

Department of Development Studies

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Thematic Focus: Culture and Society

Early Age Marriages Triad: Causes, Correlates and Consequences– Sadaf Farooq (2012-2014)

This quantitative research aims to examine direct and indirect factors which lead to early age marriage in Pakistan. This study describes that child marriage restricts women from their socio-economic functions and also strikes their reproductive health. The research findings reflect that socio-economic factors of early age marriage consist of education, living area (urban/rural) and family's economic level. Early age marriage is not only the loss at personal level but it also affects the overall development process of a region or a country.

Key Findings

1. The current trend of early age marriage is slowly falling across different regions of Pakistan.
2. The trend of child marriage in Sindh province is higher than Punjab. Similarly, the girls from Pashto and Seriaki ethnicity deal with higher risk of early age marriage.
3. The factors responsible for early age marriages are low education level, regional differentials, women occupation, cultural background and wealth index.
4. The fertility rate of teenage married women is higher as compared to adult married women in Pakistan.

Policy Recommendations

1. It is responsibility of the government to provide quality educational opportunities to girls in order to reduce rate of early age marriage.
2. The federal and provincial governments should prepare plans and schemes in order to financially support the girls.
3. The government should make equal distribution of national income and equal employment opportunities to girls to prevent them from early age marriage.
4. There is a need of awareness among women who are married or tend to get married in their younger ages regarding their basic rights.