

Original Article

Analysis of Child Marriages in Pakistan in the year 2019-2020

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Author's Contribution

^{1,2} Conception of study

³ Experimentation/Study conduction

^{3,5} Analysis/Interpretation/Discussion

^{1,2} Manuscript Writing

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Abstract

Objectives: This study was conducted to see the incidences of child marriages in Pakistan; gender division of child marriages and also the ages of the victims belonging to different provinces. It was also reported that how many child marriages registration cases were being noted.

Materials and Methods: The present study involved an extensive search of a series of data of children aged 11-15 collected by an NGO Sahil. Data was compiled to see the gender division, urban-rural division, different factors influencing child marriages and provincial division of child marriages.

Results: It was seen that following the year 2020, 119 cases of child marriage were reported. From the previous year, the number of cases have increased by 14%. It was also noted that the ages of child marriages are mostly from the age of 11-15 years. There were different categories which were made to describe the different circumstances in which child marriages took place. It was seen that there was an increase in vanni by 5 cases and 2 new categories were noted as Sawara and Wattasatta. A decrease was seen in abduction and child marriages by 3 cases and sangchatti by 5 cases. It was seen that the child marriages registration status was recorded as 85% out of the total 119 cases. While talking about the provincial division of child marriages cases, it was seen that 79 cases were from Sindh while in Punjab, there was a decline in cases from 18 to 16 cases in one year. While talking about Rural-Urban division of child marriages, 75% cases were reported in rural sectors and 25 % in urban sectors

Conclusion: It was seen that in almost all the age groups, only girls were forced in the child marriages. This shows that more girls are not only being married at very young age but also with the grooms who are much older than them.

Keywords: Child marriages, provincial divide, urban-rural divide, registration cases.

Introduction

Child marriage (or early marriage) can be called as “both ceremonial weddings and casual associations in which a girl resides with a better half, showing that she had been wed at a very early age I.e. Wedding as an organization lawfully associates individuals and acts as a main necessity of home life. In evolving countries (except China), out of many women, each 1/3rd young lady keeps to marry as a child. Talking about South Asian area, it has the most excessive number of early marriage in the entire world. All around the world, about 15 million young girls are hitched before the age of 18.

Early marriage is extensively appreciated to be injurious subcultural custom that is a principle as well as consequence of citizen rights defiance. Early wedding unreasonably influences women of poverty stricken, uneducated households living in agricultural districts. The main reasons that are most importantly kept in mind of early marriages in impoverishment, conventional customs like *WattaSatta* (giving girl in a family and in return take the girl from another family), *PaitLikkhi* (getting children married even before they come into the world or when they are quite tiny and small), *AddoBaddo* (wedding in ethnic groups), and *Swara/Khoon-Baha/Vani/Sakh* (girls given to the people in wedding as a kind of resolving some sort of discourse), safeguarding the integrity of young ones and their household and absence of justice system and its application in Pakistan. One more cause in extensive pious customs (Catholicity and Islam) to inspire child wedding because youngsters born out of wedlock are called as unethical.

Sindh is merely the region that forbids wedding below 18 via its Early weddings Marriages Confined Action of 2013, still in Sindh, the rate of early marriage is high as compared to other regions. The other provinces forbids the wedding of young girls and boys less than 16 and 18 respectively. Almost fifty percent of the of the weddings held in Pakistan include young girls who are less than 18 years of age.

Child marriage is yet a barrier to youngsters's entrance and accomplishment of education and provides to the schooling gender-specific difference. Child marriages compromise and influence child's development^{1,4} and threaten the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.¹

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, approved in 2015, strives hard for banning the early marriage until the year 2030 and evaluates the number

of girls who wed before 18 years are involved in yearly record of development in the direction of objective.

Anees and Zarina in (2015), estimated that 24 percent of Pakistani females are being wed before they reach puberty and in the duration of years, 2000 and 2010, seven percent of the females were being wed before 15 years. Many more provenances state that the occurrence survive in about 30 percent of the whole weddings occurred in Pakistan.

This study involves the prevalence of early wedding in Pakistan in year 2019 and 2020. And we will also compare and contrast male and female ratio, rural-urban ratio, provincial division along with most common causes and the transformations that occurred in the life of females who get wed before 18 years.

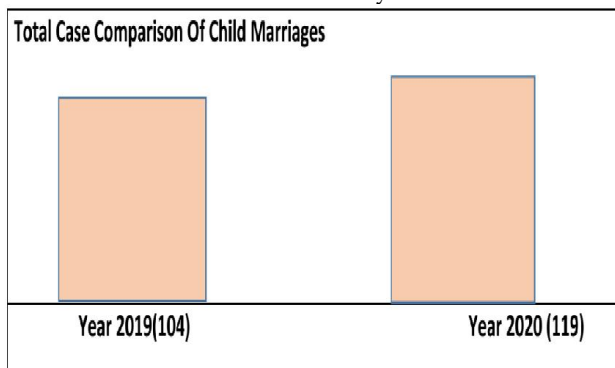
Materials and Methods

In this study, we examine the incidence of child marriage in Pakistan and the changes that have taken place over time in the profile of the women who marry before turning 18.

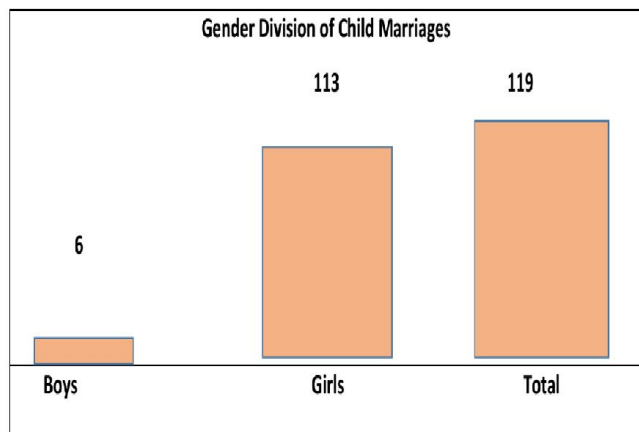
The present study involved different categories of ages of victims i.e. 11-15 years. Data was collected from a non-government organization by the name of SAHIL and compiled to see the gender division, urban-rural division and provincial division of child marriages. Different ages of boys and girls were included in this study (11-15 years). Data was collected from Punjab, Sindh, KP, Baluchistan and ICT. While for the rural-urban areas, data was collected and hence extensive search of a series of areas of both rural-urban areas was conducted from the year 2019 and it was compared with 2020..

Results

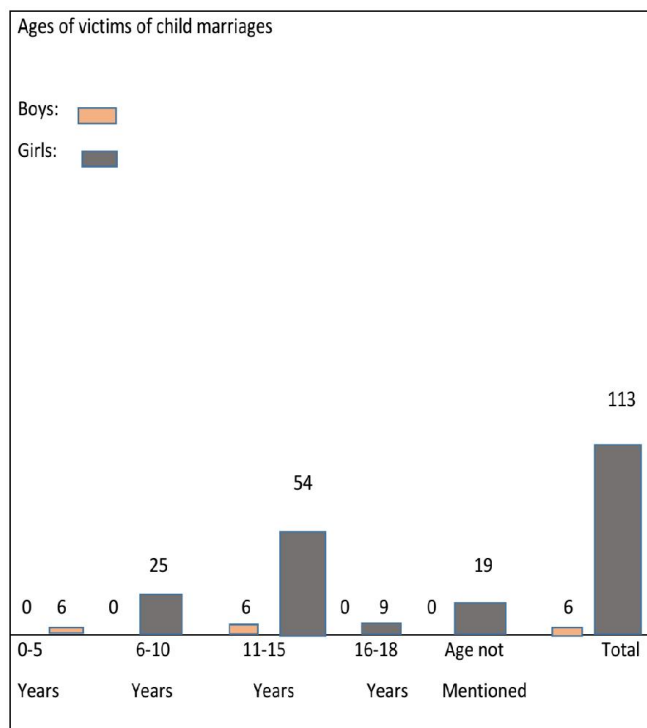
From the previous year i.e. 2019, it was seen that the number of cases has increased by 14%.



Another graph was also made to see the gender division of child marriages. It was seen that in the year 2020, early child marriages cases number was 119, which comprised of 113 girls and 6 boys.



There was another graph which comprised of the ages of the victims of child marriages. In the year 2020, there were cases of child marriages which were mostly the age of 11-15 years.



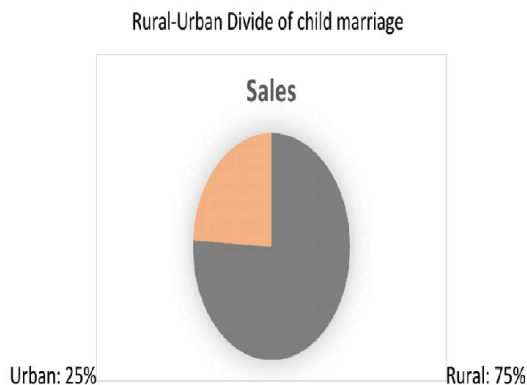
This particular graph portrays that, in almost all the age groups, only girls are forced for child marriages. This shows that more girls are not only being married at a young age but also with the grooms older than the

girls and most of them are above 18. In all the age groups, cases of child marriages involving girls have increased while that of boys have decreased in the year 2020.

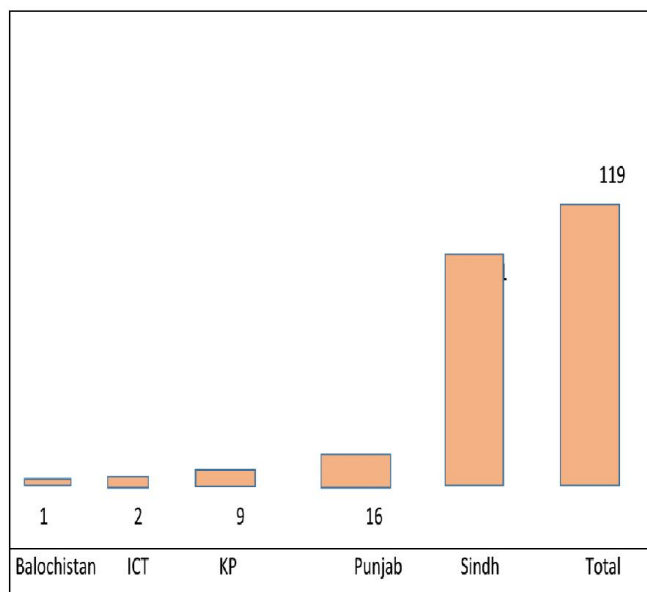
In the year 2020, it was noted that the total cases of child marriages and its different categories show that there is an increase in vanni by 5 cases, and 2 new cases were recorded as Sawara and Wattasatta. A decrease seen in abduction and child marriages by 3 cases and Sangchatti by 5 cases.

Crime Categories in child marriages	Boys	Girls	Total
Child marriage	5	82	87
Abduction and child marriage	-	10	10
Marriage for money	-	7	7
Vanni	-	7	7
Sangchatti	-	5	5
Swara	1	1	2
Watta satta	-	1	1
Total	6	113	119

The pie chart and graphs were made to see the provincial division and rural-urban division of child marriages. In the previous year, Sindh province was on the top of list of child marriage as well as in the cases of abduction this year.



This particular data shows that out of the total 119 cases, 76 cases were from Sindh. Whereas there was a decline in the cases in Punjab. i.e. from 18 to 16 years. Talking about the rural-urban division of child marriages, it was noted that the child marriages in rural areas were more as compared to urban areas. i.e. 75% in rural areas and 25% in urban areas.



Discussion

Early wedding can be called as an association of relationship before 18 years of age, which is applicable to males and females of young generation, yet it is most frequently applicable to younger generation of females. While talking about the yearly weddings held in Bangladesh, 6 percent of the females are committed in a martial relationship before 18 years, then comes India and Pakistan, in which occurrence of early marriages rates are 47% and 40% respectively. (UNFPA) The Sindh Early weddings Marriages Confined Action of 2013 files a condition that 18 should be the age at which both the genders can marry, in comparison with the condition that Punjab sets, where 18 for boys and 16 for females as a restraint. The other provincial districts observe The Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929. As stated by Article 1 of the Child Rights Agreement, any individual whose age is below 18 years is a youngster and this particular explanation has been approved by 194 nations.

In a study done in 2013 in Pakistan by Nasrullah revealed that majority (71.0%) child marriage cases occurred in rural areas almost similar to our study where 75% child marriage cases reported in rural areas.⁵

The comparing survey of the statistics assembled by Sahil in 2012 and 2015 specifies the improvement in early weddings with 4.17 percent in Punjab, 34.89 percent in Sindh, 19.08 percent decline in KPK, accompanied by 12.87 percent in Baluchistan. While just 2 instances were analyzed from federated districts,

i.e. Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) in 2012, whereas not a single occurrence of incidence was announced in 2015 in ICT. In our study, Sindh province remained on the top of list of child marriage as well as in the cases of abduction. This particular data shows 76 incidence were from Sindh and the total number of cases were 119. On the contrary, there was a decline in the cases in Punjab. i.e. from 18 to 16 years. Whereas talking about the current study, Graphical analysis was done to see the total case comparison of Child Marriages from year 2019 to 2020. In 2020, 119 incidences were reported. It was seen that in the year 2020, early child marriages cases number was 119, which comprised of 113 girls and 6 boys. There was another graph which comprised of the ages of the victims of child marriages. In the year 2020, there were cases of child marriages which were mostly the age of 11-15 years. This particular graph portrays that, in almost all the age groups, only girls are forced for child marriages. This shows that more girls are not only being married at a young age but also with the grooms older than the girls and most of them are above 18. In all the age groups, cases of child marriages involving girls have increased while that of boys have decreased in the year 2020.

In the year 2020, it was noted that the child marriages registration cases were registered more than the previous year. There was a total of 119 cases that were reported, police registered 85% cases. While talking about cases registered by the police, there was an incidence in which police stopped the marriage of the girl underage. The police thus did raid in a house under the jurisdiction of B-section police station. After the raid, the girl was taken into the protective custody. An FIR was registered on a complaint by Child protection Cell in-charge and woman constable.

Conclusion

Thus, child marriage is something that gives an alarming action when a person listen to this word. It was seen that in almost all the age groups, only girls were forced in the child marriages. This shows that more girls are not only being married at very young age but also with the grooms who are much older than them.

Resultantly, the case of early wedding is progressively increasing in the females who are not educated that much and those included in the poverty stricken and agricultural families. These particular results accentuates the adjacent connection and association

which is there between early wedding, impoverishment and industrialization.

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