

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

From the beginning of human civilization, marriage is practiced as social phenomenon. The word marriage refers to a special bond between two (male and a female) known or unknown person who promises each other to live a life together with the obligations of the society. 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. 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.

According to dictionary of Sociology, “Marriage is traditionally conceived to be a legally recognized relationship between an adult male and female that carries certain rights and obligations.”

“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)

Early marriage refers to a marriage that takes place between two individuals who are below 18 years or below their actual age of getting married which is not approved by society and their laws, rules and regulations. Early marriage or child marriage is defined as the marriage or union between two people in which one or both parties are younger than 18 years of age. The age bar below 16 years is taken as child. The marriages which are done in this age bar are quoted as child/early marriage. Following marriage a girl is expected to set aside her childhood and assume the role of a woman, embarking immediately upon a life that includes sex, motherhood and all the household duties traditionally expected of a wife. Early marries varies from caste

to caste i.e. in certain caste, marriage before the actual age is practiced. There may be various reasons in practicing such types of marriages but these types of marriages are still not digestible in Nepalese society.

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)

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. From medical view, early marriage is considered as below 18 years of age from reproductive health. In ancient period, early marriage takes place between a young girl with a very old man. Early marriage affects both boys and girls, though the majority of those affected are girls, most of who are in poor socio economic conditions. Early marriage is a violation of human rights. Despite being prohibited by international law, it is still in practice which hampers their childhood. Within some cultural groups, when a baby girl takes birth her relationship is already fixed with a boy from their nearby relatives. The gender bias discrimination against them starts from the day of birth and continues in one from another throughout life (i.e. till death). A son on the other hand is viewed as an economic asset.

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)

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. Not only this, in rural areas whenever a girl gets younger, the growing crimes such as rape, trafficking,

prostitution, etc occurs. So in order to escape from such issues parents who feel insecure of their girl's life would like to see their daughters safely married as soon as possible. And hence, by hook or crook girls become helpless and gets married against their wish i.e. early marriage occurs. Knowingly or unknowingly their health is hampered. 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. The one who are capable can easily lead a prosperous life but if the one is helpless then baby at early age can be a hardship of their life.

According to WHO "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well being not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". Health is one of the most important for the fulfillment of human desire of long and easy life which can improve the quality of life. Early marriage invites many kinds of serious problem in woman's life and to their new born baby. So it should be dropped through the forceful effort by the society as well as by the nation by providing sufficient knowledge about health and marriage.

Child marriage causes girls to be denied education, makes girls vulnerable to abuse, and increases girls' risk of serious health problems. It is unsurprising that child marriage disproportionately affects girls; it also disproportionately results in serious life problems for those girls as compared to boys who marry prior to age 18. Child marriage, for girls, "leads towards inadequate socialization, discontinuation of education, physiological and psychological damage to girls due to early and frequent pregnancies, and quite often an early widowhood" (Nagi, 1993, p. 2).

Early/Child marriage is a global problem that cuts across countries, cultures, religions and ethnicity. It denies girls of their rights to health, to live in security, and to choose when and whom they marry. It cuts short girl's education and traps them, their families and their communities in a cycle of poverty.

Early marriage invites the growth of population. Poverty is the vital cause for early marriage. Early marriage kills all the wishes in girls' heart. It discourages her believe in herself. Without knowing the word fully girls are given a big pressure on the mind. They don't have the right to choose whom they are going to marry. They should

marry the first boy they come across, without bothering to consider his age, qualification, character or motives. Early marriage destroys the girl's childhood as well as reproductive health. It not only affects the health but also the whole life. She is deprived of each and every right regarding education, desires, health and so on. Early marriage leads to teenage pregnancy and birth of the immature baby. In the age of playing with toys she attempts to play with her own child. Even though they can't handle themselves it becomes very difficult to handle the child. Day by day their duty and responsibility towards the child also increases. The fact that early marriage has not been eradicated means our sisters from another mother are still suffering from early marriage which not only hampers their desires, but also their reproductive health too. Let us all pledge to help liberate the girls from the shackles of such monstrous practices. Hence, this thesis focuses on the consequences of early marriage especially of girl's desires and her reproductive health. To stop early marriage we should conduct various awareness programs. Hence, this thesis focuses on the impacts of early marriage and its burning issues. It also emphasizes on the need of public awareness programs related to the health of immature girls, their wishes and desires of life and most probably their knowledge for these kinds of incidents.

Child marriage is a violation of human rights that affects approximately 14 million girls every year. It is often referred to as early and/or forced marriage since children, given their age, are not able to give free, prior and informed consent to their marriage partners or to the timing of their marriage.

Child marriages occur most commonly in South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East (UNICEF, 2010). In a 2005 study of women aged 20-24, UNICEF found that the highest incidences of women being married as minors were in Niger, Chad, Mali, Bangeladash, Guinea, and Burkina Faso; all these countries had child-marriage rates of higher than 60 percent (UNICEF, 2005).

Child marriage constitutes a significant act of international violence against girls and women and that action is necessary in order to protect girls from the consequences of being married as children. Recently, child marriage and its implications for girls and women have become more visible in the popular press. For example, *Essence* and *National Geographic* magazines have both published pieces on the devastating effects of child marriage in the past five years (Amber, 2008; Gorney, 2011). However, child

marriage is still largely invisible in that it gets little attention relative to the enormity of its effects. This study suggests that child marriage is a significant international problem. Specifically, this study further argues that child marriage is a human rights violation targeting girls in three particular ways: Child marriage causes girls to be denied education, it makes girls vulnerable to abuse, and it increases girls' risk of serious health problems.

1.2 Statements of Problems

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. Early marriage has numerous problems a couple can face when marriage happens at an early age for them. Early marriage which is also referred to as child marriage is common all over the globe and has inflicted dangerous and devastating effects on young children who are compelled to tie the knot in most cases. Many parents marry their daughters young because they feel it is in her best interest, often to ensure her safety in areas where girls are at high risk of harassment and physical or sexual assault.

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 especially in under developed and developing countries as our country Nepal. Even though law have prescribed certain age for marriage 18 years for girls and 21 years for boys. In Nepal, legal empowerments are less since they are legally exploited. 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. Early marriage results to teenage pregnancy which not only hampers the reproductive health but also the newly born baby too. Good health is essential to live easily and to do anything. I hereby would like to raise certain questions to elaborate and justify my research topic. Some of them are;

- How is the trend of early marriage evolved?
- Were people conscious of its implications?
- How much the health of young girls along with their babies affected at those times?
- Have ever people tried to eradicate these problems?

For finding out the answer of these questions, one has to dig out the matter. A researcher needs to collect the data as much as possible which helps out to justify this research topic. 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 severe health problems like pregnancy and childbirth. Along with this, their reproductive health is hampered but people are 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. Many parents marry their daughters young because they feel it is in her best interest, often to ensure her safety in areas where girls are at high risk of harassment and physical or sexual assault.

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. Girl brides also face issues including sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS, and increased chances of cervical cancer (Nour, 2006). 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.

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.)

Poverty is one of the vital consequences 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. Thus, in this research topic I have tried to bring out the possible methods to aware people to eradicate such problem.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Early marriage is taken as normal thing in many parts of the world. It usually leads to early motherhood. Girls under 15 are five times more likely to die of pregnancy related complications than women over 20 and pregnancy is leading cause of death for 15-19 years old girls around the world. In many developing countries, at least 20 percent of women give to their first birth before age of 18. Gaffney-Rhys (2011) argues that, while law is important for establishing understandings about child marriage, national and local social programs are better for preventing it. Early pregnancy is one of the most dangerous cause and consequences of early marriage. Girl married early are more likely to experience violence, abuse and forced sexual relations. They are more vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections. Early marriage denies girls their right to make vital decisions about their sexual health and well-being. It forces them out of education and into a life of poor prospects, with increased risk of violence, abuse and ill health or early death. In some cultural group, there is a

practice of early marriage within their nearby relatives. As we all know, 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 for a conjugal life. 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. Hence, my objective is to search solution and lessen early marriage practices. The special objective of the study area is to generate qualitative information on:

1. To find out the knowledge of early marriage.
2. To find out the age at marriage and at first child bearing.
3. To identify the causes of early marriage.

1.4 Signification of the Study

The topic “CAUSES OF EARLY MARRIAGE AMONG GIRLS AND ITS CONSEQUENCES” itself is a justifiable. From the topic itself we can define the impact of early marriage. I would like to justify the following topic in depth and would like to bring out some possible methods to eradicate these problems. From this, I would have to dig out the matter to depth and need to use methodologies which will help me out to find new concepts. It attempts to analyze the problems of early marriage especially on girls. Early marriage leads to early pregnancy as a result they give birth to immature baby. They themselves are immature from reproductive health perspective, how can they be able to give birth to a healthy child. There arise various complications during the pregnancy and after pregnancy too. Many of them die while giving birth to a baby because of immaturity. In this 21st century, early marriage occurs because of the trend of making boyfriends and girlfriends which results to early marriage. Here, most probably early marriage leads to early motherhood among them 10 % are only aware about early pregnancy because of the educated population

and developing opportunities. They want to enjoy their teenage rather than early motherhood which is very difficult when they are at the age of motherhood (they are capable to handle). Hence, we all know 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. It helps to eradicate early marriage and its social impacts are decreased day by day.

According to a report entitled 'Ending Child marriage – progress and prospects' which was released by 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, 1992)

As this topic has been already researched, my motive is to find out additional information.

1.5 Organization of the study

In summary, my thesis begins with the introduction of the research topic: "CAUSES OF EARLY MARRIAGE AMONG GIRLS AND IT'S CONSEQUENCES". I have briefly introduced the background of marriage, early marriage and health condition. My thesis deals with the historical as well as present scenario of the causes and consequences of early marriage especially focused among girls less than 18 years of age, their social, cultural and religious beliefs towards marriage and the existing practices till now. I have jotted down the related reviews which are relevant to my research studies. Along with this I have stated the problems of my topic including research questions which deals with the trend of how early marriage evolved, what were there implications, health conditions of young girls and their immature babies and the possibility of eradication of such type of social practices. The main objective of mine study topic is to focus on the root causes of early marriage and the impacts that it brings especially among girls. The young girls are deprived of their rights. They are unknown of their actual age of marriage and their first child bearing, so in order to

decrease the trend of early marriage awareness programs especially focusing on the impact of health condition, need of education, and the right to make vital decision about their sexual health should be conducted.

CHAPTER - II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.0 Review of Literature

The research topic focuses on the existing early marriage and the consequences brought by it. Many scholars, academician and professional have studied on different aspects of early marriage. The literatures which are written by the scholars provide me a basic guideline which helped me to add my knowledge in research topic. It is not necessary that all literatures may be reviewed but we should have capability of finding subject matter among those relevant literatures.

Early marriage, or child marriage, is defined as the marriage or union between two people in which one or both parties are younger than 18 years of age. Early marriage is a difficult problem to tackle because its causes are rooted in cultural beliefs and 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. Early marriage also has physical implications for young girls, notably premature pregnancy and childbirth, which entail vastly increased risks of maternal and neonatal mortality. If a mother is under 18, her baby's chance of dying in the first year of life is 60 per cent higher than that of a baby born to a mother older than 19.

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).

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)

Although there is widespread awareness of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (Nepal 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 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, 1992).

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).

2.1 Theoretical Review

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 causes of early marriage among girls and its consequences. This chapter will attempt to review the various relevant literature based as theoretical as well as empirical studies.

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 , psycho analysis 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)

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

include discrimination, objectification (especially sexualobjectification), 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 20th 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.

The legal union of a man and woman as husband and wife, and in some jurisdictions, between two persons of the same sex, usually entailing legal obligations of each person to the other. 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.

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.

2.2 Empirical Review

This research study 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.

'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 checkup and importance of medical checkup 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)

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.

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.

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 paints 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%).

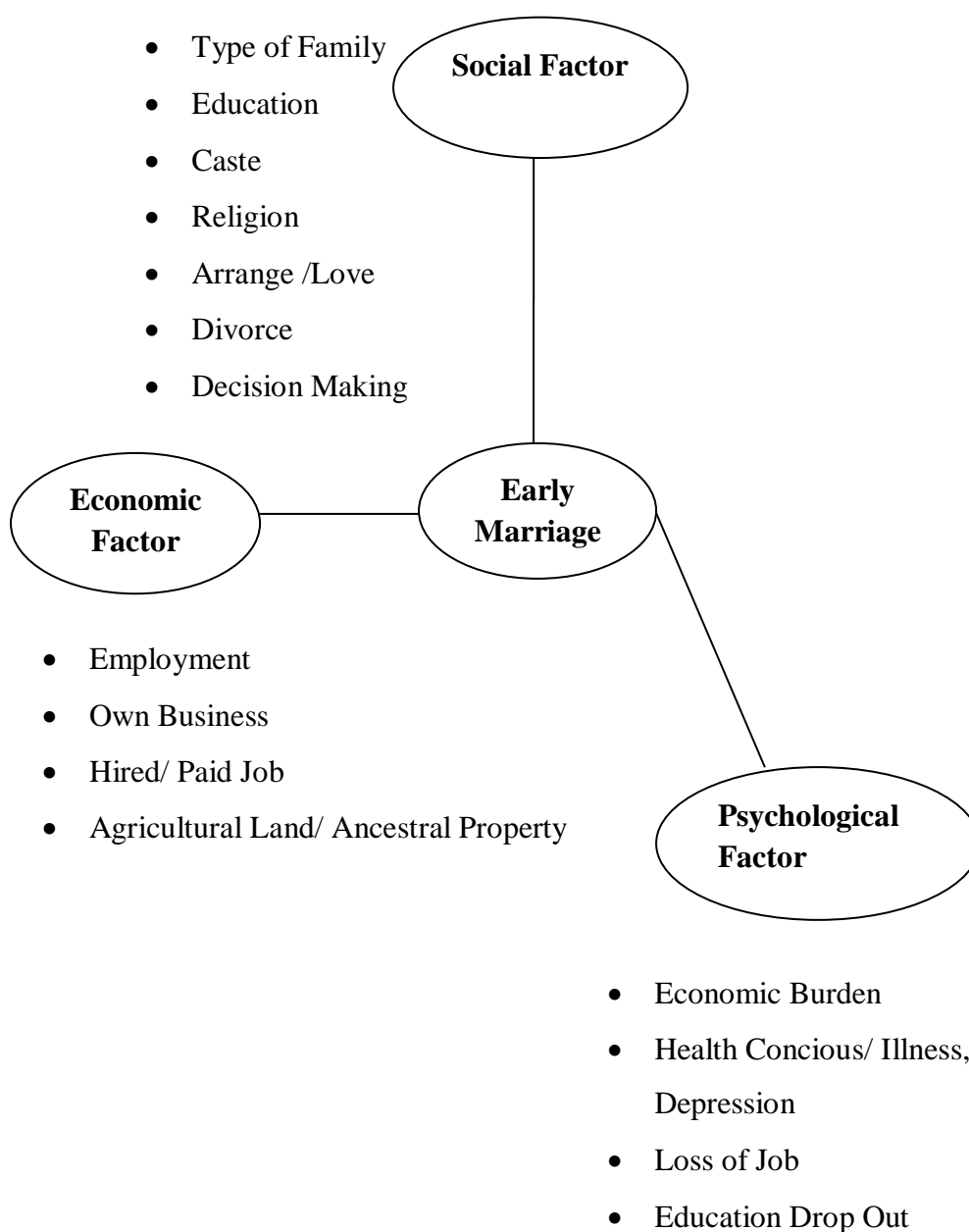
Over half (51%) of the Nepalese women who are aged 20-24 years were married before they were 18 years old. Nepal is in the top 20 countries globally with high prevalence of child marriage. It is expected that only around half of the marriages that took place is registered. There are unusual trend, however, 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.

I have chosen this research topic “CAUSES OF EARLY MARRIAGE AMONG GIRLS AND IT'S CONSEQUENCES” because I found this topic too interesting and I want to figure out more relevant information to this topic. Earlier scholar's and researchers also have studied and researched its various causes and consequences, and also their related reviews really helped me out to elaborate my study in vast but I wanted to further review it with some unknown facts which are not yet mentioned.

2.3 Conceptual Framework

The aim of my research study is to provide a systematic and empirical examination of socio-economic and psychological factors to emphasize the increasing trend of early marriage among girls and its consequences. So the conceptual framework adopted for this study is as follows;

- Social Factor
- Economic Factor
- Psychological Factor



CHAPTER - III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

To achieve the main objectives of the study, different research methodologies have been applied. To get necessary information's, formal as well as informal procedures have been used. To elaborate the content methodologies like interview, case study, hypothesis, field visit etc have been 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 civilized 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 modern city of Nepal.

3.2 Research Design

The fundamental objective of this research is to investigate the facts, reasons and the nature of the early marriage highly focused among girls in Chandragiri metropolitan of Kathmandu city. So, both analytical and explorative research methods have been 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

In this study, both primary and secondary data have been used for collecting required information's. Primary data are collected by interviewing the specified groups during field visit. The secondary data are obtained from different sources published books, journals, periodicals, publication etc.

3.4 Methods of Data Collection

Structured questions have been used to get the detail information about the causes of early marriage. It was kept in mind that the target of the interview schedule (survey format) 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.

3.4.1 Interview schedule

A set of questionnaire was prepared relating social, economic and psychological causes of early marriage and its consequences. And it was further used for data collection and analysis. The structured questions were asked for 13 respondents out of which 11 respondents were female and 2 respondents were male.

3.4.2 Case study

A case study is a report about a person, group, or situation that has been studied. Case studies can be produced by following a formal research method. These case studies are likely to appear in formal research venues, as journals and professional conferences, rather than popular works. Out of 13 respondents, all of them had their own problems, own reasons and a unique set of life after early marriage. But in this study one case study has been presented in an analytical way.

3.5 Analysis and Presentation of Data

In this study, qualitative analysis has been used. Existing rules and regulations, available documents and studies related to early marriage have been reviewed. Similarly, studies on economic condition of the young brides, reasons to take such step and socio economic changes have been analyzed. Discussions have been made on the existing policy and program 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 have been interpreted with additional information.

3.6 Limitations of the Study

This study includes the following limitations:

- This study will cover only the specific young brides below 18 years of Chandragiri metropolitan of Kathmandu city.
- Time dimension and financial factors are also the limitations of this study.
- This study may not reveal the complete picture of the early marriage due to the lack of proper responses from them.
- This study can be used only when the respondents are co-operative.
- This study cannot provide the detail contact and information of the respondents.

CHAPTER-IV

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF EARLY MARRIAGE PRACTICES

4.1 Mina Karki (name changed): "Education: the most powerful tool that I had to sacrifice"

4.1.1 Individual information

Mina Karki is the resident of Purano Naikap, Chandragiri Nagarpalika, Kathmandu. She is hinduism by religion who belonged to Chhetri castism. Due to her family problem she got arranged marriage at her tender age 16. She is now 18. When she first got married, she used to live in joint family along with her in-laws but now she lives with her husband and children i.e. nuclear family.

4.1.2 Knowledge about the cause of early marriage

Being a victim of early marriage, she knew about the meaning and effect of early marriage. In spite of her knowledge, due to poverty as well as force she happens to marry at her early age 16. She was unknown about the legal age at marriage. Now she is 18 years but at this time period she got married twice i.e. when she was 16 years of age, she was married to her sister's husband who was 37 years and within one year due to several problems she got arranged marriage with Deepak Karki (21) who is her second husband. According to her, early marriage is not good as there is created numerous bondages such as they can't go wherever they like, there lacks family affection, poverty arises, etc. She was 16 years of age when she gave birth to her first child but for her 24 years will be the right age for giving birth. She is a mother of two children i.e. baby boy and a girl.

4.1.3 Health problems of early marriage practices

She bore her first pregnancy at the age between 15-18 years where she faced hardship and was uneasy to take care of her health. Though the delivery was normal which took place at hospital her baby boy was healthy enough. But due to poverty she couldn't go for health checkups during as well as after pregnancy. She feed her new

born baby boy with colostrum and her milk was sufficient. In spite of poverty her health condition was good enough during pregnancy. Though she was unknown about the dangerous signs of pregnancy, she didn't suffer from any kind of diseases. But after delivery she have had some complications i.e. her health condition became worst. She didn't have nutritious food which was needed for both mother and a baby. Till now she didn't faced any miscarriage. She compares her health status fair enough after marriage.

4.1.4 Early marriage and family planning

She is unknown about the various methods of contraceptives. Neither she nor her husband ever used any contraceptive methods to delay or stop getting pregnancy due to ignorance. But with the advice of neighbors, she used contraceptive method i.e. Copper-T. She still fears of having side effect with these methods

4.1.5 Educational consequences of early marriage

She was studying in grade 5 when she got married. In spite of her keen interest in study, she couldn't continue it because she got pregnant as well as her economic condition was too poor. She still wishes to study further and in free times she goes through magazines and newspapers to gain knowledge.

4.1.6 Economic consequences of early marriage

As constructor is the major source of income of her family, her husband earns 20 to 30 thousand per month which she says is enough for her to run her family. Before marriage she managed her daily expenses which were given from her parents but after marriage her husband bears all her household expenses. Her daily expenses have increased in other household stuffs, health, etc after marriage. Along with these expenses, she is still saving some money for her future use.

Conclusion:

Mina Karki was the strongest girl that the researcher came through her research. She has been a role model for others where she wants others to express their feelings without hesitation. For her, education was the most powerful tool to make her future

bright where she felt that she got deprived of it. At her early age, she not only got married twice but also has been mother of two kids. She felt it as the harsh reality of her life and doesn't want her kids to face such incident in upcoming future.

4.2 Alisha Malla (name changed): "Early marriage leads to early motherhood which is the best part"

4.2.1 Individual information

Alisha Malla is the permanent resident of Naikap Bhanjyang, Chandragiri Nagarpalika, Kathmandu. She is hinduism by religion who belonged to chhetri castism. She was 17 years when she got married, now she is 21. Due to social media (facebook) she happened to meet Krishna Malla and their friendship extended to a new relationship i.e. they fall in love. Therefore, they got married and now they are living in a joint family.

4.2.2 Knowledge about the cause of early marriage

In her opinion, early marriage needs no age bar. She further adds, "When two hearts are loyal and trust worthy, everything is fair in love". She was unknown about legal age at marriage so when she first got married, she was 17 yrs. She feels early marriage is good because as per her early marriage results to early motherhood which helps her to grow up her child fast and look young. She was 20 yrs of age when she gave birth to her first child. But she thinks 21 yrs would be the right age for giving birth.

4.2.3 Health problems of early marriage practices

She was between 20 years when she bore her first pregnancy. She felt difficult during her first pregnancy and she delivered her baby at hospital and her baby was healthy and also visited for health checkups frequently. As the health workers advise her to give colostrum to newly born baby, she followed their advice and she says that her milk was enough to feed her baby. During pregnancy or after delivery, she has not suffered from any diseases but yes she has had weaknesses. She is not having any miscarriage during pregnancy period and talking about her health she says it's good till now.

4.2.4 Early marriage and family planning

When I asked about family planning, she giggles and say she haven't used any contraceptives till now due to fear of side effects. Though a health worker advised her to use contraceptive, she haven't used it she adds.

4.2.5 Educational consequences of early marriage

She dropped her education due to friends influence. She was studying in grade 10 when she got first married. And after second marriage she didn't continued her study.

4.2.6 Economic consequences of early marriage

Talking about source of income, she says that she used to work in parlour but now she left. Now her husband sends money and with it she manages her living. Income per month goes like 20-30 thousand. Before marriage she used to manage her expenses by self-i.e. she used to work in a parlour. After marrying Krishna he bears all her expenses and obviously her expenses increased in daily basis. She needs to take care of her baby too so her expenses increased in household stuffs.

Conclusion:

Alisha Malla, a free minded young mother felt that she was happy with her life though she married twice due to several reasons. For her early marriage was best decision that she took in her life as she was happy to be with her love as well as happy to be mother at early age. She felt that early motherhood helped her to look younger and grow her child easily.

4.3 Kamala Chapagain (name changed);" Early marriage helps to settle property for future generation".

4.3.1 Individual information

Kamala Chapagain is the permanent resident of Banthok, Chandragiri Nagarpalika, Kathmandu. By religion hinduism, she belonged to chhetri castism. Living in a joint family, she had an arranged marriage when she was 15 years of age. Now she turned 69.

4.3.2 Knowledge about the cause of early marriage

When the researcher asked about early marriage, she said that she was 15 when she got married and her husband was 24. It was his second marriage. She doesn't knows

about legal age at marriage but she feels that early marriage is good because according to her if we marry early, we can save money for our kids and can build house for them. Our future generation won't get many problems and they will lead a good life. When the researcher asked why she married early, she became nostalgic and explained that her mother died when she was seven years of age and her father married another woman. So at her tender age her step mother brought a marriage proposal for her and she got married. Though she married early, she gave birth to her first child at the age of 22. It is because she haven't had mensuration for 4 more years after marriage. She further adds 25/26 years would be proper age to give birth. Now, she is a mother of 3 sons and 4 daughters. For her early marriage has personal differences i.e. some takes it as a custom whereas others may have own belief regarding it.

4.3.3 Health problems of early marriage practices

When she bore her first pregnancy, she was above 20 years as she had late mensuration. She says early pregnancy is good as it helps to bear healthy baby in time and for her after 30 years it will be risky to give a birth as well as baby won't be much healthier. As she is older now, she recalls her period when she was pregnant. At that time the environment was much better and she felt easy to take care of her health during pregnancy. She delivered her baby at home and her baby was healthy enough. To a great surprise, she has never had a single dose of medicine as well as she never visited hospital for checkups. She gave colostrum to her newly born babies but her milk was not sufficient. She didn't suffer from any diseases during pregnancy nor did she know any dangerous signs of pregnancy period. Further she adds that she had complications during delivery time but she never had severe pain. She never had miscarriage and there is no difference in her health status before or after marriage i.e. it's quite good till now.

4.3.4 Early marriage and family planning

Talking about family planning, she never heard or used any methods of contraceptives and the reason behind it was her ignorance about these things. Though she was advised to use various methods by her neighbors but neither she nor her husband ever used any things.

4.3.5 Educational consequences of early marriage

The researcher asked about her educational consequences but she said that she was illiterate and never thought of acquiring knowledge. She further adds that her husband also had no schooling but he can easily read B.A. level English courses and can guide children, it is because he was guided by a teacher of his village long year ago.

4.3.6 Economic consequences of early marriage

The researcher asked about the major source of income and she replied that when she was married her husband was an army and for 12 years he continued his job. After 12 years he had some family problems so he had to leave his job and was involved in agriculture since then. Till now they are dependent on agriculture where family income per month is 20-30 thousand. Before getting marriage she used to manage her expenses from home but now her husband bear her expenses. Also her daily expenses increased after marriage and its non-other than in her household stuffs.

Conclusion:

Kamala Chapagain, a very healthy and elder respondent of early marriage, felt that the marriage at her time was very different than today's generation. To a great surprise she had never visited health post when she was pregnant. As for her early pregnancy is good which helps the family to save property for their kids. Being an old generation, her thoughts for dowry system was too good. She was against of such system and further says that such system should be prohibited.

4.4 Nira Century (name changed) "Early marriage ruins life"

4.4.1 Individual Information

Nira Century is the resident of Naya Naikap, Chandragiri Nagarpalika, Kathmandu. At present she is 30 years where her age at first marriage was 16 years, by religion she is hinduism. She had love marriage when she was studying in grade 10. It was inter caste. She is living in a nuclear family.

4.4.2 Question about knowledge about the causes of early marriage

As she is educated, she freely expressed her inner feelings with the researcher which helped the researcher to gain much information. Being an intelligent student during schooling, she says that she was clear about early marriage and instead of her

knowledge she has had early marriage i.e. she had a love affair with her neighbor but they were inter caste. So, they went against and got married. She was known about the legal age at marriage, i.e. girls should be 18 and boys should be 21. When researcher asked about the age of her when they married, she replied 24. She says love is blind that's why she got married earlier and feels that it's not good. For her, one should be capable and self - dependent before marriage. Further she adds if we are capable then we won't let our future generation to suffer and we will be able to fulfill their demands. She feels that after marrying, she has had bondages in almost everything. At teen age 18, she became a mother of a baby boy but she felt that it was too early. For her 24 years would be right age for giving birth. She is a mother of only baby boy. When the researcher asked about what she feels early marriage a custom or belief? Then she answered that various people have their own perception for it and it does not need to be carried on but as life itself is unpredictable, she feels it has personal differences.

4.4.3 Health problems of early marriage practices

When she bore her first pregnancy, she was aged between 15-18 years which she felt that it was too early. With a good vibes of being mother, she didn't felt any uneasiness during her pregnancy. She said that she was so active and did almost every household works by herself. She gave a birth to her baby boy at hospital where baby was so healthy and was of 3 kg. Being health conscious woman, during pregnancy as well as after delivery she frequently visited hospital for check-ups. After delivery she visited 2 times for post natal checkup. With the instruction of her mother and the guidance of health workers, she feed her baby boy with colostrum as she was afraid of child being sick. She further adds that her milk was sufficient to feed her baby. She did not suffered from any diseases during her pregnancy period. Though she knew the dangerous signs of pregnancy period, she never had complications neither had any miscarriage. Further, she adds that her health status is fair enough before as well as after marriage.

4.4.4 Early marriage and family planning

Being a health conscious as well as educated woman, she is more conscious about family planning. Yes of course she had heard about various methods of contraceptives and had used pills and copper -T to delay pregnancy. She herself thought of using

contraceptives in order to stop getting pregnancy as for her work and money was first priority which would help her to rear her child without any objections i.e. she would fulfill every wish if she would be independent.

4.4.5 Educational consequences of early marriage

She is an educated woman where she acquired her higher education from renowned college. She was studying in grade 10 during her first marriage and dropped her education while she was studying in grade 11 in order to get married as it was complicated. Later on she continued her study and now she is student of Master's level from Tribhuvan University.

4.4.6 Economic consequences of early marriage

As the major source of her family was business i.e. they have had telephone booth where their monthly income was between 20-30 thousand. She was independent before marriage as she used to do teaching in school and also used to run tuition classes. But after marriage, her in-laws as well as maiti provided her expenses. Almost in everything like household, health, clothes, stationery, etc her daily expenses increased.

Conclusion

Being an educated woman she felt that her decision for early marriage ruined her life. She had bondages in everything and had to cope up with what she had in life. Love is blind so one should be aware of their blank future. She further gives advice and emphasizes on independency before getting marriage.

4.5 Sonu Khadgi (name changed): "Early marriage ruins education"

4.5.1 Individual Information

Sonu Khadgi is the resident of Kalikathan, Chandragiri Nagarpalika, Ktm. She was 17 years of age when she first got married and now her age is 25. She belonged to Hinduism. She is separated with her first husband but had not divorced yet and married with another guy who is her second husband. It is love marriage and she is living in a nuclear family. She is educated and after marriage too she completed her study.

4.5.2 Knowledge about the causes of early marriage

When the researcher asked whether she knows about early marriage and its legal age, she answered that she had love affair with her first husband when she was 17 years of age and her husband was 20. She eloped with her lover and stayed out for 6 months. After that, they were approved by the family members and got married. Both of them were dependent upon family members for daily expenses. Being educated she knows the legal age at marriage and says that she married early which was good for her. She found bondages after marriage and could not continue her study. Though her in-laws loved her, she felt to stay alone and was separated with her first husband. She says early marriage ruins education and spoils future. After several years she continued her study and got married with another man. Now, her husband is in abroad and after few months she is planning to go there. As for her, early marriage is neither custom nor belief, it is just different perceptions of people.

4.5.3 Health problems of early marriage practices

As the researcher's concern depends upon early motherhood, Sonu has not been mother of any kids till now. But about health issue she says that there is not much difference in her health status.

4.5.4 Early marriage and family planning

When the researcher came up with the topic of family planning, the respondent replied that due to fear of getting early pregnancy, she used contraceptives to delay it. She used pills to stop getting pregnancy. As advised by her family members and friends she followed their advice. She frequently visited for health checkups too.

4.5.5 Educational consequences of early marriage

As the respondent is educated, she was in grade 10 during her first marriage. After finishing her final exam of grade 10 she eloped with her first husband. Due to this she had to drop out. For 3 years she lived with her first husband but when she felt that early marriage ruined her education and also she was bound with several things, she decided to leave her husband and return to her home town. After that she joined college for further education. Now she is studying bachelor's degree and during this

phase, she happened to meet Ajay Dhakal who is her second husband. After few years of marriage, he went to USA for job purpose and he promised Sonu to take along with him. So she is now waiting for her final result of bachelor's and planning to go abroad.

4.5.6 Economic consequences of early marriage

Being a wife of business man, their major source of income is business itself. Their income would reach 20-30 thousand per month. As her husband belonged to rich family, he planned to extend his business so for business purpose he went abroad. Before marriage, her daily expenses were managed by her family members. Now she depends upon her husband for every need and her daily expenses increased in almost everything including household stuffs, education, fuel etc.

Conclusion

As education was the most important issue in her life, she felt the decision of her early marriage spoiled life and ruined her education. Nevertheless, independent is another most important thing to be kept in mind. And also unless girl reaches 26 and boys between 29-30 would be exact age where maturity is most needed to carry up any relationship.

4.6 Sunny Shahi (name changed): "Early marriage: A best part of my life"

4.6.1 Individual information

Sunny Shahi is the resident of Purano Naikap, Chandragiri Nagarpalika, KTM. By religion Hinduism she belonged to newar community. She got married when she was 16 years of age and at present she is 23 years. It was her love marriage. Currently she is living in a joint family.

4.6.2 Knowledge about the causes of early marriage

For her, early marriage refers to the marriage before exact age due to various reasons. According to her, legal age at marriage for girls is 21 and 22/23 for boys. She says that she is early married i.e. she was 16 and her husband was 20. Due to family problem she got married at that age. For her early marriage have both positive and negative aspects. She married early due to family pressure and her decision for it was

good as she is happy with her husband and in-laws. It do have negative aspects too i.e. unless one becomes self-dependent, marrying early is not good. She is a mother of a baby girl where she was 20 yrs of age while giving birth. But for her 26/27 years would be the right age for giving birth.

4.6.3 Health problems of early marriage practices

She was aged between 18-20 years when she bore her first pregnancy. Her health condition was good enough during her first pregnancy. She gave birth to her baby at hospital and her baby girl was healthy enough. During pregnancy, she visited for more than four times for health checkups and for postnatal checkups, she visited twice i.e. 7th day and 42nd day. After delivery she visited frequently for her babies checkups. Right after the baby's birth, she was advised to give colostrum to her newly born baby and her milk was enough to feed her baby. Before or after marriage, her health status was fair enough. When she was pregnant, she had a spot of blood in her eye ball which made her feel very painful but she operated it and now its normal. But she never had dangerous illness during that period which would harm her child. She did not felt any complication during or after delivery. Nor she had miscarriage on pregnancy period.

4.6.4 Early marriage and family planning

Though she has heard about various methods of contraceptives, she had never used any means to delay or stop getting pregnancy because of fear of side effects and other reasons. With the advice of doctor, her husband uses contraceptive. They wanted to make a gap of 6 years for their next child.

4.6.5 Educational consequences of early marriage

She was studying in grade 10 during her first marriage and after that she dropped it i.e. she did not continued her study. Now, they do have a baby girl of 3 years who studies in a kindergarten. She wants her baby to acquire higher education that she was deprived of.

4.6.6 Economic consequences of early marriage

As business is their major source of income, their income per month goes between 20-30 thousand where she manages all her expenses along with little savings. Before marriage, her family used to provide her money to fulfill her daily needs but now, her husband bared her daily expenses. She also helps her husband at his work. Along with a baby girl, she says her expenses has increased mostly to fulfill her baby's needs including toys, clothes, food, health etc. therefore, she is happy with her life.

Conclusion

A different perception towards early marriage: early marriage changed her life and she is happy with her decision. She is with the one whom she loves and they have had pretty daughter whom they feel blessed to have. She feels herself lucky because her in-laws also love her the most. She is satisfied with her life and further says when selection is best, early marriage won't hamper in further life. She feels herself secured for the rest of her life.

4.7 Fulkumari Tamang (name changed): "Economic crisis emerges in early marriage"

4.7.1 Individual information

Fulkumari Tamang is a resident of Jhole Tole, Chandragiri Nagarpalika, KTM. At present her age is 22 where her age at first marriage was 12. She is Buddhist by religion. She has love marriage at that tender age where her husband was just of 14. Till now they are together living in a nuclear family.

4.7.2 Knowledge about the cause of early marriage

She got married at her very tender age 12 where she was unknown about the meaning of early marriage. She felt in love with a guy of a same caste who was 14 years of age. When two hearts are connected they become blind. Same is the case with them; both of their economic condition was poor. They felt that early marriage is good because they can be with the one whom they love. She knows the legal age at marriage i.e. 18 for girls. They got married early because they were innocent. May be

their poverty led them to do early marriage. At the age of 16, she gave birth to her first child where she herself was of a childish nature. For her, 20 years would be a right age to give a birth to a child. According to her, early marriage has their personal differences; some takes it as a tradition whereas others may take it as a belief.

4.7.3 Health problems of early marriage practices

When she bore her first pregnancy she was aged between 15-18years. According to her, early pregnancy refers to give birth to a baby in unsafe period where more chances of miscarriage may appear. She felt uneasy to take care of her health in first pregnancy. Though she gave birth to her baby at hospital, she faced economic crisis as well as her baby was born underweight. She visited just twice for her health checkups during pregnancy and after delivery for postnatal checkup; she visited just once because she could not afford the cost. Neither she could have nutritious food nor could she feed her baby. At first she fed her baby with colostrum but later on her milk was insufficient for her baby. Therefore, she fed her baby with alternative food. During pregnancy, she suffered from weakness; she felt dizzy and sometimes faints too. She has had many complications during delivery i.e. she was so weak while giving birth and could not deliver baby easily. Because of economic crisis she could not take proper care of her health. She never had miscarriage on pregnancy period. Before marriage, her health status was fair enough but after marriage her health status became worst.

4.7.4 Early marriage and family planning

When first married, they were unknown about the various means of contraceptives. After their first baby, doctors and health workers suggested them not to bear baby until the gap reaches 5. So with their advice, they used contraceptive methods to delay or stop getting pregnancy.

4.7.5 Educational consequences of early marriage

Belonging to poor family, she could only study up to grade 5 and after her marriage she did not continued her study. As money matters everywhere, she had to drop her education but her wish is to make her child's future bright.

4.7.6 Economic consequences of early marriage

As her husband works in a construction site, their income per month becomes below 10 thousand. Sometimes she also joins him to make double income but as her health is weak, she could not work in regular basis. Before marriage, her parents used to give her money for daily expenses but now she along with her husband try to manage their needs with the income they earn. As they have baby too, they have to sacrifice lots of things. Their expense goes much in rent, household stuffs, food and for exceptional things they manage anyhow.

Conclusion

A harsh reality of life, early marriage arise economic crisis almost for all but it's really painful for poor people. Though she is early married and is facing lots of difficulties, she is true to her love and strongly devoted towards to him. She is ready to face every difficulty together.

4.8 Radhika Thapa Magar (name changed): "Early marriage lacks parental warmth and affection"

4.8.1 Individual information

Radhika Thapa Magar is the resident of Balkumari, Chandragiri Nagarpalika, Kathmandu. She belonged to Buddhism religion. Her present age is 41. She was 12 years of age when she first got married. It was arranged marriage. At first, she used to live in a joint family but due to family pressure, now they live separately i.e. nuclear.

4.8.2 Knowledge about the causes of early marriage

She was the fourth daughter of her family and even after knowing about early marriage and its causes, she got married at the age of 12. The reason behind it was; there was a perception of girls who marry at early age will be able to set up their family. As she is the fourth daughter, her parents arranged her marriage even if she was not ready for it. Being illiterate, she is unknown about the legal age at marriage but she says that she married early. She was 12 and her husband was 18 when they got married. When the researcher concerned about why she got married at that age then

she answered, 'due to poverty as well as higher number of daughters in my family, my parents arranged my marriage to a teenager'. Though she got married early but for her it was not good because she lack parental love, affection and intimacy. She was 14 years of age when she gave birth to her first child which for her was too early as her reproductive health was weak to give birth. She thinks 18 years would have been right age for giving birth. At present, she is a mother of 3 children. There was a belief of if we let our daughters marry early, she will be capable to handle a house and can set up her family for future. This belief let her to take such step at very early age.

4.8.3 Health problems of early marriage practices

At the very age of 14 she bore her first pregnancy where she faced lots of complications during delivery. Health wise, she was not ready to be a mother. According to her, early pregnancy referred to giving birth to a baby when they themselves are not ready to give birth from reproductive health perspective. As she was below 15 years when giving birth to a baby, she felt uneasy to take care of her health in first pregnancy. She delivered her baby at home with assistance of health workers where her baby was of low birth weight. She did not went for health checkups and with advice of her neighbors, she did not fed her baby with colostrum fearing of baby getting ill. Later on, she fed her baby with her breast milk which was sufficient to feed. During pregnancy, she suffered from disease which brought complications after delivery i.e. she had continuous bleeding which make her too weak. She never had miscarriage in her life. Before marriage, her health status was fair enough but after marriage she felt lots of complications which harmed her health badly.

4.8.4 Early marriage and family planning

After her first pregnancy, with the advice of doctors, she used contraceptive method to stop getting pregnancy. Health wise she was very weak to look after her child. So she used norplant to delay pregnancy. After couple of years, she gave birth to her next child.

4.8.5 Educational consequences of early marriage

As she is not educated, she is ignorant about the need and importance of education. Her husband also got education up to 10 classes only so he works in an office as a peon.

4.8.6 Economic consequences of early marriage

As her husband works as a peon in an office, and she sometimes works at others' home as a house maid, they hardly manage to make 10-20 thousand per month. Before marriage, her family members used to give money but now her husband bears her daily expenses. Being a mother of three children, their daily expenses increased in many things like household stuffs, kids' education, clothes etc.

Conclusion

Poverty, one of the main reasons behind early marriage and numerous daughters and blind belief behind it, another reason that took place in her case. Due to such blind belief, she lacked family love, affection and intimacy. Not only this, it adversely hampered her health at a very early age. Therefore, unless one reaches exact age and becomes independent, marrying early is not a good idea. One should be independent and matured to be in a relationship.

4.9 Deepak Karki (name changed): "Early marriage leads to second marriage due to childish nature"

4.9.1 Individual information

Deepak Karki is the resident of Purano Naikap, Chandragiri Nagarpalika, Kathmandu. By religion Hinduism, he is a husband of Mina Karki and for further information, the researcher took an interview with Deepak. Deepak lives in a nuclear family with Mina now. Before marrying Mina, he was in love with Nirasa his first wife. They both got married at an early age i.e. Nirasa was 15 and Deepak was 18.

4.9.2 Knowledge about the cause of early marriage

He was unknown about early marriage. According to him, early marriage takes place where there occurs a love affair between two hearts but the consequences of early marriage is to suffer a lot. He does not know the legal age at marriage so he married

early which made him suffer a lot. He married his first wife when he was 18 and his wife Nirasa was 15 years. They fall in love so they got married. He used to work as a bus conductor and after marriage he left his work and started to work as a house constructor. For him, early marriage is good because they lived together with the one whom they love, our wishes gets fulfilled. He is a father of two children now.

4.9.3 Early marriage and family planning

For family planning, he heard about various methods of contraceptives but he did not use any means. Infact, his wife used pills to delay or stop getting pregnancy. Their neighbor advised them to use such methods.

4.9.4 Educational consequences of early marriage

When he was studying in grade two, he left his study. From childhood, he was not interested in study so at early age he worked as a bus conductor.

4.9.5 Economic consequences of early marriage

At present, he works as a house constructor and his income per month goes like 20-30 thousand. Before marriage, he worked as a bus conductor and now after marriage, his daily expenses increased along with his responsibilities.

Conclusion

Early marriage leads to burden of responsibilities. We suffer a lot if we don't have secured future. Love is blind and it is harsh to understand the hidden feelings. As betrayed by first wife, he hardly trusts to other person. Therefore, early marriage is not good, one should marry after getting matured.

4.10 Reshma Khadgi (name changed): "Sufferings at the initial phase of early marriage"

4.10.1 Individual information

Reshma Khadgi is the resident of Naya Naikap, Chandragiri Nagarpalika, Kathmandu. By religion Christianity her present age is 48. When she first married she

was 16 years of age. Belonging to newar community, she lives in a nuclear family. She did love marriage.

4.10.2 Knowledge about the cause of early marriage

She was unknown about early marriage. According to her, she got married at early age 16 where she was blindly in love with a man of 23 years. Further she adds, when people are in love, age doesn't matter neither the situations, the only way they see is to be together through marriage. She was unknown about the legal age at marriage. She married early knowing the problems of her lover and she thought that she could be a helping hand for him so she eloped. For her early marriage is not good because she had to sacrifice all her desires and wishes. Not only this, she lacks her parental warmth as she was the loveable child of her father. Sacrificing all those freedom, she had to suffer a lot. So she says early marriage is not good. She gave birth to her first child when she was 18. But for her 26 years would have been right age for giving birth. Now, she is a mother of 4 children.

4.10.3 Health problems of early marriage practices

She bore her first pregnancy when she was between 18-20 years. She felt hardship to take care of her health as she was not feed with nutritious food which was necessary during her pregnancy. She gave birth to her baby at hospital and her baby was healthy enough. During pregnancy or after delivery, she never visited hospital. She provided colostrum to her newly born baby and her breast feeding was enough to feed her. She did not suffered from any diseases in pregnancy nor did she have any complications during pregnancy. She never got miscarriage on pregnancy period too. Before marriage and after marriage, there is no difference in her health status i.e. its good till now.

4.10.4 Early marriage and family planning

She has heard about various methods of contraceptives and also she used contraceptive methods to delay or stop getting pregnancy. She frequently uses depo-provera to stop getting pregnancy. She herself felt to use such method.

4.10.5 Educational consequences of early marriage

She was studying in grade 8 during her first marriage but she could not continue her study. In spite of her keen interest, she has been deprived of it.

4.10.6 Economic consequences of early marriage

As the major source of her family was business, their income per month becomes more than 30 thousand. Before marriage, she managed her expenses given by her family but after marriage, her husband bared her daily expenses. It's obvious that after marriage her daily expenses increased in almost everything including schooling and rental.

Conclusion

As love is blind, so is the case of early marriage. One jumps over blank future without thinking anything and this lead us to darkness of life. The family intimacy, love and freedom everything should be sacrificed and we need to cope up with a very different and unexpected life.

4.11 Lila Maiya Gurung (name changed): "Decision of early marriage has been a great gift"

4.11.1 Individual information

Lila Maiya Gurung is the resident of Tinthana, Chandragiri Nagarpalika, Kathmandu. At present she is 35 years where she first married at the age of 15 and till now she is with her loving husband. They have had strong bond and supports him in every decisions. By religion Buddhism, she lives in a nuclear family and her marriage type is love marriage.

4.11.2 Knowledge about the causes of early marriage

She was unknown about the meaning of early marriage. She fell in love and eloped with him when she was 15. She was unknown about the legal age at marriage too. When she got married her husband was 20 years of age. As love is blind they fall for it and got married. Both of them are very happy for their decision because they feel

that they are perfect match. She gave birth to her first child when she was 18 years but she felt that 25 years would be right age. Now she is a mother of 2 children.

4.11.3 Health problems of early marriage practices

When she bore her first pregnancy she was aged between 18-20 years. As she was healthy enough, she felt easy to take care of her health in her first pregnancy. She gave birth to her baby at hospital and her baby was so healthy. As health conscious, she regularly visited hospital for health checkups during pregnancy, delivery as well as after delivery. She wanted her baby to grow healthier, fit and fine so she gave colostrum to her newly born baby. As she was provided with nutritious food, her breast feeding was sufficient for her baby. She did not suffered from any diseases during pregnancy but she had complications during delivery i.e. she felt weakness. But she never got miscarriage on pregnancy period. There is no difference in her health status i.e. her health is good.

4.11.4 Early marriage and family planning

She heard about various means of contraceptives and in order to delay or stop getting pregnancy, she used depo-provera method which helped her. She was advised by doctors for such method and also her husband used contraceptive.

4.11.5 Educational consequences of early marriage

She was in grade 8 during her first marriage but after marriage she didn't continued her study. As responsibilities increased, she could not manage time for her further study.

4.11.6 Economic consequences of early marriage

As the major source of her family is business, they earn more than 30 thousand which is enough for her to run her family. Before marriage, her family would provide her money but after marriage her husband bared her daily expenses. Her daily expenses increased in everything including schooling of her kids.

Conclusion

As marriage is a strong bond between two people where trust is very important to continue any relationship; her decision of early marriage has been a great gift for her as she is very happy with her life. She has got a supportive husband who loves her and supports her in everything and she says she will never break his trust.

4.12 Rina Thapa (name changed): "Early marriage leads to early pregnancy: high risk for adolescence girls"

4.12.1 Individual information

Rina Thapa (61) is the resident of Balambu, Chandragiri Nagarpalika, Kathmandu. She got married at the age of 15 which was love marriage. By religion she is Christian. Her family type is nuclear.

4.12.2 Knowledge about the cause of early marriage

While getting marriage at very age, she was unknown about early marriage. According to her, early marriage refers to getting married before the exact age or before the age as mentioned by law. Now she knows the legal age at marriage where she finds herself as a victim of early marriage. She further says that she was 15 years and her husband was 22 years when she eloped. It was love marriage. For her early marriage is not good as girls suffer more i.e. physically and mentally, all those freedom are to be sacrificed and a high risk for girls getting pregnant at their tender age. As she was 17 years when she gave birth to her first child, she faced a complication during delivery. Now, she is a mother of 2 girls but for her 22/23 years would be the right age for giving birth.

4.12.3 Health problems of early marriage practices

She bore her first pregnancy when she was aged between 15-18 years. As her delivery was not normal, she felt uneasy to take care of her health during first pregnancy. She gave birth to her baby at hospital where her baby was not healthy and was suffering from jaundice. Because of this reason, she found unsafe to feed colostrum to her newly born baby. She frequently visited hospitals for checkups. During pregnancy she visited hospital for more than four times and after postnatal she visited twice. After

delivery too she visited more than three times. During breast feeding, her milk was sufficient for her to feed her baby. She did not feel any complication during pregnancy but during delivery, she has had complication because her delivery was not normal. She did not have miscarriage during her pregnancy too. Linking up her health status, before marriage it was good enough but now it's fair.

4.12.4 Early marriage and family planning

She has heard about the various methods of contraceptives and she has also used contraceptive method to delay or stop getting pregnancy. She has used depo-provera method which was advised by doctor.

4.12.5 Educational consequences of early marriage

She is not educated so early marriage did not hamper her study. As she was busy in her daily household, she has never been to school.

4.12.6 Economic consequences of early marriage

As her husband was inspector by profession, the family income per month goes like 20-30 thousand. Before marriage, she was provided expenses by her family but now her husband bears all her daily expenses. After marriage and after being mother, her daily expenses have increased in almost everything including the schooling of her kids.

Conclusion

By seeing her, we get an awareness of early marriage. She focused on the health of adolescence girls which can be in high risk if married early. As marriage is one of the essential needs of human being, right age or maturity is most to be involved in such relation. And the next thing she focused was on independency, one should be independent so that she could help her husband economically too.

4.13 Anish Shahi (name changed): "Self-dependency is the most before getting marriage"

4.13.1 Individual information

Anish Shahi (26) is the resident of Purano Naikap, Chandragiri Nagarpalika, Kathmandu. He was 20 years of age when he married his beloved Sunny Shahi (respondent of early marriage). By religion Hinduism, he belonged to Newar castism. He is living in a joint family helping his father in a business. He had love marriage.

4.13.2 Knowledge about the cause of early marriage

He knew the meaning of early marriage but he married early because of the family problem of his girlfriend. According to him, girls aging 20/22 and boys 25/26 would be right age for getting married. He was 20 years of age and his wife was 16 when they got married. They got married at that age because his wife had family problem and he could not let her face alone so they decided to elope. Later on their family members accepted their relationship and now they are living in a joint family. For him, unless a boy becomes self-dependent, early marriage is not good. If one gets married early, there is a high chance of being early parents where responsibilities increase. So, if one can't fulfill the needs, then there is a high chance of getting divorce. So, self-dependent is the vital thing. He is a father of a one baby girl.

4.13.3 Early marriage and family planning

He has heard about the various methods of contraceptives and also uses contraceptive method to delay or stop getting his wife pregnant. As his wife doesn't use any method because of fear of side effect, with doctors' advice he supports her.

4.13.4 Educational consequences of early marriage

He was studying in grade 8 during his first marriage, as he was not much interested in study, he dropped out and continued his father's business. Now, he feels that if he was educated, he would have done some great business. So, education is most.

4.13.5 Economic consequences of early marriage

The major source of income of his family was business and their income per month goes more than 30 thousand. Before marriage too, he used to help his family in business and now also, he continued his same business which helped him to fulfill the need of his wife and daughter. Their income has increased in lots of things including toys for baby, her schooling, etc.

Conclusion

Self-dependent and education are the vital things to continue any relationship so before marrying, we need to follow these things first.

CASE STUDY

“MARRIAGE, REMARRIAGE AND HAPPINESS”

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.

For a case study, the researcher has selected a girl named Mina Karki (18), the most powerful representative among respondents 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 except 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.

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 fed 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, inspite of her keen interest on study, she forcibly 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 -V

CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF EARLY MARRIAGE

5.1 Causes of Early Marriage

Early marriages were common throughout history for a variety of reasons, including poverty, education, insecurity, as well as for political and financial reasons. Lack of education is mainly the reason as parents also lost guidance and control over their children, technically because they also lack that education too (maybe). Disobeying parents or not listening to elder's advice can be the cause of early marriage. As the age factor the most important issue, girls at their tender age becomes much focus on their partners than to their studies. Some people especially teenagers are not basically aware on sex education too. Out of the researcher's findings too, lack of education has been one of the important cause of early marriage. Because of immaturity as well as less education, they could not take decisions in their life and hence, most of the respondents faced poverty as well as economic crisis.

Another leading cause of early marriage is the over-emphasis on virginity and chastity of girls and the consequent control of the sexuality of women and girls. The sexuality of girl's is linked to the honor and reputation not only of a family but also of clan, caste, race and ethnic groups. In a fear of growing crimes like rape, trafficking, prostitution, etc., parents feel insecure to keep their young daughters at home so they like to see their daughters safely married as soon as possible. In a family, when a girl becomes young and enters her teenage, there emerge a kind of insecurity mainly in the male head of a family and hence, for security of her virginity, parents tend to get her into a relationship at her very tender age. Similar was the case with Radhika Thapa Magar and Kamala Chapagain (respondents). They got married early sacrificing all their desires, neither could they attain good education nor did they get ownness or intimacy. They were deprived of their parental love, care and affection.

Love affair as well as rapid growth of social media's like facebook, viber, wechat, etc., is another most leading causes of early marriage. Love affair was nevertheless most relevant issue in almost all cases where social media added a plus point to help grow such incident. From the past till now, this cause has emerged as never ending

cause which is impossible to stop. When people are in love, they are much focused on their partners. They forget everything like their education, family background, independency, society, culture, etc. The only thing they want is to be with each other for a lifetime forgetting about the consequences that it follows. As they are immature, they could not decide what is right and what isn't. Therefore, it has become one of the most happening causes of early marriage. Out of the researcher's findings, 76.92% were love marriages which showed that the trend of love affairs has been most relevant cause of early marriage till now.

Poverty is another vital cause for 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 partners or what else. Early marriage mostly takes place in poor class people because they become failure to fulfill their needs and demands. Girls on the other hand are taken as an economic burden especially in a poor family. They think that letting their daughter in marriage allows parents to reduce family expenses by ensuring they have one less person to feed, clothe and educate. Economic situation can compel many families to resort to early marriage. They perceive girls to be an additional economic burden and so they turn to marrying girl off before she attains legal age and sending her to live in the matrimonial home. Poverty being the crucial reason behind early marriage, this trend is hard to get eradicated. Though the laws against early marriage were made and implemented, it is still going through the same pace. More than 50% of the respondent's causes behind early marriage were poverty. In case of Radhika Thapa Magar from Balkumari, poverty, numerous daughters and a blind belief towards early marriage led her to take such step. Due to such blind belief as well as poor economic status, she lacked family love, affection and intimacy. Likewise, another respondent named Fulkumari Tamang from Jhole Tole too emphasized on poverty as a crucial reason behind early marriage. She had gone through economic crisis before marriage and after marriage too, she is still going through same condition, but still she is happy with her life and is supporting her husband.

Lack of awareness about law related to early marriage is another major cause of early marriage. There are certain laws, rules and regulations for marriage which need to be approved by society. 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. Even though law has prescribed certain age for marriage i.e. 18 years for girls and 21 years for boys, legal empowerments are less since they are legally exploited. The main cause is that they tend to be unaware among the existing legal provisions and hence, lack self-confidence to fight for their rights. Similarly, in the researcher's findings, majority of the respondents were unknown about the legal age at marriage. They showed poverty, lack of education, love affair, force marriage, blind belief on girl's virginity, etc. as their main causes of early marriage.

5.2 Consequences of Early Marriage

About the consequences of early marriage, it is one of the most harmful practices as it usually denies girls educational opportunities, leads to poverty and economic insecurity and has a serious negative impact on their health and decision-making capacities. It also reinforces other forms of gender based violence and problems. Majority of the early married women have never gone to school or left school before completing a full course of primary education, making them entirely dependent on their husbands in practical aspects of everyday life. Being a young and immature mother, they exercise less influence and control over their children, and have less ability to make decisions about their nutrition, health care and household management. Children whose mothers were married early tend to marry early: thus creating generations of child wives. Likewise, because of the age differences and the attendant poor communication, many early marriages results in early divorce or separation. Similarly, out of fear of her parents and the social stigma as well as the poverty associated with being single, many young girls are compelled to remain in a loveless and violent marriage.

Following marriage, a girl is expected to set aside her childhood and assume the role of a woman, embarking immediately upon a life that includes sex, motherhood and all the household duties traditionally expected of a wife. Early marriage for girls leads towards inadequate socialization, discontinuation of education, physiological and psychological damage to girls due to early and frequent pregnancies, and quite often an early widowhood.

Another consequence of early marriage is teenage pregnancy and birth of immature baby. At the age of playing with toys, she attempts to play with her own child. Even though they can't handle themselves, it becomes very difficult to handle the child. Similar was the case with Mina Karki (respondent) from Purano Naikap. At the age of 18, she got married twice as well as been mother of two kids which showed that early marriage hampered her life, she was bounded with every facilities. Even of her keen interest towards education, she was deprived of it.

Health is one of the most important for the fulfillment of human desire of long and easy life which can improve the quality of life. Early marriage invites many kinds of serious problem in woman's life and to their new born baby. Early pregnancy increases the risk of delivery complications and maternal and child mortality. Girls undergo severe health problems like under age pregnancy, immature child birth etc. along with this, their reproductive health is hampered too. Early pregnancy is one of the most dangerous consequences of early marriage as young girl brides face issues including sexually transmitted infections; HIV/AIDS, and increased chances of cervical cancer.

Girls married early are more likely to experience violence, abuse and forced sexual relations. Early marriage denies girls their right to make vital decisions about their sexual health and well-being. Girls married early are more likely to drop out of school as well as have low-paid job.

Another consequence is girls married before their 18th birthday had three or more children compared to one who married as adults. Out of the researcher's findings, Reshma Khadgi from Naya Naikap (respondent), Radhika Thapa Magar from Balkumari (respondent) and Kamala Chapagain from Banthok (respondent) were married before their 18th birthday and now Reshma is a mother of 4 children, likewise Radhika is a mother of 3 children whereas Kamala is a mother of 7 children. This shows early marriage invites the growth of population.

Early marriage leads to early divorce in most cases as well as remarriage which the researcher found out in most of her respondents cases which is infact one of the vital consequences of early marriage. In case study of Mina Karki and Deepak Karki (respondents), both of them married twice though their causes were different. Another

respondent named Alisha Malla also got remarried where she finds her present life happy with her husband and a baby. Most of the respondents were married twice and their reasons were different from one another. Sonu Khadgi another respondent left her first husband and without divorcing got married with next boy who now is her second husband. Almost in all cases, independency was highly emphasized and was the cause as well as consequences of early marriage. Therefore, out of the researcher's findings, there emerged various causes as well as consequences of early marriage.

CHAPTER-VI

SUMMARY, FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

6.1 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.

As the research topic deals with the causes, effects and consequences of early marriage, the researcher's main objective was to raise awareness regarding early marriage and its impact on health. Not only this, the researcher tried to study the matter in depth and tried to bring out some possible methods to eradicate these problems. Through this research, the researcher even tried to spread out the voice of voiceless i.e. one of the respondent named Mina Karki who tried to spread a knowledge about early marriage as well as eradicating such practices.

Chapter one focuses on the title and the objectives of the research topic. Child marriage is a violation of human rights that affects approximately 14 million girls every year. Following marriage a girl is expected to set aside her childhood and assume the role of a woman, embarking immediately upon a life that includes sex, motherhood and all the household duties traditionally expected of a wife. Early

marriage invites many kinds of serious problem in woman's life and to their new born baby. So it should be dropped through the forceful effort by the society as well as by the nation by providing sufficient knowledge about health and marriage.

Hence, this thesis focuses on the impacts of early marriage and its burning issues. It also emphasizes on the need of public awareness programs related to the health of immature girls, their wishes and desires of life and most probably their knowledge for these kinds of incidents.

Chapter two and three focuses on the research methodologies that the researcher has used to support her thesis topic. 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. 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. So, these kinds of thoughts are to be highly emphasized and equal responsibility should be implemented. To achieve the main objectives of the study, different research methodologies have been applied. To elaborate the content, methodologies like interview, field work, sampling, case study etc have been applied. For research, Chandragiri metropolitan of Kathmandu district has been selected. Both analytical and explorative research methods have been used which helped to analyze the aims of the main causes offending behavior, the socio-economic and psychological determinants.

In this study, both primary and secondary data have been used for collecting required information. Structured questions have been used to get the detail information about the causes of early marriage. It was kept in mind that the target of the interview schedule (Survey format) 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. Along with it, qualitative analysis has been used. Existing rules and regulations, available documents and studies related to early marriage have been reviewed. Discussions have been made on the existing policy and program to protect and promote young girls from such practices.

Chapter four focuses on the major findings of the research topic with reasons. As the main objective of the study is to raise awareness regarding early marriage and its impact on health, respondents have freely expressed their views about early marriage, their life and most probably the need to eradicate such system from our community. The researcher interviewed several people to collect the thoughts and views regarding causes of early marriage among girls. Different scholars have researched causes and consequences of early marriage practices but my research deals with the additional findings and analysis of those findings. The analyzed data has been further explained in detail.

6.2 Findings

The researcher interviewed several people to collect the thoughts and views regarding causes of early marriage among girls and out of it, 13 respondents out of which 2 are male were selected to elaborate the root cause of the topic. As expected, different views with conclusion were gathered by field visit which helped the researcher to gain factual information. Along with the cases of the respondents, conclusions were drawn out.

Out of 100%, 38.46% of respondents felt that their decision for early marriage was the best and they were happiest couple. Whereas, 61.54% of respondents felt that their decision for early marriage ruined their life. Early marriage not only led them to divorce but also encouraged them to re-marriage. Out of 100%, 46.15% of respondents were married twice due to several reasons whereas 53.85% of respondents were stick up with their first marriage. Poverty being the crucial reason behind early marriage, this trend is hard to get eradicated. Though the laws against child/early marriage were made and implemented, it is still going through the same pace.

Analyzing the educational status of the selected respondents, out of 13 respondents, 3 respondents were illiterate and the reason behind it was poverty as well as family problem. 1 respondent got educated up to grade 2 because of not interested in study, the respondent dropped out. Whereas, 5 respondents got educated up to 5-8 where they had to drop out due to got married at that time phase. 2 respondents were studying in grade 10 when they got married and after marriage they did not continued

their study. 1 respondent is still studying in bachelor's level and another 1 respondent is acquiring the study of master's level even after their marriage because for them education has been a most powerful tool to a bright future.

Further analyzing the age bar of motherhood of the respondents, out of 11 female respondents, 8 respondents gave birth to their child when they were aged between 14-18 years, 2 respondents gave birth at the age of 20 and 22 and 1 respondent is still without child. This shows the maximum number of girls getting pregnancy at very early age which has been a burning issue related to immature child birth. Girls married early are more likely to experience domestic violence, abuse and forced sexual relations.

When inquired about the need of independency before marriage, 46.15% of respondents highly emphasized on self-dependency. Marriage should not be decided in hurry otherwise one need to go through lots of harshness in life. Early marriage leads to early pregnancy and hence it adds the responsibility in any family. So, if one is independent then it becomes easy to fulfill the additional need of a family.

Analyzing the type of marriage: out of 100% respondent, 76.92% were love marriages and 23.08% were arranged marriages. This shows that almost all early marriages were the result of love affairs where they do not care about age bar.

The health status of young mother's before and after delivery. We can clearly analyze how health statuses of young girls are hampered. Early marriage leads to teenage pregnancy and birth of immature baby which severely hampers their reproductive health. There arise various complications during pregnancy as well as after delivery. Many of the young mothers die while giving birth to a baby because of immaturity. Therefore, we should raise awareness regarding its impact on health. In order to decrease the trend of early marriage, awareness programs especially focusing on the impact of health condition, need of education and the right to make vital decision about their sexual health is most.

6.3 Conclusion

With the literature review, data collected with interview schedule and case study, it is concluded that early marriage is still remarkable problem. Traditionally i.e. parents will, poverty, love affair, psychological thoughts towards re-marriage after divorce, gender discrimination, and others were the main causes of early marriage. Repeated childbirths and short birth spacing, less care of early motherhood along with infants health, lack of nutritious food during pregnancy and after delivery made women more susceptible to diseases were the consequences of early marriage. Early delivery was more frequent in early marriage whereas complications during delivery were most often at almost all cases. Most of the deliveries were taken place at hospital with good post natal care, likewise poverty played vital role for severe health issues of mothers who were poor. Every respondent have their own personal differences regarding the cause of early marriage. Love marriage is one of the key factors of early marriage. Nevertheless, education has been the most powerful tool, out of mine findings respondents were deprived of it due to their hurried decision towards marriage. Similarly, independency was prioritized by all respondents before marriage therefore, it is concluded that for a secured life independency and maturity is highly focused. Poverty being the crucial reason behind early marriage, this trend is hard to get eradicated. Though the laws against child/early marriage were made and implemented, it is still going through the same pace.

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