

**CHILD MARRIAGE ON MADESHI DALITS  
COMMUNITY: A CASE STUDY OF  
SANTAPURVILLAGE WARDS, 8 CHANDRAPUR  
MUNICIPALITY OF RAUTAHAT DISTRICT.**

**A Thesis Submitted To**

**Central Department of Rural Development Faculty**

**Of Humanities And**

**Social Science**

**Tribhuvan University,**

**In Partial Of The Requirement For**

**The Degree Of The Master Of Arts (MA)**

**In**

**Rural Development**

**BY**

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**T.U. Regd.6-2-37-1143-2012**

**2018**

## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled **“Child Marriage On Madeshi Dalits Community: A Case Study Of Santapur Village Wards, 8 Chandrapur Municipality”** submitted to the Central Department of Rural Development, **Tribhuvan University** submitted to the Central Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University, is entirely my original work prepared under the guidance and supervision of my supervisor. I have made due acknowledgements to all ideas and information borrowed from different sources in the course of writing this thesis. The results of this thesis have not been presented or submitted anywhere else for the award of any degree or for any other purposes. I assure that no part of the content of this thesis has been published in any form before.

.....

Amar Raj Thapa

Date: 2075/9/23

7/1/2019

## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that Mr. Amar Raj Thapahas completed this dissertation entitled **“Child Marriage On Madeshi Dalits Community: A Case Study Of Santapur Village Wards, 8 Chandrapur Municipality”** under my guidance and supervision. Thus, I hereby recommend this dissertation for final approval and acceptance.

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## APPROVAL LETTER

This dissertation entitled “**Child Marriage On Madeshi Dalits Community: A Case Study Of Santapur Village Wards, 8 Chandrapur Municipality**” prepared by **Mr. Amar Raj Thapa** has been accepted as partial fulfillment of requirement for the Masters of Arts in Rural Development.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study entitled **Child Marriage on Madeshi Dalits Community: A Case Study Of Santapur Village Wards, 8 Chandrapur Municipality** has been prepared for partial fulfillment of master's degree in rural development.

First of all, I feel privileged to have, Umesh Prasad Acharya Lecturer, Central Department of Rural Development as my thesis guide. Without his cordial help, guidance, valuable suggestions and continued inspiration and feedback, this dissertation would never have taken this shape. It is now time to express heartfelt gratitude to him. The cooperation received from Dr. Pushpa Kamal Subedi, Head of the Department and respected teachers and staffs of the Central Department of Rural Development can never be forgotten. Thus, I would like to express my sincere gratefulness to all of them.

I am extremely thankful to Mr. Devanand Paswanand and also equally thankful to the entire respondent, who provided necessary information and possible help to accomplish this research work. They not only shared their valuable time with me but also maintained their patience during the interview and provided their family and personal information.

I am deeply obliged to my parents for their love and encouragement in completing this dissertation. My father Rudra Bahadur Thapa, mother Til Kumari Thapa and brother and sister who provided me the golden opportunities to shed the light of education for my prosperous life. I extend my deeper thanks to my friend Mr. Bibek Raj Paudel for valuable suggestion in the process of thesis completion. I would like to express many thanks to all of my colleagues for their help, inspiration and co-operation in preparing this dissertation.

Amar Raj Thapa  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
December, 2018

## ABSTRACT

A thesis entitled “Child Marriage On Madeshi Dalits Community: A Case Study Of Santapur Village Ward Number, 8, Chandrapur Municipality”. The general object of the study is to analysis the situation of child marriage of my study areas. The specific objectives of the study are to find out the socio- economic and demographic characteristics of madeshi dalits, to explore the hidden causes of child marriage in my research areas. It also finds out the consequences of child marriage in their community.

This study was conducted in a selected ward number of eight of Chandrapur municipality of Rautahat district. It has been conducted on the basis of field survey applying exploratory methods in which 62 household and 6 key informants were taken as sample. This study was based on the primary and secondary data, but focus is given to the primary data, which was collected from the field survey using structure questionnaire, observation with the different respondent. The secondary data for research was collected from the books, published, unpublished document, articles journals and internet.

From the analysis, it is found that only 33.33 percent of male are educated and looking to the female only 21.35 % are educated. Large number of people doesn't attend school in their life and the people who also attend school are leaving school in secondary level. It also finds out the changing patterns of the child marriage from three generation. The finding of the study was that people are the age more than 60 years at present time have married before 10 years. People who are above 40 and below 40 years have married above 10 years and below 15 likewise people who are the age more than 25 and less than 40 have married ages between 16-19 years. Only 17.74 % of total household knows the legal age at marriage and 82.26 % don't know the legal age at marriage. Most of the household monthly income is not sufficient for expenditure and they borrow the money from the landlord. The main causes of early child marriage in such community are poverty and social norms cultural and religious, high rate of illiteracy, high rate of poverty, pressure of society and relatives, practice of Dowry system, insecurity and fears of remaining unmarried etc. Existing vicious circle of poverty, low literacy rate, high number of population growth, negative

impact on mother and children health etc. are major consequences of child marriage seen in my research areas.

To reduce such married different NGOs and ward office are launching different programs. Plan Nepal Rautahat NGOs and Jansewa Nepal Rautahat bal club are the two organization actively working on it. From 2075 baishakh 11 with the collaboration of these three sectors i.e.(Ward Office, Jan Nepal And Jansewa Nepal) ward number 8 have been made child marriage prohibited area. Poverty reduction increase literacy rate, women empowerment, and strong implement of laws regarding child marriage can be the effective ways to reduce child marriage.

## ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

UNICEF	:	United Nation International Children's Fund
UNFPA	:	United Nations Fund For Population Activities
WHO	:	World Health Organization
CBS	:	Central Bureau Of Statistics
INGO	:	International Non-Governmental Organization
NGO	;	Non-Governmental Organization
UN	:	United Nation
MDG	:	Millennium Development Goals
SDG	:	Sustainable Development Goals
VDC	:	Village Development Committee
KII	;	Key Informants Interview
CCWB	:	Central Child Welfare
HIV	:	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
AIDS	:	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome



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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the study

Marriage is typically considered to be one of foundation of family unit and family is thought to be one of the pillars of the society. Marriage is an important part of human life. Marriage is one of universal social institution. It is established by the society to control and regulate the sex life of human beings. There is no one definition, which adequately covers all types of human marriage. According to the Malinowski, " marriage is a contract for the production and maintenance of children". Likewise, Edward Westermarck, (1929) defines, " marriage as the more or less durable connection between male and female lasting beyond the mere act of propagation till after the birth of offspring" (Westermarck, 1929)

Marriage is universal phenomenon. In any form, it exists in all societies. It takes place in different forms in different societies at different place and different time period. The main forms of marriage are polygamy polyandry monogamy and group marriage. Marriage provides economic cooperation which makes division of labor on the basis of sex. Patterns of marriage perform different work dividing them according to their interest and capabilities. It brings marriage partners close to each other and develops love and affection towards each so that they can live happily. They also become able to reproduce children and caring them. Both wife and husband are the units of family. Family is again another unit of society. Social solidarity is maintained due to strong affection between marriage partners which makes family strong. This social life is regulated and maintained by marriage.

According to Herbert, 31<sup>st</sup> president of United State, " Children are the most valuable resources." He tries to explain that child indicates the future nation. The country which is belongs to underdeveloped countries. The status of a country is very worse condition. Child marriage, child labor, child violence are the serious issues that exists very long period of till now.

The practicing of marriage willingly or forceful of boys and girls below the age of 20 is called child marriage. Child marriage is global problem, which affect the millions of children across the world, but girls in South Asia. The government of Nepal has signed the many international instruments to trickle these problems. The government

of Nepal has also aimed child marriage will be removed till 2030 for this reason eleven ministries are working on it.

Looking to the present scenario Nepal ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> position on South Asia countries besides Bangladesh and India 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> respectively. By the law the boys and girls can marry at the age of 20. It is considered as a human right violation because it deprives those involved especially girls, of education and health. Child marriage has numerous adverse effects on the overall well beings of children who are mentally, psychologically, emotionally and physically unfit for the married life. In Nepal it is estimated that over 1.3 million adolescent girls are at the risk of being married or children (UNICEF, 2015).

Child marriage is most common in the world's poorest countries and often concentrated among the poorest households. It is closely linked with low economic development. It directly affects the education of children. According to UNICEF's Innocent Research Centre, child marriage denies children of school age their right to education, their need for personal development, their preparation for adulthood, and their ability to contribute to family and community (UNICEF, 2007).

UNFPA, state of world population, early pregnancy endangers child bride's health because many become pregnant before their bodies can safely carry or deliver children. It is particularly serious for girls who give birth before the age of 15 as they are five times more likely to die in childbirth than girls in their 20s (UNFPA, 2005).

Santapur is the ward number 8 of Chandrapur municipality in Rautahat in the Narayani zone of south eastern Nepal. The former village development committee was merged to form the municipality on 18 May 2014. At the time of the 2011 census it had a population of 15,048 out of these 7,650 were male and 7,398 were female (CBS, 2011).

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

According to UNFPA, marrying too young, ending child marriage, 2012. Globally more than 14 million girls each year are children under the age of 18 years and many of these are under 15 years. Over 700 million women alive today were 20-24 in South Asia who were married before the age of 18 and millions of girls are likely to marry children between 2010 and 2030. Early marriage is a global issue which can violate the rights of girls and boys generation to generation. Child marriage can be taken as a social evil. There are different factors of child marriage like lack of education, poverty, dowry

system, backwardness community and lack of awareness. High mortality rates, baby with low weight, poverty, suicide, divorce, domestic violence, etc. are the consequences of child marriage (UNFPA, 2012).

Child marriage prevalence in Nepal varies widely due to diversity of development region, place of residence, caste, socio-economic status, ethnicity, religion, education level and many other areas. According to UNFPA 42.9% of women residing in rural areas married before reaching the age of 18 in comparison to 26.9% of those residing in urban areas. Girls with no education or from low income families are at high risk. Child marriage is more prevalent among the marginalized groups such as janjati and Dalit's. The highest prevalence of child marriage in term of development region can be found in mid-western region of Nepal at 53% followed by far-western region 48% central development region 40% western region 36% and eastern region 34%.

According to Nepal multiple indicator cluster survey (4, 2010) among women age 20-49 years in mid and western region, 60% were married, before reaching the age of 18 years and 16% before the age of 15. Looking to the scenario of geographical reason the average marriage in the hills is 18, in the mountain it is 17.8 and in terai 17.2. The central districts of the terai, including Rautahat, Dhanusha, Rupandehi etc., over 50% of marriage include girls under 12, the Dalit's or the people of the untouchable caste are most to child marriage and 87% of terai Dalit's married before the age of 19. (Thapa, 2015).

Looking to the above information Rautahat is the one of the terai districts where child marriage deprived from long period of time. The study area of this research is rural areas of Chandrapur municipality, which is ward number 8 named Santapur.

Most of dalits were uneducated and vicious poverty existed in their society from long period of time. This creates different social evils like child marriage rape, domestic violence, school dropout ratio also high, maternal mortality and infant mortality also can be observed. So I would like find out the answer of following problems.

- ) What are the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the respondent household of madeshi dalits community?
- ) What are the hidden causes of child marriage of madeshi dalits?
- ) What are the hidden consequences of child marriage?

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

The general objectives of the study are to analysis the situation of child marriage of madeshi dalits of Chandrapur Municipality, Ward 8 Santapur village. The specific objectives of my study are listed below.

- ) To find the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of MadhesiDalits
- ) To find outthecauses ofchild marriage
- ) To find out the consequences of child marriage on such community.

### **1.4 Assumption of the Study**

Child marriage is most common in the world's poorest countries and is often concentrated among the poorest households. It is closely linked with low levels of economic development. Child marriage is the strong factor that helps to increase the poverty. Both poverty and child marriage are found in same community.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

Child marriage has negative and bad consequences in child mental, physical, and physiological development. Not only this it directly effects on health i.e. low weight baby born, high rate of child and maternal mortality rate, weakness, anemia etc. like as due to child marriage the rate of dropout is also high. It means it helps to stop the career development. This means vicious poverty can found in such community. Some of the importance of my study is as follows:

- ) It helps to; fulfill the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts in rural development.
- ) It can be used as secondary data of reference for other researcher in their research.
- ) The study would be helpful to predict changing patterns of child marriage
- ) The result would helpful for the local level planner, policy maker or local government to plan and implement the program.

### **1.6 Justification of the study**

Marriage before the age of 20 is a fundamental violation of human rights. Child marriage occurs more frequently among girls and boys who are the least educated,

poorest and living in rural areas. Child marriage carries with it many risk including following points

- ) Increase to risk of physical abuse
- ) Higher mortality rates of both child brides and their babies
- ) Increase the higher illiteracy
- ) Increase the domestic violence
- ) Increase poverty

Thus from the above points we can know that child marriage is one of social evil that helps to stop holistic development of society. To be child marriage in society different causes and different actor are playing vital role. Thus a research based study is needed to trace out the true impact and consequences of child marriage in the madeshi dalits community. Such studies give to guidelines as a future lesson to control the child marriage.

### **1.7 Limitation of the Study**

Every researcher has its own limitation due to time bound, budget and technical problem. Some of the limitations of my study are listed below

- ) Only limited household of madeshi dalits has been taken as respondent.
- ) The case study has been taken in Chandrapur municipality, ward 8 Santapur village.
- ) The research has been conducted for only the fulfillment of master degree requirement.

### **1.8 Organization of the study**

The whole research has been divided into different five chapters. The first chapter is introduction which includes background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, assumption of the study, significance, justification, limitation organization of the study and terminologies. The second chapter is literature review. General review, mythological review, historical review, policy review, theoretical review, empirical review, analytical review, etc. are done on this chapter. The third part of this study is research methodology. On this chapter different research design, rational of site selection, population sampling and sampling procedures, data collection techniques and tools, case study and methods of data analysis and interpretation, are included. The fourth portion of the study is presentation,

interpretation and analysis finding. At last chapter research include summary, conclusion, and suggestion of the study. This is how whole research will be conducted.

### **1.9 Terminologies of the study**

The practice of marriage willing or forcefully of boys and girls below the age of 20 is called child marriage, which affects physical and mental development of the boys and girls.



## CHAPTER 2

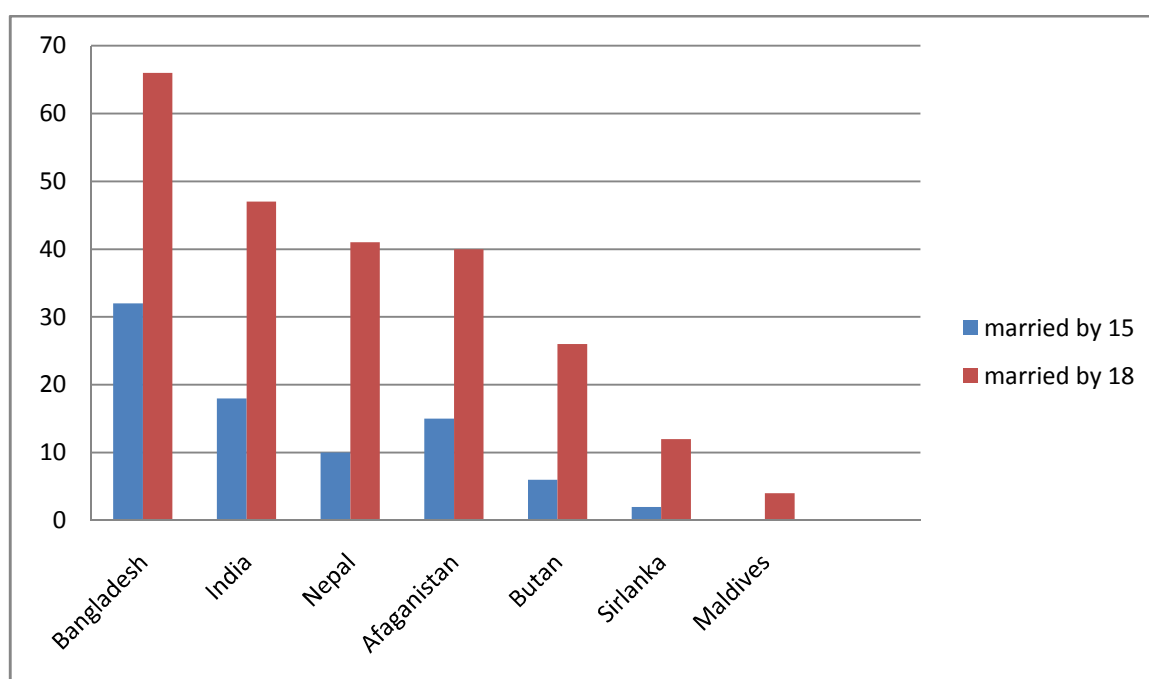
### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### **2.1. Conceptual literature review**

Marriage is one of the universal institutions, which is established by the human society to control and regulate the sex life of the human beings. It is regarded as a fundamental social intuition in the every society, which encompasses two major aspects in each society and in each time .firstly, it is assented relationships of two opposite sex and secondary a socially approved intuition where these two sexes have legal approval to have sexual relationship and produce children. "Marriage is the approved social patterns by two or more person established a family" (Horton & hunt, 1980) Child marriage typically defined as the union of two adolescent, joined in marriage below 20 years old. It has negative impact in education, health, and poverty. According to UN, child marriages are most common in parts of Africa and South Asia. The major factor contribute to teen marriage such as love, teen pregnancy, religion belief, security, family and pressure, arrange marriage, weak economy, and culture aspect. Child marriage affects both girls and boys but in the comparison those girls are more affected then boys. The main causes of child marriage in Nepal are poverty, bride price, dowry, culture, tradition, religion and social pressure, illiteracy, in ability of women to work for money. Today child marriages are still fairly widespread in developing countries such as part of Africa, south Asia, west Asia and Latin America. Child marriage affects both boys and the girls, however, it disproportionately affects girls' ability to enjoy their rights and freedoms, especially due to the serious risks of sexual and reproductive harms associated with this practice. Child marriage triggers a continuum of reproductive and sexual harms and violations by exposing girls to forced initiation into sex and unprotected sex, as well as early, unplanned, and frequent pregnancies. Women and girls subject to child marriage are likely to face slavery-like practices such as servile marriage, sexual slavery, child servitude, child trafficking, and forced labor.<sup>19</sup> According to the Nepal Demographic Health Survey (NDHS), 47% of women who first had sex before age 15 and 29% of women who first had sex between ages 15-19 have stated that their initial experience was forced and against their will, and a majority of these cases occurred within marriage.<sup>20</sup> While rates of sexual violence among married adolescents are high throughout Nepal, they also vary by region, with the Terai region experiencing

significantly higher rates than the Mid and Far Western regions. A study reveals that 37% of currently married girls ages 15 to 19 in the Terai region have experienced sexual violence and 19% of them have experienced other forms of physical violence. Child marriage robs girls of every opportunity to thrive. It is a human right violation which dines girl's health, education, employment, opportunities. It has been identified as the barrier to achieve the millennium development goals.

Figure no1: Child marriage prevalence rate in South Asia in percentage



Source: state of world's children (UNICEF,2013)

## 2.2 Historical review:

Historically, child marriage was common around world, the average life expectancy did not exceed 50 years old, so child marriage would consider an affective practice to increase population (Sen Nag, 2017). In ancient and medieval societies it was common for girls to be betrothed at or even before puberty. In ancient Greece, early marriage and motherhood for girls were encouraged even boys were accepted to marry in their childhood (Nancy, 1994). In ancient Rome girls were married above the age of 12 and boys above 14 (Dahi, 2010). Looking to the history of Nepal we can found that child marriage were practicing very long period of time. The malla king Pratap malla used to marry young girls. After his death 9 waives committed sati (Anil

Chitrakar, July 10). As analysis the shah dynasty king GravinYuddhaBikram shah died at the age of 19 but he had a 3 years old son name king RajendraBkramShah(Wikipedia). With evidences we can say that child marriage was found very long period to till now.

### **2.3 Mythological review**

Myth logically the story of the child marriage varied in different religion texts. As we know that entire religious philosophy positively accepts the child marriage. It seems completely unscientific Swasthani Katha. A part of Skandanpuran glorifies the wedding of seven years old man which seems wild activity. Likewise another Hindu book Manu smriti, the age of marriage is with in there years from the attainment of puberty, if unmarried then girls can marry on their will and from their own caste and own rank. A man age thirty can marry a maiden of twelve or a girl of twenty four can marry eight years girls. Islamic marriage practice have also permitted married of girls below the age of 10 because the founder of Islam prophet Mohammad had married Aisha, his third wife when she was six and consummated the marriage when she was about age nine. As analysis the mythological we can conclude that Hindu and Islam have strongly supports the child marriage. For this region the ratio of child marriage in Hindu and Islamic country are high.

### **2.4 Policy review**

During the Malla period,33 wives of king Yogi Narendra Malla committed sati likewise 9 wives of Pratap malla committed sati. In 19<sup>th</sup> century, 16 women committed sati in the funeral of king RanaBahadur Shah and many of them were young women. When Jung Bahadur was in power he made a set of rules to try and control and discourage the sati. He banned the women below 16 to commit sati and women whose children were below 16 (boys) and 5 years girls were not to commit sati. But sati system does not reduce. Lateron, Chandra SumserRana abolished sati system in 1977 B.S. it can be taken as milestone for the controlling the sati system (Chitrakar, 2010).

Regarding in the sector of child marriage, the government of Nepal hadn't made any policy till eight five years plan. Sustainable development goals were adopted in eighth five year plan, which helps to rise up the women and children's status. The children's Acts 1992; defines a 'child' as minor under 16 years of age and establishes the right

to discrimination of the date of birth and to necessary protection without discrimination from parents. The children's Rules, 1995, specifically entrusts the CCWB with duty to identify measures to eliminate child marriage. It helps to government and non-government organization to implement those measures.

The local self-government act, 1999, obligates local governance bodies to adopt necessary programs for the protection of women and children. Accordingly, the ministry of local development's guidelines on the granting supports to local government requires that they have to allocate least 10% of their budgets for the programs and projects that directly benefits women and children. These funds may be used by local bodies for formulating specific programs to end child marriage. According to Muluki Ain Civil Act, 2020 sixth revision Mahal 17 Bihabariko 221, the legal age of marriage is 16 for female 18 for male with the parental consent and it is 18 and 21 years female and male respectively without parental consent. if somebody marries against the law the punishment may be imprisonment of 3 years or cash payment or both (Mulukiain ,2002 B.S)The 2002, eleventh Amendment to the Muluki Ain sets legal of marriage as 20 years for both man and women. The law specifically penalizes below the legal age with imprisonment and fines for the adults who marry. Priests, match maker and other abettors who knowingly facilitate such marriage are also liable to punishment and fines.

The constitution of Nepal, 2015, for the first time explicitly prohibits child marriage as a punishable offence and established victim rights to compensation for violation from perpetrator. Constitution also protects children from child marriage by guaranteeing their right to identify and birth registration, right to education and health care, right to protection from hazardous work.

In 2016 the government of Nepal has also adopted the national strategy to end child marriage in Nepal. It envisions Nepal free from child marriage and aims to end child marriage by 2030. Empowerment of girls and adolescent; quality education for girls and adolescent; engaging boys and adolescent and man; mobilizing families and communities access services; and strengthening and implementing law and policies are six strategy incorporates the multi sectorial approach to end child marriage.

## **2.5 Theoretical Review**

### **2.5.1 Millennium Development Goals**

Millennium Development Goals were the eight international development goals for the years 2000-2015 established by the UN in 2002. All 191 United Nations member states at that time and at least 22 international organizations, committed to help the millennium development goals. Child marriage impedes the achievement of MDGs, particularly goals one to five: eradication of poverty, universal access to education, women empowerment, reducing child mortality and improving maternal health. Nepal is the one of the countries that signed it. The main motto of millennium development goals are listed below.

- ) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- ) Achieve universal primary education
- ) Promote gender equality and empower women
- ) Reduce the child mortality
- ) Improve maternal health
- ) Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
- ) Ensure the environment sustainability
- ) Develop a global partnership for development

Millennium development goals strategy helps to improve the rural women's life. The ratio of child marriage, infant mortality, and maternal mortality has decreased.

### **2.5.2 Sustainable Development Goals**

Sustainable development is the organizing principle for meeting human development goals while at the same time sustaining the ability of natural systems to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services upon which the economy and societies. In 1983, Brundtland Commission was organized in the chairmanship of Norway's prime minister Gro Harlem Brundtland. In 1987 the United Nations World Commission on the Environment and Development released the report 'Our Common Future'. The report includes what is now one of the most widely used definitions of sustainable development: 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. In Nepal, Sustainable Development Goals were adopted from the eighth five-year plan. Sustainable Development Goals or Brundtland Commission has set 17 different goals, which are listed below.

- ) No poverty

- ) Zero hunger
- ) Good health and well-being
- ) Quality education
- ) Gender equality
- ) Clean water and sanitation
- ) Affordable and clean energy
- ) Decent work and economic growth
- ) Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- ) Reducing inequalities
- ) Sustainable cities and communities
- ) Responsible consumption and production
- ) Climate change
- ) Life under the water
- ) Life on land
- ) Peace, justice and strong institution
- ) Partnership for goal

Sustainable development has been a global agenda for the last 25 years. The millennium development goals declaration by UN has set foundation for SDGs to be achieved by 2030. The UN conference on sustainable development held in Rio de Janeiro, 14 July 2012 and UN general assembly held in September 2014 prepared solid foundation for the SDGs. Nepal as a member of the UN is committed to third global initiative. For this region government of Nepal are working on it.

## **2.6 Empirical literature review**

Early marriage and early motherhood are quite common among the Nepalese women especially in rural areas. Early marriage is much less common among men. The main covariates associated with early marriage and early motherhood are education region of residence and ethnicity. (Choe, Minja kim; Thapa, Shyam; Mishra, Vinod, 2004). According to the Central Child Welfare, as much as 34 per cent of all new marriages in Nepal involve children under the age of 15. In some areas, especially in southern Terai districts neighboring with India, the numbers can be even more alarming. In Rupandehi district alone, over half of marriages involve girls under the age of 12 and 89.5 per cent of girls are married before they reach 18.

Thirty-seven percent of girls in Nepal marry before age 18 and 10 percent are married by age 15, in spite of the fact that the minimum age of marriage under Nepali law is 20 years of age.

In Banke, among 222 respondents, 71.6% were married and the proportion of girl who married before the age of 18 was found to be 37.8%. Mean age of marriage was 17 years with the age range from 10 to 23 years. Thirty-seven percentage of respondents belonged to Muslim community, 60.8% were Hindu. Muslims were 2.2 times more likely, girls residing in rural area were 4.2 times more likely and girls having poor knowledge or no knowledge about policy were 4.6 times more likely to get child married(Gurung K. , 2017).

In Nepal, women who marry as children have on average 15-26 percent more births over their life time as compared to women marrying after the age of 18. Controlling for socio-economic and other characteristics, the average number of births per woman would be reduced by 0.45 births or about eleven percent if child marriage could be eliminated. (Onagoruwa, Adekinike; opeoluwa,wodon; T, Ouentin;, 2017)

K, Yadap have also done research on," impact of early child marriage on reproductive health in Yadap community of Siraha districts". He found more than 75% of total respondent population got pregnant before the age of 18. The status of health check-up was worse in condition and they are suffering from different problems like swelling, lower abdominal pain, and heavy bleeding (Yadap, 2008)

Thesis in titles, "Isn't it too early to drop out of school: A study of girls education in the Chepang community of Nepal" examines the problem of girls' illiteracy in one of the poorest and most disadvantaged indigenous communities of Nepal – the Chepang community. The problem of education in this community is very serious, since a significant portion of its members have never been to school and can neither read nor write. Chepang girls dropping out of school at a young age, besides, very often girls drop out of school to get married, because early marriages are traditional in their community (Iryna, 2013)

The thesis on title," impact of early marriage in women health in Yakkha community: A case study of Dandgaun VDC of Dhankuta District "finds that 37.5% of Yakkha girls are getting early marriage by family burden and 35 % of girls marry due to unsure future likewise remaining 27.5 % of girls got married due to hidden social cause. 52.5% of respondent becomes pregnant between the age group 15-19 and 5%

below 15. Due to high rate of early pregnancy, the rate of child mortality and maternal mortality also high on such community (Limbukhim, 2016)

Gurung,2007 had conduct thesis on tittle," early marriage and its effects on women's health and education Gurung community of Khandbari, VDC Sankhuwasabha, the major finding of the study are 35.9% respondent were married at the age of 15-17 years and among them are 66.6% are illiterate (Gurung A. , 2007).

From the above empirical literature review we can conclude that Nepal is a country having high rate of child marriage. Different factor like economic, political, social are playing vital role to flourish it. It has adverse effect on the society and numerous effects on child physical, mentally and physiological not prepared for married life.



## CHAPTER III

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Methodology is an important aspect to conduct any research. It describes the method and processes applied to conduct the research. It includes research design, Rational of site selection, Nature and sources of data, sample and sampling procedures, Data collection techniques and tools. Following procedure was applied to find out the status of child marriage on madeshi dalits community.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The research has been conducted on the basis of exploratory and descriptive research design because the study focuses the socio economic and demographic characteristics of madeshi dalits, the research areas, it have also concerned with the causes and consequences, of child marriage and poverty in dalits community of Santapur.

#### **3.2 Rationale of Site Selection**

Chandrapur municipality of Rautahat district have been selected for the study; because in this area different people with different caste and ethnicity are living. Rautahat district rank 1<sup>st</sup> district regarding low literacy rate. For this reason child marriage also high in these areas.



### **3.3 Nature and sources of data**

This study has based on the primary as well as secondary data, but this has focused on primary data, which have been collected from the field survey using my structure questionnaire, observation and interaction with different respondent. The secondary data for my research has been used from the published book, journal, CBS data, Magazines, articles, email and internet, dissertation, and economic survey etc. The data are both quantitative and qualitative in nature.

### **3.4 Population, Sample and Sampling Procedures**

This study had conducted only madeshi dalits community of Chandrapur municipality in ward number 8, Santapur village. Santapur is the formal VDC, which were merge on 18 may 2014 along with Chandranigahapur, VDC, Judibela VDC, Paurai VDC, Dumariya VDC, and formed Chandrapur municipality. This municipality consists of 10 wards and ward 8 is the biggest one. There are 2,686 number of household in Santapur. The total population of Santapur is 15048 out of these 7650 and 7398 male and female respectively. Out of total population there are 1687 madeshi Dalit and there are 302 number of household of madeshi dalits. 20% of total madeshi dalits household were taken as the sampling

### **3.5 Data collection techniques and tools**

This study has applied field survey techniques in order to conduct research work. It has close and open structure. Household survey, key informants interview, observation etc. are the techniques that have been used. Structure questionnaire, interview checklist, and observation guideline checklist have been used.

- ) Questionnaire Survey: To get primary data, the structure questionnaire will be developing; the questionnaire will fill up by researcher visiting the entire sample household.
- ) Key Informants Interview: during field study, the different people like ward chairman, social workers, teacher and health assistance will be taken as respondent because they could express thought, opinion regarding child marriage.

### **3.6 Data Analysis and Interpretation**

The collected data and information was analyzed and interpreted with quantitative, descriptive way with the help of simple statistical methods such as tabulation, percentage and chart etc. according to the nature of data different types of table's figures and diagrams was used to analyzed and interpret the information.

## CHAPTER 4

### DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The collected data and information have been analyzed and interpreted with quantitative descriptive way with helps of statistical methods like, percentage. According to the nature of data different types of diagram and figures will be used to analyzed and interpret the information.

#### 4.1 Introduction of Rautahat district

Rautahat district is one of the seventy seven districts of Nepal. It is a part of provinceno.2. The head quarter of Rautahat is Gaur. This district has a total 2 rural municipal and 16 municipalities. Among the other district, Rautahat district has the largest percentage of Muslims in Nepal. Nunthar is a famous place for picnic and there is a temple of lord Shiva which is located in Paurai Bagmati. Bagmati River is the border line between Rautahat and Sarlahi district. The total area of Rautahat district od 1126 sq/km. According to the census 2011 the total number of population is 686722. Bajjika (60%) and Nepali (20%) etc are the main languages of this district.

Geography and Climate

**Table 4.1 Geography and Climate**

Climate zone	Elevation range	% of area
Lower tropical	Below 300 meters (1000 ft)	94.4 %
Upper tropical	300 to 1000 meters(1000 to 3300 ft )	5.6%

Highest temperature goes up to 42 degree Celsius in the summer and lowest temperature falls 2 degree Celsius in the winter seasons.

#### 4.1.1 Introduction of Chandrapur municipality

Chandrapur municipality locally known as Chapur is the municipality of Rautahat district. The municipality was established on 2014 by merging chandranigapur, Judibela, Paurai Santapur matioun and Dumariya. This town was actually named under the late Rana Prime Minister Chandra ShamsheRana.

## 4.2 Socio-Economic And Demographic Characteristics Of Madhesi Dalits

Socio economic and demographic are the major determinant factor to the child marriage. Demographic indicators provide information on the demographic processes and outcomes. Socio economic indicators tracks economic progress and social change and generally portray a people's state of well-being and quality of life.

### 4.2.1 Family Types

There are two types of family i.e. joint family and nuclear family. Family in which husband and wife and their children reside is known as nuclear family. These types of family are common and growing modern time. Family consists generally three generation or more than it are called joint family. Family sizes of the selected sample household survey are describes below.

**Table: I Family Types**

S.N.	Family types	Number of household	Percentage
1	Joint family	37	59.67
2	Nuclear family\small family	25	40.33
3	Total	62	100

Source: field survey,2019

From the above table I found that out of 62 house hold 59.67% of household are joint family and rest of 40.33% are nuclear family. According to respondent now a days due to rise of income they like to live in nuclear family. For this reason family types are depend on income.

### 4.2.2 Religion status

Madhesi dalits are Hindu. As we know that Hindu caste system were developed according to the division of work. Dalits are the engineers of the ancient time. All of 100% respondent are Hindu but according to the respondent Christian religion are trying to change their religion by

### 4.2.3 Average Household Size

Average household size is calculated by dividing total number population by total number household. In my research the total number of population are 430 and total

household size are 62. The average household size of my research areas is 6.93. As comparing to the average size of family with Nepal, there was wide difference. The average size of family in Nepal is 4.6 people which is 4.2 in urban and 4.8 in rural areas. Large number of population size helps for existing vicious circle of poverty.

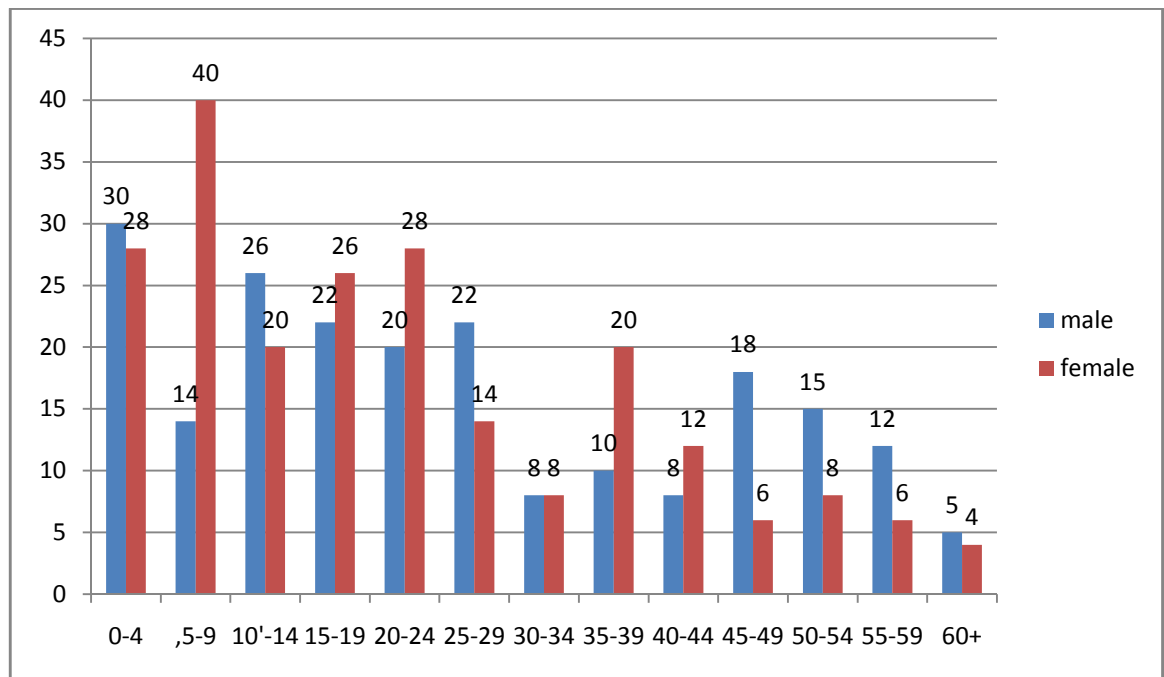
#### 4.2.4 Age Composition of Respondents Household

Age composition defines the number of people in different age groups of a particular place. it can be classified in to following structure

- ) Children (0-14) do not contribute the economic in any way, they require resources for their education and their health
- ) Adults (15-60) contribute in the economy activities
- ) Aged (60+ years) do not contribute the economy activities

Age is the factor that plays the vital role in the research activities. In 2017 about 30.89 % of the Nepalese population falls under the 0-14 years and 63.3% of population falls under the 15-60 group and 5.81% comes under the 65+ years

**Figure: I Distribution of Respondents of Household Survey**



Sources: Field Survey 2019

**Table: II Age Group**

S.N	Age group	Male	Percentage	Female	percentage
1	0-14	70	33.33	88	40
	15-59	135	64.27	128	58.18
	60+	5	2.4	4	1.82
	total	210	100	220	100

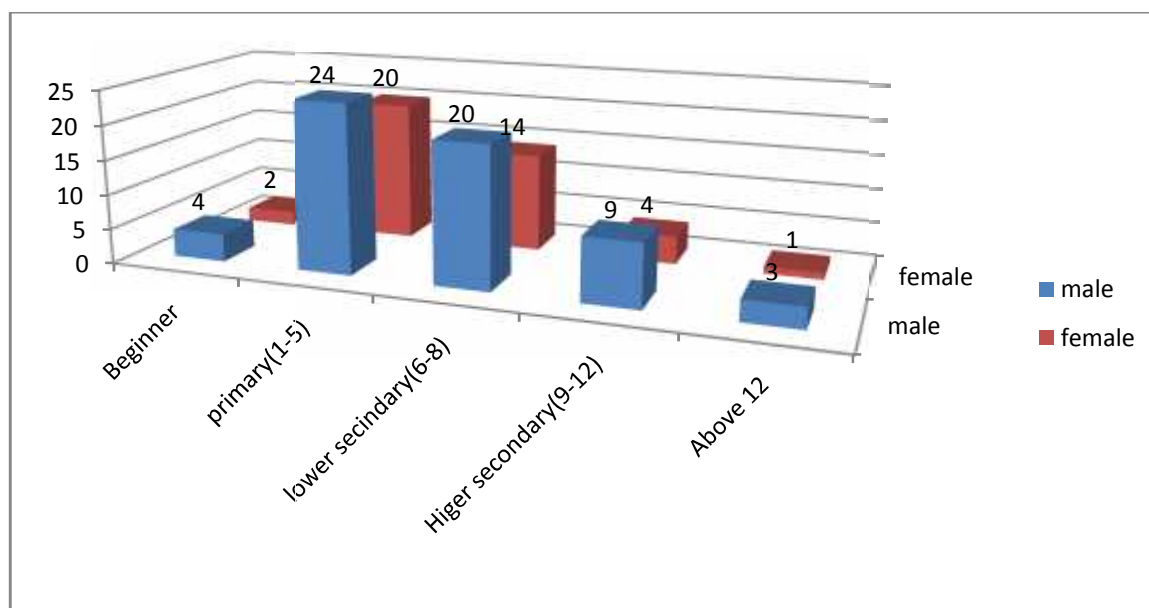
Sources: Field Survey 2019

From the above table we can say that about 33.3% of male population comes under the age group 0-14. 64.27% of total male falls under the 15-59 and 2.4 % of male population is above the 60 years. Looking the female age group 40% of total population comes under the 0-14 age group, similarly 58.16 % of total female population is adult age and only 1.82 percentage of female is 60 years.

#### **4.2.5 Educational Status of Respondents household**

Education is the major factor to change in the people's attitude and behavior. Education plays a significant role in determining age at marriage. The educated are more likely to marry after the legal age of marriage than illiterate. Education is the process of facilitating, the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs and habits. The last official data, national census 2011, puts Nepal's literacy at 65.9 percent. The government says that 44 percent of women and 23 percent of men never attended school. Fifty-six percent of women and 28 percent of men lack the education to read a simple sentence, according to the government. As analysis educational status of male and female of my research household, out of 210 men, 30 children are below the five years age and they had not gone to school yet. Similarly out of 220 female populations 28 populations belongs to children who are small to go school.

**Figure: II Educational Status of Respondents household**



From the above figures that can be known that only 33.33 percent of male are educated and looking to the female only 21.35 % are educated. Even it is found that male is more educated than the female because people beliefs, girls are property of other. Here beginner means children reading in the private school but below the one class. It was found that primary school student was more than other and gradually decreasing its shows that school dropout in such community. The main reason for it is poverty child marriage and going agricultural labor to India etc.

#### 4.2.6 Marital status of respondents household

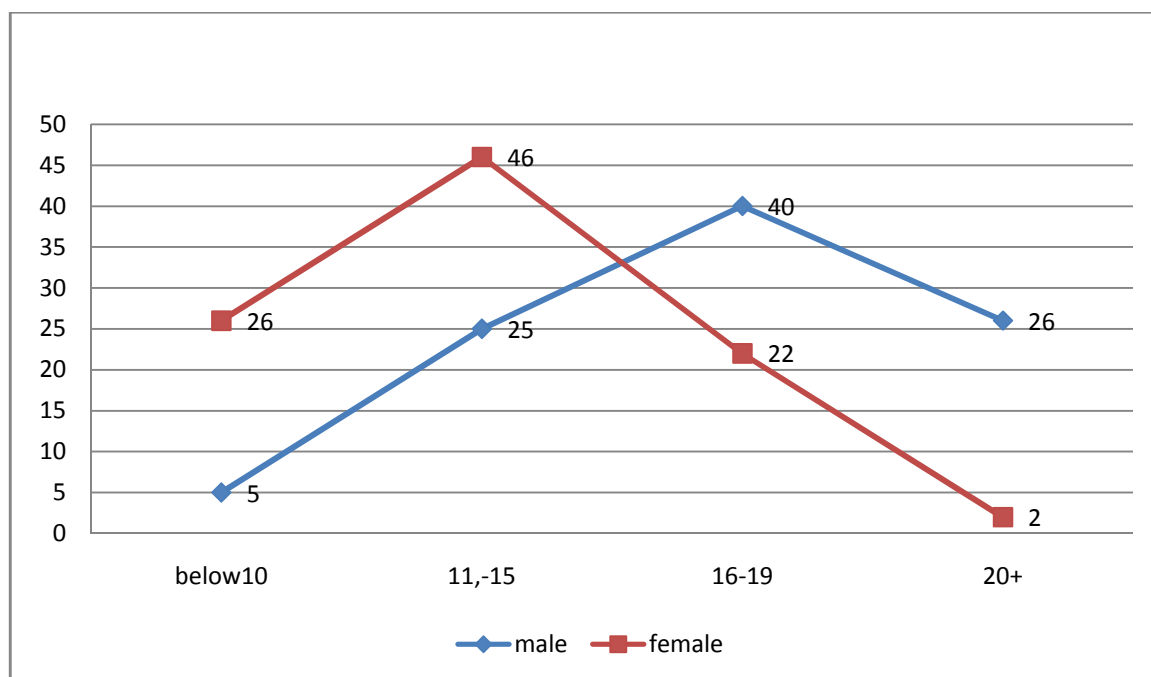
Here marital status means the fact of someone being married or not married. Out of 210, 101 are married male only 96 male knows their marital age. 5 male don't know age in which they married likewise out of 220, 96 knows their marital age and 4 don't know their age in which they got married. The marital status of the respondent household has been shown in the following table

**Table: III Marital status of respondents household**

S.N.	Age at marriage	Male	Female
1	Below 10	5	26
2	11-15	25	46
3	16-19	40	22
4	20+	26	2
5	total	96	96



**Figure: III Marital status of respondent household**



The above line graph shows that people used to marry in the age below 10 and the ratio of female is more than male. Compare to the age at marriage between 11-15, female ratio is high but age between 16-19, line graph shows decreasing but male line graphs shows increasing. Looking to late marriage male ratio is high than female.

#### **4.2.7 Respondents knows the legal age at marriage**

Nepal's marriage law stipulates 20 years as the legal age of marriage for both sexes. But only few Nepalese know the age of marriage. The following tables show the status to known the legal age at marriage.

**Table: IV Respondents Knows The Legal Age At Marriage**

S.N.	Yes or no	Respondent (N=62)	Percentage
	Yes	11	17.74
	no	51	82.25

Sources: Field Survey 2019

From the above table we can know that only 17.74 % of total household knows the legal age at marriage. This can be taken as the one of factor that help to flourish the child marriage in that community.

#### 4.2.8 Land holding

Land is the most important sources of wealth of farmer. It is the surface or area of a ground, especially used for the purpose such as farming and building. In Nepal land indicates the status of people. Person who has much land than he is consider as the rich and people poses land then that family belongs to poor. Land is not only the economic variable but also it represents the social status of that family. People of my research area don't have any private land. They made their house in government land calledaillani. The following table shows the land holding of following house hold;

Tables

S.N.	Land holding	household	Percent
	Below 1 kattha	14	23.33
	1 khatta	16	26.66
	2 khatta	14	23.33
	3 khatta	8	13.33
	4 khatta	4	6.66
	5 khatta	4	6.66
	6 khatta	4	6.66
	Total	62	100

Sources: Field Survey,2019

From the above table, the land holding patterns of the respondent shows that 23.33% household have less than 1 khatta and 26.66%of household have 1 khatta, likewise 23.33 %of total household have 2 khatta. 13.33 %of household have 3 khatta. Likewise 6.66%of household have 4, 5 and 6 khatta respectively. This land holding patterns shows that they don't have private land. They have are living there by cutting the forest.

#### 4.2.9 Occupation of the respondents household

The state of being busy on something, it is a means of earning for living. It plays vital role in the family to improve living standards. it is the main sources of income and expenditure. Nepal is an agricultural country that 75 %of women and 35%of male are involved in the agriculture as an occupation. (NDHS2011).

Out of total respondents household population 200 are economically active people. From the total economically active population 86 people are unemployed and rest

114 people are employed .The occupation status of employed has been shown in the following table;

**Table: V Occupation Of The Respondent's Household**

SN	Occupation	Number of people	Percentage
1	Labor	60	52.63
2	Agriculture	26	22.8
3	Foreign employment	14	12.28
3	Business	6	5.26
5	Self employed	3	2.63
6	Services	2	1.38
7	total	114	100

Sources: Field Survey, 2019

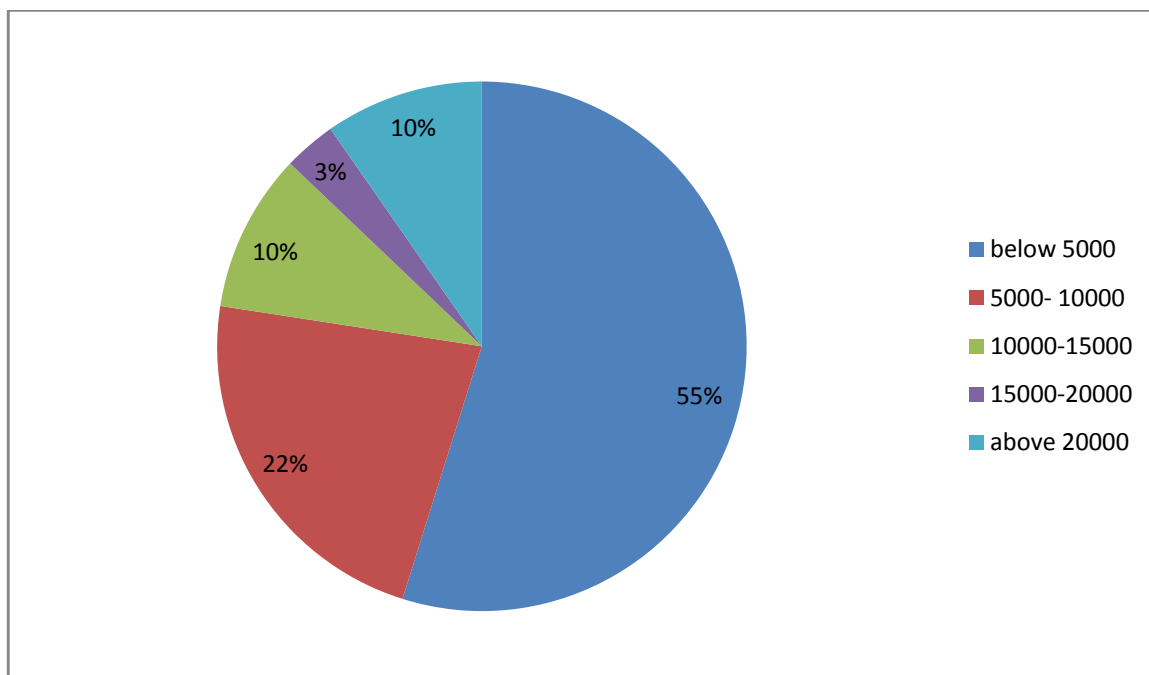
From the above 52.63% of people are working as a labor. Here labor means people work as worker in rice mail, and some people goes to India for cutting paddy and harvesting sugarcane and also some people work as a construction worker. About 22% of people are engaged in agriculture by taking land in lease from land lords. Likewise 12.28 percent people are in foreign country for employment but going to India have excluded on this sector. 5.26 % of the people are engaged in business here business doesn't mean that kind business where people invest lots of money. About 2.63% and 1.38 % of people are engaged in the self-employment and services respectively.

It is conclude that in this study that most of the family is below the poverty and they can't fulfill the basic needs. For this reasons level occupation can be taken as the influencing factor for child marriage.

#### **4.2.10 Income of household**

Income is the sum of all the wages salaries, profits, interest, payment and other forms of earning received in a given time period. People are enveloped in different sector of economic activities to change the living standard Here income of household are described in the following ways.

**Figure: IV Income Of Households**



Sources: Field Survey,2019

From the above pie chart more than 54 % of family have below 5000 monthly income likewise 22.58% of family comes under the family which have between 5000- 10000 thousand monthly income. Similarly, about 9.5 % of family has income between the incomes 10000 to 15 thousand. 3.2 And 9.677 % of the house hold falls under the 15000-20000 and above 20000 thousand respectively.

The family which is belongs to agriculture and labors have low income in my research area. Likewise the household who family member have been employed in the foreign country have more income.

#### **4.2.11 Monthly income sufficient for expenditure**

In this sector I have tried to know whether their monthly income of my research areas respondent, are sufficient or not. Numerically it has been shown in the following tables.

**Tables: VI Monthly Income Sufficient For Expenditure**

S.N.	Sufficient	Household	percentage
1	Yes	56	90.32
2	No	6	9.68
3	total	62	100

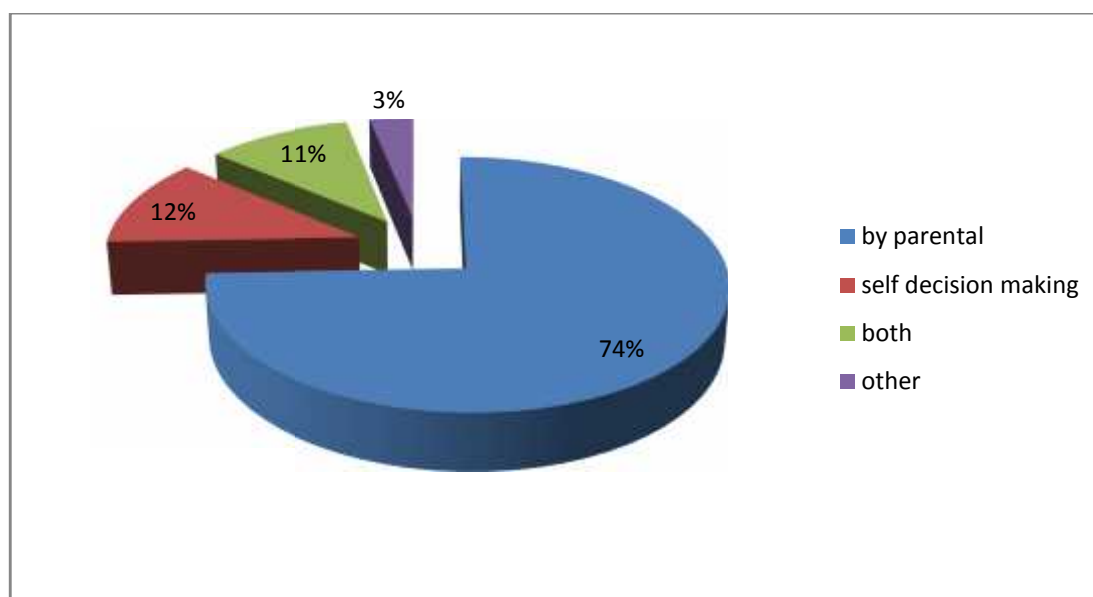
Sources: Field Survey 2019,

The tables show that about 90.32% of total household monthly income is not sufficient for expenditure and they borrow the money from the landlords with high interest. For this reason people cannot breakdown the vicious circle of poverty. People belong to 9.68 % send to their children in private school for better education.

#### 4.2.12 Decision for marriage

There are different people who are involved, and played vital role marriage. The following are the people who help on child marriage in such community.

**Figures: V Decision For Marriage**



Sources: Field Survey 2019,

From the above pie chart about 74% of the child marriage took place through the parental and 12 % of marriage takes place through self-decision. It means love marriage is the another factor that helps in child marriage. About 11% of child marriage takes place through both decisions i.e. parental and self. Even 3% child marriage took place through other factor like relatives or neighborhood etc.

#### 4.3 Main causes or reasons for child marriage in madeshi dalits.

According to the census 2011 about 33% of 15-19 girls were already married in Nepal. Child marriage prevalence in Nepal varies widely due to diversity of development region, place of residence, caste, socio-economic status, ethnicity, religion, education level and many other areas. According to UNFPA 42.9% of women residing in rural areas married before reaching the age of 18 in comparison to 26.9% of those residing in urban areas. Here are the major causes that helps flourish the child marriage in such households.

**Table No. VII: Main causes or reasons for child marriage in madeshi dalits**

SN	Causes of child marriage	No of respondents household (n=62)	percentage
1	illiteracy	21	33.33
2	Low income	16	25.806
3	Social insecurity	10	16.12
4	Lack of alternatives	8	12.9
5	Insecurity and fears of remaining unmarried	7	11.29
6	Total	62	100

Sources: Field Survey, 2019

The Table No. VII shows that 33.33% household respondents are practicing child marriage due to illiteracy. People were unaware about the consequence of early child marriage. About 80 % of respondent doesn't know the legal marriage, so this also helps to grow child marriage. The education status of such community is very worse in condition. Another main factor that played vital role of early child marriage is low income. About 25.8% of household respondent believes that they have practice early child marriage due to low income. Poverty has become the biggest obstacle in the madeshi dalits community. In research area about 43% of people are unemployed. People do not have any private land and 52.63 people working as labor. There are 55% of household whose monthly income is less than 5000 but their average household is about 7members.

About 16% household respondent's belief the main causes of early marriage due to social insecurity. Alcoholism, unemployment, poverty, illiteracy, miss uses of mobile etc. are the major problem in such communities so parents are marry daughter in the young to protect from rape, premarital sexual activity, etc. likewise about 12% of household are practicing early child marriage due to the lack of alternatives .The number of school dropout is in high in that community. People are unemployed. They have lots of leisure time. To utilizes their leisure time by marrying children.

Insecurity and fears of being unmarried is the main factor that have been plying vital role for child marriage. About 11 % of household agree fears of beings unmarried is causes for early marriage. The different traditional norms and value are protecting child marriage in their Community. People belief girls are taken as pricey in terms of

feed cloths and educate girls and there was no any output from the girls to that family after living their parental house. Not only people beliefs that if girls are educated than she will not engage in household for this reason girls are married in the young."Higher education higher rate of dowry".

#### **4.3.1 Causes That Are Found Through The Key Informants Interview**

There are many factors which sustain the continuation of the practice of child marriage in their community. Poverty and social norms cultural and religious etc. are the main causes of child marriage such community.Nepal government has targeted that Zero child marriage till 2030. They made below 20 years age at marriage is illegal. The level of awareness of marriage only17% of respondent knows the appropriate age. It is found that there is gab between the government policy and implementation.The main factor of child marriage through KII are listed below

- ) High rate of illiteracy
- ) High rate of poverty
- ) High rate Unemployment
- ) Uses of mobile and Facebook
- ) Lack of political commitment
- ) Pressure of society and relatives
- ) Lack of alternatives
- ) Practice of Dowry system
- ) Insecurity and fears of remaining unmarried
- ) That people have easy access of false age marriage certificate.

**Figure: VI Causes of child marriage**



Source: key informants interview, 2019

#### **4.4 Consequences of child marriage in the study area**

There are various negative effects of child marriage on the young couple, especially the girl. Child marriage is a response to deprivation and a harmful practice that keeps families ensnared in poverty. Married children are taken out of school. For girls early pregnancy leads to high risk in both infant and mother.

The respondent was asked some question to know the consequence of child marriage in different heading. The consequences of child marriage of research area are listed below.

##### **4.4.1 Consequences Of Child Marriage On Health**

Young mother and baby are mostly affected by the child marriage low weight baby born, irregular mensuration problem seen in female, problem of early pregnancy, miscarriage are the major problem that are faced by female and newly born baby of that community. Even young mother don't know how to care baby, breast feeding of young mother is another challenges. So, some of the baby of such community is suffering from malnutrition



#### 4.4.2 Consequences of Child Marriage On Education

Early marriage has negative effects to education. Education can be taken as the both causes and consequence of early marriage some of the consequence faced by such community. Child marriage is the one of the obstacle to increase the literacy rate of dalits community. Only 33.33 percent of male are educated and looking to the female only 21.35 % are educated. Large number of people doesn't go school in their life and the people who also attend school will left school in secondary level. It means there is the rate of dropout secondary level school is very common.

#### 4.4.3 Consequences Of Child Marriage Economic

Worse economic condition is the both cause and consequences of early child marriage. Poverty is very broad concept. Poverty is the one of consequence of child marriage. Here are the major consequences of child marriage, which are tabulated

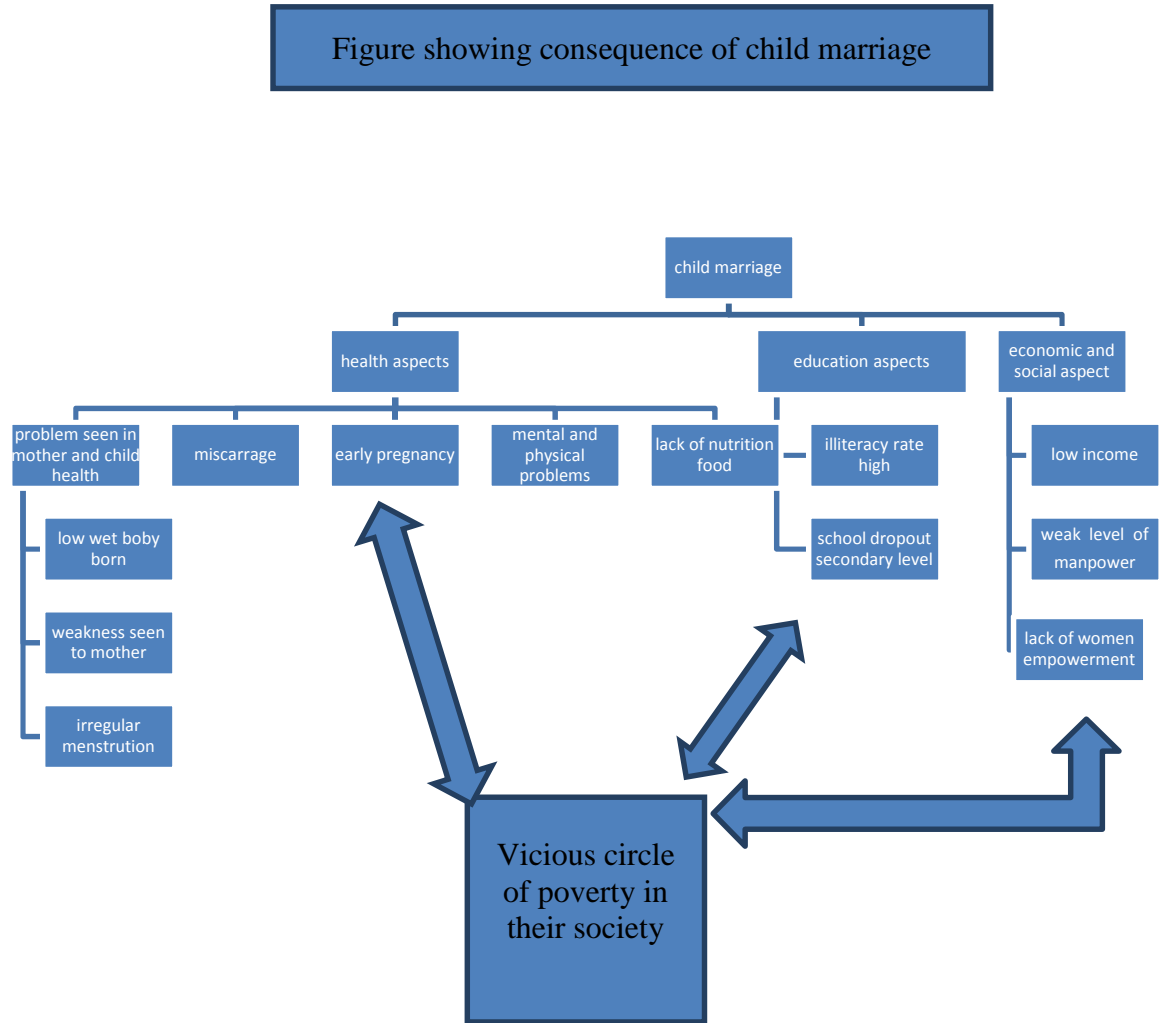
SN	Impact on economic aspect
1	Low income
2	Worker as labor
3	Weak man power
4	Unemployment

#### 4.4.4 The Other Consequences Of Child Marriage From The KII

Early marriage has also adverse effect on such community. People are facing different problems i.e.

- ) Lack of women empowerment
- ) Domestic violence and sexual harassment
- ) Gender discrimination
- ) Such community see women as domestic worker / housewife
- ) Family dispute
- ) Lack of women leadership
- ) It preserves the dowry system
- ) Lack of social prestige
- ) Difficult to break down vicious of poverty

**Figure: VII Consequence of child marriage**



**Sources: Key Informants Interview ,2019**

#### **4.5 Measures Done To Prevent Child Marriage**

Child marriage is very common in such community. About 97 % married couple are married at young age. To reduce such married different NGOs and ward office are lunched different programs. Plan Nepal Rautahat NGOs and Jansewa Nepal Rautahat club are the two organization actively working on it. From 2075 B.S. with the collaboration of these three sectors i.e. (ward office, Jan Nepal and Jansewa Nepal) ward number 8 have been made child marriage prohibited area. Total child injection program also another steps that helps to discourage the early marriage. Sunapur Namuna Mushar Basti made by Dhurmus Suntli foundation have risen awareness level of dalits. Not only awareness level but it can be taken as the milestone to raise the economic status, domestic violence, and 100% that namunabasti children are going school. Alcoholism is strictly prohibited on such area. To increase the number school going children plan Nepal are giving nutrition food and different reading and writing items in the school. But this much is not sufficient to control the marriage

#### **4.6 Ways to reduce child marriage**

Child marriage is bad practice from different prospective and should be prevented at any cost. About 90% of respondent are in the favor of providing education and developing awareness programs and rest agree to strict rules and regulation should be implement to stop child marriage. Here are the some ways are explained below in the following;

##### **4.6.1 Education Programs**

As we know that education is the process of facilitating learning or acquisition, skills values and habits. It helps to change people life style. Compulsory child educations, informal education should be given to parents are the program that helps to raise education level of such community. Education system should be scientific and modern tools and technology.

- ) By education, people are concerned about causes and impact of child marriage
- ) Rise the number of school going children
- ) Actively children participant to control child marriage

##### **4.6.2 Poverty Reeducation Program**

Dalits are the community where people are facing poverty problem for long period of time. Poverty is the one of causes and consequence of child marriage. It is difficult to breakdown in short period time. To break down following step should carried out

- ) Training should be given to dalits women to be entrepreneurs
- ) Women empowerment
- ) Leadership development
- ) Creates employment opportunities

#### **4.6.3 Strong Implementation Of Law And Policy**

As we know that below 20 years is taken as the child marriage. More than 6 month prison and 10 thousand are fined, who are directly or indirectly involved. I found that most of the cases of child marriage are done through community members so that it does not come out side environment. Here are some strategies to control child marriage.

- ) Ward office have to force their people to register their demographic status in timely.
- ) Program like education for women's equality
- ) Integrated child protection scheme should be carried out
- ) Local level participation in every area like decision making,
- ) Different scheme should be lunched to reduce poverty
- ) Award and punishment

#### **4.6.4 Role Of NGOs And Other Stake Holders**

As we know that NGOs and other stakeholders should play vital role for changing life style of people. But recent days such organizations are taken as dollars business and status posting social media. So NGOs have to change their strategies some are listed below

- ) Incentive programs for girls –my daughter my pride
- ) Skill and training and women empowerment program should be done
- ) Involvement of women to prevent child marriage
- ) Awareness programs should be given to the women to change the perception and mindset

## **CHAPTER V**

### **FINDING, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATION**

This chapter presents the major key finding of the study and also it draws conclusion, recommendation to control child marriage.

#### **5.1 Finding**

Child marriage is very common in our country. The practicing of child marriage varies according to region, religion culture, ethnic, class, etc. child marriages were most prevalent among the illiterate and janjati (indigenous ethnic group) and the so called untouchable in the Hindu caste, which is known as dalits. Child marriage creates different consequences in people life style. It is said that most of the effect are seen in the girl's health, education. It has adverse impact on social development.

The study has used primary data collected for the study of socio demographic and economic characteristics and also found out the causes and consequence of child marriage in my study areas. Here household are selected through non probability sampling.

This study had conducted only madeshi dalits community of Chandrapur municipality in ward number 8, Santapur village. Santapur is the formal VDC, which were merge on 18 may 2014 along with Chandranigahapur, VDC, Judibela VDC, Paurai VDC, Dumariya VDC, and formed Chandrapur municipality. This municipality consists of 10 wards and ward number is the biggest ward of Chandrapur municipality. The major finding of the study areas are listed below:

- ) Out of 62 house hold 59.67% of household are joint family and rest of 40.33% are nuclear family. According to respondent now a days due to rise of income they like to live in nuclear family. It means family types are determine through the income level
- ) The average household size of my research areas is 6.93.
- ) Out 430 total population 33.3% of male population comes under the age group 0-14. 64.27% of total male falls under the 15-59 and 2.4 % of male population is above the 60 years. Looking the female age group 40% of total population comes

under the 0-14 age group, similarly 58.16 % of total female population is adult age and only 1.82 percentage of female is 60 years.

- ) Only 33.33 percent of male are educated and looking to the female only 21.35 % are educated. Large number of people doesn't go school in their life and the people who also attend school will leave school in secondary level.
- ) Out of 210, 101 are married male only 96 male knows their marital age . 5 male don't know age in which they married likewise out of 220, 96 knows their marital age and 4 don't know their age in which they got married.
- ) People who are the age more than 60 years have married before 10 years. People who are above 40 and below 40 years have married above 10 years and below 15 likewise people who are the age more than 25 and less than 40 have married ages between 16-19 years.
- ) Only 17.74 % of total household knows the legal age at marriage and 82.26 % don't know the legal age at marriage.
- ) The respondent household doesn't have any private land. They are living in government land by cutting forest.
- ) I found that there were 200 economically active people out of total 86 people are unemployed and rest 114 people are employed..
- ) 52.63% of people are working as a labor.
- ) About 22% of people are engaged in agriculture by taking land in lease from landlords. Likewise 12.28 percent people are in foreign country for employment.
- ) . About 2.63% and 1.38 % of people are engaged in the self-employment and services respectively.
- ) 54 % of family have below 5000 monthly income likewise 22.58% of family comes under the family which have between 5000- 10000 thousand monthly income
- ) 90.32% of total household monthly income is not sufficient for expenditure and they borrow the money from the landlords with high interest.
- ) About 74% of the child marriage took place through the parental and 12 % of marriage takes place through self-decision
- ) Poverty and social norms cultural and religious, high rate of illiteracy, high rate of poverty, pressure of society and relatives, practice of Dowry system, insecurity

and fears of remaining unmarried etc. are the main causes of child marriage on my study area.

- ) Existing vicious circle of poverty, low literacy rate, high number of population growth, negative impact on mother and children health etc. are major consequences of child marriage seen in my research areas.
- ) Recently with helps of Plan Nepal and JansewaBal Club my research areas has become child marriage prohibited area.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

Child marriages have numerous effects on the overall wellbeing of the children who is mentally, psychologically, emotionally and physically not prepared for marital life. Early marriage is very common in the under developing country. Child marriage occurs more frequently among those families, which are least educated, poorer and living in rural areas. Marriage is determined by the socio cultural and traditional value. Caste system of Hindu can be taken as another factor that helps to influence the marriage in Nepal. Looking to the scenario of child marriage in Nepal madeshi dalits community is practicing early marriage. Most of such community are under the poverty line.

I found that more than 52 % of people are working as labor and 22% of people are engaged agriculture and they don't have any land. it means people take land lease from land lords. They do not have any private land and 43 % of economically active people are unemployed. Maximum house hold monthly income is very low and about 9% of household monthly income is sufficient for expenditure. From export view the major causes of child marriage in dalits community were due to lack of awareness, less access to medical ,low knowledge level of education and government policy, people think investment to girls taken as waste of resources, fears of unmarried, higher the education higher dowry and weak law enforcement etc. The consequence of child marriage is also awful in terms of health, education, I found the at most of children are suffered from different health related issues and dropout ratio is also another impact seen from the early child marriage. The rate of population growth is also high in such community so people are facing different lifestyle problems

There, the time comes now to start the campaign to stop child marriage with the strong implementation of laws. For these joint efforts from media, academic civil society, and government should be made.

### 5.3 Recommendations

As we know that child marriage adverse effect physical and mental health of child.

Here are the some recommendations to control the child marriage.

- ) Legislation and enforcement: As we know that government define as child marriage below the 20 years but government couldn't run program effectively to control child marriage. And methods are to promote birth and marriage registration timely.
- ) Open discussion: marriage is regarded as a private subject in their culture. Communication campaigns can help create circumstance in which traditional beliefs about marriage can be explained and discussed.
- ) Increasing children skills, knowledge and participation
- ) Capacity building of families and communities: community level women's organization needs support to act as effective measures to reduce poverty.
- ) Government commitments: zero poverty and ending child marriage are commitments done by the government so government have to enforcement law and implement policy effectively.
- ) Free education up to higher secondary level should be done
- ) NGOs and other organization should run programs, which helps economic status of dalits community.
- ) Reservation according should be given according marginal dalits.
- ) To provide essential free health services for this community.

If above recommended are done properly than child marriage will be control and their economic status of such dalits.





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## Annex- I

### Questionnaire

#### A. Socio-economic demographic information

##### . Socio-demographic information

Name of Respondent:

Caste:

Education:

Occupation:

Religion:

Family types: joint/nuclear:

How many members are there in your family member?

Total number:

S.N.	Name of family member	Sex	Age	Education level	Marital status	Age at marriage	Occupation

A2.Economic information:

1. Do you have land ownership?

a. Yes

b. No

2. If yes, how much land do you have?

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3. What is the main source of your family?

1. Agriculture

2. Service

3. Labor

4. Foreign employment

5. Business

6. Self employed

4. What is the reason for choosing his occupation?

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5. How is your family monthly income?

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6. Is it sufficient for monthly expenditure?

a. Yes

b. No

7. If not sufficient, then how will you manage those requirements?

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s.n	Question	answer
1	At what age do you marry?	a)Husband.....b) Wife.....
	How did you marry?`	a) By parental decision b) Self-decision c) Both d) others
	Do you know the appropriate age for marriage?	a Yes b)No
	If yes at what age marriage	
	When do you plan to marry your son or daughter?	a) Son: At ..... years of age b). Daughter: At ..... years of age
	Do you know about the legal age at marriage in Nepal?	a) Yes b) no
	If yes, what is that age?	
	if children are, married? Why did you organize the marriage of children before the 20 years age ?	causes
	Who are the influencing people to compel for Child marriage in your community?	a) Father b) Mother c) Grand parents d) Boys and girls e) Community members f) Others
	Who do you think has the total right to decide the time and person to marry?	a) Father b) Mother c) Relatives d) Self e) others
	What was the first age during pregnancy?	
	Was there any death of female in your family due to pregnancy or delivery?	a) Yes b) No
	If yes what was the age of that female and when did she die?	a) At what age marry?..... b) At what age death?.....
	Was there any child's death in your family before one year of age?	a) Yes, if yes then what age..... b) No

	What was the cause of child's death?	a)
	What was the age of mother during pregnancy?	
	Were there any cases of miscarriages?	a) Yes, if yes then what was the age of mother?..... b) No
	Do you have any family drop out due to marriage ?	a) Yes if yes then what level he/ she drop out?..... b) No
	Son or daughter drop out	
	Why did he/she drop out school?	a) Forcefully by parents b) Self c) community d) other
	What are the main causes of child marriage	
	Do you think poverty plays vital role in child marriage?	a) yes b) no
	If yes then what vital role it played?	a) b) c) d)
	what are the consequences of child marriage on following sector?	a) Health : b) Education: c) Society:
	Do you think Child marriage Brings problem?	a) Yes b) no
	What problems have you faced because of Child marriage?	
	Do you know any organization working to eradicate Child marriage on your community?	a) yes b) no
	If yes then what are they	
	Did you learn anything regarding Child marriage from those organizations?	a) Yes b) no
	What do you think to adopt the measures to eradicate Child marriage in your community?	

## Annex-III

## Name List of Sampled Household

s.n.	Selected respondent
1	Jagernath Ram
2	Bishonath Ram
3	Dipennarayanpaswn
4	Jayalalpaswan
5	RapendraRaut
6	Sirmiladevi ram
7	Monojpatil
8	Haripaswan
9	Shrabunpaswan
10	Darma raj mahara(chamar)
11	Hulas Ram
12	Pradip ram
13	Takenathraut
14	Ram kali devipaswan
15	Bikaupaswan
16	Gopi ram
17	Sunnainadevi ram
18	Kesworepaswan
19	Hendrapaswan
20	Chandrarikadevipaswan
21	Amirkaladevipaswn
22	Kailshpaswan
23	Rampravishpaswan
24	Binodpaswan
25	Bainaathpaswan
26	Pula devipaswan
27	Pathlayniadevi Ram
28	Madanpaswan
29	Nagendrapaswan
30	Mahesh nath ram
31	Jevenkaladevi ram
32	Rima devipaswan
33	Dipakpaswan
34	Chaita ram
35	Jitukalapaswan

36	Laxmipaswan
37	Ramaesh ram
38	Umeshnathraut
39	Shanttidevi ram
40	Fuladevipaswan
41	Jugulbhatiyapaswan
42	Sunitapaswan
43	Bibekibatiraut
44	Shree ram kumaarpaswan
45	Indrabati ram
46	Kamal kantpaswan
47	Lokeshworedevirautchamar
48	Duladevipaswan
49	Delipatil
50	Arjunpatil
51	Mukeshraut
52	Dheraj ram
53	Namabati ram
54	Nandanipaswan
55	Suresh paswan
56	Bhola ram
57	Indulawapaswan
58	Pachu ram
59	Shakaridevi ram
60	Harendra ram
61	Ronitapatil
62	Primilapaswan



## **Annex-IV**

### **Appendix for KII guidelines**

Name of interviews

Designation

organization

1. What is the general trend of age at marriage in your community?
  - a. Age at marriage for female
  - b. Age at marriage for male
  
2. What was in the past?
  
3. Have you noticed the change in the age for marriage now and then? (Causes/difference)
  
4. What are the causes for it changes?
  
5. What are the reasons behind Child marriage?
  
6. What are the consequences of Child marriage?
  
7. Are there any organizations that are actively contributing in preventing Child marriage?

### Annex-V

	Name of respondent	Designation	Phone number
1	MonojkumarBishokarma	Ward secretary ,8	9845384375
2	Urmilapaswan	Dalits ward member, 8	9821177661
3	Joytiphuyal	Social mobilize	9802980772
4	Dharmendea raj mahara (chamar)	Teacher of primary school	
5	Devenandpaswan	Chairman man of jansewa Nepalbalclub	9811249469
6	Sujatathapa	ANM of heathpost	