



**International journal of basic and applied
research**

www.pragatipublication.com

ISSN 2249-3352 (P) 2278-0505 (E)

Cosmos Impact Factor-5.86

**“PERCEPTION REGARDING CHILD MARRIAGE ON PHYSICAL PSYCHOLOGICAL AND
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AMONG THE ADOLESCENT GIRLS.”**

Prof. Dr. K. Latha

Dean Cum Principal, Narayan Nursing College, Gopal Narayan Singh University, Jamuhar, Sasaram, Rohtas.

Prof. Dr. Shaveta Sharma

Vice Principal, Narayan Nursing College, Gopal Narayan Singh University, Jamuhar, Sasaram, Rohtas.

Anamika, Deepshikha Kumari, Alok Raj, Abhishek Kumar, Riya Singh

B.Sc Nursing 8th Semester Students of Narayan Nursing College, Gopal Narayan Singh University, Jamuhar, Sasaram, Rohtas.

ABSTRACT

Background: - Child marriage is a major public health and social problem that affects the physical, psychological, and reproductive health of adolescent girls. Despite legal restrictions, it continues to be practiced in many rural and socio-economically disadvantaged communities in India. Understanding the perception of adolescent girls regarding child marriage is essential for designing effective prevention strategies.

Objective: - The study aims to measure how adolescent girls understand child marriage based on their socio-demographic characteristics.

Methodology: - The study used a cross-sectional design with a quantitative research approach to conduct its research. The study was conducted in a selected community area of Jamuhar, Rohtas. The researchers used purposive non-random sampling to select 30 adolescent girls who were between 12 and 18 years old. The researchers collected data through a structured questionnaire that included demographic information and a self-developed perception assessment tool. The researchers used descriptive statistics to analyze data which included frequency and percentage and mean and standard deviation and inferential statistics which included Chi-square test.

Results: -The study found that 46.6% of participants demonstrated average understanding of child marriage while 30% showed poor understanding and only 23.3% demonstrated good understanding. The mean perception score of 1.93 showed that respondents had moderate knowledge about the subject. The study found no statistically significant links between perception and demographic factors that included age education religion caste family structure marital status and father education level and occupation and family income ($p > 0.05$).

Conclusion: - The study found that adolescent girls lack sufficient knowledge about how child marriage affects their physical health. The community needs specific awareness programs combined with school education and community programs to raise awareness of child marriage and its prevention methods.



International journal of basic and applied research

www.pragatipublication.com

ISSN 2249-3352 (P) 2278-0505 (E)

Cosmos Impact Factor-5.86

Keywords: - Child marriage, adolescent girls, perception, physical health, psychological health, reproductive health, cross-sectional study

Background

Child marriage is defined as a formal or informal union in which at least one of the parties is below 18 years of age. The practice of child marriage represents a violation of human rights which creates severe public health problems that affect millions of adolescent girls throughout the world. The harmful practice of child marriage takes away from girls their basic rights to education and health and safe protection which puts them at risk of various physical and psychological and reproductive dangers [1].

Adolescence represents an important time when people undergo critical growth because any early marriage disruption of this stage will produce results that last for life. Girls who marry before they reach adulthood will stop attending school and will become parents at an early age while they deal with social exclusion. The multiple dimensions of child marriage create severe problems which need immediate solutions because they affect both their physical health and mental health and reproductive health [2].

The practice of child marriage persists throughout the world as a major problem despite ongoing attempts to decrease its occurrence. The global problem that exists today involves approximately 650 million women and girls who became married before they reached 18 years of age [3].

India holds the distinction of having the second highest number of child brides worldwide which makes it an essential location for international teams who work to eliminate child marriage. In India an estimated 1.5 million girls below 18 years of age enter marriage every year while approximately 16 percent of girls between 15 and 19 years old currently reside in marriage[4].

Need For the Study

Child marriage remains a significant public health issue that affects adolescent girls in developing countries. The practice remains in existence because of social customs and economic hardship and educational shortfalls and gender discrimination despite its legal prohibition. The situation requires immediate research to understand how adolescent girls perceive child marriage and its effects on their health.

Objectives

- The study aims to evaluate how adolescent girls in the Jamuhar community area of Bihar perceive child marriage.
- The study investigates how adolescent girls perceive child marriage based on their demographic characteristics.



**International journal of basic and applied
research**

www.pragatipublication.com

ISSN 2249-3352 (P) 2278-0505 (E)

Cosmos Impact Factor-**5.86**
Methodology

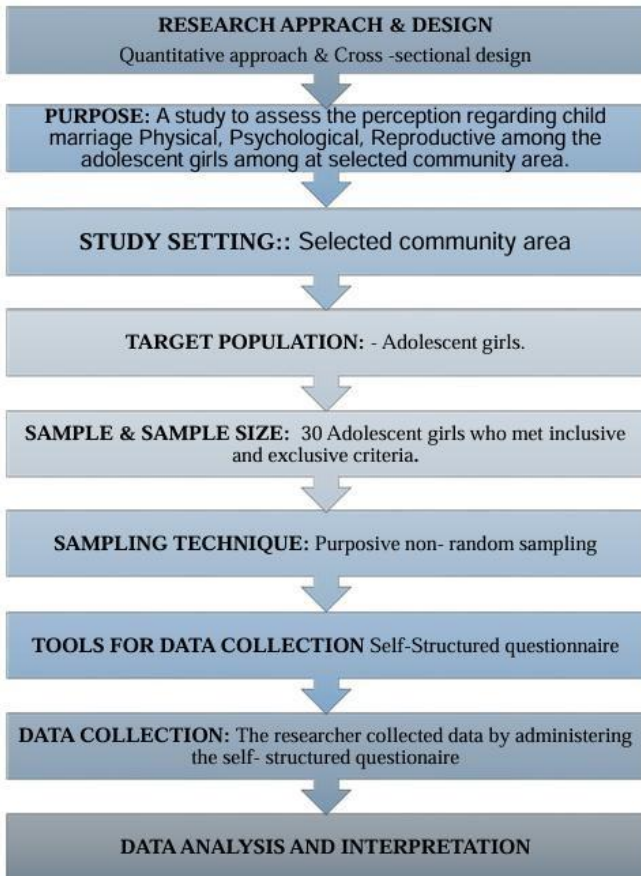


Fig 1 SCHEMATIC REPRESENTATION OF RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Material and methods



International journal of basic and applied research

www.pragatipublication.com

ISSN 2249-3352 (P) 2278-0505 (E)

Cosmos Impact Factor-5.86

Research approach **Quantitative Approach. Research design
Cross-Sectional Design.**

Setting of Study Selected community area in Jamuhar, Rohtas.

Population

All adolescent girls (12–18 years) residing in the selected households.

Samples

The present study has been conducted among girls of age group 13-19 years residing in a selected community. The research encompasses both married and single adolescent females to evaluate the perception about child marriage.

Sampling Technique Purposive non- random Sample Size

The present study examines a sample which includes 30 adolescent girls who belong to the age group of 12 to 18 years. The sample includes both married and unmarried adolescent girls to assess the perception regarding child marriage. The study team chose the sample size because they needed to complete their research within specific time limits and had to work with available participants.

CRITERIA FOR SAMPLE SELECTION:

Inclusion criteria

- Adolescent girls aged 12-18 years.
- Adolescent girls who are married before 18 years of age and unmarried girls for comparison.

Exclusion Criteria

- Adolescent girls who are not available at time of data collection girls who are married at or after 18 years of age
- Adolescent girls who are seriously ill at the time of data collection
- Girls who are not willing to participate in the study.

Description of the tool

Section A: Demographic variables (age, education level, current education status, religion, caste category, family type, marital status, father's education, father's occupation, total family income). Consolidated results

Section B: Self Structured Questionnaire to Assess the Perception about Child Marriage.

Poor perception: 0 to 10%.

Average perception: 11 to 20%

Good perception: 21 to 30 %



Major Finding

Table 1 (Frequency and percentages distribution of the subjects as per their level of perception regarding child marriage.)

S.no	Perception	Frequency	Percentage
1	Poor perception	9	30%
2	Average perception	14	46.6%
3	Good perception	7	23.3%

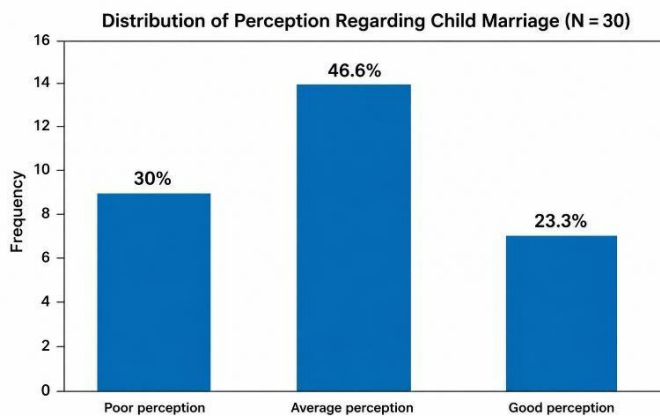


Fig 2: - Frequency distribution of study subject as per their level of perception regarding child marriage

This table 1 shows that the most of respondents 14(46.6%) had perceived average about child marriage, which is the highest among all categories of perception. This suggests that a little under half of the respondents is moderately aware of the consequences of child marriage on the physical, mental and reproductive health aspects. Also 9 (30%) of the respondents had a negative perception, indicating that a significant number of adolescent girls are not well informed or comprehend the negative consequences of child marriage. 0:00/2:15 Posted July 7, 2021 Only 7 respondents (23.3%) out of 30 exhibited good perception, this implies that less than one-fourth the respondents are having adequate knowledge about the issue.

Table 2 (Association between perception of child marriage with selected demographical variable)



International journal of basic and applied research

www.pragatipublication.com

ISSN 2249-3352 (P) 2278-0505 (E)

Cosmos Impact Factor-5.86

DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLE	PERCEPTION						df	X ²	P e	Inference
	Poor		Average		Good					
	f	%	f	%	f	%				
AGE										
10-13 years	0	0	1	3.3	0	0	4	3.21	0.52	Not significant
14-17 years	7	23.3	6	20	5	16.6				
17-18 years	2	6.6	7	23.3	2	6.6				
FATHER OCCUPATION										
Professional degree	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	7.36	0.50	Not significant
Graduate	2	6.6	3	10	4	13.3				
Intermediate	6	20	4	13.3	1	3.3				
High school	0	0	1	3.3	0	0				
Middle	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Primary	0	0	2	6.6	1	3.3				
Illiterate	1	3.3	4	13.3	1	3.3				
FATHER OCCUPATION										
Professional	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	9.12	0.52	Not significant
Semi-professional	1	3.3	2	6.6	1	3.3				
Clerical/Shop/Farm	5	16.6	6	20	2	6.6				
Skilled worker	0	0	2	6.6	3	10				
Semi-skilled	2	6.6	0	0	0	0				
Unskilled	1	3.3	2	6.6	1	3.3				
Unemployed	0	0	2	6.6	2	6.6				
TOTAL INCOME (in rupees)										
10,000-20,000	2	6.6	5	16.6	0	0	6	6.84	0.33	Not significant
21,000-30,000	3	10	5	16.6	1	3.3				
31,000-40,000	4	13.3	3	10	4	13.3				
41,000-50,000	0	0	1	3.3	2	6.6				
EDUCATION STATUS										
Never attended school	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	4.87	0.77	Not significant
Primary	5	16.6	5	16.6	4	13.3				
Middle	1	3.3	2	6.6	1	3.3				
Secondary	3	10	6	20	1	3.3				
Senior secondary	0	0	1	3.3	1	3.3				
CURRENT SCHOOLING										
Current study	8	26	9	30	6	20	4	2.96	0.56	Not significant
Dropped out	1	3.3	4	13.3	1	3.3				
Complete schooling	0	0	1	3.3	0	0				
RELIGION										
Hindu	8	26	1	40	5	16.6	2	1.42	0.49	Not significant
Muslim	1	3.3	2	6.6	2	6.6				
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0				
CASTE CATEGORY										
General	3	10	4	13.3	1	3.3	6	6.18	0.40	Not significant
OBC	5	16.6	6	20	4	13.3				
SC	0	0	4	13.3	2	6.6				
ST	1	3.3	0	0	0	0				
TYPE OF FAMILY										
Nuclear	4	13.3	6	20	4	13.3	4	2.88	0.57	Not significant
Joint	5	16.6	7	23.3	2	6.6				
Extended	0	0	1	3.3	1	3.3				
MARITAL STATUS										
Married	3	10	1	3.3	5	16.6	2	4.92	0.08	Not significant
Unmarried	6	20	4	13.3	2	6.6				
FATHER EDUCATION										



International journal of basic and applied research

www.pragatipublication.com

ISSN 2249-3352 (P) 2278-0505 (E)

Cosmos Impact Factor-5.86

Table 2 shows prevalences and odds ratios for the association between some demographic characteristics and the perception

level of child marriage on its effect on the physical, mental and social, and reproductive health of adolescent girls.

In terms of age, most respondents were in the 14–17 years age group, with poor, average and good perception rates of 23.3%, 20% and 16.6%, respectively. The Chi-square statistic ($\chi^2 = 3.21$, $df = 4$) at p-value of 0.52 suggests that age and perception are not significantly related.

For education, most of the subjects were primary and secondary educated. But the χ^2 (chi-square) value ($\chi^2 = 4.87$, $df = 8$, $p = 0.77$) reveals that the level of education has no statistically significant effect for the child's perception on child marriage.

As for their present schooling status, most of the respondents were pursuing their studies; proponents of poor, average and good perception were 26%, 30% and 20% respectively. The association was statistically non-significant ($\chi^2 = 2.96$, $df = 4$, $p = 0.56$).

With regard to religion, majority of the participants were Hindus and there was no significant relation found between religion and level of perception ($\chi^2 = 1.42$, $df = 2$, $p = 0.49$).

In case of caste, majority were OBC. However, the Chi-square test ($\chi^2 = 6.18$, $df = 6$, $p = 0.40$) shows no statistically significant relation between caste and perception.

In terms of family type, majority of the respondents were from joint family and no significant relationship was found between family type and perception ($\chi^2 = 2.88$, $df = 4$, $p = 0.57$).

As far as marital status is concerned, married adolescents had a better perception (33.3 %). Although the Chi-square value ($\chi^2 = 4.92$, $df = 2$, $p = 0.08$) is just above the significance level, it is still non-significant at the 0.05 level.

In relation to father's education, the majority of fathers were of intermediate education. The Chi-square test value ($\chi^2 = 7.36$, $df = 8$, $p = 0.50$) suggests that there is no statistically significant link between father's education and perception.

As for father's profession, most were clerk/shop/farm workers. But there was no significant association ($\chi^2 = 9.12$, $df = 10$, $p = 0.52$).

Lastly, as far as family monthly income was concerned, most of the participants fall under the group of INR 31,000–40,000. The Chi-square test ($\chi^2 = 6.84$, $df = 6$, $p = 0.33$) indicates that income is not significantly related to levels of perception.

Discussion

Objective 1:

Jewel Gausman (2024) evaluated the potential implications for India in achieving Sustainable Development Goal target 5.3, in which the elimination of child marriage is a key component. This cross-sectional study utilized data from five rounds



International journal of basic and applied research

www.pragatipublication.com

ISSN 2249-3352 (P) 2278-0505 (E)

Cosmos Impact Factor-5.86

of the National Family Health Surveys conducted in 1993, 1999, 2006, 2016, and 2021. The study found that child marriage declined significantly from 1993 to 2021. The all-India prevalence of child marriage among girls decreased from 49.4% (95% CI 48.1–50.8) in 1993 to 22.3% (21.9–22.7) in

2021. Male child marriage also declined from 7.1% in 2006 to 2.2% in 2021. The findings of the present study are similar to the currently conducted study, which also shows that the prevalence of child marriage is declining [5].

Objective 2:

Deepali Godha et al. (2013) conducted a study titled Association Between Child Marriage and Reproductive Health Outcomes and Service Utilization: A Multi-Country Study from South Asia. Child marriage has long been prevalent and adversely affects reproductive outcomes; however, empirical research on the subject remains limited, making it difficult to improve adolescent health programs effectively. The study was based on data from the latest Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) conducted in selected South Asian countries. The findings demonstrated that child marriage was strongly associated with rapid repeat childbirth, current use of modern contraceptives, female sterilization, non-use of contraceptives before first childbirth, pregnancy termination, unintended pregnancy, and underutilization of maternal health services .

No significant association was found in the present study regarding perception toward child marriage ($p > 0.05$). The present study results revealed that respondents' perceptions toward child marriage were not statistically significant [6].

Ayako Kohno (2021) conducted a study titled Development of Early Marriage Attitude Scale: A Multidimensional Scale for the Attitudes Toward Child Marriage. The purpose of the study was to develop an instrument for female adolescents in Malaysia to assess their attitudes toward child marriage. The scale was developed in four phases: item generation, expert review, translation, and pretesting. A pretest involving 30 female adolescents in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, was conducted to assess language appropriateness and validity of the scale. The findings confirmed the adequacy of the items, and the Early Marriage Attitude Scale (EMAS) was developed to measure adolescents' attitudes toward child marriage. The present study similarly used socio-demographic variables and a self-structured questionnaire for data analysis. The results showed that there was no statistically significant correlation regarding perception toward child marriage [7].

IMPLICATION OF THE STUDY

The following were the conclusions the investigator had drawn from the study, which should be of interest to nursing practice, nursing education, community health, government and policy, and further research.

Nursing Practice (Healthcare)

Nurses are well positioned to contribute to the prevention of child marriage by delivering health education on its damaging physical, mental, and social ramifications. They should also hold awareness programs in schools and communities for the benefit of adolescents, parents and the general public.

Education in Nursing

Topics on child marriage, adolescent health and reproductive health should be part of nursing curriculum. It would be



International journal of basic and applied research

www.pragatipublication.com

ISSN 2249-3352 (P) 2278-0505 (E)

Cosmos Impact Factor-5.86

beneficial to motivate student nurses to get involved in community's sensitization such as to enhance community awareness and prevention.

Health of the Community

Child marriage: Community health workers there should be awareness campaigns that educate girls, boys and parents as well as community leaders about the consequences of child marriage. They should advocate for girls' education, and discourage dropping out of schooling and early marriage

Further Research:

A larger sample size can be considered for future study to obtain more dependable result. Studies comparing rural and urban areas may reveal variations in the perception and prevalence of child marriage. Interventional researches can also be performed to assess the efficacy of awareness and educative initiatives in preventing child marriage.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The study underlines that there is a need to sensitize adolescents about the negative impacts of child marriage on physical, mental and reproductive health.
- The study underscores the importance of periodic counselling services within schools to deal with the mental health concerns of adolescent girls who have been victims of child marriage
- The study recommends promoting cooperation among pediatricians, teachers and social workers to tackle child marriage in comprehensive fashion.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of results obtained, the following conclusions were formulated:

Most of the adolescent girls have moderate perception, which means they do not have complete awareness about the ill effects of child marriage. A noteworthy 30% percentage possessing poor perception. Very few respondents are well aware about physical, psychological and reproductive health related consequences. Early child marriage poses a greater threat, that was evident, as 30% of the respondents were married. There was no significant relationship between perception and demographics indicating that awareness insufficiency is common in all demographic groups.

REFERENCES

1. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); 2021. Child marriage: Latest trends and future prospects. New York: UNICEF.
2. World Health Organization 2020. Adolescent health. Geneva: WHO.
3. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Child marriage. New York: UNICEF; 2023. Available from: <https://www.unicef.org/protection/child-marriage>.



**International journal of basic and applied
research**

www.pragatipublication.com

ISSN 2249-3352 (P) 2278-0505 (E)

Cosmos Impact Factor-**5.86**

4. International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) 2017, ICF. National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4).
5. Jewel Gausman, 2024 ScD Prevalence of girl and boy child marriage across states and Union Territories in India, 1993–2021: a repeated cross-sectional study DOI: 10.1016/S2214-109X (23)00470-9
6. Deepali Godha, David R. Hotchkiss, Anastasia J. Gage 2013, Association Between Child Marriage and Reproductive Health Outcomes and Service Utilization: A Multi-Country Study from South Asia, Journal of Adolescent Health, Volume 52, Issue 5, Pages 552-558, ISSN 1054-139X, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth>.
7. Kohno A, Techasrivichien T, Suguimoto SP, Dahlui M. Development of Early Marriage Attitude Scale (EMAS): A multidimensional scale for measuring attitudes toward child marriage among female adolescents in Malaysia. BMC Public Health 2021;21:1736. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-021-11742-9>