



The Mental Pattern of Psychologists and Sociologists Regarding the Causes and Cultural Impairments of Child Marriage in Girls

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Abstract

The purpose of this research was to investigate the mental pattern of psychologists and sociologists regarding the causes and cultural impairments of child marriage in girls. The statistical population included all psychologists and sociologists. The research sample was 16 interviewees from psychology and sociology specialists who reached theoretical saturation of the collected data by snowball sampling method. The research method was descriptive-survey of the mixed type research (qualitative-quantitative). In the present study, Q (Q) methodology technique was used to collect data. The group of Q expressions (Q) in 29 items was obtained from in-depth interviews with experts and research background. The validity of the content and form of the Q-chart and items was confirmed by the experts. The findings showed that the mentality of experts was classified in the order of priority in six different mental patterns of beliefists, macroists, familyists, socialists, religionists and individualists. Also, the main cause of child marriage of girls was reported by individuals who had the mental pattern of beliefists, beliefs issues, macroists, macro issues, familyists, within family issues, socialists, social issues, religionists, religious issues, and individualists, individual issues. According to the opinion of psychologists and sociologists, enculturation played the main and essential role in preventing child marriage of girls and it is necessary to take more measurements in this field. Using the capacities of the media to show the consequences of child marriage for girls in different ways could be effective in conveying messages and preventing such practice.



Extended abstract

Introduction: Birth, marriage and death are three important events in human life. Meanwhile, marriage is the only category of choice that takes place in different societies for reasons such as the need to be loved, the need for the survival of the generation, independence, etc. By getting married, people form an independent life from their parents and this independence increases their responsibilities. Accepting such responsibility requires the physical, sexual and mental maturity of the parties, but in some societies this responsibility falls on children and it causes a phenomenon called child marriage. Child marriage is a type of formal or informal marriage in which a person enters into a marriage contract before reaching the age of 18. According to the United Nations, child marriage refers to any type of marriage under the age of 18 before the girl is physically and psychologically ready for marital and childbearing responsibilities. Early marriage has significant challenges for individuals' health, independence and self-esteem. Although both girls and boys are affected by the phenomenon of child marriage, its prevalence is significantly higher in girls, so that according to UNICEF (2021), about 21% of girls worldwide are married before the age of eighteen, if this percentage It is 4.5% for boys. This phenomenon, especially in girls, is one of the basic problems of the current era, which is considered as a kind of violation of children's rights. Accordingly the purpose of this research was to investigate the mental pattern of psychologists and sociologists regarding the causes and cultural impairments of child marriage in girls.

Method: The statistical population included all psychologists and sociologists. The research sample was 16 interviewees from psychology and sociology specialists who reached theoretical saturation of the collected data by snowball sampling method. The research method was descriptive-survey of the mixed type research (qualitative-quantitative). In the present study, Q (Q) methodology technique was used to collect data. The group of Q expressions (Q) in 29 items was obtained from in-depth interviews with experts and research background. The validity of the content and form of the Q-chart and items was confirmed by the experts.

Results: Concerning the mental patterns of the interviewed experts which were classified in the order of priority in six different mental patterns of beliefists, macroists, familyists, socialists, religionists and individualists; the findings showed that the main cause of child marriage of girls was reported by individuals who had the mental pattern of beliefists, beliefs issues such as fear of people's words and dishonor, incorrect culture and customs of the living area, justifications for early marriage to prevent children's sexual deviation, macroists, macro issues such as the lack of restrictive laws, improper use of virtual space, economic problems of families, familyists, family issues alike patriarchy in the family, considering children as an additional burden, single parents or stepparents and etc., socialists, social issues such as eye contact, the low economic, social and cultural level of the family, fear of marrying late and not meeting the conditions for marriage, religionists, religious issues such as the tradition of early marriage, the dominance of the family's religious attitude to avoid sin, and individualists, individual issues such as not having the power to say no to girls, being influenced by friends of the same age and married, not having enough motivation for education and work and etc.



Conclusion: According to the opinion of psychologists and sociologists, enculturation played the main and essential role in preventing child marriage of girls and it is necessary to take more measurements in this field. Using the capacities of the media to show the consequences of child marriage for girls in different ways could be effective in conveying messages and preventing such practice.

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