



# Philosophical And Ethical Analysis Of The Causes And Harmful Consequences Of Child Marriage

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**ABSTRACT**

The mental, spiritual and physical perfection of the two parties entering into marriage is definitely the foundation of family stability and the formation of a healthy lifestyle in society. Among people who are ready to get married in every way, we can see children with a healthy lifestyle and moral qualities growing up on the basis of a contract. But no matter how sad it is, child marriage has been seen as normal throughout human history. We are witnessing this type of marriage in some regions of our country together with the nations of the world. In the article, we present the results of our research on the causes of underage marriage and its harmful effects on the family and society.

**Keywords:**

marriage, family, feminism, illiteracy, poverty, amoralism, marriage of minor

First of all, let's define the type of marriage of minors: "Marriage of minors is a type of marriage in which both or one of the married couple is under the age of 18".[1] It is unlikely that such young people, who have not yet understood what family values, marriage, duty, and life are, will bring up a healthy future. Of course, this type of immoral marriage is being severely criticized by a number of international human rights organizations today, explanations are being made, various programs have been developed, but despite this, it still occurs in some regions.

Despite the fact that marriage between minors is prohibited by law in some countries, we can witness that children live without religious or state registration of marriage, babies are born out of wedlock, and of course, the rights of mothers and children are violated. In particular, girls under 18 years of age who marry older men are at a higher risk of becoming victims of

domestic violence compared to adult girls. For this reason, by the end of the 19th century, feminist activists in England and the United States began to demand the establishment of a strict minimum age for marriage and the taking of measures for each of the parties in cases of marriage between minors.

Bills developed by feminists to regulate these relationships were considered in the 20s of the 20th century, and the marriage age was set at 16 for girls and 18 for boys throughout the country. Today, in most countries of the world, child marriage is significantly decreasing, but it has not completely disappeared. Marriage between minors is prohibited by law, especially in developed and developing countries.

Today, we can find child marriages in different parts of the world. Especially in countries located in South and Southeast Asia and Africa, this type of marriage is very common, and more

than half of girls in these regions are married before the age of 18.

“According to UNICEF’s 2018 data, we can see that approximately 21 percent of women around the world are married underage. Niger, Chad, Mali, Bangladesh, Guinea, and the Central African Republic are the countries with the highest rates of early marriage, where more than 60 percent of girls are married underage. According to the results of research conducted in 2003-2009, 20% of children under the age of 15 in countries such as Niger, Chad, Bangladesh, Mali and Ethiopia were married. Every year, 12 million girls under the age of 18 are married worldwide, which makes everyone think”.[2]

Before the Industrial Revolution, child marriage was common in many parts of the world, including India, China, and Eastern Europe. In societies where the majority of the population lived in small farming communities, these marriage practices were preserved until the 19th century. But as time passed, the men in the community had enough financial resources to support their own farms and families, which automatically led to an increase in the age of marriage among young men. This meant that men did not marry until they had accumulated enough wealth to support a new family, and married underage girls in their adulthood. In ancient and medieval societies, it was common for girls to be married off before puberty. According to M.A. Friedman, “marriage or transfer of a young girl to someone was the absolute prerogative of the father in ancient Israel”.[3] Many girls were married before the age of 15, without understanding what the social institution called family is. In the Jewish world in the Middle Ages, a married youth was considered an adult. Ruth Lamdan writes: “Many references to child marriage in 16th century literature and other sources indicate that child marriage was so common that it was almost normal for the society of that time. From this point of view, the term “minor child” means a girl under the age of twelve. Girls who reached the age of twelve were considered mature in all respects among the Jews”. [4]

Even in ancient Greece, early marriage of underage girls was common, and young

motherhood was even encouraged. Studies confirm the prevalence of child marriage. But unlike other modern societies today, and for reasons that are widely debated, Northwestern Europe is characterized by a relatively late marriage for both men and women, with both sexes in their 20s or even 30s. They delayed their marriage until the afternoon. England is the first in Europe to set a legal age for marriage in order to combat sexual violence and prevent early marriage. In 1275, sexual relations with girls under the age of 14 were established as grounds for prosecution. Even in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the British colonial administration imposed marriage age restrictions on Hindu and Muslim girls living in India.

According to a Scottish doctor who lived in Syria in the 18th century, local residents tried to marry off their underage daughters. However, the unfortunate situation is that in most cases these marriages end in divorce before the girl reaches adulthood. Sources confirm that such cases also occur in Palestine. Although this was socially frowned upon, Edward William Lane notes that in the 1830s, most Egyptian girls were divorced at the age of 16 and living alone. But socio-economic changes, educational reforms and the increase in people’s worldview have brought significant changes. As a result, by 1920, less than 10 percent of Egyptian women were married underage. In 1923, the Egyptian parliament set the minimum age of marriage at 16 for women and 18 for men.[5]

Child marriage, which occurs in countries where illiteracy and poverty are widespread, often prevents girls from learning. As a result, dangerous consequences can be observed in young girls who do not have enough life skills and whose education is interrupted. Because most of this type of children drop out of school after marriage, their main attention is focused on household chores, having children and raising them. According to the inhumane family or public opinion in some regions, it is not necessary to allocate funds for the education of girls, because their main duties are to be housewives and to deal with raising children. But how can a child with insufficient education

be involved in child rearing? Without education, underage girls have very few opportunities to earn a steady income and financially support themselves and their children.

So what are the causes of child marriage and early pregnancy among young girls? Why do such unethical situations occur more often in underdeveloped and developing countries than in developed countries? Here are some of the main reasons for this:

First of all, the poor social situation of the country's population, the low ability to support family members, and the presence of a lot of money force parents to marry their young daughters early. The growth of corruption in some countries also aggravates the social situation of the people. As a result, a parent or a single mother cannot support several children. They marry or "sell" their young daughters before they reach adulthood;

secondly, due to non-compliance with the rule of law and legal norms in the regions, the opportunity to get education decreases. Insufficient funds in families for the education of children, especially girls, not attending general or vocational schools, the majority of young people not being included in higher education, lack of gender equality lead to underage marriage;

thirdly, in some societies, there are still cases of the presence of harmful customs (for example, running away with girls), low value of women and girls, treating them as if they were objects. In remote areas of underdeveloped countries, the presence of trafficking in girls causes early marriage;

fourthly, as a result of the increase in the population, the rate of unemployment among young people will increase. The probability of marrying underage girls who are deprived of the opportunity to study and find a job in the society increases;

from the fifth; in some families, girls are forced to marry by their parents after the skills of performing family chores are partially formed, the wishes of young girls are not taken into account;

sixthly, as a result of not conducting gender policy in the country, not expressing opinions

about healthy lifestyle and reproductive health, and not properly analyzing and reporting to the public the sad events that occur due to the marriage of minors, marriages of young children occur;

seventhly, in Uzbek "big families", grandparents or older members have a high desire to witness weddings and their grandchildren's happy days. A hasty wedding can turn happiness into ugliness;

eighthly, the reason is the lack of religious literacy in the people, and the existence of the concept of "safely handing over their young daughters to their owners earlier" in order to protect their young daughters from social problems.

Ninthly, in some regions, girls become "out of date" after reaching adulthood, suitors stop coming, and they become "old girls" after age. fears force parents to marry early when their children are not physically or mentally ready for a family;

tenth, the high desire of some older men who want to get married to marry girls who are much younger than themselves, sometimes minors.

As a result of marriages between minors, it often leads to cold relations between the bride and the groom, as well as an increase in infant and maternal mortality. Violation of children's rights has long-term negative consequences for young brides and grooms. For child brides, mental health problems, interruption of education, lack of place in society and social life, in addition to failures in occupation, employment process, as a result of early pregnancy and childbirth adverse health effects are observed. It can be seen from the following comments of Abdurauf Fitrat that the advanced thinkers of our people paid serious attention to this issue from the beginning of the 20th century and considered minor marriage to be harmful: "Judges advise men not to marry before the age of 23 and girls before the age of 18. It is said that there are several harms in marrying before this age. First of all, the man's intellect is not yet perfect, he is unable to manage life affairs and family. Secondly, at this age, since the minds and wills of young husband and wife are not perfect, most

of them give in to sexual desire, abuse of sexual intercourse, and destroy the foundation of their lives. Thirdly, even if a child is born, it will be weak and weak, it may not live long. Fourthly, if a woman becomes pregnant at this age, she becomes weak due to her youth, her body may stop developing”.[6]

Although there are few cases of underage children marrying, we can say that they are deprived of some opportunities in the process of providing for the family, early fatherhood, education and work, or are ready for some obligations. Failure to do so will have negative consequences for the family, society and the state.

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