

**THE IMPACT OF EARLY MARRIAGE ON HEALTH OF DALIT WOMEN  
(A STUDY FROM KAILALI DISTRICT)**

**A Dissertation Submitted to the Central Department of Sociology  
Tribhuvan University  
For the Partial Fulfilment of Requirements for Master Degree of Arts in  
Sociology**

**Submitted By**

**Padam Saud**

**T.U. Regd. No. 6-2-40-1581-2007**

**Symbol No. 282103**

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY  
KIRTIPUR, KATHMANDU, NEPAL**

**MARCH 2017**

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**  
**CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**  
**KIRTIPUR, KATHMANDU**

**RECOMMENDATION**

This dissertation work entitled "**The Impact of Early Marriage on Health of Dalit Women: A Study from Kailali District**" by Mr. Padam Saud is prepared under my supervision for the Degree of Master of Arts in Sociology.

I, therefore, recommend this dissertation for final evaluation and approval.

Date: 13-2-2017

\_\_\_\_\_  
Prof. Madhusudan Subedi  
Supervisor

**CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY  
TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY  
KIRTIPUR, KATHMANDU, NEPAL**

**APPROVAL SHEET**

This dissertation entitled "**The Impact of Early Marriage on Health of Dalit Women: A Study from Kailali District**" by Mr. Padam Saud has been accepted as the partial fulfilment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Arts in Sociology by the Dissertation Committee comprised of;

---

Prof. Dr. Tulsi Ram Pandey  
(Professor and Head)

---

Dr. Tika Ram Gautam  
(External Examiner)

---

Prof. Madhusudan Subedi  
(Supervisor)

Date: 6-3-2017

## **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that this dissertation entitled “The Impact of Early Marriage on Health of Dalit Women (A Study from Kailali District)” is my own work and that it contains no materials previously published. I have not used its materials for the award of any kind and any other degree.

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2017

.....

Padam Saud

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

It was impossible for me to complete this thesis without the guidance, comments and supports from so many people whom I would like to acknowledge my heartfelt appreciation.

First of all, I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude and sincere appreciation to my thesis supervisor Prof. Madhusudan Subedi, Central Department of Sociology, T.U., Kirtipur, for this valuable guidance, constructive criticism and regular encouragement from the beginning to the end of study.

I am very much grateful to Prof. Dr. Tulsi Ram Pandey, Head of Central Department of Sociology, T.U., Kirtipur for his stimulating guidance, constructive criticism, endowed and outspoken suggestions and encouragement to carry out this research.

I am equally grateful to Dr. Tika Ram Gautam, Bal Ram Acharya and other member of the Department of Sociology for their direct and indirect encouragement and suggestions.

Likewise, I would like to extend my heartiest gratitude to my life partner Krishna Mahara for her suggestion, supports, inspiration and encouragement while carrying out research.

I would like to express my gratitude and gratefulness to all the respondents who help me by providing valuable data. Thanks are also due to all my friends who directly or indirectly helped me in this research.

Padam Saud

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
<b>Declaration</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>Letter of Recommendation</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>Approval Letter</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>Acknowledgement</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>List of Tables</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>Abbreviations</b>	<b>viii</b>
<b>CHAPTER - I: INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1-6</b>
1.1 General Background	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	4
1.3 Objective of the Study	5
1.4 Significance of the Study	6
1.5 Organization of the Study	6
<b>CHAPTER - II: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE</b>	<b>7-15</b>
2.1 Review of Theoretical and Empirical Studies	7
2.1.1 Status of Dalit Women in Nepal	8
2.1.2 Physical Involvement of Dalit Women	9
2.1.3 Dalit Women and Economy	10
2.1.4 Dalit Women and Legal Rights	10
2.1.5 Dalit Women and Early Marriage	11
2.1.6 Dalit Women and Wealth Condition	11
2.1.6.1 Age of Marriage	12
2.1.6.2 Pregnancy and Health of Women	12
2.1.6.3 Medical Check-up during Pregnancy	13
2.1.6.4 Early Marriage and Health Condition	14
<b>CHAPTER - III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>16-18</b>
3.1 Introduction of the Study Area	16
3.2 Research Design	16
3.3 Nature and Sources of Data	16
3.4 Sampling Process	17
3.5 Data Collection Technique	17

3.5.1	Interview	17
3.6	Data Analysis and Interpretation	17
3.7	Limitation of the Study	18
<b>CHAPTER - IV: SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERSTICS OF THE</b>		
<b>RESPONDENTS</b>		<b>19-34</b>
4.1	Analysis and Interpretation of Data	19
4.1.1	Educational Status of Respondents	19
4.1.2	Occupation of the Respondents	20
4.1.3	Marriage Age of Respondents	20
4.1.4	Medical Treatment Choice of the Respondents during Pregnancy	21
4.1.5	Age of Respondents at the First Pregnancy	22
4.1.6	Reasons of Early Marriage of Respondents	23
4.1.7	Medical Check-up of Respondents during Pregnancy	23
4.1.8	Place of Delivery of the Child	24
4.1.9	Number of Respondents having Complication during Delivery	25
4.1.10	Behaviour towards the Use of Contraceptives	25
4.1.11	Followers of Early Marriage in Society	26
4.1.12	Gap in Birth for Next Child	27
4.1.13	Health Problem after Child Bearing	27
4.1.14	Age of Respondents when they got First Live Child	28
4.1.15	Number of Respondents having Complication during Pregnancy	28
4.1.16	Number of Respondents having Complication after Delivery	29
4.1.17	Situation of Early Marriage in Society	30
4.1.18	Difference between Age of Marriage of Boys and Girls	30
4.1.19	Age of Respondents at the Time of First Pregnancy	31
<b>CHAPTER - V: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION</b>		<b>35-37</b>
5.1	Summary of Findings	35
5.2	Conclusion	37
<b>References</b>		<b>38-40</b>
<b>Appendices</b>		<b>41-44</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

Table No.	Title	Page No.
1	Educational Status of Respondents	19
2	Occupation of the Respondents	20
3	Marriage Age of Respondents	21
4	Medical Treatment of the Respondents during Pregnancy	21
5	Age of Respondents at First Pregnancy	22
6	Reasons of Early Marriage	23
7	Medical Check-up during Pregnancy	24
8	Place of Delivery of a Child	24
9	Complication during Delivery	25
10	Behaviour towards the Use of Contraceptives	26
11	Followers of Early Marriage in Society	26
12	Gap in Birth for Next Child	27
13	Health Problem after Child Bearing	27
14	Age of Respondents when they got First Live Child	28
15	Respondents having Complication during Pregnancy	29
16	Respondents having Complication after Delivery	29
17	Situation of Early Marriage in Society	30
18	Age of Marriage of Boys and Girls	31
19	Respondents at the Time of First Pregnancy	31

## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

BS	:	Bikram Sambat
CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
HDR	:	Human Development Report
HH	:	Households
ILO	:	International Labour Organization
INGOs	:	International Non-Governmental Organizations
NDHS	:	Nepal Demographic and Health Survey
NGOs	:	Non-Governmental Organizations
UNICEF	:	United Nations Children's Fund
UN	:	United Nations
UNDP	:	United Nation Development Program
VDC	:	Village Development Committee