper birth spacing between the children.

The above table shows that highly the birth spacing method is used by female which is the easiest and safest methods in comparison with others. Likewise, the tables itself showed that the birth spacing method used by male is 15 % where as female are 50% and 25% respectively.

#### **4.14 Social Impacts**

##### **4.14.1 Continuity of Education after Marriage**

Education the jewelry as well as backbone of human being plays a vital role in every aspects of life. People with education are richer than people with wealth. It is generally believed that it is hard to continue education after marriage and it is truer in child marriage. Following is the finding of continuity of education after marriage in Chandragiri survey.

**Table no 18: Continuity of Education after Marriage**

<b>S.N</b>	<b>Continuity of Education</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
1	Continued	0	3	3	15
2	Discontinued	4	13	17	85
	Total	4	16	20	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

Above table shows that, most of the respondent (85%) quit their study after marriage where as 15% continued their study after marriage too. Among them only 3 females respondent continued their study after marriage. After marriage, at first females continued their study but day by day due to various household works they dropout the study. Marriage ruins the education

##### **4.14.2 Economic Dependency of Female after Marriage**

Most of the thing are measured in terms economy. Economy is the main for overall development and it is said that marriage increase the economic dependency of female.

Though female are less economically active in our society with variable reasons which increases with early marriage.

**Table no 19: Economic Dependency after Marriage**

<b>S.N</b>	<b>Economic Dependency of Female after Marriage</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
1	Yes	11	68.75
2	No	5	31.25
	Total	16	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

The economic dependency of women after marriage is increased highly (68.75%) where as 31.25% women are only self dependent. Due to various household works they cannot continue their job as a result they quit the job and should dependent upon others. In our society, house hold work is commonly done by women and it is not accounted in national accounts too and it will not give any money and opportunistic gain is not accounted in our society. It is showed that the economic dependency is remarkably high in early marriage after marriage.

#### **4.14.3 Social Support after Marriage**

In early marriage too, there is support of the family members where as in some rare cases like marrying nearby relationship, inter caste relationship and in some critical cases they do not get social support. Following table shows the social support got by female after marriage in young age.

**Table no. 20: Social Support after Marriage**

<b>S.N</b>	<b>Social Support</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
1	Yes	1	11	12	60
2	No	3	5	8	40
	Total	4	16	20	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

Here, in the above table also 60% respondents are getting social support and 40% vice versa. Without social support we can't move ahead in life though directly or indirectly. 4 male and 16 female got support from their family (from husband to wife).The percentage of social support is highest there is more form joint family.

#### 4.14.4 Violence faced by Female after Early Marriage.

Violence is not expected socially and legally not acceptable at all in any cases that is more true in case of early marriage and it is more expected in such situation .In many early marriage cases, the burning issue is violence. But day by day it is in decreasing trend because of the highly access to media, modernization and victim raising their against it.

**Table 21: Number of Violence**

S.N	Violence	Number	Percentage (%)
1	Yes	1	6.25
2	No	15	93.75
	Total	16	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

The above table also showed that only 1(6.25%) respondent is facing violence whereas 15 (93.75%) respondent have not faced it. This showed the good but violence is zero tolerable issue and we are supposed to take the strong action in those of 6.25 percentage to make it zero.

#### 4.14.5 Abuse faced by Female after Marriage

Abuse after marriage is very burning issue and it is not accepted. It is supposed to be more frequent in early marriage; It is decreasing day by day due to various awareness programmed.

**Table no 22: Abused faced by Female**

S.N	Abuse	Number	Percentage (%)
1	Yes	3	18.75
2	No	13	81.25
	Total	16	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073



Similarly, in the case of abuse too higher number of respondent (81.25%) didn't face any abuse. Just 18.75% only suffered from it due to various reasons. People abuse each other when they care for each other. Within a family circle sometimes abuse may take place because of various faults, to be representative of the family and so on.

#### 4.15 Divorce:

The grave social consequences of marriage are the divorce and it is said it is more in case of early marriage, love marriage and in advance society. We did not find any marriage ended with divorce but their thinking about divorce is different.

**Table no 23: Thought about the Consequences of Marriage as Divorce**

S.N	Divorce Respondent	Male	Female	Total	Percentage (%)
1	Early married	4	12	16	80
2	Late married	0	4	4	20
3	Both	0	4	20	20

Source: Field Survey, 2073

Divorce is an emotionally exhausting experience. It tends to pit two people, formerly in love, against each other as enemies. Many divorces are avoidable; others are deliberate. Some divorces result as a consequence of someone choosing the wrong partner. In the end, lives are uprooted and changed. Everybody has to adjust to a different life from the one with which they've grown comfortable. Regarding divorce respondent expressed their feeling that divorce is most common in early marriage. When they themselves can't take care of own self how can they take care of other? Mostly the representative of divorce is young married couple who are immature. Those couple tie knot with each other just to show off when they were unknown about the meaning of marriage. In the above table, 80% of the respondent considered divorce takes place in early marriage due to immaturity. Likewise, 20% of the respondent claimed that divorce is more common in late marriage because their feelings don't match .20% claimed that in both early / late marriage divorce takes place. Their saying and the finding has not matched here as we did not found any

early marriage ended in divorce though they said it is more common in early marriage.

#### 4.16 Dowry System

Dowry is a transfer of parental property at the marriage of a daughter. Dowry system is very much prevalent even in Kathmandu though it is said it is more prevalent in Terai and certain communities. We found most of the respondents are aware and did not suffer from dowry system.

**Table no 24: Dowry System**

S.N	Dowry	Male	Female	Total	Percentage (%)
1	Yes	1	7	8	40
2	No	3	9	12	60

Source: Field Survey, 2073

In some poor family, dowry is considered as source of income which should be diminished. Here, 40% of the respondent says that there is dowry system in their community where as 60% says that there is not dowry system in our community. In some cases, if parents does not provide sufficient dowry than his daughter may be the victim of death. She has to suffer a lot and also get abuse by family members.

## CHAPTER –V

### CASE STUDY ON

### EARLY MARRIAGE AND IT'S SOCIAL IMPACT

As the researcher came up with the case study of thesis, the researcher need to jot down the main purpose of her study and hence it emphasizes mainly on early marriage and it's social impacts which was and of course still existing till now. Throughout history, early marriages were common for variety of reasons including poverty, education, insecurity, socio, cultural, religious aspects, biological factors, political and financial reasons. To a great surprise, the process is still going on with the varied reasons. Many researches were done, many proposals were made and also along with time frame many rules were implemented just as to raise awareness but nevertheless, the process of early marriage is still on its pace. Unlike other researches, the researcher also selected the topic in order to find out the changing patterns and reasons, and obviously tried to lesson out the cases by providing and sharing her experiences with the victims, their feelings, their desires and a message to eradicate such practices.

**Case no. 1 :** We selected a girl named Mina Karki (18) from Sindhuli recently living at Chandragiri with her second husband named Deepak Karki (24).Mina, who was a resident of Sindhuli ward no 4, was 16 years of age when she got married to her sister's husband ( brother- in- law).Her first husband was 37 years and he forcibly married her. As he was involved in maoist, by hook or crook he married her and took her to Kathmandu city by insisting her to send her abroad. She was studying in grade 5 when this incident happened. With a dream to be in abroad, she came to Kathmandu city with him and stayed in a guest house for six weeks. Within this time frame, she happened to get pregnant but she was unknown about it unless she visited her home back to Sindhuli. Her sister Rama Karki had two children and after knowing that Mina was also pregnant, there started dispute among the family. Nobody supported Mina expect her mother. Mina's sister used to fill the ears of her husband and he used to beat and torture Mina. As time spent she bore her first baby boy at her tender age. During this time, she suffered a lot, neither proper health care nor a healthy food for newly delivered young mother. Her health condition became worst.

Every day Mina was tortured by her sister even though she was her own sister. Marrying her sister's husband was never Mina's intention but her sister never listened to her and treated every day Mina as her step. Mina was confused with the behavior of her husband as he sometimes treated her as a servant and in times , he made her feel as a soul mate. As time passed on Mina had sexual relationship with her husband. After this, he again went back to his first wife who is Mina's elder sister. Everyday's stress made Mina forced to leave her husband and baby boy. So she decided to go to her mother. After meeting her mother, she expressed her every feelings and things that came up on her way. Hearing her story her mother decided to call Deepak, who was a close neighbor. Deepak was 23 years at that time and Mina's mother narrated Mina's story to Deepak and insisted him to take away Mina by marrying her. With her heart touching story, Deepak agreed and married Mina. Just after marrying they came to Kathmandu.

**Case no. 2 :** Just as Mina's Story, Deepak had his own problems related to his first wife named Nirasa. They got married when Deepak used to work as a bus conductor. It was love marriage. Deepak was 18 years old when he married Nirasa who was 15 years old. They lived happily for few years and had a baby boy too. Both of them used to work as a constructor later on. They even saved money for future in finance. As time passed on, Nirasa's behavior changed and she used to argue with him with different reasons. Deepak was shocked when he happened to see Nirasa with a boy. He was none other than her boyfriend. This case made them so critical that they even went to police station several times. One day, Nirasa left her baby boy and Deepak. Deepak was numb when he narrated his story.

Well, both Deepak and Mina were known about each other's story that was harsh to forget and both cope up with their present lives. Just after visiting Kathmandu, Mina happened to know that she was pregnant from her first husband. This, she shared with Deepak and was ready to abort her baby but Deepak was kind hearted man that he accepted her baby too. Now, Deepak works as a constructor and he took her to health checkups frequently. Even Mina accepted Deepak's 3 years old baby boy and cared him as her own child. They both are happy with their present life and Mina narrates that her life has changed after being together with Deepak.

As the researchers study focuses on early marriage and its social impact, she have collected some information's related to her study with Mina. At first she was bit shy to share but when their conversation went on she shared her feelings freely. As she was keen to study, she wants to give a message to the reader's to eradicate such problem's i.e. early marriage.

Mina now is 18 years old and she wants to introduce herself as a mother of two children (Deepak's baby boy) and her own daughter. Talking about her education, even after her keen interest, she only got chance to study up to grade 5. Her major source of income depends upon her husband's works i.e. house constructor and income per month is 20-30 thousand which she says enough for her living. She even saves it.

Mina explains early marriage as a force and not merely with will. For her, early marriage has been a harsh experience in life. She says that in her tender age, she bearded a lot of pain and has seen a whole life which she never wants to recall. May be due to her ignorance about legal age at marriage as well as being poverty a crucial reason, she got married at early age. She feels that early marriage is not good because it hampers both lives. She further adds " Not only this ,there emerges boundaries in each and every thing, we have to cope up with what life we are getting, our desires , our needs, we have to be satisfied with what we are getting , we can't do what we like and family affection lacks" while narrating this, her eyes were full of tears.

She was 16 years when she gave birth to her first baby boy. But according to her, 24 years would be the right age for giving birth. When she bore her first pregnancy, she was aged between 15-18 years and that period she recalls the most hardship one as she was under aged and many complications were there due to lack of proper health facility. In spite of hardship, her delivery was normal at hospital and her baby was also healthy when born. But due to poverty, she could go for regular health checkups neither for a mother, nor for a baby .Everyday she feed her baby with milk and breast feeding was sufficient for her baby. In spite of healthy foods, she never suffered with any types of diseases, neither during pregnancy period nor after post natal (after delivery). Yes of course, after delivery she has had different types of complications as weakness and other. She claims that her health condition was good before.

When I further asked about family planning, she was shy to share. She was unknown about the various methods of contraceptives. Neither she nor her husband ever used any contraceptive to delay or stop getting pregnant. She smiled and shared that just a week ago, one of her neighbor advised her to use contraceptive. Now, she is planning for it.

She was in grade 5 when she first married and after that she could not continue her study. Now, she is a mother of 3 months old daughter. She delivered her baby at KMC hospital in Kathmandu .Before marriage, she used to manage her expenses from her home but now, her husband bear her daily expenses. Further she adds that her expenses increased after marriage. She says that out of their monthly income, 50 percent income expenses on their daily needs and household stuffs. Now, she feels herself lucky to have Deepak because she says he is most wonderful person, loving and caring. She trusts him and promises not to betray him and live a happy life.

Educating girl is one of the most powerful tools to prevent early/child marriage. And of course, a successful marriage requires maturity and patience which one can't get at early age. In Mina's case too, in spite of her keen interest on study, she forcedly got married to man who is more than double of her age. At her tender age, she had to bear everything including motherhood. She put forward a view that if she was educated, she would have raised her voice for it but as she is helpless now, she wants me to jot down her inner feelings and share this to others. The researcher found Mina a very active and strong girl who feels and try to eradicate such problems. She does not want other young girls to have her same life so she wants to aware others through the means of education. And the researcher seriously found her an absolute example of "voice of voiceless".

Just like Mina, there are lots of girls who are going through these cases and it's not possible to jot down every single girl problems. The major thing is we need to pay attention and try to eradicate such practices through various means.

## CHAPTER - VI

### SUMMARY, FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

#### 5.1 Summary

Early marriages were common throughout history for a variety of reasons, including poverty, education, insecurity, as well as for political and financial reasons. Early marriage is a formal marriage or informal union entered by an individual before reaching the age of 18 years. Early marriage is a violation of human rights. Despite being prohibited by international law, it is still in practice which hampers their childhood. Along with early marriage, many complexities have been evolved such as early divorce, polygamy, dowry system and so on. In many cultures young girls are considered an economic burden on the family and marriage can be seen as a survival strategy - the more so if it is to an older and wealthier husband. Early marriage results to early delivery of a child too. This is the complex issue in present context. They themselves are immature and hence, become mother at early age. Not only has this, with a baby born their responsibilities too increased. Therefore, early marriage destroys the girl's childhood as well as reproductive health. She is deprived of each and every right regarding education, desires, health and so on. Let us all pledge to help liberate the girls from the shackles of such monstrous practices.

The study was descriptive type in nature. Data was collected from the sample households of Chandragiri municipality. Interview scheduled was the major tool used for data collection. Information about early marriage practice was collected from 20 respondents who had married before 18 years age and now they are 69 years.

In this study data about the necessary information was collected from Chandragiri by visiting door to door and then it was tabulated in master chart. After that it was analyzed and interpreted with the help of table and figures. At last findings conclusion and recommendation have been presented to achieve the objective of the study.

## **5.2 Findings**

With the literature review, data collection with interview schedule and case study it is found that early marriage is still remarkable problem. Tradition (parents will), poverty, gender discrimination and others are the main causes of early marriage. Repeated childbirths and short spaces between the births, less care of own health, lack of nutrient food during pregnancy and after delivery makes women more susceptible to diseases. We found one respondent got first pregnancy below 14 years. Most of the delivery were taken place in hospital 75%.and at home is 25% , Most of the respondent mothers received postnatal service. Among 20 respondents, none of them completed higher studies. Since, female literate rate is higher in comparison with male. Mostly female are the victims to marry earlier than male age at marriage.

The highest respondents of early marriage are Hindu (70%).whereas Christian and Buddhist are in similar range (15%). So it was concluded that Castism plays a vital role in early marriage. Early marriage mostly takes places in joint family. Every respondent have their own personal differences regarding the cause of early marriage. Love marriage is one of the key factors of early marriage. Mostly respondents had knowledge about early marriage though they believe it as traditional practice.

## **5.3 Conclusions**

Early marriage is still remarkable problem. Mostly female are the victims to marry earlier than male age at marriage. Tradition (parents will), poverty, gender discrimination and others are the main causes of early marriage. Repeated childbirths and short birth spaces between the births, less care of own health, lack of nutrient food during pregnancy and after delivery makes women more susceptible to diseases. Early delivery was more frequent in early marriage. Most of the deliveries were taken place in safe place with good post natal care. Castism plays a vital role in early marriage. Early marriage mostly takes places in joint family. Every respondent have their own personal differences regarding the cause of early marriage. Love marriage is one of the key factors of early marriage. People have knowledge about early marriage though they believe it as traditional practice.



**Annex - 1**  
**Interview Schedule**

**A. Individual Information**

Municipality:

Ward no.

District:

Tole:

1. Name of respondent:

2. Age at first Marriage:

Present age:

3. Religion :

4. Caste :

5. Type of Family : Joint/ nuclear

6. Type of Marriage : Arrange/love/ other.....

7. Educational status of Husband/Wife .....

**B. Question about knowledge about the causes of early marriage**

1. Do you know about early marriage?

a) Yes b) No

2. If yes, What is early marriage?

a).Due to poverty b).Early marriage takes place in force c) Cultural beliefs d) others

3. Do you know about legal age at marriage?

a) Yes b) No

4. If yes what is the age?

a).....

5. Are you early married?

a) Yes b) No

6. How old were you when you got married? What was the age of your husband/wife?

.....

7. Why you got married at that age?

a) It is our tradition/culture b) Poverty c) Discrimination d) Others

8. Do you feel that early marriage is good?

a) Yes b) No

9. If yes, give reason.....

10. If no, give reason.....

11. How old were you when you gave birth to your first child?

a) .... years.

12. What is right age for giving birth?

a)..... Years

13. How many children do u have?

.....

14. What is custom or belief for early marriage?

a) It is tradition b) It is religious c) There is personal differences d) Others

### **C. Health problems of early marriage practices.**

1. How old were you when you bore your first pregnancy?

a) Below 15 years b) 15-18 years c) 18-20 d) 20 above

1.1. What do you mean by early pregnancy?

2. Have you feel easy to take care of your health in first pregnancy?

a) Yes b) No

3. Where did your baby take birth?

a) At home b) At hospital c) others

4. Was your first child healthy when birth?

a) Yes b) No

5. If not, what was the problem?

a) Low birth weight b) disabled c) others

6. Did you check your health in pregnancy period?

a) Yes b) No

7. If yes, how many times?

a) Once b) Less than Three c) Four d) More than four

8. Did you go for postnatal check up to health centre after delivery?

Postnatal checkup ( times : 7 day n 42 day after delivery)

a) Yes b) no

9. If yes, how many times after delivery?

a).....

10. Did you give colostrums (first milk) to the newly born baby?

a) Yes b) No

11. If not why?

a) Afraid of child being sick b) Advised by others not to feed c) others.....

12. During the period of breast feeding, was your breast milk sufficient to

Your baby or not?

a) Yes                      b) No

13. Did you suffer from any disease in pregnancy?

a) Yes b) No

14. If yes, what type of disease?

a) Anemia b) Jaundice c) back pain d) swelling e) others.....

15. Do you know dangerous signs of pregnancy period?

a) Yes                      b) No

16. If yes, what are they?

a) Anemia b) Swelling c) Bleeding d) Bad smelling of vaginal discharge

e) Other

17. Have you had any complication during pregnancy, delivery and after delivery?

a) Yes                      b) No

18. If yes, when?

a) During pregnancy b) Delivery c) After delivery

19. What kind of problem had occurred?

a) Anemia b) Weakness c) Bleeding d) others.....

20. Are you getting miscarriage on pregnancy period?

a) Yes b) No

21. What is the reason of miscarriage?

.....

22. What is the difference in your health status before marriage?

- a) Good b) Fair c) Bad

23. What is the difference in your health status after marriage?

- a) Good b) Fair c) Bad

**D. Family planning**

1. Have you ever heard the various methods of contraceptives?

- a) Yes b) No

2. Have you or your partner ever used any contraceptive methods to delay or stop getting pregnancy?

- a) Yes b) No

3. If you used, which method or devices have been used?

- a) Pills b) Copper-T c) Norplant d) Depo-Provera e) others....

4. If no, what is the main reason that you are not using?

- a) Ignorance b) Fear of side effect c) Uneasiness d) Religious belief e) Others.....

5. Who first advised you to use this method?

- a) Doctor/nurse b) MCHW c) Neighbor e) others....

6. Did you or your partner used contraceptive ?

.....

**E. Educational Consequences**

1.Are you educated?

- a) yes b) No

2. If Educated:

a) Primary b) Secondary c) Higher Education

3. At which class were you studying during marriage?

.....

4. Have you continued your study after marriage?

a) Yes b) No

5. Which class you drop out?

.....

6. If no why did you drop out?

.....

a) ..... b) Constenent c) Not constenent .....

Constenent : While getting married c studied in 8 class aft 5 years c studies in 10 class

..

7. If yes which class are you studying now?

.....

8. What are the causative factor for early marriage?

a) Gender b) Cultural belief c) Qualification d) Other

9. In your view, does qualification plays a vital role for early marriage?

.....

10. Is there gender biasness in your society/caste?

a) Yes b) No

If yes Why.....

If no Why.....

11. Is gender a factor for early marriage?

a) Yes b) No

If yes Why.....

If no Why.....

## **F. Economic Consequences**

1. What the major source of income of your family?

a) Agriculture b) Business c) Serviced) Others

2. What is your family income per month?

a) Below 10 thousand b) 10-20 thousand c) 20-30 thousand

d) More than 30 thousand

3. How would you manage your expenses before marriage?

a)Self b) Home

4. If self than what was your source of income ?

.....

5. Who would have bared your daily expenses after marriage?

a) Self b) Husband c)Laws d) Maiti e) Other

6.Is your daily expenses increased after marriage?

a) Yesb) No

7. If yes? In Which areas

a) Clothes b) Health c) Household stuffs d) Hospital

## **G. Social Consequences**

1. Have you suffered from any kind of abuse/harassment?

a) Yes b) No

2. By Whom ?

a) Elders b) Local c) Police d) Tourist e) Others

3.What kind of harassment do you encounter?

a) Simple scolding b) Beating c) Sexual harassment d) Others

4. Did you get social support?

- a) Yes    b) No

5. From whom you got more?

.....

6. Have you faced any violence?

a) Source.....

b) Type.....

7. Have you feel any Dependency?

.....

8. Continuation of marriage

- a) Continuous    b)Divorce    c) Separated but not divorce    d)Multiple marriage

9. What you think divorce is more in early marriage or late marriage?

.....

10. What you think multiple marriage is more common in and why?

- a) Early marriage                      b.) Late marriage

11. Is there dowry system in your community?

a. If yes.....

How much you got during your marriage?

b. Is this good?

If yes why.....

If no why.....

12.Does dowry system increase the early marriage?

- a)Yes    b) No



If yes....How

If no .....How

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