



**A RESEARCH MONOGRAPH
ON**

“The Effect of Child Marriage In Bangladesh ”

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21 August 2024

Dr. Kudrat-E-Khuda Babu

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Subject: Submission of Research Monograph On "The Effect of Child Marriage in Bangladesh".

Sir,

With due respect, I am a student of Department of Law, LL.Mbearing ID No.0242310008133011 of Daffodil International University. Hereby presenting the Research Monograph on “**The Effect of Child Marriage in Bangladesh**” as fulfillment of the requirement of the Daffodil international university for Degree of LL.M Final.

May, I therefore hope that you would kindly accept my Research Monograph and oblige me thereby.

Sincerely yours

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Letter of Approval

This is to certify that, the work "The Effect Of Child Marriage In Bangladesh " is an original work prepared by Mst.Rajowana Sarder Ritu ID: 0242310008133011 Department of Law, Daffodil International University. This research monograph is prepared with my guidance and under my supervision to partially fulfill the credit requirements for awarding the Master of Laws degree.



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DECLARATION

I thereby do solemnly that the work presented in dissertation been carried out by me and has not been previously submitted to any other institution. The work I have presented dose not breach any copyright. I further undertake to indemnify the University against any loss or damage arising from breach of the forgoing obligations.

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Table of content:

SL.,	Heading	Page no.
	Chapter 1: Preliminary	8-17
1.1	Propotion	1
1.2	Statement of the problem	1
1.3	Consequences of child marriage	2
1.4	Loss of personal development	2
1.5	Health problem	2
1.6	Research question	2
1.7	Objective	3
1.8	Methodology	3
1.9	Data collection	3
1.10	primary source	3
1.11	Secondary source	3-4
1.12	Conceptual framework	4-5
1.13	Scope and limitation	5
1.14	Importance of The research	5
1.15	hypothesis	6
2	Chapter:2 Laws relating to child marriage in Bangladesh	7-10
2.1	Laws relating to child marriage	7
2.2	age of marriage and views under Islamic law	7-8
2.3	Age of marriage of hindu law	8-9
2.4	Validity of marriage	9-10

3	Chapter 3:profiling study area :Bonpara Pourosova, Natore.	11-15
3.1	Bonpara pouroshava	11
3.2	geographical setting of are Bonpara pouroshava	11
3.3	historical background	11-12
3.4	Demographic aspect of the area	12-13
3.5	research on child marriage	14-15
3.6	positive impact of child marriage	15
3.7	Negative impact of child marriage	15
4	chapter Four:child marriage impact	16-19
4.1	Child marriage Causes	16
4.2	poverty	16
4.3	Absence required educational system	16
4.4	Gender discrimination	17
4.5	complexity implementation of law	17
5	Chapter Five: way to prevention child marriage	20-21
5.1	Government initiative	20
5.2	Importance of birth Certificate	20
5.3	Awareness Through media	20
6	Chapter Six:Concluding part and Recommendation	22-23
6.1	Conclusion	22
6.2	Recommendations	22
6.2.1	Improve Law enforcement mechanism	22-23
6.2.2	Launch a nation wide awareness raising campaign	23
6.2.3	Invest in Girls' Education, Especially at the Secondary Level:	23
6.2.4	Support Economic Empowerment Initiatives:	23

7	Chapter Seven: Reference	24
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Chapter One

Preliminary

1.1Propotion:

Bangladesh, "Child marriage" known a terrible disease. Basically refers getting married before following minimum age marriage, prescribed by laws of a Nation. It an ancient social custom Bangladesh whose influence can be seen today. Village girls are victims of it.

Bangladesh many weddings remain unrecorded. Because many girls lose their rights also there are several causes of child marriage. Ignoring, Lack of social security also proverty are the main reason for it.

Even this affects both are rarely consulted when comes marriage most rural homes.

One of the nation's most pressing social issues is child marriage. Not only has it become a major problem in Bangladesh, but it has spread to other South Asian nations. It is a term used describe marriage between girls who under legal marriage age in country. Historically, decision to marry a girl was made when the family felt that the girl could continue their education, or occasionally when the family felt uneasy about daughter. However, most countries where it is decided, poverty and lack of education are primary causes it. Families concern victims child marriage into underage marriages primarily give.

1.2 Statement of the problem :

Poverty: Bangladesh, common explanations child marriage is poverty, stricken parent are coerced into giving up their daughters by promises or weddings that are arranged in order to entice the girls into prostitution overseas.

Social barrier : The majority of the family believes that getting married will safety their daughters from sexual abuse and unapproved sexual interaction. They believe their girls will have greater financiality after marriage.

Lack of Education : In Bangladesh most of girl drop school for her parents dis awareness. And rest of their lives plays domestic roles family.

1.3 The consequence of Child marriage :

One main ways a kids rights are violated through it not recognizing the child early years limiting personal independence are two factors contributing it. undermines positive effects on both society and family. No such positive effect is observed anywhere society or family.

1.4 Loss of personal development:

As Result Child Marriage Male, Female both victim enjoy Rights . When a female is forced into an unpleasant marriage, she usually isolates herself. Both their personal growth and independence are lost. They endure the horrors of being abandoned and abused at home.

1.5 Health problems:

Early pregnancy is a side effect early marriage. Early births are associated incidence pregnancy-related problems neonatal mortality. Girl children serious health issues such as pregnancy delivery after marriage.

1.6 Research Question :

- i. What are the reason behind child marriage in Bangladesh?
- ii. How a child marriage influence the status of women in Bangladesh? .
- iii. What barriers face a married women after child marriage?
- iv. What are the health risk of child marriage in Bangladesh at the maternal period?
- v. How does early marriage affect our society?

1.7 Objectives:

Objectives are-

1. Determine ,research cultural, socioeconomic, demographic, and other factor contribute early marriage.
2. understand socio-economic conditions of parents, families practicing early marriage.
3. understand personal growth,know health, mortality of both mother, child.
- 4.Research says , all children of society equal they have equal rights to get all facilities for their grown up.

1.8 Methodology:

Despite limited amount public data, I have made an effort make the report as useful, instructive as possible. The report's data were gathered in a number of intricate ways, including:

1.9 Data collection:

Data have been collected from various sources. There are mainly two types of sources.

1.10 Primary Source:

Primary data was collected from field work and discuss with among people.

1.11 Secondary Source:

Secondary source collect from many ways discuss on below:

- (BRAC
- (World Vision
- (Plan Bangladesh
- (UNICEF
- (Bangladesh Law
- (Various types of books
- (www.wikipedia.com,google etc

1.12 Conceptual Framework:

Marriage:

legal agreement, social union means relationship between two persons called marriage. One term for connection matrimony, frequently formalized through wedding ceremony.

Early Marriage:

For "men", "women", 18 is legal years marriage, any marriage occurs before then considered early. Majority civilizations customs establish a minimum marriage age. However, this age limit is excessively low in many Bangladeshi communities, particularly for girls, because it ignores their physiological fitness for it. This true in many parts of Bangladesh, females marry significantly younger people.

Child Health:

Most countries, goal to be achieved rather than a reality, and models of health care often tend be curative rather than preventive in approach.

Causes Of Child Marriage:

In Bangladesh, deep-seated traditions drive families uphold practice it. despite its negative impacts. Key fac Bangladesh is now facing an epidemiological transition, somewhere between the mortality and morbidity patterns of developing, developed countries. one hand relatively high rates child death due to preventable diseases require interventions such as maternal and child health (MCH) programs and immunization campaigns. On the other hand, diseases of modernity such as cancer and heart diseases begin to appear among adult population, adoption of unhealthy life styles by many in the population.

tors behind this custom include preserving family status within the community, which is often linked to the perceived success of children. A daughter's marriage is seen as a reflection of her success. There is a longstanding belief delaying a girl's marriage could lead to her becoming "too old," which would be considered a failure by her parents. Another crucial factor is desire to establish a strong bond with the groom's family and ensure that girl marries while she is still a virgin. study highlighted enforcement legal marriage age by authorities was insufficient. Fewer respondents cited collecting a dowry as a reason for early marriage. Additionally, the study

rejected the notion that a lack of awareness about the consequences of early marriage is a reason for its persistence

1.13 Scope & Limitation:

Study was limited to tChild Marriage Bangladesh: An Way Prevention, was completed within a very limited time frame which did not allow for a thorough survey. There are significant quantitative flaws in the study that do not seem to make any difference preventing child marriage. In report I discussed child marriage, some minor girls also their familiy but I realized that there was little opportunities to work at the field level.

1.14 Importance of the Research

The human rights infringed our society through long-standing grave issue . Negative impact families involved in addition to lives boys ,girls affected. Girls marry have children before they mature enough to care for them which can lead a variety of health issues even death. Poor village girls more likely forced underage marriage .My purpose conducting research is raise public awareness about it a dreadful condition due to lack funds the villages impoverished parents turn this method child marriage.

1.15Hypothesis:

H1: My survey report indicates poverty and financial crisis occurs Child Marriage.

H2: We cannot stop it properly because the Child Marriage mainly social problem.

H3: Lack of Education one of the main reason for Child Marriage.

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Chapter 2

Laws relating to child marriage in Bangladesh

2.1 Laws relating to Child Marriage

The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017

Age for Marriage: . The Act strictly prohibits the marriage of girls under 18 and boys under 21, if anyone violate the act there included punishment for him.

Penalty: the act of child marriage and imposes penalties on those who connect with this. Here not only included punishment for giving child marriage but also imposes punishment for arranging, conducting or participating in a child marriage which imposes sentences and fine and which is different from their activities like

If any adults Involved who contracts, facilitates or solemnizes a child marriage can face imprisonment for up to two years or a fine with or both.

Guardians are also under this. There are provisions that if Parents or guardians gives consent to a child marriage can also face imprisonment for up to two years or a fine or both. In some cases, minors themselves may be held liable and face penalties though this is a less common application.

2.2 Age of marriage and views Under Islamic Law

In Islam, the age of marriage is not set by a specific age in the religious context but this are specified by general principles and guidelines. These principles followed by Islamic jurisprudence and based on interpretations of the Quran and Hadith. Here's a summary of that view:

Physical and Mental Maturity

Puberty: Islamic law suggests that when an individual reaches puberty, then marriage should take place. The point is very clear that is when a person becomes physically mature, she/he can get married. Therefore, if someone reaches in puberty it does not mean the individual is ready for marriage.

Mental Maturity: Islamic scholars also suggest that mental and emotional maturity is also important. When a person attains at Mental maturity, it enables him to understand the duties, responsibilities and rights which is much important in a marriage.

Consent of the Bride and Groom: In Islam, for a Valid marriage the consent of both the bride and groom is a critical requirement.

Cultural and Legal Considerations

Local Laws: Islam encourages Muslims to follow the laws of the land as those laws do not contradict Islamic principles.

Customs and Practices: The age of marriage may vary based on local customs and interpretations of Islamic teachings in different Muslim cultures.

Islamic Jurisprudence (Fiqh)

Thought of Different School: There are various Schools of thought in Islamic Jurisprudence like Hanafi, Maliki, Hambali which offering different interpretations regarding the appropriate age for marriage. but if we see then all school emphasize the importance of maturity, consent and the ability to fulfill marital obligations.

Finally, to say, while Islam does not prescribe a specific age for marriage, it emphasizes maturity, consent and the ability to take on the responsibilities of marriage. The age of marriage is often influenced by cultural legal, and individual circumstances.

2.3 Age of marriage in Hindu law:

Hindu law prescribes the age of marriage which regulated by statutory law not by any traditional consent.

Age for Marriage:

For Girls: The legal minimum age for marriage is 18 years.

For Boys: The legal minimum age for marriage is 21 years.

Prohibition of Child Marriage:

Illegal and Voidable: Marriages that occur below the prescribed minimum ages are considered illegal and can be declared voidable by the involved parties and those who perform, conduct or facilitate child marriages can face legal penalties, including imprisonment and fines.

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2.4 Validity of Child Marriages

We know there three types of marriage like valid marriage, irregular marriage, void Marriage.

Valid marriage: A marriage which fulfil all the requirements of marriage according to law. Meets all conditions required by law and it is legally recognized. The specific requirements for a marriage to be considered valid can vary based on the legal system, religious laws and cultural practices. Following are some requirements for a valid marriage:

Age

Parties must attain actual age determined by law that is age for women is 18, men for 21

Consent

Parties will give their consent in case of marriage freely they shall not be forced to do marriage and according to contract law 1872, forced or coerced marriages are voidable contract. Consent given freely means the parties understand the nature of marriage and they accept each others obligations.

Capacity

Both parties must have the mental and legal capacity to enter into a marriage. This means they must be of sound mind and not suffering from any condition that would impair their ability to understand the marriage contract.

Neither party should already be married to someone else unless the jurisdiction allows polygamy.

Absence of Prohibited Relationships

The parties must not be closely related by blood or marriage in a way that would make the marriage illegal according to the relevant laws like marrying a sibling, parent or child is generally prohibited.

Formalities

The marriage must be conducted according to the legal or religious formalities required by the jurisdiction. This could include:

Registration

The marriage should be registered with relevant civil authorities to be recognized legally. This provides legal proof of marriage.

Public Declaration

In many cultures and legal systems, marriage must be publicly declared, typically in the presence of witnesses, to ensure transparency and prevent secret marriages.

Specific Religious or Cultural Requirement

In some cases, specific religious or cultural rituals or ceremonies may be required for the marriage to be considered valid within that community, though these may not always have legal standing. Irregular marriage: It has some irregularities like marriage without witness, marriage at the time of iddat period, it can become a valid one if the irregularities are removed.

Void marriage: the marriage which is forbidden by law.

A child marriage is not a void marriage but a punishable one. A marriage involving a child may be declared void if a petition is filed by the child, their guardian or a relative within a certain time frame after reaching adulthood.

If a marriage involves a minor, it is voidable at the option of the minor party, meaning they can choose to end marriage upon reaching the age of majority

Chapter Three

Profiling study Area Bonpara Paurashava Natore.

3.1 Bonpara Pourashava:

Geophysical structure, social setting shape the nature and quality of any individual they are placed. So purpose of chapter describe geophysical structure, location, historical background,

population, education, economy, social structure, political and other organization of the Area Bonpara Pourasava, Natore.

3.2 Geographical Settings of the Area Bonpara Pourashava:

I have conducted my field work in the Kalikapur which is situated in Bonpara Pourasava Natore, *Population* 22267; male 11375, female 11492; Bonpara is a municipality (municipal corporation) and municipal town located Baraigram Upazila, Natore District, western Bangladesh.

Table 1
Bonpara Pourashava Area (Administrative Body)

Area	Bonpara
Pourashava	Bonpara
Thana	Boraigram
District	Natore
Division	Rajshahi

Source: Field work at Bonpara Pourashava, 2024

3.3 Historical Background:

In the late 1920s, Catholic Christian missionaries in the Bhawal area cleared the forests and established human settlements. It is named Banpara due to its abundance of forests. Initially, only Christians started living in this area, but gradually other religions started coming here. At present, all religions can be found here.

On December 31, 2002, Banpara was converted into a municipality.

3.4 Demographic Aspects of the Area:

Population: There are both Muslim and Hindus in the village. Muslim people are more than Hindus. There are majority area village area have some household other kind of people live here. There are 49% Male, 51% Female. This area is much more crowded & over populated.

Education

The literacy rate of the village is 60.54%.The elder men and women have no education. Most of the people only can sign. A few numbers of male and female are highly educated. Table-2 shows educational status of the Household heads.

Table-2
Education Status of the Family Head

Level of Education	Number of Famil Head	%
Cannot read and write	02	0.4%
Can only sign	16	32%
Primary	11	22%
Secondary	08	16%
Higher secondary	05	10%
Honours	08	16%

source: Field work of Bonpara Pourashava,2024

General Female education rate higher than Male but when the matter is about higher education number of male double than female. Adolescent girls interested to be educated. Now they can read up to fifth and sixth classes. But very few of them tend to continue their education at least up to the SSC level due to financial problem and child marriage.

Economy and Occupation

The main economy of area is Agriculture & A major part of the population is involved with rickshaw puller, work to another people house ,catch fish, cultivate

Table-4
Occupational Status of the Household Head

Occupation	No. of Household	Percentage
Agriculture	17	34%
Fish cultivators	12	04%
Day labor	09	18%
Van driver	05	10%
Service	04	8%
Unemployment	01	2%
Trade and commerce	12	24%
Total	50	100%

Source: Field work at Bonpara Pourashava, 2024

Occupation of 34% household heads is farmer. 04% people does fish cultivation work.

3.5 Research on Child Marriage:

Individually recently go to the village area for knowing about the situation of child marriage. But I am surprised that almost majority female are under age who are below 16 and they had minimum 2 or 3 child. They cannot handle their child and there family properly. This time they have to go to school but they maintain a total family. I talked with Baby Akter about knowing something. She taught me about her life and she said that her age was 18 and she had two children. When her age 13 she got married by forced her parents. But she wanted to go school and became a teacher. But she's dream broken by her parents. She not blames her parents because they were so much poor. After finished taught I am also taught some female and they taught about their life. I just survey some female about their life with two categories happy unhappy describe below on table:

Name	Happy	Unhappy
1. Ruma	☐	
2.Renu Akter		☐
3.Santi begum		☐
4.Taslema		☐
5 Farzana Begum	☐	
6 Shila begum		☐
7 Shadima begum		☐
8 shalina akter		☐
9 Lucky akter	☐	
10 Fahima akter		☐

Source: field work on Bonpara Pourashava 2024

There are majority female are unhappy for their child marriage.

3.6 Positive impact of child marriage :

1.They give birth to children early. They can be more relaxed because the children will take care them.

2.To get family and they can lead independent life from parents.

3.7 Negative impact of Child marriage:

Some disadvantages Child marriage as well found in village.

1. Teenage wives have household responsibilities, child caring . But not able physically, mentally take these responsibilities.
2. Health is affected due to early pregnancy. Early pregnancy has a negative impact overall health.
3. Marriage is breaking down very soon.
4. Adjustment problems arising husband, wife.
5. Teenage girls are dropping out of school. Their education levels are becoming low.
6. Most of the teenage wives education qualifications are up to high school level.
7. Age gap husband, wife. As a result lack understanding between them.

Chapter Four

Child Marriage Impact

4.1 Child Marriage Causes

1. Poverty.
- 2.. Superstition
- 3.. Religious barriers.
4. Lack education.
5. Lack awareness about early marriage.
6. Due become larger family.

7..Due become male controlled society.

4.2 Poverty :

Bangladesh, It seen means reducing household expenses. Many think girls married, one member of family will be reduced, family expenses will be reduced. Moreover, a practice reducing dowry if married young age is widely practiced Bangladesh.

4.3 Absence required educational system:

One strategy for marriage, instruction. villages with prevalence poverty, underage marriage. My opinion, caused inadequate resources girls education rural areas.

4.4 Gender Discrimination

It is very old practice, plays a role as one aids disparity observed men, women society. Many communities, families where a son is valued as much as not a daughter. Expenditure a daughter considered a waste which results in it.

4.5 Complexity implementation law:

It is an illegal act according law, country. Application of law context of Bangladesh is largely negligent, so not possible to completely stop. I think one reasons it, the rural not aware of laws related to this.

Negative effects of child marriage include, Creating several problem as like follows:

Health Effect

Risks of Child health and Maternal Issue: Due to being Young, Child faces complications during pregnancy and childbirth. They are mostly faces risk of maternal mortality, obstetric fistulas and low birth weight or premature babies.

Reproductive and Sexual Health Issues: Girls who marry early are vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections including HIV. As they have a limited knowledge and power to negotiate safe sex practices, so they face various difficulties.

Mental Issues: In an early age the pressures and responsibilities which they take are not preferable for them, they got married but these responsibilities lead lead them to depression, anxiety and feelings of isolation.

Malnutrition: Young mothers lack the physical maturity required to carry a healthy pregnancy, leading to malnourished children. Child also faces various health issues after birth.

Impact in Education

Dropout Rates in school: Child marriage leads to the premature end of a girl's education. due to household responsibilities, societal expectations or pregnancy many girls drop out of school.

Limitation in Educational Attainment: Early marriage disable the ability of girls to complete their education, which in turn limits their future opportunities for higher education and employment.

Lacking in Skill Development: Early marriage deprives girls of the chance to acquire skills and knowledge that could help them achieve economic independence. Due to early marriages as they can't go to school also they take responsibility of family so they get no time to learn new things.

Economic reaction

Poverty: Women married as children have limited economic opportunities, they face poverty in everywhere. Their lack of education and skills reduces their employability, leading to financial dependence on their husband or if husband is not stable then to their own family.

Reduced Participation in workplace: Early marriage restricts women's participation in the workforce, contributing to a lower overall economic output and perpetuating gender inequalities in the labor market

Burden on family economy: As Child marriage results in early pregnancies, making to larger family sizes. This increases the economic burden on families, especially when healthcare and education costs are considered.

Growth of population

Fertility Rates become high: Child marriage contributes to higher fertility rates as girls marry young and have longer reproductive spans which can lead to rapid population growth and increased pressure on resources.

Social impact

Intergenerational Effects: The effects of child marriage are often passed down through generations, with daughters of child brides being more likely to marry early themselves, continuing the cycle of poverty and inequality.

Societal Development: The widespread practice of child marriage hampers societal development by limiting the potential contributions of a significant portion of the population. Educated women are more likely to contribute to the economy and participate in decision-making processes, both at home and in the broader community.

Psychological Effects

Domestic Violence: Child brides are more vulnerable to domestic violence, including physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. The power imbalance in such marriages often exacerbates these issues.

Mental Health: The stress and trauma associated with early marriage can lead to mental health issues like depression, anxiety, and feelings of isolation.

Loss of Autonomy: Child marriage strips girls of their autonomy, limiting their ability to make decisions about their own lives, including their health, education, and career

Human Rights Concerns

Violation of Rights: Child marriage is a violation of basic human rights, including the right to education, health, and freedom from violence and exploitation. It often leads to a life of subservience and limited opportunities.

Chapter Five

Way to prevention to Child Marriage

5.1 Government Initiatives: The government is committed to taking necessary measures to eradicate child marriage in order to encouraging their continued education. To further combat child marriage and lower maternal mortality.

5.2 Importance of Birth Certificates: Issuing birth certificates for all children is essential, as they serve as the official proof of a child's age. In Bangladesh, it should be mandatory to register a child's birth immediately to ensure they have a birth certificate. This will help eliminate any confusion regarding age when it comes to marriage in the future.

5.3 Awareness through Media: Media outlets such as radio and television play a crucial role in raising awareness about the negative effects of early marriage, especially in rural areas where literacy rates may be low. Through various programs and broadcasts, media can effectively educate and persuade the public about the dangers of early marriage, helping to reach and inform those who might otherwise remain unaware.

5.4 In order to prevent, various programs can be undertaken with village people. girls parents should be informed about its negative aspects.

5.5 It is important to make sure that all childbirths are recorded in order to have precise data regarding a child's age.

5.6 make awareness advertisements movie show seminar and local program

5.7 offer skilled development projects by government or non government to empowerment

5.8 make a strong legal system to protect adolescents

5.9 make a strong monitoring body to maintain it

Chapter Six

Concluding part And Recommendation

6.1 Conclusion:

To protect "child" rights effectively, it is crucial to have robust, child-friendly legislation and ensure its proper implementation within a realistic legal framework. Bangladesh, child marriage remains prevalent. Despite existing laws against it, such as the Child Marriage Restraint Act, which sets the minimum legal marriage age at 18. One major challenge is that many marriages in rural areas go unregistered, exacerbated by irregular birth registration practices that make verifying ages difficult. Although the Constitution and various laws in Bangladesh safeguard children's rights, real progress enforcement these .It is a big obstacle way of ensuring bright future of a country. It is not only wrong in principle to exclude it from side for development. Research on subject is expression of far-reaching condition of society. Disadvantage not only endangers women's lives but also fuels poverty.

6.2 Recommendations:

Acknowledging the severity of the issue, both international and Bangladeshi aid agencies have collaborated on initiatives to combat the growing problem of child marriage. One such initiative, Kishori Abhijan (Adolescent Girls' Adventure), spearheaded by a consortium of international

and local organizations, focuses on reducing school dropout rates, enhancing girls' economic independence, and delaying the age of marriage. Evaluation results show that participants in this program married significantly later, with notable increases in self-employment and part-time job opportunities. Additionally, the program improved participants' knowledge in areas such as health, family planning, nutrition, and disease prevention.

6.2.1 Improve Law Enforcement Mechanisms:

Enhancing law enforcement is crucial to making these laws more effective. A key first step would be to provide training and education on child marriage to police, judiciary personnel, community leaders. Currently, penalties under the Child Marriage Restraint Act (1929) are limited to a simple imprisonment of up to one month or a fine of 1,000 Taka (approximately US\$12). To improve the law's impact, it is essential to introduce stronger penalties and enforce them more rigorously.

6.2.2 Launch a Nationwide Awareness-Raising Campaign:

The government should partner with national govt officials to conduct awareness campaigns and training workshops. Engaging these influential figures can significantly amplify the message. Additionally, leveraging media campaigns and public education activities can further highlight the dangers of child marriage. The Ministry of Education can play a crucial role by integrating lessons on the adverse effects of child marriage into school curricula, ensuring that students are educated about the issue from an early age.

6.2.3 Invest in Girls' Education, Especially at the Secondary Level:

To significantly impact child marriage rates, it is crucial to advance from the Compulsory Primary Education (CPE) Act (1990) by making secondary education mandatory. Strategies to support this include subsidizing school costs, improving accessibility by reducing travel distance, enhancing school safety, and providing adequate sanitary facilities. Increasing the number of teachers and raising their awareness about dropout issues will also be beneficial.

6.2.4 Support Economic Empowerment Initiatives:

Policymakers should prioritize interventions , Supporting and developing programs in collaboration with local and international NGOs can provide economic incentives for families to keep their daughters in school. These initiatives can help reduce the prevalence of child marriage by addressing financial pressures and offering alternative pathways for economic stability.

Chapter Seven

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