

**AWARENESS OF EARLY MARRIAGE AND HEALTH
PROBLEM AMONG MARRIED ADOLESCENT
GIRLS IN SANTHAL COMMUNITY**

By

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

The thesis entitles "**Awareness of Early Marriage and Health Problem among Married Adolescent Girls in Santhal Community**" carried out by Mr.Keshab Bahadur Bista for the fulfillment of the master degree in education (Health Education) course No Ed: 598 has been completed under my supervision.

I recommend if for the examination and approval.

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Hari Bahadur Khatri
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APPROVAL SHEET

This thesis entitled "**Awareness of Early Marriage and Health Problem among Married Adolescent Girls in Santhal Community**" submitted by Keshab Bahadur Bista in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master's Degree in Education (Health Education) has been approved

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DECLARATION

I hereby certify that mentioned statements on the report are true; I have read understood the thesis guidelines, rules and regulation of Tribhuvan University. After approval of research proposal, I have followed the said guidelines, rules, regulation and all respects. I have submitted this thesis to partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master Degree in Health and Population Education and this research will not be misused in other purpose.

.....

Keshab Bahadur Bista

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ABSTRACT

The study on the Awareness of Early Marriage and Health Problem among Married Adolescent Girls in Santhal Community of Kumarkhod VDC 'Jhapa' has been carried out using primary data gathered from the concerned community of Kumarkhod VDC. The study has specially aimed at finding current situation of the Santhal community in different aspects like causes of early marriage, effects of early marriage, problems and measures of early marriage. The primary information for the study was carried out through field survey by the researcher himself.

There are 334 households, 100 households were sampled which were selected simple random sampling method. Out of 100 households only 100 respondents were purposively selected for this study.

The information collected from the source was analyzed and interpreted in terms of demographic and socio economic characteristics of the total population. The findings are interpreted with the help of different tables and figures.

The study revealed that early marriage was found 10 to 12 years 20% were got married, 35% got married between 13-15 years 25% were married between 16-18 and 20% only married after the 18 years. The study showed that 32% early married were illiterate. Agriculture and labour are the main occupation of the community 49% people said that government is responsible to eradicate early marriage, 25% people are assigning society is responsible 11% people said self behaviour and 15% people said parents are responsible to eradicate the early marriage.

The overall observation of the study indicated that the early marriage still highly influenced by illiteracy, poverty, religions belief, traditional norms and values.

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ABBREVIATION

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
EPH	Environment, Population and Health
Gov	Government
HIV	Human Immune Deficiency
ICF	Intermediate care facility
ICRW	International center for resents on women
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoHP	Ministry of health and population
NDHS	Nepal Demography and Health Survey
Pop ⁿ	Population
UNFPA	United Nation population fund
UNICEF	United Nations International children emergency fund
VDC	Village Development Committee
www	worldwide used website

CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Nepal consists of broad ecological regions. Terai, Hill and Mountain. The Terai ecological region, a sub-tropical plains region, borders northern India. It is also the break basket for the country. Because of the proximity of northern India, the social and cultural practices in the Terai region are influenced by essentially the cultures of northern India. The Hill ecological region consists of numerous valleys including the capital and other urban areas, which are more developed than other areas in the country. The mountain ecological region which is sparsely populated (67% of total population) is not included in the present study.

Nepal is an ethnic mosaic. There are more than 125 cast and 123 languages are spoken (CBS,2068). The definition of marriage varies across ethnic groups. In some ethnic groups the actual consummation of marriage may be a long drawn out process culminating in the public acknowledgement of paternity of a child.

Early marriages remain quite common in Nepal, especially in rural areas. Where a large majority 83% of the country's population lives and the urban population constitutes 17% of the total population (CBS, 2068).

Nepal is rich in ethnicity. Wedding system in Nepal varies from the religion and ethnic group. According to Hinduism, couple once married is tied for seven rebirths. There is no provision of divorcé in this marriage system. If anybody does, that is regarded as a great sin. Nepalese marriage system is unique and rich in culture which completes after a long spiritual process (Sapkota, 2015).

In Nepalese society, the efforts of most of the parents are to find a suitable match of their choice for their daughter and sons. Even well-educated parents in modern age have these views in their minds. It shows the primitive

and rustic face of parents in our society. In our society, we respect the decision of parents to choose the partner of their offspring. Some people get married because they need someone to look after the old parents or other members in our society.

The most important factors for early marriages are religious beliefs and practices. To prevent premarital sex, parents are willing to marry their children at an early age, which is one of the most sensitive issues in Nepal. Many rural families marry their daughters at the age of 11-13 because if they get older, then one has to offer higher dowry. Nepal has a patriarchal society and female marriage age is found to be younger. Nepal has a patriarchal society and female virginity is valued highly, which is a prerequisite for early marriage.

The international center for research on women (ICRW, 2012) identifies that the child marriage most often occurs in poor and rural communities. It says that the most of the effects of child marriage are seen among the girls.

In many regions, parents arrange their daughter's marriage without even informing her. It means that one day, a daughter mightier might be playing with her siblings at her home and the next day she would be married off and be compelled to live with her husband and his family the strangers in the next village. Most probable, she is dropped out of school. Ultimately, she will be a victim domestic violence and might suffer with many health complications associated with early sexual activity and child bearing (ICRW, 2012).

60% of Nepalese women are married by the time they reached 18. (UNICEF, 2012) Early marriage occur various problems like early pregnancy, less opportunity of getting education jobs; financial problem reproductive organs may not be matured. To minimized or control, some acts are made by Nepal. Legal age for marriage, with parental consent at 18 years for boys 16 years for girls, without consent at 21 years for boys and 18 for girls (Marriage Act 2028).

According to Amendments (2002) Legal age at marriage with parental consent is to be 18 years for both boys and girls.

Nearly more than half of the population of our country is female population. Nepalese women are very backward in grabbing the opportunities of education, politics and health service.

Overall literacy rate (for population aged 5 years and above) has increased from 54.1 percent in 2001 to 65.9 percent in 2011. Male literacy rate was 75.1 percent compared to female literacy rate of 57.4 percent according to the census 2011. It was 65 percent for man where as it was 42.5 percent for woman as per the census 2001. Life expectance is improving in favour of woman. According to world population Data sheet 2012. It was 68 years for male and 69 years for female in Nepal in 2012.

Child marriage is prohibited legally in Nepal, about 40 percent women got married before 16 years and 7 percent of marriage took place before the age 10 as per the census 2011. This is also evidence that the women are still socially exploited (HPE, 2013).

The 2001 National Demographic and Health survey (NDHS) found that 40% of women aged 15-19 were married; the 2006 NDHS that 32.2% of women and 10.4% of men aged 15-19 were married. The median age at first marriage among women aged 20-49 was 17.2 years in 2006 reported in 1996. Women aged 20-49 in rural areas married younger (17 years) married younger than those in the hills (18) and mountains (17.8) According to the 2011 NDHS, 28.8% of females and 6.9% of males were married by the age of 15-19 years (MOHP, New ERA and ICF International Inc, 2012).

Worldwide, more than 700 million women alive today were married before their 18th birth day. More than one in three (about 250 million) entered into union before age 15 years (UNICEF, 2014).

Girls who marry in earlier are not only denied their childhood. They are often socially isolated, cut off from family and friends and other sources of support, education tends to lose out, Not only this much the early marriage creates many bad consequences like low weight baby high maternal mortality, morbidity and infant mortality (Ghimire, 2005).

The percentage of child marriage by development region on 2012 /13 recorded was eastern region 34% , central region 40%, western region 36%, Mid-western region 53%,farwestern region 48% and all over the Nepal 41% found before the 18 years children (UNFPA, child Marriage profiles, 2012).

Being this series problem of early marriage, Santhal community has taken as a common in the society. In the context of Nepal, total no of Santhal is 52,008. Out of this no. 50,368 people live in eastern part of Nepal (CBS, 2011).

Child marriage has to be eliminated despite its strong hold on society. In Nepal, where the majority of the population is illiteracy, ignorant and deprived of different facilities, age-old traditions and customs are not easy to do away with, but education and awareness among people, especially in the rural areas, can make a difference. Unless people are made aware of the devastating multi-pronged effects of early marriage, they will not strive to eliminate it from society. People should also be made aware of human rights, which mean equal rights and opportunities for men and women, as well as being as rightful an there to a childhood, they will be able to ensure the right of their children to a childhood.

According to the concept of early marriage, historical development of marriage, Philosophisticsviews, theoretical framework, issues related to early marriage and their plan, polices and program in Nepal, It is proved that Early marriage can be taken as a great issued.

Therefore, to study about early marriage issues in the eastern part of Nepal, I have prepared questionnaire, checklist and interview schedule and selected the kumarkhod, VDC Jhapa district with the topic "Awareness of Early

Marriage and Health Problem among Married Adolescent Girls in Santhal Community".

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Early marriage is itself a problematic phase. Early marriages can contribute to high fertility levels. The most important factors for early marriages are religious belief and practices. To prevent premarital sex, parents are willing to marry their children at an early age, which is one of the most sensitive issues.

There are numerous health risks that a girl is exposed to when she is married before she turns eighteen. She is expected to start being sexually active and bear children before her body has fully matured. One common problem amongst women in Nepal that is related to early child birth is uterine prolapse a debilitating condition where the muscles and ligaments can no longer hold the uterus in place. Due to this miscarriage occurs. Beside this lots of problems are there such as pelvic pain, frequent urination, painful sexual intercourse, vaginal bleeding. Reproductive and urinary tracts infections, constipation, vaginal discharge, difficult walking and urinary incontinent which severally compromise affected girls ability to preform daily activities like walking, manual labour, sitting or lifting her baby.

Majority of Santhal lives in kumarkhod VDC Jhapa who followed early marriage in the society knowingly, unknowingly. Early marriage can be caused lots of problems. It can be minimized by the relevant knowledge about early marriage.

Why early marriage is existing in Santha lcommunity ? Is early marriage is better in Santhal community? What are the measures to prevent early marriage in the Santha lcommunity? The questions are the major problematic. It should be researched.

So, it is necessary to find out the problems of early marriage, its effects and mitigating measures. Therefore, I have selected this research topic.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Following objectives are mentioned for the study of early marriage in Santhal community at kumarkhod, VDC (Jhapa).

- i. To find out the statistics of early marriage.
- ii. To find out the problems and effects caused by early marriage.
- iii. To find out causes, and mitigating measures of early marriage.

1.4 Research Question or Hypothesis

According to this research, I am trying to find out answer of the following questions:

1. Description of the statistics of early marriage in Santha lcommunity.
2. What are the major causes of early marriage in Santha lcommunity?
3. What may be the problems occurred by early marriage?
4. How can we reduce early marriage in Santhal community?

1.5 Significance of the Study

In the past, there was no such type of study carried out among the people in this VDC to find out the causes, effects, problems and measures of early marriage. Therefore, this study was conducted to provide the information about early marriage to support the further plan, policies and study. The main aims of this study is to find out causes, effects and mitigating measures of early marriage of the nation as well as Santhal community at kumarkhod, VDC of Jhapa. So, it may be significant for the policy maker, administrator. Planner demographers and other individual who want to know the direct and indirect effects of early marriage in the Santha lcommunity. It is not merely significant

to them, it also provides important ingredients to the community of the research area about early marriage and its effects.

- It helps to make policy to the policy maker.
- It supports to the administrator for the further plan.
- It helps to the researcher who want to know about santhal community.
- It helps to manage early marriage problem.

1.6 Delimitations of the Study

This study is only concerned with Santha lcommunity of kumarkhod VDC on the topic of 'Early Marriage'. Kumarkhod VDC liessourther part of Jhapa district. It is bounded by two rivers in the west kankain and in the east Sano mai. It is based on causes of early marriage, effects and mitigating measures of early marriage. The study was held from 2016-8-5 to 2016-1218. There are three objectives for this study. At least 12000/- Rsexpended for this study and 4 months regular research and study. Though this research, the consequences to early marriage can be generalized.

CHAPTER II : REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Review of Theoretical Literature

This chapter deals with the relevant studies by various person and organization. This chapter is to review the literacy belonging to early marriage.

Marriage is unstable and contain the possibility of termination that's why the law should protect the right of morality against the caprice. (Georg Hegel)

I'll get married no matter what, are year earlier or one year later (suna). Above the early marriage province clarify the need and importance of marriage but early marriage cause various problem to the health. Early marriage should be eradicated from the society.

This research is based on early marriage and it's effects on Santha lcommunity. Marriage is considered a private matter and can be considered a human rights issue, but it is sensitive from a demographic point of view because early marriage can contribute to high fertility. The most factors for early marriages are religious beliefs and practice.

According to Hinduism, couple once married is tied for seven rebirths. There is no provision of divorce. If anybody does that is regarded as a great sin. Virginity is given a high social value, the female marriage age is found to be younger. This female virginity is valued highly, which is a prerequisite for marriage. This is the reason for early marriage in this society.

According to ICPP, United Nations (1994), complication related to pregnancy and child birth are among the leading causes mortality for women of reproductive age in many parts of the developing world. At the global level, it has been estimated that about half a million women dies each year pregnancy related causes, 99% of them in developing countries. The gap in maternal mortality between developed and developing regions is wide in 1988. It ranges

from than 700 per 100000 live births in the least developed countries to about 26 per 100000 live births in the developed regions.

According to UNICEF (1995), Birth spacing is one of most powerful way of improving the health of women and children. Birth which are too many or too close or to women who are below 18 years and past 35 year's old one responsible for approximately one third of all infants' death. Worldwide children born close together as well as two years apart do not usually develop mentally and physically.

According to Hindu Religion, Marriage is a sacred and indissoluble bond which joins two individuals for life, so that they can pursue dharma (duty) artha (possessions) , Kama (physical desires) and moksa (ultimate spiritual release) together. The husband and wife are considered one entity and are enjoined to secure these aims as one person. The marriage also joins two families together (Sapkota, 2015). Women right and child rights are made in 38 and 39 article respectively in Nepalese New constitution (2072).

DPM mainly reiterated the government of Nepal's determination to fulfill commitments that were made during the London Girl summit held in July 2014, as well as to implement target 5-3 of the sustainable development Goals related to eliminating all harmful practices such as child, early ad force marriage by 2030.

Every woman shall have the right relating to safe motherhood and reproductive health. There shall not be any physical, mental, sexual or psychological or any other kind of violence against women or any kind of oppression based on religious social and cultural tradition and the practice. Such as act shall be punishable by law and the victim shall have the right to be compensation as provided for in law (Gov., 2072).

2.2 Review of Empirical literature/ previous studies

For the study of the early marriage in Santha lcommunity, some review of literature. Framework is analyzed with their suggestion.

According to NDHS (2001) – 40% of women age 15 – 19 were married. According to NDHS (2006) – 32.2% of women and 10.4% of men eyed 15 - 19 were married and According to NDHS (2011) – 28.8% of women and 6.9% of men aged 15 – 19 were married 11.5% of population were married below 14.

Bruce and Clark (2004) describe that the most countries have declared that 18 is the minimum age of marriage, despite the sanctions on child marriage.

More than 100 million girls are expected to marry in the next decade (MOHP, ICF, 2012).

According to Mahara, 2006 the study indicated that early marriage is mainly affected by deeply rooted traditional system towards marriage practice, socio-economic status, lack of education, low knowledge about marriage and legal age at marriage are also act as a effecting factor for early marriage practice.

According to Regmi, 2005 this study indicated that adolescence marriage is mainly affected by deeply rooted traditional system towards marriage practice socio-economic status. Lack of education also acts as an affecting factor for adolescence marriage, and pregnancy practices.

On the view of child marriage in the world statistics:

- Child marriage is becoming less common overall, but the pace of change is slow.
- 11% in Eastern Europe and central Asia between 2011 and 2020, more than 140 million girls will become Child Bridge, according to United Nations population fund (UNFPA, 2012).

- According to United Nations Population Funds (UNFPA, 2012) Niger has the highest percentage of child marriage in the world (75%) in Niger one in three girls is married before the age of 15 and 7.5% of women age 20 to 24 are married before age 18.
- Global issue : One girl out of three will be married before the age of 18 respectively in developing countries (except China) UNFPA, 2012.

The International Center for Research on Women (ICRW, 2012) identifies that child marriage most often occurs in poor and rural communities. It says that the most of the effects of child marriage are seen among the girls.

By the view of National Statistics (2011) a child marriage in eastern region 34%, central region 40%, western region 36%, mid-western region, 53%, far western region 48% were the data record.

The subsequent Nepal Demographic and Health Surveys (NDHS, 2001, 2006 and 2011) has indicated a steady decrease in child marriage but still it is very significant and largely prevalent in Terai districts.

By the view of population census 2011 on child marriage percentage age between 15 –19 are 48.9% and below the 18 years is 29%. UNICEF's the state of the world's children 2011 ranked Nepal among the top ten countries where child marriage occurs. 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 20 countries globally with high prevalence of child marriage. It is expected that only around half of the marriages that took place is registered. Prevalence of child marriage is high among hill/ Terai Janajati, Hill/Terai Dalit and some Terai ethnic groups such as Santha community, Musahar, Jhagad etc.

By studying above research and report, people of grassroots level are knowingly unknowing fall in early marriage. In many societies, parents are

under pressure to marry of their daughter as early as possible. Another cause of early marriage is religious belief poverty.

Early marriage is also conducted in our society. Males are considered to be higher authority in our society and females have to follow the instructions and directives in Nepalese society (Sapkota, 2015).

According to Westermarck, "Marriage as a more or less durable connection between male and female lasting beyond the mere act of propagation till after the birth of the off spring" (Vae, 2000).

"A union between a man and a woman such that children born to the woman are the recognized legitimate offspring of both partners" (Note and queries, 1951).

According to Bell "A relationship between one of more men. (male or female) in severalty to one or more women that provides those men with a demand-right of sexual access within a domestic group and identifies women who bear the obligation at yielding to the demands of those specific men" (DAGDELEN, 2011).

In Hindu religion, marriage is a sacred and indissoluble bond which join two individuals for life so that they can pursue drama, artha, kama, and moksa together.

According to Socrates "Whether you'll marry or not-you'll regret." And according to plato "Opinion is the medium between knowledge and ignorance."

According to quotation marriage is considered a private matter and can be considered a human rights issue, but it is sensitive from a demographic point of view because early marriage can contribute to high fertility levels.

In Nepal, the major current public health problems are high infant mortality, high maternal mortality, STD, disease etc. The problems are highly caused by child marriage. The study and the research are rarely conducted

which address about the health of people and the problem generated due to early marriage. Consequently, Nepalese still remain ignorant about the harmful aspects of early marriage. Especially the adolescent and back warded community people are more prone to pick up early marriage.

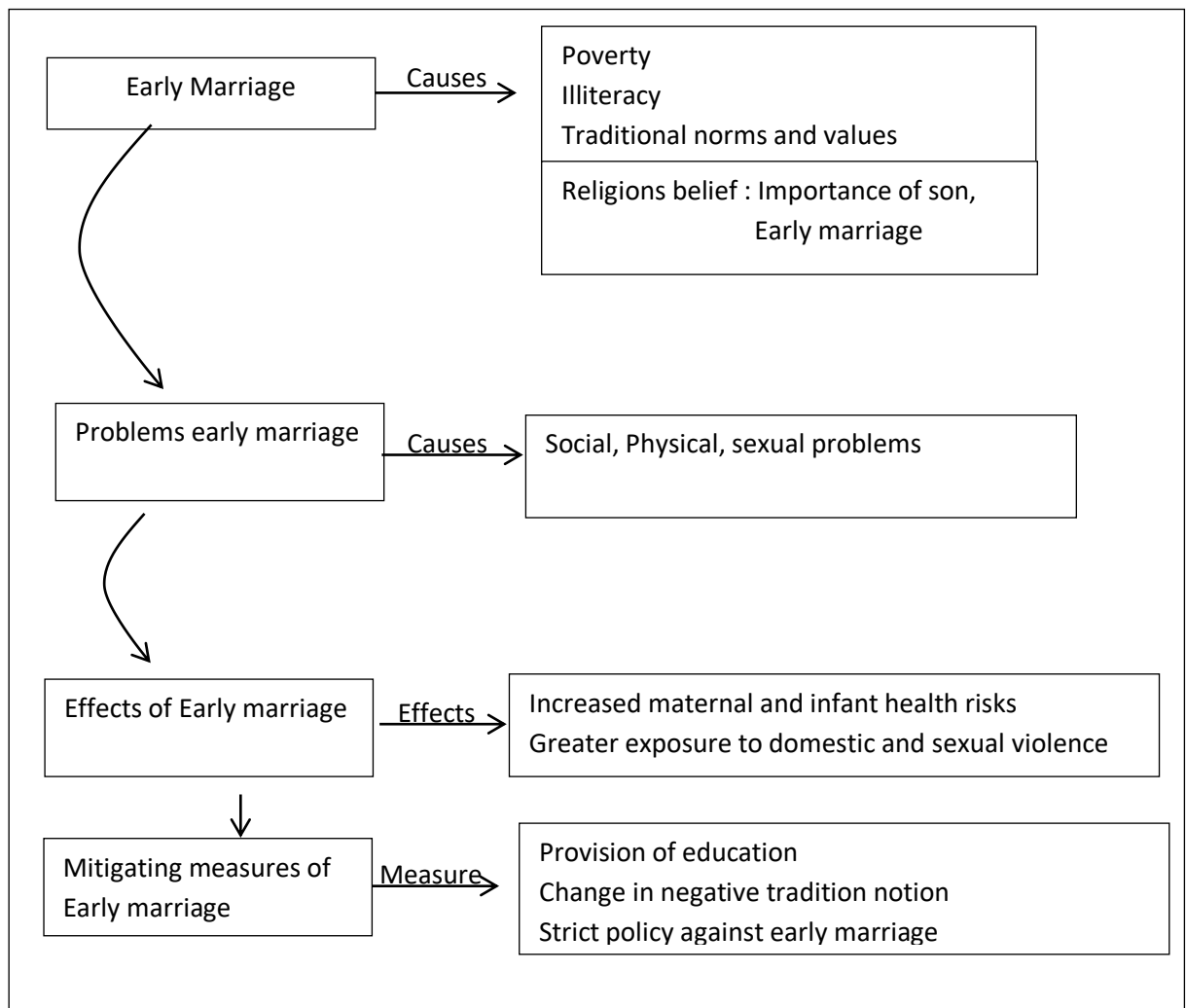
I hope that this research helpful to the Santha lcommunity of Eastern part of Nepal to find out the causes, effects and mitigating measures of early marriage. Not only has thismay much this research be fruitful to find out the problems caused by early marriage. And this research may support to the further researcher as well as government to make plan and policies.

2.3 Conceptual Framework

The definition of marriage varies according to different cultures, but it is principally an institution in which interpersonal relationships, usually sexual are acknowledged. In some culture marriage is recommended or considered to be compulsory before pursuing any sexual activity. When defined broadly, marriage is considered a cultural universal.

According to EmrisBogardus, "Marriage is an institution admitting men and women to a family as a closed relation of husband and wife with main objectives of birth and to grow-up of their off springs."

On the base of above theoretical framework, early marriage can be considered as a social problem which effects on health. In my analysis the early marriage causes effects and mitigating measures may be as follow mentioned.



Above this frame work or theoretical framework prove that the early marriage in the society still in the upper level which may brings various risk at health life maternal and child health, domestic violence and sexual abuse etc. It can be minimized through the provision of education in the society about early marriage negative concept towards virginity of girls by making strict rule and policy.

CHAPTER III : METHODS AND PROCEDURES OF THE STUDY

3.1 Design and Method of study

For this research survey designed was used. Research presentation was based on analysis, descriptive etc. It was conducted to assess the current status of early marriage and its effects with in Santha lcommunity at Kumarkhod, Jhapa district.

3.2 Population, Sample and Sampling Strategy

This research was based in Santhal community at Kumarkhod VDC. My research population was Santhal lived in Kumarkhod VDC, Jhapa. There are 2672 population within 334 households, 100 household were sampled which were selected simple random sampling method. Out of 100 household only 100 respondents were purposively selected for this study.

Among the 100 households of Santhal, below the 18 years 100 children were the research population. For the selection of research population, Purposive selective model method was selected as a sampling or sample size.

Early marriage is known as child marriage. Attend marry below 18 years is called early marriage. So, I have selected 100 children below 18 years married at early phase. The main strategy of the purposive selective model was to find out the research population.

3.3 Study Area /Field

Kumarkhod, VDC located in eastern part of Nepal at Jhapa district ranging from altitude of 60m-79m from sea level. Taghandubba VDC lies in eastern, India lies in southern, Mahabhara VDC lies in western and Sivaganj VDC lies in Northern part of Kumarkhod VDC. Majority of Santhal community was founded. Kumarkhod/VDC is bounded by two rivers that are kankai in western and Sano mai in eastern part.

3.4 Data collection tools and techniques

For the fulfillment of the objectives of this research, interview, questionnaire, checklist observation etc. were used. The used tools are mentioned in appendix of this study.

3.5 Data collection procedures

By visiting the selected area, researcher can be fill-up check list. Interview was taken to the parents and their children about early marriage. The questionnaires were distributed to the people of Santhal community after explaining the purpose of the study and instructions to fill in the questionnaire. Questionnaire is the most effective tools for the obtaining data. The information or data which can't be collected through the interview, questionnaire for procedures. I used personal diary for the information.

3.6 Data Analysis and Interpretation procedure

Through the data collection procedure some data or information are mentioned in table, pie chart, bar graph etc. with its description. The tabulation or data was converted into percentage which make easy to understand. The data was analyzed with the help of simple statistical law such as percentage, value etc. as necessary these data was presented in simple descriptive method, table, figures, pie chart and bar diagrams as per as convenience and necessary.

CHAPTER IV: ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF RESULT

This chapter deals with analysis and interpretation of data which were collected from field survey. The data has been kept orderly according to research objectives and need of the research. Then they are analyzed on the basis of percentage. Tables, graphs, and diagrams have been used to make the percentage more clear and meaningful.

The study was conducted for the analysing of statistics of early marriage, problems caused by early marriage and causes, effects and mitigating measures of early marriage at kumarkhod VDC Jhapa district.

4.1 Marital socio-cultural status of study population

The marital, socio-cultural status directly play vital roles in the development of the country as well as in the life status of the people and their health. Early marriage lack of education, poverty, superstition in the society, lack of health awareness lead to his/her mortality and morbidity. The studied area is very remote area. And the people of this area are illiterate. The majority of Santhal community can be found beside this community Chhetri, Brahmins. Rajbanshi, Magar are there. The main occupation of this community is agriculture.

4.1.1 Population distribution by education

Education is one of the main factors affecting an individual's knowledge, attitudes and behaviours with regard to various aspects of life, including are at marriage. Therefore, the researcher tries to find out the statistics of education in research area within 100 houses. The educational status of selected population are mentioned in below table.

Table 1 :Population distribution by education

SN	Educational Status	Male		Female		Both
		N	%	N	%	
1	Primary level	3	3	20	20	27
2	Secondary level	17	17	8	8	25
3	Bachelor level	10	10	10	10	20
4	Illiterate	8	8	24	24	32
	Total	38	38%	62	62%	100

The total literacy rate of people was high 68%, the remaining 32% were illiterate. Among the educated most 27% had completed primary education, 25% had completed secondary level education, 20% had completed Bachelor level and 32% people were illiterate.

By the study above the table female illiteracy is high than the male. The 2011 NDHS also shows that about 31% of women didnot have formal education, as compared to 14% of men (MOHP, New ERA and ICF international Inc. 2012).

4.1.2 Statistics of Early Marriage

The mean age of marriage for women is comparatively lower in Nepal as compared to other SAARC countries. Out of 52,008 Santhalpopulations 50,368 people live in Eastern part of Nepal. It is high race of early marriage in

Santhal community. The research carried out 100 Children, engaged in early marriage. The statistics of marital status if Santhal mentioned in table 2.

Table 2 : The statistics of early marriage in Santhal community

SN	Marriage Age – group	Respondents	Percentage
1	10-12	20	20
2	13-15	35	35
3	16-18	25	25
4	18+	20	20
		100	100%

The above table no 1 shows 20 percent respondents are belong to age group between 10-12 years, 45 percentage people respondents are belong to 13 – 15 age group 35 percent belongs to 16-18 years age group and 20 percent respondents married above the age 18 years.

The above data indicates that the majority of early married is high. From this calculation it is prove that early marriage is highly prevalence at the age 13-15 years in the Santhal community. By the study of National report 2012, we can get 41% women married below the age 18 years.

4.1.3 Knowledge about age at Marriage

According to marriage act 2028 "Legal age marriage with parental consent at 18 years for boys 16 years for girls, without consent at 21 years at 21 years for boys and 18 for girls. And also according to MulikiAin the there is a provision of legal punishment for both couples as well as guardian. If they

marry against law punishment is imprisonment of 3 months to 3 years cash payment or both according to the case.

In order to assess the knowledge about appropriate marriageable age among the early married women, I asked, what the appropriate age for marriage is. And the responses are present in the following fig1.



By the study above this data 55% women are married at the age below 15 years, 305 women married between 15-20 years and 15% women married after the age 20 years. The mentioned pie chart proved that majority of women married below the age 15 years.

By the analysis of the obtained data we can generalize that majority of people married below the age 15 years. It is found that 20% of people married after the age 20

years. We should encourage to marry at the appropriate age through the provision of education.

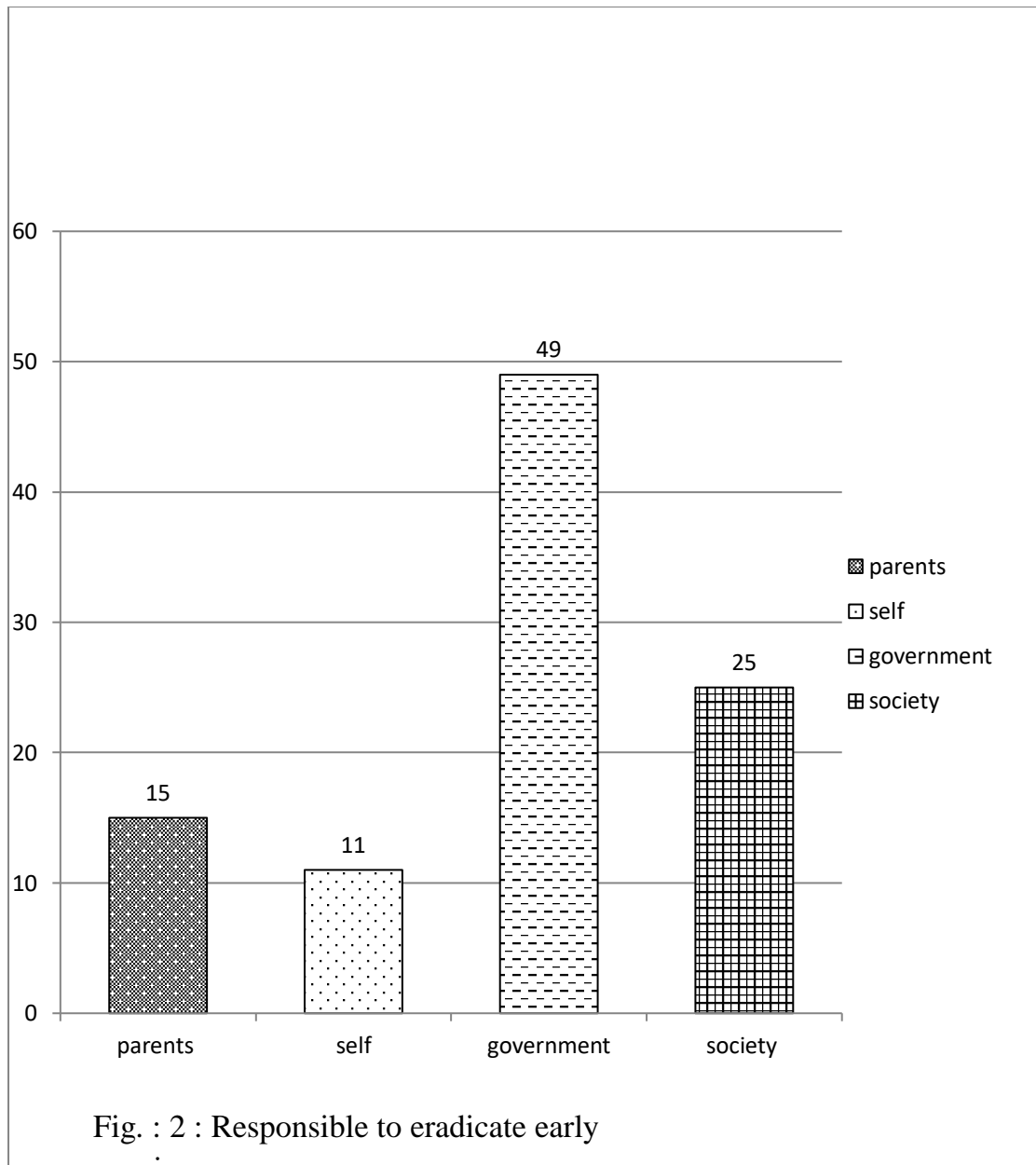
4.1.4 Responsible to eradicated early marriage

The government of Nepal has made some legal provisions about age at marriage and still forms of child marriage are called violence and accordingly, are banned still, child marriage prevails. Not only government all the people must be alert to eradicate child marriage. In my research household heads were also asked who should be responsible for abolishing child marriage in Santhal community & their responses are given in Table 3.

Table 3 : Responsible to eradicate early marriage

SN	Agents	Respondent	Percentage
1	Parent	15	15
2	Self	11	11
3	Government	49	49
4	society	25	25
	Total	100	100

Table 3 shows that 15% of household heads said that the person responsible for abolishing child marriage is parents and that about 11 percent assigned responsible to the self. About 49 percent said it is the government's duty and 25% that the society is responsible. These responses indicate that prevention of child marriage is the responsibility of all concerned people and GOs.



The majority of Santhal Community answered the government is more responsible to eradicate the early marriage.

4.1.5 Major Source of Income

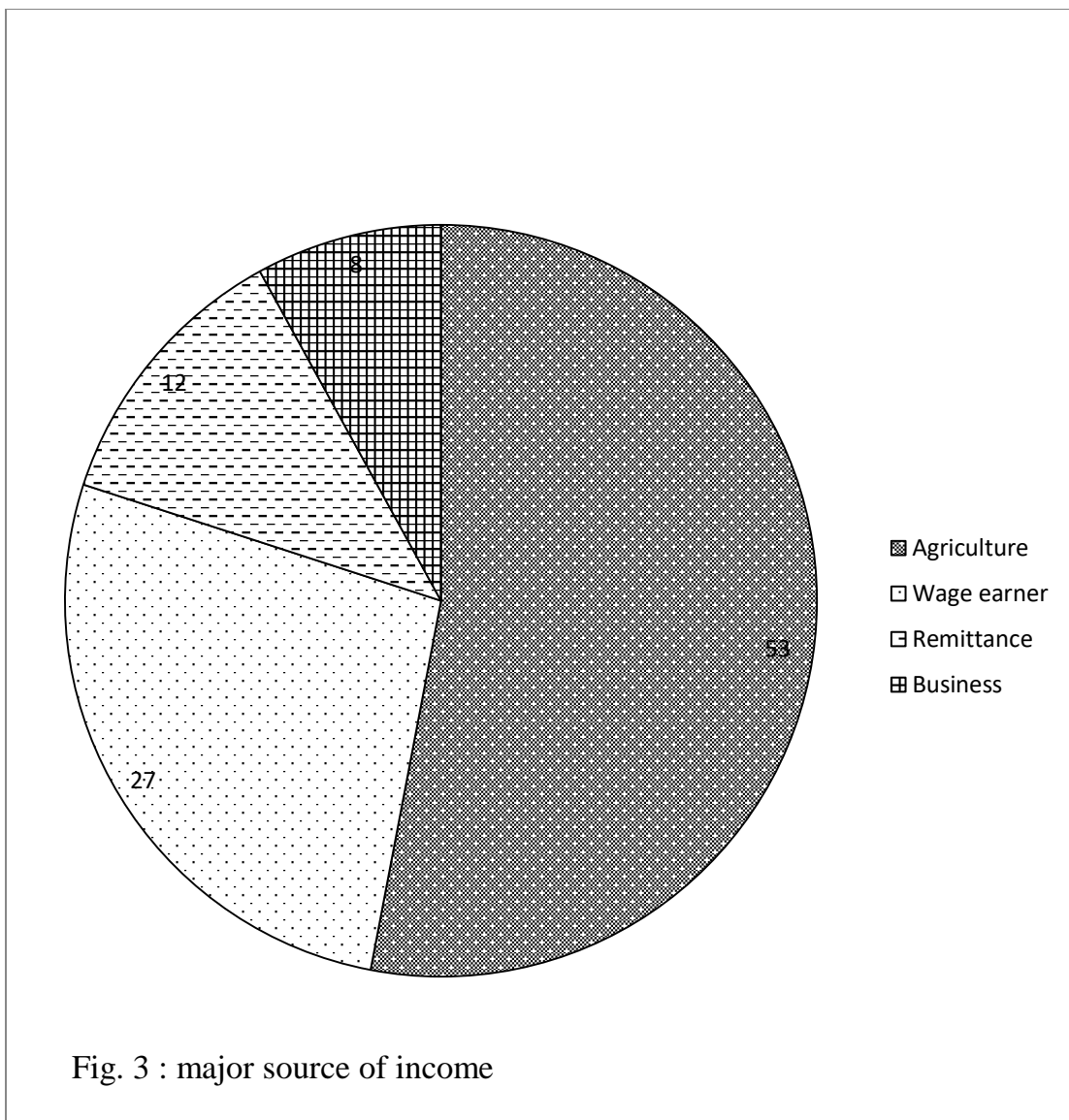
Income is the element of quality of life. It makes people live comfortable as well as enjoyable. There is strong relationship between income and child marriage. If the people are well educated, have good income then it controls child marriage. In order to assess the source of income in the

researched area were asked a question. What is the source of income of your family? Responses of the respondents are presented in table 5.

Table no 4 : major source of income

SN	Source of Income	Respondent	Percent
1	Agriculture	53	53
2	wage earner	27	27
3	Remittance	12	12
4	Business	8	8
		100	100

Above the table shows that 53 % respondents were involved in agriculture 27% belong to wage earning, 12% was remittance and 8% peoples source of income was business.



By the study above the data, we can find out most of all the people are involved in agriculture.

Current national report shows that 51% people are engaged in agriculture. By the analysis of the obtain data with national, we can generalized still more than 50% people are engaged in agriculture. Their life depends upon agriculture only 8% people are depend upon Business.

4.1.6 Types of marriage

A relationship between one or more men (male or female) in severalty to one or more women that provides those men with a demand right of sexual access within a domestic group and identifies women who bear the obligation at yielding to the demands of those specific men. There are different types of marriage such as love marriage arrange marriage, court marriage, suparibibaha, choriBibaha, GandharraBibaha, Bhaujubehornebibaha, widow marriage etc. Among the types of marriage, different types of marriage are existing in the society. In order to assign the types of marriage in Santha lcommunity were asked a question what types of marriage is existing in your society? The responses are mentioned below Table.

Table 5 :Types of marriage

S.N	Types of marriage	Respondent	percentage
1	love marriage	28	28
2	Arrange marriage	16	16
3	Court marriage	10	10
4	other types	46	46
	Total	100	100 %

By the study of the responses, 28% people said that love marriage done 16% assign arrange marriage, 10% people did court marriage and 46% people did other different types of marriage including choribibaha, Bhagibibaha, Bhaujubehornebibaha etc. The majority of community people did other different types of marriage.

4.2 Problems and effects caused by early marriage

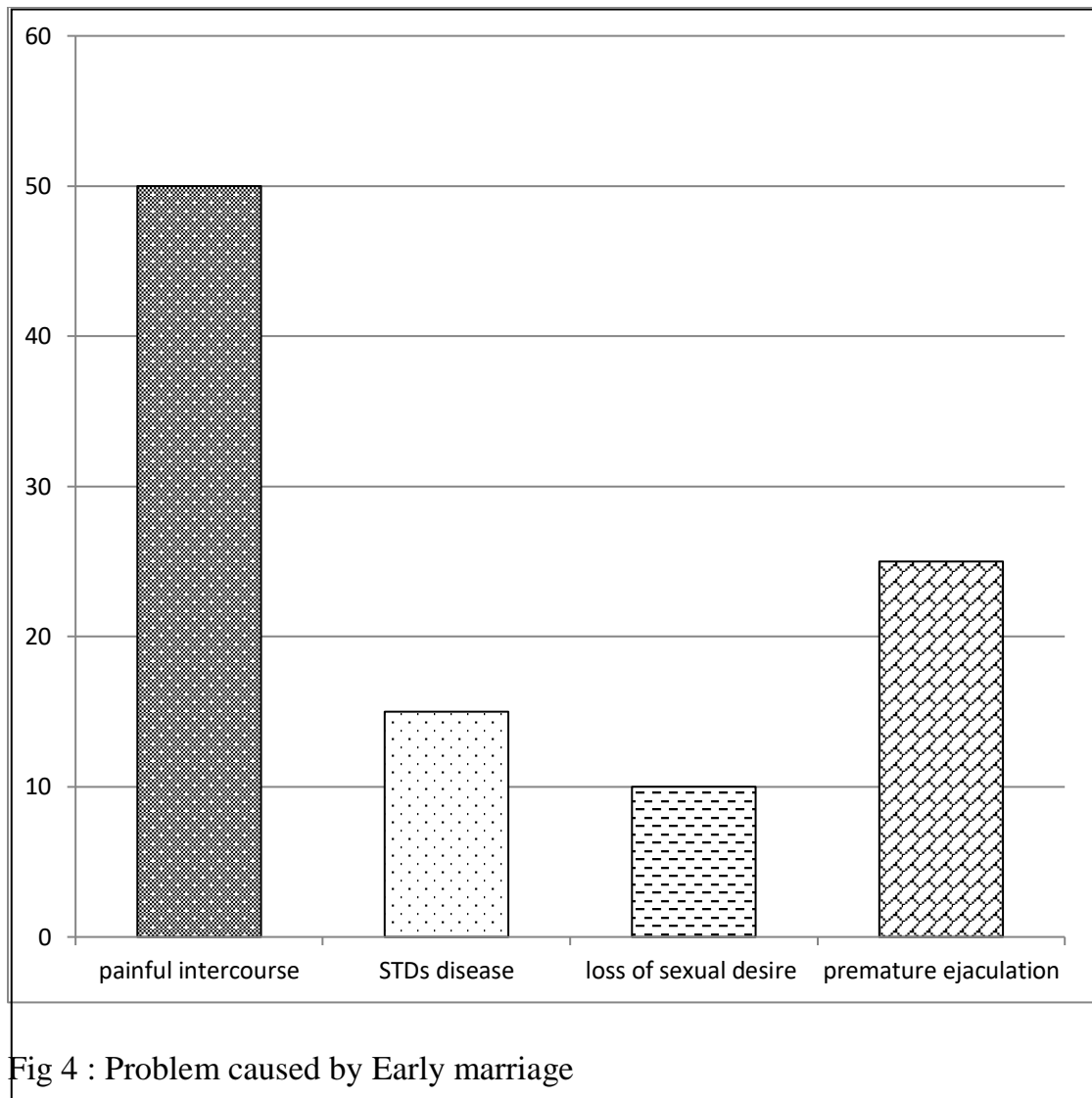
There are various negative effects of child marriage on the young couple. Especially the girl UNICEF (2006) links the consequence of child marriage is both a response to deprivation and a harmful practice that keeps families ensured in poverty. Married children are generally isolated removed from their immediate families taken out of school and denied interaction with their peers and communities. For the girls, early pregnancy leads to death, high risks, susceptible of STDs disease. They are often socially isolated cut off from family and friends and other sources of income, supports etc.

This study found that different physical, serial sexual problems caused by early marriage and different effected. All the responses are documented in a table and chart with its systematic and description analysis.

4.2.1 Sexual problem caused by early marriage

Early marriage is itself a problem there is a traditional of early marriage in Nepal because of social and religious point of view. Various belief like salvation of people after having grandchildren and seeing their children also exist in our Nepalese society. Still there is a misbelief that marriage of daughter before menarche is religious and holy activities. Due to such social and religious traditions in our society, daughters are usually married before their maturity. As a result early pregnancies, child mortality, maternal mortality, uterus prolapse, lack of education, mental stress, sexual transmitted disease (STDs), painful intercourse, loss of sexual desire, premature ejaculation etc.

In order to assess the problems caused by early marriage respondents were asked a question. Do you have any sexual problem? Their responses are presented in fig-4



Above figure no 4 shows that 50% of the women have painful intercourse sexual problem, 15 percent of women are suffering from STDs disease, 10% of women loss their sexual desire and 25% of men have premature ejaculation problem.

Above the mentioned data proved that early marriage caused painful intercourse sexual problem beside this different physical problem also appeared such as vaginal discharge irregular menstruation, rashes around the vagina.

4.2.2 Problem Faced by Child Marriage

Getting married later in life could lead to a happy, long-lasting marriage. But child marriage brings lots of problem such miss out on the fun of teenage

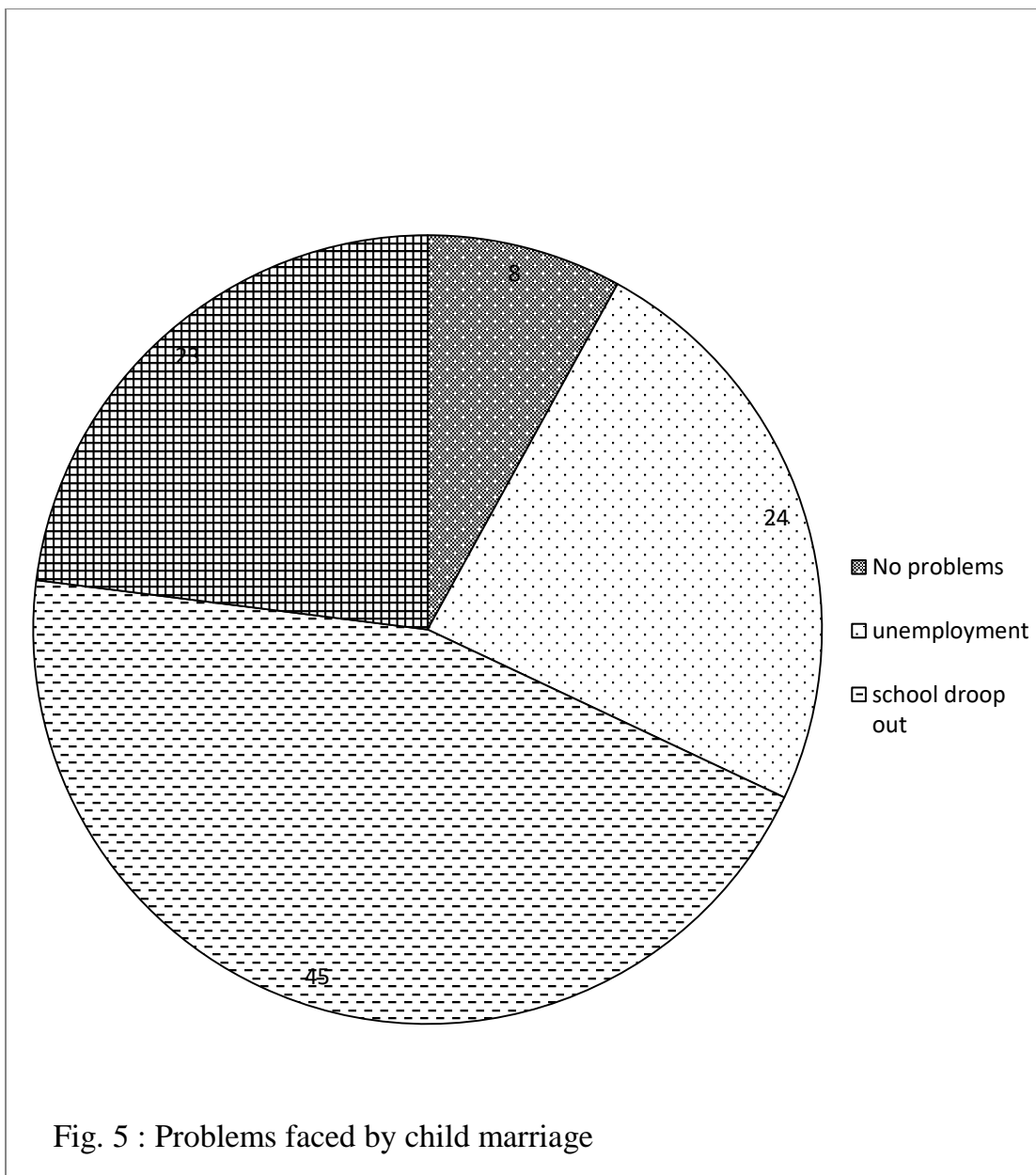
life. There is less opportunity of getting education; female reproductive organs are not well developed, financial problem, higher chance to be pregnant in early age, chance of having more children and fewer gaps between them etc.

In order to assess the problems caused by child marriage in the researched area, there were asked what are the problems do you have faced due to child marriage? The responded responses are mentioned in a table no 3 below.

Table 6 : Problems faced by child marriage

SN	Responses	Respondent	percentage
1	No. problems	8	8
2	unemployment	24	24
3	school droop out	45	45
4	financial problem	23	23
	Total	100	100

The above table shows that child marriage brings 45% school dropout problem on the base of researched, and 24% unemployment problem, 23% financial problem 8% responses are for no problems. It can prove that the Santhal community people are background for getting education as well as employment too according to research.



4.2.3 Physical Problems of Early Marriage

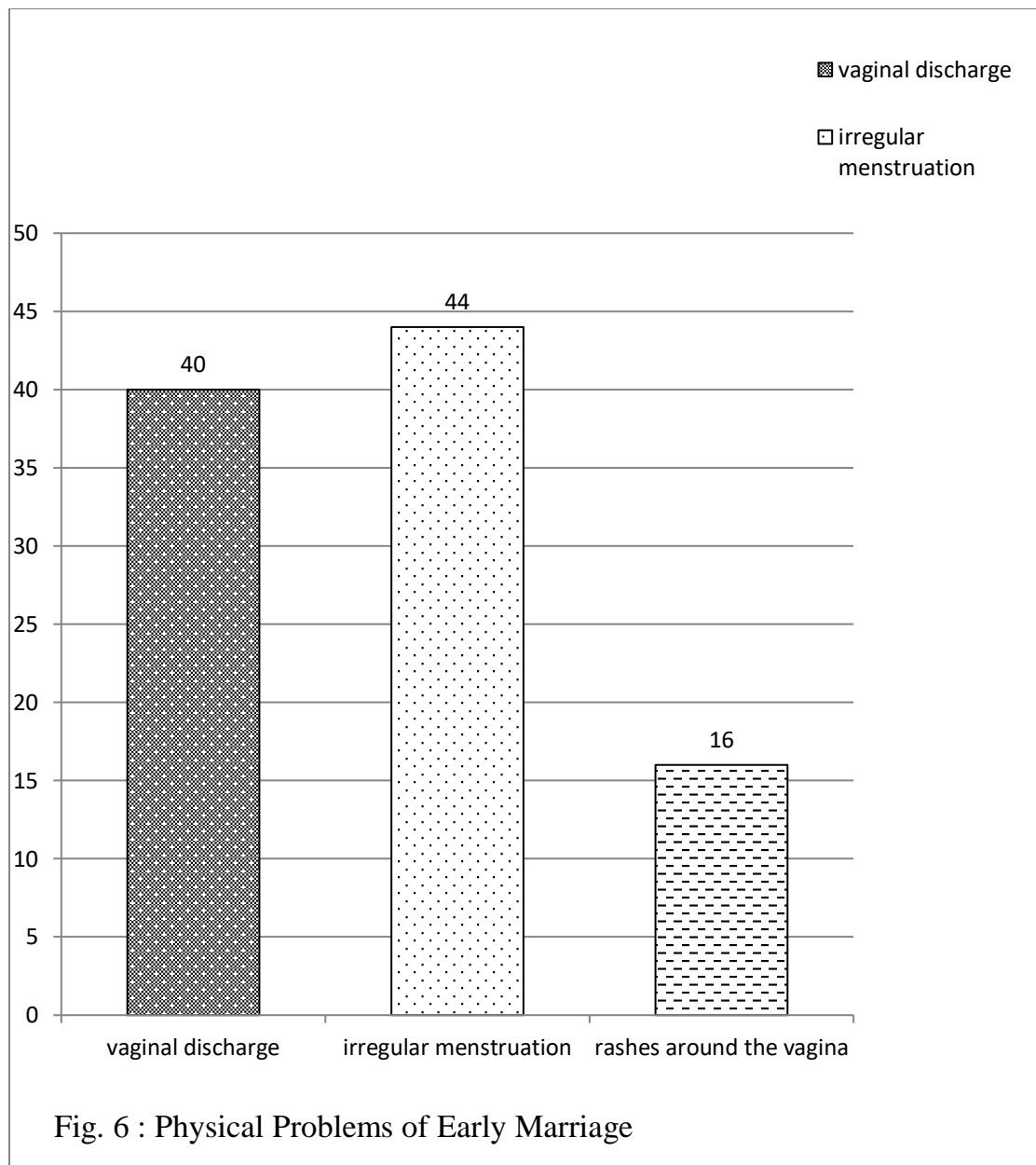
The consequences of marriage affect every aspect of society as well as physical, mental, social, emotional aspects too. The problems of early marriage may be risk of early pregnancy and child birth are well documented increased risk of dying, increased risk of premature labour, complication during delivery low-birth weight and a higher chance that the newborn will not survive. Beside this vaginal discharge, Rashes around the vagina, irregular menstruation,

premature ejaculation etc. in order to assess the physical problem of early married people of early married people were asked a question what are the physical problems do you have faced? And the responses are mentioned in the following table 6.

Table 7 :Physical Problems of Early Marriage

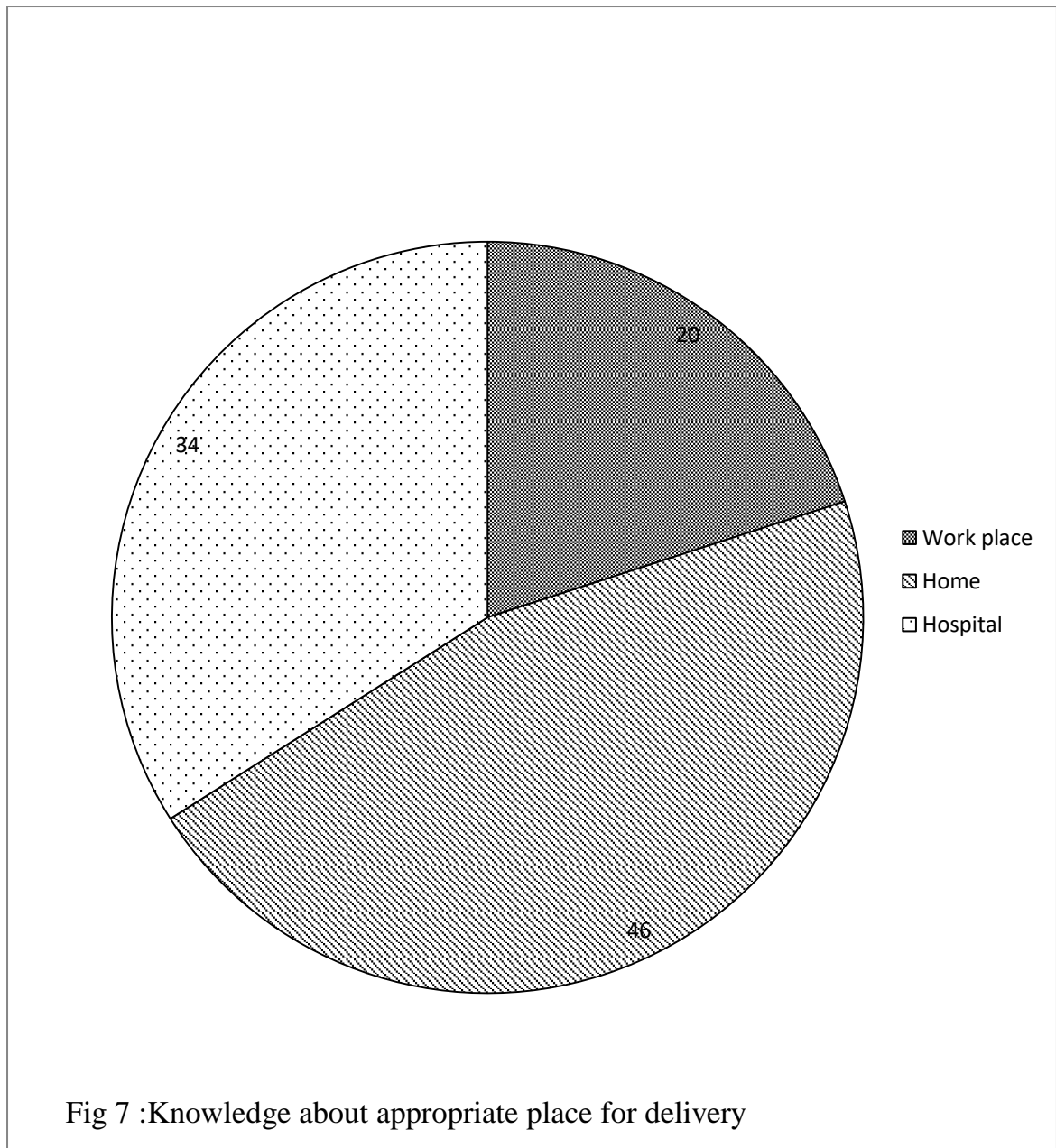
SN	Physical Problems	Respondent	Percentage
1	Vaginal discharge	40	40%
2	Irregular Menstruation	44	44%
3	Rashes around the vagina	16	16%
	Total	100	100

Table 7 shows the vaginal discharge assess 40% physical problem 44% is the irregular menstruation and 16% is the rashes around the vagina. Mentioned research report narrate the more physical problems appear in the women is irregular menstruation.



4.2.4 Knowledge about appropriate place for delivery

The practice of marrying girls at a young age is most common in the backward community. Early marriage causes early pregnancy so that a pregnant mother should know the health risk at pregnancy, delivery, Nurturing, Sanitation etc. The researcher try to find out the knowledge about the appropriate place for delivery were asked a question which place is appropriate place for delivery? The responses of the respondent are present below fig No 7.



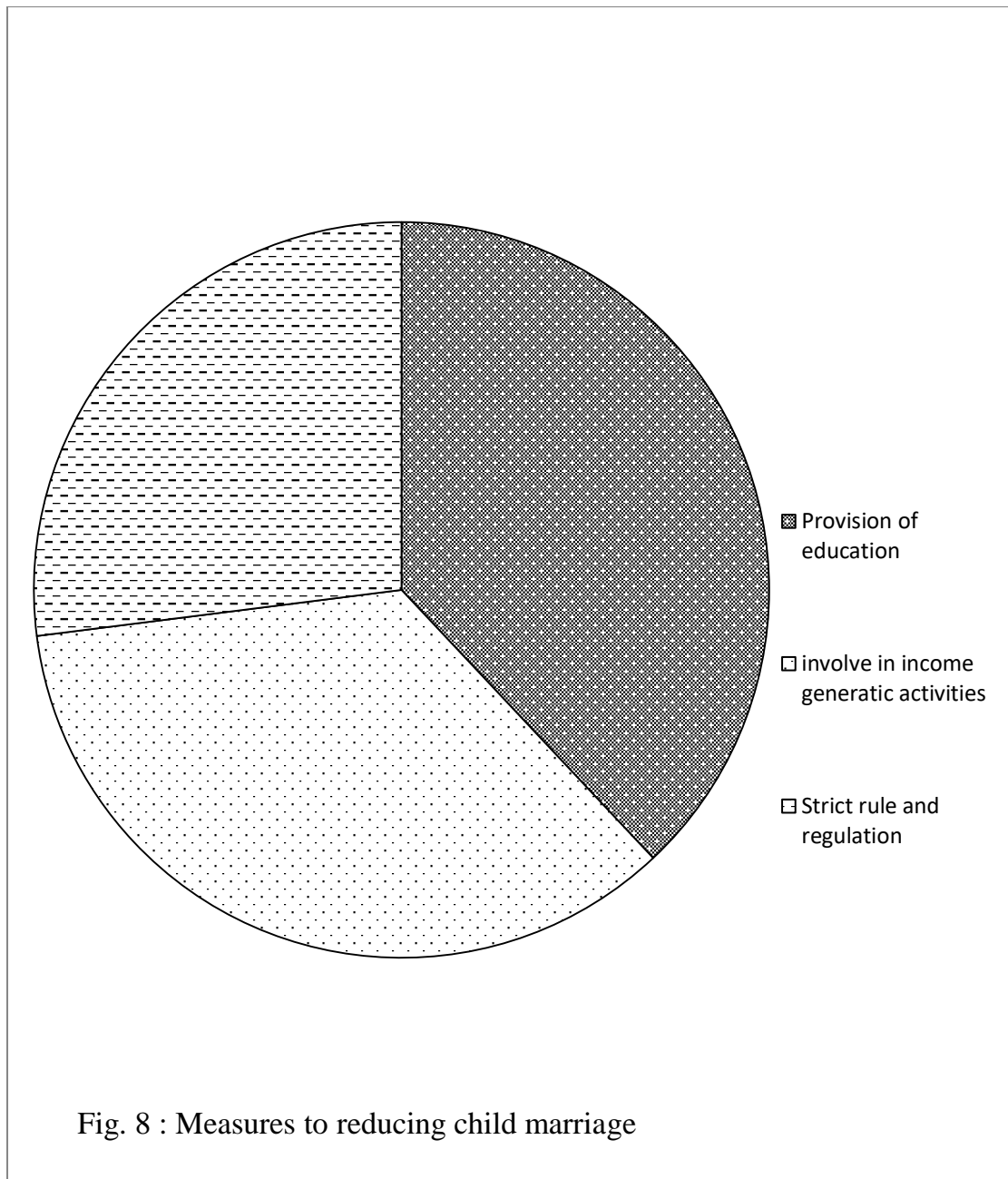
The respondent response shows that the pregnant mother should deliver at home 46% people respond, 34% pregnant mother says hospital is the better place for delivery and 20% people are supporting to deliver at work place. Above the mentioned data proved that the home is the best place for the delivery but it is not good. Traditional concept should be changed by providing education and the delivery place should be hospital.

4.3 Causes and Measures of Child Marriage

According to UNFPA (2000) child marriage is a health issue as well as a human rights violation because it takes place almost exclusively within the context of poverty and gender inequality and also has social, cultural and economic dimensions. Child marriage is also a strategy for economic survival as families marry off their daughters at an early age to reduce their economic burden. So it should be reduced through the profusion of education, launching strict rule and regulation against child marriage. Here the researcher try to analyze systematically and separately by the help of different questionnaire, which were used in field surrey and also try to search the measures of early marriage from the respondent as well as community genus people.

4.3.1 Measures to reducing child marriage

Child marriage is a bad practice from different perspectives and should be prevented at any cost. Marriage is considered a private matter and can be considered a human rights issues, but it is sensitive from a demographic point of view because early marriages can contributed to high fertility levels. So that, early marriage should be reduce. Respondents who had married early were asked to suggest measures to prevent child marriage. Their responses are presented in fig-8.



Above the pie chart shows that 38% of respondents are in favour of provision of education, 35percent of respondent response the involved in income generating activities reduce the child marriage. And 27% assignedthat early marriage can be reduced by strictrule and regulation.

Mentioned table data and its conclusion proved that the early marriage can be reduced by provisions of education.

4.3.2 Causes of Early marriage

There are many reasons of early marriage such as poverty, Illiteracy; Traditional norms are values, discrimination towards son and daughter etc. According to Hinduism, couple once married is tied for seven rebirth. There is no provision of divorce. Female virginity is valued highly, which is a prerequisite is valued highly, which is a prerequisite for marriage. This is the reason for the early marriage in the society.

Here the researcher try to analyze the social causes of early marriage by the question what is the social causes of early marriage. The answers are kept numerically in the following table no. 2.

Table8: Causes of Early marriage

S.N	Response	No of respondent	Percentage
1.	To continue of family	40	40%
2.	To involve in income generating activities	24	24%
3.	Traditional norms and values	36	36%
	Total	100	100%

Above table no 8 shows that 40% of the women married in early age due to their continuity of family name, 24% women married to involve in income generating activities and 36% of women married due to traditional norms and values.

Above the statistics proved that the majority of Santhal community married for family name and religions values and norms.

4.3.3 Knowledge about the causes of early Marriage

The child marriage has several causes social, cultural, religious, political, demographic and economic marrying girls under 18 years old is rooted in gender discrimination, encouraging premature and continuous child bearing and giving preference to boy's education. There are many causes of child marriage in Nepal. Its socio-cultural, economic, political, geographical and educational aspects have helped in fostering it. In order to assess the knowledge about the causes of early marriage were asked a question in a Santha lcommunity. Do you know the causes of early marriage? The answers are documented below in Table no

Table 9 :Knowledge about the causes of early marriage

S.N.	Knowledge of causes	Number	Percentage
1	yes	42	42
2	No	58	58
	Total	100	100%

The mentioned table indicates that the majority of respondents are unknown about the cause of early marriage. Here 58% people reply 'No' to questions. Do you have knowledge about child marriage? And 42% people reply 'yes' means they are aware about the causes of child marriage.

4.3.4 Programs to reduce child marriage

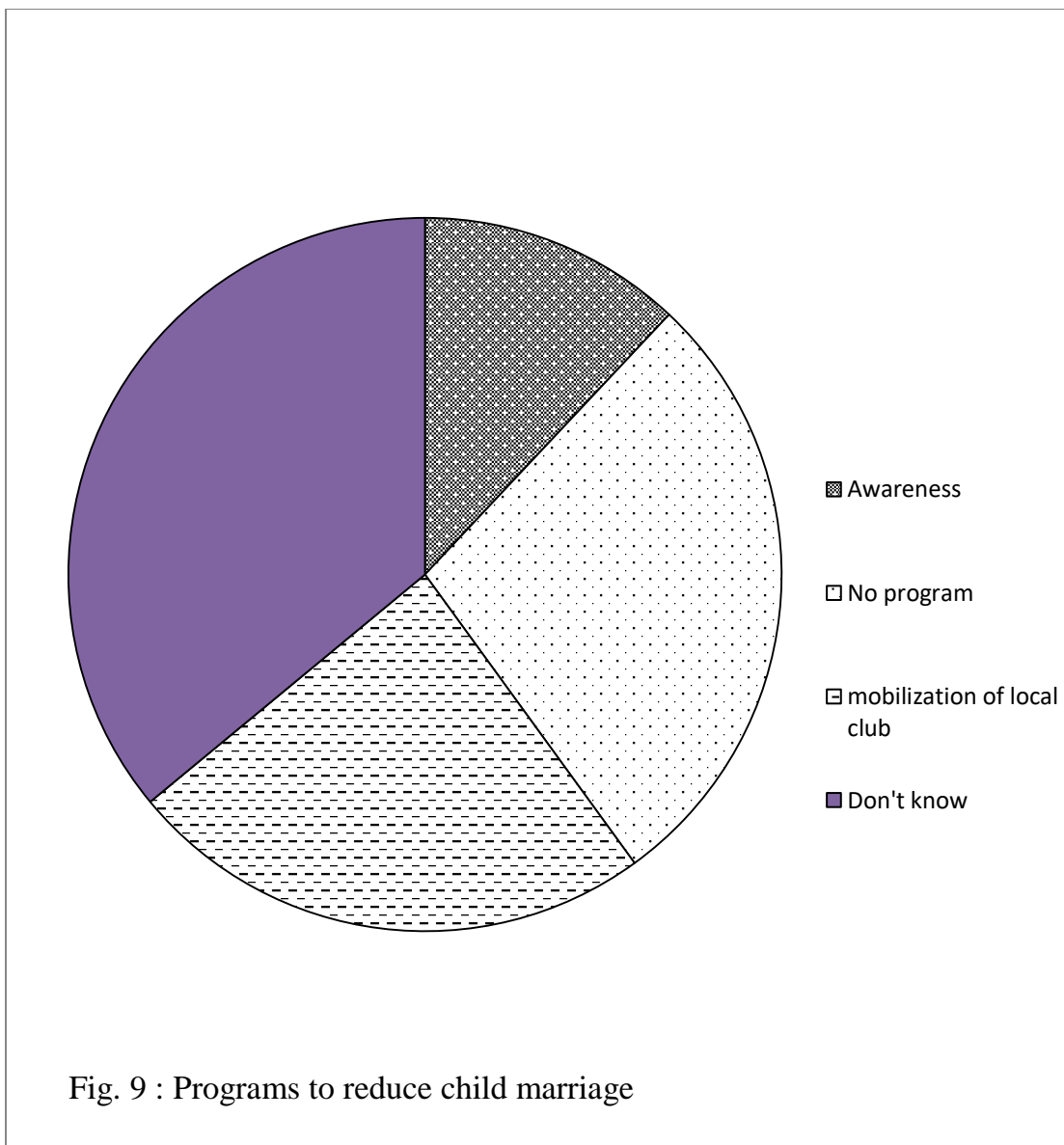
Child marriage forces couples to get involved in sexual activity, which often ends up in early pregnancy of the female. Due to their physical immaturity, females have to face many problems during pregnancy. Male and female respondents were asked whether they were aware of the program

launched by government or not. The legislation and enforcement, Attitudes, customs and practices, open discussion, capacity of families and community children life skills, knowledge to build a protective environment for children. Therefore, In order to assess the programs launched by government helping to reduce child marriage or not were asked a questions. What are the programs are launched to reduce early marriage by government? The responses of the respondent are presented below table.

Table 10 :Programs to reduce child marriage

S.N	Responses	Respondent	%
1	Awareness	12	12
2	No Program	28	28
3	Mobilization of local club	24	24
4	Don't know	36	36
	Total	100	100

Table shows that the government programs are conduct in the society but the people response, 12% people are familier with awareness 28% people says No program, 24% people response mobilization of local club and 36% people. The available responses described in figure to make easy to understand.



4.4 Summary and Findings

4.4.1 Summary

The study has been carried out to examine the effects of early marriage practice among early married women of kumarkhod VDC in Jhapa District. Purposive sampling was used for selection of area and to collect information. 100 respondents were selected from the total Santha lcommunity. This study was limited to married women age below 18 years. Where primary data were main sources and secondary data also used to study.

The interview schedule was the major tool used for collection of data on the process of information collection, the selected married women and households were surveyed by visiting door to door.

The major findings of the study area are as follows:

Statistics of early marriage

- a. out of total respondents, 20% of women married at the age 10-12 years.
- b. out of total respondents 45% were married at the age 13-15, 35% were married at the age 16-18 years.
- c. 20% were married after the age 18 years.
- d. 68% were literated and 32% were illiterates in research area.
- e. 28% people responses love marriage they did.
- f. out of total respondent, 16% people did arrange marriage and 10% court marriage.
- g. And 46% people here did other types of marriage.

Knowledge and causes of early marriage

- a. 40% of women were married for continuity of family name.
- b. 24% women were married for involve in income generating activities.
- c. 36% women married due to traditional norms and values.
- d. 55% of women were married below the age 15 years due to lack of knowledge.
- e. 42% people assign the 'yes' for the knowledge about the early marriage.
- f. 58% people answered 'No' for the questions do you have knowledge about causes of early marriage.
- g. 46% support to delivery is safe of home.
- h. 34% people assign to hove child bearing at hospital.
- i. 20% people answered to delivery pregnancy can be at work place too.

Problems caused by early marriage

- a. 50% of women have painful intercourse sexual problem.
- b. Out of total 15% of women were suffer from STD, disease.
- c. 10 % women lose their sexual desires and 25% men have premature ejaculation.
- d. Out of total respondents 8 percent of people assigned that they don't have problem.
- e. Early married women in the researched area 24% people were unemployment.
- f. 45% women were drop out school due to early marriage and 23% women faced financial problem.
- g. Early married females have to face social problem such as discrimination, poor socialization, less opportunity of getting education, female reproductive organs are not well, higher chance to be pregnant, chance of having more children etc.

Measures and responsible to reduce child marriage

- a. About 15% respondent still believed parents have responsibility to eradicate child marriage.
- b. Data from respondents 11% responses are self-responsibility reduce child marriage.
- c. Out of total 49% respondent responses the Government should be responsible for reducing child marriage.
- d. 25% were assigned that society should be responsible to reduce child marriage.
- e. Out of total respondents, 38% responses are supporting for provision of education can be the kg of measures of early marriage.
- f. 35% respondents assign involvement in income generating activities can be the measured.
- g. Out of total respondent 27% people assign for strict rule and regulation can be the measures.

- h. 12% people knew about the awareness program launched by gov.to reduce child marriage.
- i. 28% people answered no programme to reduce child marriage.
- j. 24% people assign the mobilization of local clubs and
- k. 36% people were unknown about program.

CHAPTER V : CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Conclusion

The early marriage which is the subject of this study is a form of actualization of child abuse within the family in the prison of privacy.

This study has been depend on the context of Nepal in Santhal community's marriage. The study is concerned with effect of early marriage in Santha lcommunity at kumarkhod VDC Jhapa.

With the objectives of finding the health problem of Santha lcommunity, the researcher has taken three objectives. It is depend on describe types. Research data was collected through secondary and primary sources. Research data is mainly based on primary source of data for 100 married respondents were selected through purposive method. 32question were selected for the information collection. And the data are mentioned in table and figure.

Information shown in the table and figure has interpreted clearly for the sake of simplicity. Worldwide, more than 700 million women alive today were married before their 18th birthday. More than one in three entered into union before age 15 years. Child marriage is prohibited legally in Nepal about 40% women got married before 16 years and 7 percent of the marriage took place before the age 10 as per the census 2001. This is also endence that the women are still socially exploited. Likewise child marriages among girls are most common in Santhal community because of religious beliefs and practice, illiteracy etc.

According to UNICEF study reports 2012, 60% of Nepalese women are married by the time they reached 18.

This study will be very useful for the similar type of further studies related to early marriage.

5.2 Recommendation

On the basis of the above findings, the following recommendations are suggested for ending child marriage in Nepal.

I. Implication on policy level

Policy concerning child marriage in Nepal has already begun to tack the issue and it has been made illegal for girls under twenty to marry. However, law enforcement and relevant protection mechanisms are s till severely lacking considering that vast parts of police and security force additionally, there is a tremendous need for awareness in Gov. Ports, and local government offices need to be trained and educated on the appropriate response to child marriage in these areas and resources need to be presided to these institutions to combat child marriage in their areas. Some of the policy level recommendation is mentioned below in points.

- l. Government should be more responsible to eradicate early marriage through the mass awareness
- m. Dowry system should not be practiced as it is illegal.
- n. The law has to strictly prohibited polygamy and polyandry marriage system.
- o. Creative and recreational works should be launched for women which support to increase their life standard.
- p. Existing legal provisions should be implemented effectively.
- q. The provisions of law should be made by the people through the different programme, media and educational curricular.

II. Implication on practice level

- r. The focus of the empowerment should be given on not marrying below the age 18.

- s. All the guardians should be made aware about the child psychology, nature of women through seminar, workshop and other formal and informal programme.
- t. Prior to arrange marriage among the other types of marriage.

III. Implication for further research

- u. Effect of early marriage is prevailing in Santhal community. So, it is the recommended that the further study could be done about early marriage and its causes and preventive measures.

This study was limited with the limitation of the state objectives with limited are and population. So, the finding of the field survey may not be generalized for other parts of country.

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Questionnaire

A. Personal and Demographic characteristics

VDC, Ward No. VillageReligion

Family structurelanguage

SN	Name, Caste	Relation	Age	Sex	Marital Status	Who decided the marriage	majoroccup.	age during marriage	types of marriage

B. Economic

i. What is the source of income of your family?

- a. Agriculture
- b. Wage earner
- c. Remittance
- d. Business

ii. For how many month's earnings from your regular income fulfill your basic needs?

- a. 5 month
- b. 8 month
- c. 12 month
- d. Not sufficient

iii. If not sufficient for the whole year, then how do you manage to fulfill your need?

- i. Reducing expenses
- ii. Over duties
- iii. Sending children in the work

iv. Are you involved in income generating activities?

- i. Yes
- ii. No

C. Marriage, sociocultural status

i. Do you know about the legal age at marriage in Nepal?

- a. Yes
- b. No

ii. Who are the influencing people to compel for child marriage in you community?

- a. Parents
- b. Self motivation
- c. Boy friend/ Girl friends
- d. other

iii. What is the appropriate age for marriage?

- a. Before 15 years
- b. Between 15-20 years
- c. After 20 years

iv. What types of marriage is existing in your society?

- a. Love marriage
- b. Arrange marriage
- c. Court marriage

v. Which level do you have completed?

- a. primary level
- b. secondary level
- c. bachelor level
- d. illiterate

vi. How is your relationship with your husband because of child marriage?

- a. As a friend
- b. Quarrying
- c. Conflict of ideas

vii. Which family is happy family?

- a. Small family
- b. Joint family

viii. Whose right is that to decide whom and when to marry?

- a. Parents
- b. Relatives
- c. Self

D. Maternal and child health problems

i. How many times did you have parental checkup during the first pregnancy?

- a. Not check b. two c. four d. three

ii. When did you have first baby after your marriage?

- a. after a year b. after 2 year c. later than 2 year

iii. Where did you deliver your first child?

- a. Hospital/PHC
b. Home
c. Work place

iv. Do you think child marriage brings problem?

- a. yes b. no

v. If yes, what are the physical problems do you have faced ?

- a. Vaginal discharge
b. Irregular menstruation
c. Rashes around the vajina

vi. Do you have any sexual problem ?

- a. Painful intercourse
b. STDs disease
c. loss of sexual desire
d. premature ejaculation

vii. Which vaccine is given to the baby during pregnancy?

- a. DPT b. BCG c. TT d. JE

viii. Which place is appropriate place for delivery?

- a. Home b. Hospital /PHC c. Work place

ix. What are the problems do you have faced due to child marriage?

- a. No problem b. unemployment c. School drop out

E. Causes and measures factors of early marriage

i. Which is one best way of reducing child marriage?

- a. Provision of education
b. Involve in income generation activation
c. Strict rule and regulation

- ii. What is the social cause of early marriage?
- To engaged in income generating activities.
 - To continuity of family name
 - Traditional names values
- iii. Who is more responsible to eradicate early marriage?
- Parents
 - Self
 - Government
 - Society
- iv. Do you know the causes of early marriage?
- Yes
 - No
- v. What are the programs are launches to reduce early marriage by government?
- Awareness
 - Mobilization of local club
 - No program
 - Don't know
- vi. Do you have any role to eradicate early marriage?
- Yes
 - No
- vii. Do you believe the religious factor is the major causes of early marriage?

Other

- i. Female education was considered to be a meaningless expenditure.
- yes
 - no
- ii. What is responsible to backward female?
- Illiteracy of parents
 - Poverty
 - Poor government system
- iii. What is child marriage?
-