

# Factors and Consequences of Early Marriage among Women of Tharu Community, Chitwan

Janaki Mahato<sup>1</sup>, Basanta Thapa<sup>2</sup>, Mina Kumari Ranabhat<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Lecturer, Shree Medical and Technical College

<sup>2</sup>Associate Professor, Chitwan Medical College, School of Nursing

<sup>3</sup>Nursing Officer, BP Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital

**Abstract:** Early marriage is common all over the global and has inflicted dangerous and devastating effects on young children who are completed to tie the knot in most cases. The study aimed at finding out the factors and consequences of early marriage among women. A descriptive cross-sectional study design was carried out among 172 women at Tharu Community Bharatpur Metropolitan-22, Chitwan. Probability, simple random sampling technique was used. Data was collected by using semi-structured interview schedule. Analysis was done by using descriptive and inferential statistics. Study findings revealed that 79.7% of the respondents got early marriage. Early marriage was statistically association with involvement in farming at the time of marriage ( $p=0.011$ ), awareness about legal age of marriage ( $p=0.017$ ), awareness about consequences of early marriage ( $p=0.009$ ), educational status of father ( $p=0.045$ ) and insufficient parental income at the time of marriage ( $p=0.002$ ), husband's occupation ( $p=0.027$ ). Multivariate analysis showed that insufficient parental income at time of marriage was 5.1 times more likely to marry early. Consequences of early marriage were early pregnancy (64.0%), unplanned pregnancy (73.1%), increase responsibility (85.5%) and economic dependent (85.5%). Therefore, it is concluded that more than three fourth of the respondents were married early which lead to many consequences.

**Keywords:** Factors, Consequences, Women, Early Marriage, Nepal

## 1. Introduction

Early marriage is a global epidemic, one that affects tens of millions of girls worldwide although the Universal Declaration of Human Rights specifies that individuals must enter marriage freely with full consent and must be at full age. One-third of girls in the developing world are married before the age of 18. One in nine are married before the age of 15. Across the globe, rates of child marriage are highest in South Asia, where nearly half of all girls marry before age 18; about one in six were married or in union before age 15. This is followed by West and Central Africa and Eastern and Southern Africa, where 42% and 37%, respectively, of women between the ages of 20 and 24 were married in childhood. However, while the largest numbers of child brides are in South Asia due to sheer population size, the countries with the highest prevalence of child marriage are concentrated in Western and Sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>[1]</sup>

Child Marriage is defined as a marriage of a girl or boy before the age of 18 and refers to both formal marriages and informal unions in which children under the age of 18 live with a partner as if married. Child marriage affects both girls and boys, but it affects girls disproportionately, especially in South Asia.<sup>[2]</sup> The legal age of marriage in Nepal is 20 years for both men and women. The law states that punishment for child marriage is imprisonment for up to three years and a fine of up to 10,000 rupees.<sup>[3]</sup> Early marriage in Nepal is considered a major barrier to the nation's social and economic development, as well as a major women's health concern.<sup>[4]</sup>

The prevalence of early marriage is varies-56% in South Asia, 46% in West and Central Africa, 38% in Eastern and Southern Africa, 30% in Latin America and The Caribbean, 24% in Middle East and North Africa, 21% in East Asia and The Pacific and 14% in Central and Eastern Europe and the

Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS). Countries within this region that are big contributors to young girls marrying include Bangladesh (52%), India (47%), Nepal (37%), and Afghanistan (33%).<sup>[5]</sup>

Nepal has one of the highest rates of child marriage in Asia – for both girls and boys. Although the legal age of unions for both sexes is 20, more than a third of young women aged 20-24 report that they were married by the age of 18, and just over one in ten by 15. Nepali boys are among the most likely in the world to be child grooms. More than one in ten is married before they reach 18. Child marriage is a human rights violation, restricting children's choices, changing their course in life, and putting them at significant risk of abuse and violence. A UNICEF study found that one in three married girls in Nepal had been subjected to sexual violence by their husbands, while one in six reported physical violence.<sup>[6]</sup>

The median age at first marriage in Nepal is 17.9 years among women and 21.7 years among men age 25-49. Thus, women in Nepal marry about 4 years earlier than men. Among women age 25-49, 13% were married by age 15, while only 3% of men married that young. Fifty two percent of women were married by age 18, as compared with 19% of men. Seventy-one percent of women age 25-49 were married by age 20, far higher than the 38% of men who were married by that age. There is evidence of a trend away from very early marriage among women. For example, the proportion of women who were married by age 15 was 16% among those age 45-49 but only 4% among those age 15-19. The proportion of women age 15-19 who were married by age 15 declined by 10 percentage points from 1996 (14%) to 2016 (4%).<sup>[7]</sup>

Almost 69.3% of women were married before 18 years of age in Morang District Nepal. Prevalence of child marriage

Volume 8 Issue 7, July 2019

[www.ijsr.net](http://www.ijsr.net)

Licensed Under Creative Commons Attribution CC BY

was lower in Hindu (68.9%) than in Christian and Muslim women (85.7%) but the difference was not significant. Education of wife and husband, and economic status was found to be the important variables in explaining early age marriage ( $P < 0.001$ ). It was also seen that unplanned pregnancy was higher (70.6%) in early age marriage than planned pregnancies (68.3%) but the difference was not significant.<sup>[8]</sup>

Poverty, lack of access to education, child labor, social pressures, lack of access to family planning information and contraceptive supplies, harmful practices including dowry and beliefs about menstruation and virginity typically drive child marriage in Nepal. Many people in Nepal draw a distinction between arranged marriages and love marriages, based on whether the spouse is chosen by the parents or by the child or children. When it comes to the effect on the child, however, as well as the factors driving the marriage, this distinction is often irrelevant.<sup>[9]</sup>

The reasons behind child marriage in Nepal are complex. Poverty, the low value attached to daughters, and lack of access to education are contributory factors, while the caste system and patriarchal culture similarly play a role. It increasingly appears that teenagers are choosing their own partners and may even elope. In some cases, parents encourage adolescents to initiate their own marriage to avoid the high costs associated with dowry or wedding.<sup>[10]</sup> Adolescents may also choose to elope as sexual expression outside of marriage is not acceptable,<sup>[11]</sup> to avoid forced or arranged marriage or to escape from difficulties at home.<sup>[12]</sup>

Uterine prolapse and obstetric fistula are major examples of maternal morbidity in Nepal. Early pregnancy and child bearing also increases maternal and child mortality rates, constituting a threat to both mothers and newborns. Adolescent mothers in general but particularly those from rural areas are at a disproportionate risk of either infant or maternal mortality due to hemorrhage and obstructed labors. Maternal mortality is strongly associated with the age of mother and early conception and marriage takes more lives than people in Nepal. In terms of whose mothers haven't reached the age of 18 have a 35 to 55 per cent higher risk of being pre-term or underweight than older mothers' infants. Young girls are pressured to bear children as soon as they are married off, but infant mortality rates are 60 per cent higher if the mother is below 18. Even if the children survive their first year, they still have a 28 per cent higher mortality rate before they reach the age of five than children born to older mothers.<sup>[13]</sup> Recent evidence argues that early marriage can be associated with adverse consequences not only for teenage girls but also for children they bear.<sup>[14]</sup> High rates of unintended pregnancy, abortion, preterm labor, delivery of low birth weight babies, and fetal and maternal mortality are observed among teenage girls and are strongly correlated with early marriage.<sup>[15]</sup> WHO reports that 29 percent of all ever-partnered teenage girls experience intimate partner violence.

In 2016 the Government of Nepal launched the National Strategy to end child marriage, with support from UNICEF and other partners. The plan aims to end child marriage by 2030, with particular focus on the most-affected districts. It has six strategies: empower girls (including economic

empowerment), provide quality education for girls, engage men and boys, mobilize families and communities to change social norms, strengthen and provide services, implement laws and policies.<sup>[16]</sup>

## 2. Materials and Methods

Descriptive, cross-sectional study design was used and was carried out in Bharatpur -Metropolitan 22, Chitwan, Nepal. This metropolitan was established in 2017 AD with 29 wards. It is situated in Narayani Zone, 13 km South West from District Headquarter Bharatpur. There were 300 houses and 1200 total population of Tharu, an indigenous ethnic group who have lived in the lowlands of Nepal.<sup>[16]</sup> For this study, population were married Tharu women of reproductive age (15-49) residing in Bharatpur Metropolitan 22. According to the voter list 2074, there were a total of 266 married reproductive age women were residing in that setting. This setting was chosen by researcher because of the high prevalence of early marriage in Tharu community of this area.

Bharatpur Metropolitan 22 was selected purposively due to high prevalence of early marriage especially in Tharu community. Sampling frame (266) was taken from voter list of 2074 from ward office of Bharatpur Metropolitan 22 and by local leader. Simple random sampling technique was used. 172 married women of reproductive age were selected by random selection of sample from sampling frame (266) through computer programme named Microsoft Office Excel, 2007. After selecting sample list was made, showing sample from the population and identified sample with the help of local leader. First sample was taken from the household of the respondent near to Health Post.

Ethical clearance was taken from Chitwan Medical College Institutional Review Committee (CMC- IRC). Formal permission was taken from ward office of Bharatpur Metropolitan-22. Verbal consent was obtained from each respondent by introducing and clarifying the purpose of the study prior to the data collection. Respondent's dignity was maintained by giving right to reject from the study at any time. Confidentiality was maintained by not disclosing the information to anyone except for research purpose. Data was collected from 29/06/2017 to 29/07/2017 from house hold survey according to respondent's convenience time in the day time by using a semi-structured interview schedule. In a day 7 – 8 respondents were interviewed and about 25- 30 minutes was taken to collect data from each respondent. Entire study period was from 14/05/2017 to 01/09/2017. All collected data was reviewed and checked for completeness, consistency and accuracy. Coded data was entered in EPI data 3.1. The entered data was exported into IBM SPSS version 20. Data was analyzed by using descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation). Inferential statistic (Chi-square test was done to test the association between different variables). Bivariate and multivariate analysis was done to see the association between outcome variables less or equal to 5% level of significance. Odds ratio with 95% Confidence Interval was calculated during bivariate and multivariate analysis. Multivariate analysis was carried out for those variables

which were significant at 95% confidence level through binary logistic regression and were adjusted for possible confounders.

### 3. Results

**Table 1:** Socio-demographic Characteristics of the Respondents, n=172

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Age</b>		
< 20 years	9	5.2
20-30 years	70	40.7
>30 years	93	54.1
<i>Mean <math>\pm</math>SD: 33.10 <math>\pm</math> 8.17 min=16, max= 49</i>		
<b>Religion</b>		
Hindu	152	88.4
Buddhist	4	2.3
Christian	16	9.3
<b>Type of family</b>		
Nuclear	84	48.8
Joint	88	51.2
<b>Educational status</b>		
Cannot read and write	9	5.2
Literate	163	94.76
<b>If literate, educational level (n=163)</b>		
Adult education	61	37.4
Basic education	56	34.4
Secondary education	35	21.5
Higher education and above	11	6.7
<b>Occupation</b>		
Farmer	111	64.6
House hold work	31	18.0
Business	15	8.7
Labour	11	6.4
Service	4	2.3
<b>Have sufficient family income (per year)</b>	136	79.1

Table 1 reveals the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents. Among 172 married women, 5.2% belongs to the age below 20, 88.4% were Hindu, 51.2% belongs to joint family, 94.76% were literate and among literate 37.4% had adult education, 64.6% of respondents were farmer and 79.1% of the respondents had sufficient income for their family.

**Table 2:** Personal Factors of Early Marriage of Respondents at the Time of Marriage, n=172

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Educational status</b>		
Cannot read and write	9	5.3
Literate	163	94.76
<b>If literate, educational level (n=163)</b>		
Adult education	61	37.4
Basic education	56	34.4
Secondary education	35	21.5
Higher education and above	11	6.7
<b>Occupation</b>		
Farmer	61	35.5
Student	54	31.4
House hold work	26	14.5
Business	17	9.9
Labour	14	8.7
<b>Were aware about legal age of marriage</b>	94	51.7
<b>If yes, the legal age of marriage (n=94)</b>		
Less than 20 years	24	25.5

20 years and above	70	74.5
<b>Were aware about consequences of early marriage</b>	96	55.8
<b>Type of marriage</b>		
Arrange marriage	89	51.7
Love marriage	67	39.0
Love plus arrange marriage	13	7.6
Flying/eloped marriage	3	1.7
<b>Number of siblings</b>		
Less than 3	34	19.8
4 to 6	108	62.8
7 and above	30	17.4
<b>Place of residence</b>		
Municipality	9	5.2
Village Development Committee	163	94.8

Table 2 shows that the most of respondents (94.76%) were literate at the time of marriage. Among them, 37.4% had received adult education, 35.5% were farmer, 51.7% were aware about legal age of marriage and among them 74.5% of the respondents responded that legal age of marriage is 20 years and above, 55.8% were aware about the effects of early marriage. In regards to type of marriage, 51.7% got arranged marriage, 62.8% of the respondents had 4 to 6 siblings and 94.8% were resided in village development committee at the time of marriage.

**Table 3:** Parental and Husband Factors of Early Marriage at Time of Marriage, n=172

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Educational status of father</b>		
Cannot read and write	78	45.5
Literate	94	54.5
<b>If literate, educational level (n=94)</b>		
Adult education	32	34.0
Basic education	53	56.4
Secondary education	7	7.4
Higher education and above	2	2.2
<b>Father's occupation</b>		
Farmer	110	64.0
Service	30	17.4
Business	13	7.6
Foreign employment	4	2.3
Labour	15	8.7
<b>Educational status of mother</b>		
Cannot read and write	108	62.9
Literate	64	37.1
<b>If literate, educational level (n=64)</b>		
Adult education	56	87.5
Basic education	8	12.5
<b>Mother's occupation</b>		
Household work	15	8.7
Farmer	136	79.2
Business	4	2.3
Service	2	1.1
Labour	15	8.7
<b>Parental Income sufficient</b>		
Yes	115	66.6
No	57	33.4
<b>Parents' relationship</b>		
Harmonious	162	94.2
Conflict	10	5.8
<b>Husband's educational status</b>		
Cannot read and write	11	6.4
Literate	161	93.6
<b>If literate, husband's educational level (n=161)</b>		



Adult education	8	4.9
Basic education	80	49.7
Secondary education	64	39.8
Higher and above	9	5.6
<b>Husband's occupation</b>		
Farmer	55	32.0
Service	46	26.7
Foreign employment	36	20.9
Labour	17	9.9
Business	12	7.0
Student	6	3.5

Table 3 illustrates respondents' parental factors of early marriage at time of marriage. Regarding educational status of father, 54.5% were literate and among them, 56.4% had basic education. Likewise, 64% fathers were farmer. Similarly, 62.9% mothers were and among them 87.5% had adult education. Regarding mothers occupation 79.2% were farmer. Likewise, 66.6% income was sufficient for their family within in year and 94.2% parent's relationship was harmonious at the time of marriage. And 93.6% of the husbands were literate among them 49.7% had received basic education and 31.1% of them were involved in agriculture at the time of marriage.

**Table 4:** Status of Marriage of Respondents, n=172

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Early marriage (<20years)	136	79.7
Late marriage (≥20years)	36	20.3

Mean  $\pm$  SD 17.58  $\pm$  3.15 min = 13, max = 29

Table 4 shows status of marriage of respondents. Out of 172 respondents, 79.7% were married before the age of 20 whereas 20.3% were married at the age of 20 and above years.

**Table 5:** Consequences of Early Marriage

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Obstetrical Consequences (n=160)</b>		
Early pregnancy	110	64.00
Unplanned Pregnancy	117	73.1
Abortion	31	19.4
Caesarean delivery	10	6.2
Prolong labor	15	9.4
Fits(convulsion)	2	1.2
Heavy vaginal bleeding	10	6.2
<b>Gynecological Consequences (n=172)</b>		
Stress incontinence of urine	22	12.8
Lower abdominal pain	41	23.8
Vaginal discharge	39	22.7
Genital itching	21	12.2
Uterine prolapsed	6	3.5
<b>Social Consequences (n=172)</b>		
Adjustment problems faced	11	6.4
Increased responsibility	162	94.2
Economic dependent	147	85.5
Poor decision-making power	44	25.6
Drop out from school (n=163)	163	100.0
Domestic violence	25	14.5

Table 5 shows that 64.0% had early pregnancy, 73.1% of respondents did not have planned pregnancy, 19.4% had abortion, 6.2% had C/S deliver, 9.4% had prolong labor, 1.2 % had fits (convulsion) and 6.2% had heavy vaginal bleeding. Regarding the gynecological consequences of early marriage, 12.8% of the respondents had stress

incontinence of urine, 23.8% had lower abdominal pain, 22.7% had vaginal discharge, 12.2% had genital itching and 3.5% had uterine prolapsed. Regarding social consequences of early marriage, 6.4% had adjustment problems, 94.2% of respondents responded the increased responsibilities, 85.5% were economically dependent, 25.6% had poor decision-making power and 14.4% faced domestic violence.

**Table 6:** Association between Early Marriage and Personal Factors of Respondents at Age of Marriage

Variables	Early Marriage		$\chi^2$	p-value
	Yes No. (%)	No No. (%)		
Educational status at the time of marriage				
Cannot read and write	8(88.9%)	1(11.1)	0.104	0.747¥
Literate	128(78.5)	35(21.5)		
If literate, educational level (n=163)			0.86	0.335
Adult education	45 (76)	14 (23.7)		
Basic education	45 (78.9)	12 (21.1)		
Secondary education and above	38(80.9)	9(19.1)		
Occupation at marriage				
Farmer	76(88.4)	10(11.6)	9.025	0.011
Student	38(70.4)	16(29.6)		
Others	22(68.8)	10(31.2)		
Aware about legal age of marriage				
Yes	64(71.9)	25(28.1)	5.713	0.017
No	72(86.7)	11(13.3)		
Aware about consequences of early marriage				
Yes	69(71.9)	27(28.0)	6.796	0.009
No	67(88.2)	9(11.8)		
Type of marriage				
Arrange marriage	71(79.8)	18(20.2)	0.055	0.814
Non arrange marriage	65(78.3)	18(21.7)		

Significance level at 0.05

<sup>¥</sup>Yates Correction

\*Likelihood Ratio,

Other occupation: house hold work, business, labour

Non- arrange marriage-Love marriage, love pulse arrange marriage, eloped marriage.

The table 6 shows the association between early marriage and personal factors. Early marriage had significant association with occupation at the time of marriage (p=0.011), aware about legal age of marriage (p=0.017), awareness about consequences of early marriage (p=0.009).

**Table 7:** Association between Early Marriage and Parents/Husband related Factors at Age of Marriage

Variables	Early Marriage		$\chi^2$	p-value
	Yes No. (%)	No No. (%)		
<b>Educational status of father</b>			4.020	0.045
Cannot read and write	67(85.9)	11(14.1)		
Literate	69(73.4)	25(26.6)		
<b>Educational status of mother</b>			1.954	0.162
Cannot read and write	89(82.4)	19(17.6)		
Literate	47(73.4)	17(26.6)		
<b>Fathers' occupation</b>			0.000	0.993
Farmer	87(79.1)	23(20.9)		
Non farmer	49(79.0)	13(21.0)		
<b>Mother's occupation</b>			2.748	0.097 <sup>¥</sup>
Farmer	116(76.8)	35(23.2)		
Non farmer	20(95.2)	1(20.9)		
<b>Parental Income sufficient</b>			9.971	0.002
Yes	83(72.2)	32(27.8)		

No	53(93.0)	4(7.0)		
<b>Parent's relationship</b>				
Harmonious	127(78.4)	35 (21.6)	0.226	0.635 <sup>¥</sup>
Conflict	9(90.0)	1(10.0)		
<b>Husband's educational status</b>				
Cannot read and write	10(90.9)	1(9.1)	0.378	0.539 <sup>¥</sup>
Literate	126(78.3)	35(21.5)		
<b>Husband's occupation</b>				
Farmer	49(81.1)	6(10.9)	4.906	0.027
Non farmer	87(74.4)	30(25.6)		

\*Likelihood Ratio

¥Yates Correction

Significance level at 0.05

Fathers' occupation others: services, business, and foreign employment, labour.

Mothers' occupation others: house wife, business, and services, labour.

Non-farmer-Services, foreign employment, labour, business, and student

The table 7 shows that there is significant association between early marriage and educational status of father ( $p=0.045$ ) and parental income sufficient at time of marriage ( $p=0.002$ ). Early marriage was significantly associated with husband's occupation ( $p=0.027$ ).

**Table 8:** Multivariate Analysis of Factors Associated with Early Marriage

Factors	Unadjusted OR (95% CI)	Adjusted OR (95% CI)	p-value
<b>Occupation at marriage</b>			
Farmer	3.455 (1.275-9.360)	2.687 (0.767-9.407)	0.122
Student	1.080 (0.418-2.788)	1.456(0.459-4.626)	0.0524
Others <sup>a</sup>	1	1	
<b>Aware about legal age of marriage</b>			
Yes	1	1	
No	2.600 (1.165-5.804)	0.668(0.184-2.423)	0.540
<b>Aware about consequences of early marriage</b>			
Yes	1	1	
No	2.913 (1.275-6.653)	1.719(0.446-6.33)	0.431
<b>Educational status of father</b>			
Cannot read and write	2.207 (1.007-4.837)	1.037 (0.384-2.800)	0.943
Literate	1	1	
<b>Parental Income sufficient at time of marriage</b>			
Yes	1	1	
No	5.108 (1.709-15.27)	4.222(1.019-16.331)	0.037
<b>Husband's occupation</b>			
Farmer	2.816 (1.096-7.237)	2.286(0.675-7.747)	0.184
Non farmer	1	1	

Cox & Snell R Square = 0.092; Nagelkerke R Square = 0.155; -2 log Likelihood = 136.317; Hosmer and Lemeshow Test:  $\chi^2 = 8.095$ ;  $p$ -value = 0.324; 1-Reference group Significance at 95% CI, OR = Odd Ratio, CI = Confidence Interval; <sup>a</sup> labour, household work, business and students; service, foreign employment, labour and students

Table 8 reveals that multivariate logistic regression analysis of factors associated with early marriage. Among the different factors, sufficient parental income was found to be the major factor for early marriage among the respondents. This study found that respondents whose parents' income was not sufficient at the time of marriage were 4.2 times more likely to marry early as compared to those whose parental income was sufficient.

#### 4. Discussion

In this study, 79.7% of women got marriage before the age of 20 years. The study conducted by Sah et al. (2014) in Dhankuta Nepal showed that 53.3% of women were married before 18 years of age. [17] and 59% of adolescent girls in Bangladesh were married before the age of 18 years. [18] This shows that prevalence of early marriage is high in our Nepal. In this study, early marriage was statistically association with occupation at the time of marriage ( $p=0.011$ ). The respondents who involved in farming at the time of marriage were 3.4 times (OR=3.4, 95% CI: 1.275- 9.360) more likely to have early marriage as compared to non-farmer. However, none of the study reported the association between early marriage and occupation of the respondents.

Early marriage was also statistically association with awareness about legal age of marriage ( $p=0.017$ ). The respondents who were not aware the legal age of marriage at the time of marriage were 2.6 times (OR=2.6, 95% CI: 1.165-85.808) more likely to have early marriage as compared to respondents who were aware about that. This finding is supported by a study conducted in Ethiopia shows that those who did not know the legal marital age were 12 times more likely to practice early marriage compared to parents who know the legal marital age (95% C.I: 6.5, 23). [19]

Early marriage was also statistically association with awareness about the consequences of early marriage ( $p=0.009$ ). The present study depicted that respondents who were unaware about the consequences of early marriage were 2.9 times (OR=2.9, 95% CI: 1.275-6.653) more likely to have early marriage which indicates that awareness about consequences of early marriage depend on the decision of marriage. However, no study as per researcher knowledge observed the association between early marriage and the respondents' awareness regarding the consequences of early marriage.

The finding of the study showed that the respondents whose parent annual income were not sufficient to support their family at the time of marriage were 5.1 times (OR=5.1, 95% CI: 1.7-15.271) more likely to have early marriage as compared to those respondents' whose parental income was sufficient to support their family. This finding is consistent with the study conducted in Ethiopia which shows that Families with monthly income of ranging 451 -650 were 2.5 times more likely to practice early marriage compared to those having monthly income of more than eight hundred (95% CI: 1.2, 4.97). [19]

In this study, respondents whose fathers were unable to read and write had 2.2 times (OR=2.207, 95% CI: 1.007-4.837) more likely to have early marriage as compared to respondents whose father was literate. Similar finding was reported in the study conducted in Bangladesh by Nasrin and Rahman (2012) where fathers with secondary education and higher education had 35% more tendency to do late marriage of their daughters. This finding indicates that respondents' fathers' education is one of the factors of early marriage. [20]

In this study, respondents whose husband involved in farmer at the time of marriage were 2.8 times (OR=2.8, 95% CI: 1.096-7.237) more likely to have early marriage than the respondents whose husband involved in another occupation. But in this study, husbands' education at the time of marriage was not associated with early marriage of the respondents. However, study conducted by Nasrin and Rahman (2012) in Bangladesh showed the significant association between husbands' education and practice of early marriage. The discrepancy in finding might be due to different age criteria of early marriage, sample size and sampling technique.<sup>[20]</sup>

In this study, 64% had pregnancy before the age of 20 years, 73.1% had unplanned pregnancy, 6.2% had abortion, 8.7% had short birth spacing, 6.2% had C/S delivery, 9.4% had prolong labor, 1.2% had fits during pregnancy. Similar finding is reported (70.6% unplanned pregnancy) in the study conducted by Sah et al. (2014) in Nepal.<sup>[17]</sup>

In this study, 94.2% reported increased responsibilities, 85.5% were economically dependent, 25.6% had poor decision-making power and 14.4% had domestic violence. Cent percent of the respondents dropped out from school after marriage. Study conducted by Mahato (2016) in Nepal reported that drop out of school and be exposed to higher risk of domestic violence and abuse, increased economic dependence, denial of decision-making power, inequality at home that further perpetuates discrimination and low status of girls/women.<sup>[21]</sup>

## 5. Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it is concluded that more than three forth of the respondents got early marriage. The occupations, income of parents, husband occupation at the time of marriage are the influencing factors for early marriage. Early pregnancy, unplanned pregnancy, genital itching, increasing responsibility and economic dependency are the main consequences of early marriage.

## References

- [1] Loewen L. 2019. 10 Facts About Child Brides and Child Marriage-ThoughtCo. Retrieved from [www.thoughtco.com/facts-about-child-brides-353434](http://www.thoughtco.com/facts-about-child-brides-353434).
- [2] UNICEF South Asia. Child marriage 2017. Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/what-we-do/child-protection/child-marriage>.
- [3] The Country Code Eleventh Amendment Act, 2002, Nepal. Gender and Land Rights Databasehttp. Retrieved from [www.fao.org/gender-landrights-database/country-profiles/countries-list/national-legal-framework/en/?country\\_iso3=NPL](http://www.fao.org/gender-landrights-database/country-profiles/countries-list/national-legal-framework/en/?country_iso3=NPL)
- [4] Workineh S, Kibretb GD, Degu G. Determinants of early marriage among female children in Sinan district, Northwest Ethiopia. Health Science Journal 2015;9(6):1.
- [5] Pariona. A. 2017. Prevalence of Child Marriage Around the World. Retrieved from <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/prevalence-of-child-marriage-in-various-regions-of-the-world.html>.
- [6] UNICEF and UNFPA, Ending Child Marriage in Nepal, 2017 UNICEF and UNFPA, Mapping of Child Marriage Initiative in South Asia, 2016 Summary of a Baseline Study to Estimate the Number of Child Marriages in South Asia 2014-2017. Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/nepal/reports/ending-child-marriage-nepal>.
- [7] Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) [Nepal], New ERA, and ICF International Inc. Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2016. Kathmandu: Ministry of Health and Population, New ERA, and ICF International, Calverton, Maryland
- [8] Sah RB, Subedi L, Shah U, Jha N. Factors affecting early age marriage in Morang District of Nepal. Sch J Appl Med Sci. 2014;2(4):1320-4.
- [9] Human Rights Watch. 2016. Child marriage in Nepal. Retrieved from <https://www.hrw.org/report/2016/09/08/our-time-sing-and-play/child-marriage-nepal>
- [10] United Nations Children's Fund and Girls Not Brides Nepal, National Strategy to End Child Marriage in Nepal – Formative Research, 2015, p.38.
- [11] Save the Children, Plan and World Vision International, Child Marriage in Nepal, 2012, p.26.
- [12] National Strategy to End Child Marriage in Nepal – Formative Research, 2015, p.38
- [13] Perczynska A, Daniel Coyle D. Early marriage as a main health challenge related to children in Nepal. Retrieved from <https://www.ohchr.org/documents/issues/children/study/righthealth/herturn.pdf>
- [14] Santhya KG. Early marriage and sexual and reproductive health vulnerabilities of young women: a synthesis of recent evidence from developing countries. Current opinion in obstetrics and gynecology 2011;23(5):334-9.
- [15] Santhya KG, Jejeebhoy SJ. Sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescent girls: Evidence from low-and middle-income countries. Global public health 2015;10(2):189-221.
- [16] Tharu Kalyankari Sava, Register Book, Chitwan, 2016.
- [17] Sah RB, Gaurav K, Baral DD, Subedi L, Jha N, Pokharel PK. Factors affecting Early Age Marriage in Dhankuta Municipality, Nepal. Nepal Journal of Medical Sciences 2014;3(1):26-30
- [18] UNICEF. 2017. Child marriage rates in Bangladesh. Retrieved from <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage/bangladesh/>
- [19] Workineh S, Kibretb GD, Degu G. Determinants of Early Marriage Among Female Children In Sinan District, Northwest Ethiopia. Health Science Journal 2015.
- [20] Nasrin SO, Rahman KM. Factors affecting early marriage and early conception of women: A case of slum areas in Rajshahi City, Bangladesh. International Journal of Sociology and Anthropology. 2012 Feb 29;4(2):54-62.
- [21] Mahato SK. Causes and Consequences of Child Marriage: A Perspective International Journal of Scientific and Engineering Research 2016;7(7):698-702.