



## Analyzing the Educational Challenges of Underage Marriage in Female Students

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### Abstract

The aim of the study was to analyze the educational challenges of underage marriage in female students. The statistical universe embraced all publications considering female students' underage marriage educational challenges. Thirty references were selected via screening based on concerning the dimensions of female students' underage marriage educational challenges as the sample for final reviewing. The research method was research synthesis based on Sandelowski & Barros (2007) seven steps. To collect data, all the articles discussing the female students' underage marriage and educational challenges applying qualitative method which were published during 2010-2023 in Iranian scientific research journals were reviewed. To analyze data thematic analysis and open and central coding procedure of the selected references was implemented. Finally, the results revealed 4 main components and 7 secondary components. The main components included the weakening of cultural capital, social consequences, reduction of personal and professional independence, and structural weaknesses of education. Also, following the analysis, the most important underlying causes of early marriage were also identified, which consisted of a main dimension called the causal conditions underlying underage marriage and four sub-dimensions including family, cultural, social and economic. It could be concluded that informing parents about the impaired effects of underage marriage of girls was effective and since it is a part of this process related to the education and cultural promotion of families, the importance of education as a tool to increase the age of marriage is undeniable. Therefore, educational policy makers are expected to play an important role in different dimensions, especially the cultural dimension.



## Extended abstract

**Introduction:** All over the world, underage marriage is one of the most important social and cultural issues that could have many consequences. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) emphasizes that child marriage is a major social concern and a violation of the rights of children - whether it happens to a girl or a boy - because it denies basic rights to health, nutrition, education and freedom, and girls who are get married at a young age, they don't grow properly, and they don't have access to proper education physically and psychologically, and they are also associated with many social consequences. In addition, these children are associated with illiteracy and lack of access to education. Underage marriage may limit attendance at school or hinder attendance at school for various reasons, since education is one of the basic rights of children and plays an important role in improving their insight and awareness, but unfortunately, the phenomenon of underage marriage causes children to be deprived of the issue of education and the limitation of education quality Therefore the aim of the current study was to analyze the educational challenges of underage marriage in female students.

**Method:** The statistical universe embraced all publications considering female students' underage marriage educational challenges. Thirty references were selected via screening based on concerning the dimensions of female students' underage marriage educational challenges as the sample for final reviewing. The research method was research synthesis based on Sandelowski & Barros (2007) seven steps. To collect data, all the articles discussing the female students' underage marriage and educational challenges applying qualitative method which were published during 2010-2023 in Iranian scientific research journals were reviewed. To analyze data thematic analysis and open and central coding procedure of the selected references was implemented.

**Results:** Finally, the results revealed 4 main components and 7 secondary components. The main components included the weakening of cultural capital, social consequences, reduction of personal and professional independence, and structural weaknesses of education. Also, following the analysis, the most important underlying causes of early marriage were also identified, which consisted of a main dimension called the causal conditions underlying underage marriage and four sub-dimensions including family, cultural, social and economic. It could be concluded that informing parents about the impaired effects of underage marriage of girls was effective and since it is a part of this process related to the education and cultural promotion of families, the importance of education as a tool to increase the age of marriage is undeniable.

**Conclusions:** Accepting the role and responsibility of a wife at the same time causes the emergence of conflict and multiple roles in childhood and adolescence. Due to the interference of these responsibilities, in most cases, girls are forced to drop out of school, or if they continue to study, they face academic failure and other challenges of continuing their studies. In relation to social consequences, when communication with friends, peers, educational officials and social groups is suddenly cut off, part of the students' social capital is lost. Even if this relationship is not interrupted and they continue their studies, we witness many social pressures imposed on them by their families, such as the lack of cooperation and opposition of the families, insinuation and emphasis of others on the



importance of life over education. Condemning the continuation of education for married women and... Another social consequence is the formation of destructive interactions with classmates, which we face as a serious injury. Due to dropping out of school and lack of skills, these individuals have to enter jobs that have low benefits and less job security. Therefore, as conclusion educational policy makers are expected to play an important role in different dimensions, especially the cultural dimension.

**Authors Contributions:** Nahid Ajourlo: Designing the general framework, compiling the content and gathering data and conclusions. Dr. Behboud Yarigholi: editing the article and corresponding author. All authors reviewed and approved the final version of the article.

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