

*Research paper*

# Analysis on Prevalence and Effect of Early Marriage on Girl Child Education: A Case Study of Miri Village of Bauchi State

<sup>1</sup>Ali Adamu, <sup>2</sup>Kubra Yahaya Umar and <sup>3</sup>Khadija Abdulkadir

<sup>1</sup>Department of Mathematics Federal College of Education (Tech) Gombe, Gombe State, Nigeria.

<sup>2</sup>Government Day Secondary School, Pantami, Gombe, Gombe State, Nigeria.

<sup>3</sup>Department of Mathematical Sciences, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, Bauchi State, Nigeria.

Corresponding Author Email: [aliboderi@yahoo.com](mailto:aliboderi@yahoo.com).

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The research examines the socio-economic effect of early marriage in Bauchi state using Miri village as a case study. Early marriage has been a common practice among many ethnic groups in the world. However, marriage is regarded as a moment of celebration and a milestone in adult life. Sadly, the practice of early gives no such cause for celebration when it is not done properly. In this study, primary data from questionnaire were used for the analysis. Principal component analysis for data reduction of

the analysis indicated that 67% of the total variability has been explained by the principal component "early marriage has a negative effect on girl education". Recommendations are made which include Government and NGOs should provide support needed for girls' education including free books, uniform and etc.

**Key words:** Prevalence, Principal components, Early marriage

## INTRODUCTION

Early marriage is defined as a formal marriage or informal union before the age of 18. Ango, (2013) defined early marriage as either marriage of an adolescent girl/boy or marriage of an adolescent girl to a matured man or vice-versa and this happens at puberty when the individual is getting matured. The marital age according to Molokwu, (2000) is above the age of 18 years, when the individual is physically, socially, academically and emotionally matured to cope with the challenges of marriage.

Early marriage was common in human history, today early marriage are fairly widespread in part of the world, especially in northern part of Nigeria. The rate of married adolescent has some vital effects on certain areas of human lives, social, educational and psychological as well as health aspect of life.

In the pre-independence era when formal education

was first introduced in Northern Nigeria, the government through the Native Authority (NA) (which transformed to Local Government Authority) had to force parents to send the girl-child to enroll in formal schools. The NA fully funded the education of these girls who were conscripted to various schools often located outside their province. However, the socio-cultural and religious practices that evolved later in Northern states, particularly the North East and North West changed with the highest number of girls not enrolled in schools and those who drop out to get married. The majority of these girls never return to school to complete their education, learn a trade or acquire vocational skills that would economically empower and make them self-reliant. Erulkar and Bello, (2015) argued that the reason for acceptance of early marriages among northern region is to preserve the

value of virginity, fears about marital sexual activity, to reduce promiscuity of the girls, and other socio-cultural and religious norms. However, due to the ignorance and selfish nature, more often than not they forget the effect it has on the girls as well as their community development. It is worrisome that the girl-child has no power to resist the offer.

The effect of early marriage on the girls that affects her wellbeing and that of the society include education, lack of economic empowerment and lack of knowledge on reproductive health services which will enable them take informed decisions, enhance their ability to leverage resources and participate in community decision making. The factors usually put forward as reasons for the early marriage of girls as poverty, unwanted pregnancy, parental pressure, peer pressure and developmental stage among others. More so, it has a negative trend on the girl child which include emotional and mental distress, intolerance, school drop-out, Vesico Vaginal Fistula (VVF) disease, early widowhood, frustration and hatred for the man (Clark, 2016).

Early marriage has been a common practice among many ethnic groups in the world including Nigeria. However, it has contributed to series of negative consequences both for young girls and the society in which they live. It is a violation of human rights in general and of girl's rights in particular (Abdallah, 2015). For both girls and boys, early marriage has profound physical, intellectual, psychological and emotional impacts, cutting off educational and employment opportunities and chances of personal growth. In Northern Nigeria where the practice is prevalent, the impact is more on girls as many of them marry early in their large numbers and with more intensity. Besides having a negative impact on girls themselves, the practice of early marriage also has negative consequences on their children, families, and society as a whole (Adedokun et al., (2012). Giyan (2009) opined that early marriage also undermines international efforts to fight against poverty in developing countries. This point to the fact that the widespread practice of girls marriage makes it increasingly difficult for families to escape poverty in the developing countries like Nigeria, thereby undermining critical efforts by the three tiers of government to address educational challenges, fight poverty, HIV/AIDS and other development challenges.

If the early marriage is allowed, it would have a negative effect on the labour force of the country, increasing the fertility and mortality rate of the country, etc. A wrong mentality of parents in trying to pervert their daughter virginity has led to the increase in maternal mortality rate and the risk of contracting sexually transmitted disease (STD) (Gupta, 2014). It is very divesting to know that Bauchi is one of the states that have the highest level of married adolescents. Effort will be made to analyze the effect of early marriage on girl-child education with a view of finding lasting solution to that ugly trend. Therefore, the paper would attempt the

current to estimate the current prevalence of early marriage, identify the socio-economic and other factors leading to early marriage in Bauchi state. This will go a long way in producing well educated girls who in turn would train their wards in future. It is said that once a woman is trained is as good as training the entire generation.

## METHODOLOGY

To ensure proper collection and analysis of data in this paper, primary data was obtained. This approach aimed at making sure that all the relevant materials or information required for the study were acquired and utilized. The primary data were acquired through the administration of questionnaire in Miri village of Bauchi local government area of Bauchi state. The questionnaire designed is in two parts: the first part is a classification section that requires such details of the respondent's sex, age, occupation, qualification, etc. The second part possesses the questions relating to the subject matter of the investigation. The responses for this second part formed the basis of our data presentation and analysis. The questionnaire designed contained both open and closed questions.

### Area of study

The study comprises of the whole population of Miri ward which comprises of Shadawanka, Miri/Shadawanka, Guru, Wintin dada, Sohon Company.

### Population and sample Size

The population of this study comprised all the residents of Miri village of the age 18 yrs and above. Total population is four thousand and forty seven people (4047) and the sample was determined using a formula (Yamane,1967) as in Adamu and Adamu A.(2012).The formula is given below:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$$

Where:

$n$  = required responses

$e^2$  = error limit

$N$  = Population size

### Data Analysis

The sampling procedure employed in this study is the cluster sampling method. The instruments used for the

**Table 1.** Descriptive Statistics

	Mean	Std. Deviation	Number returned
Early marriage has effect on girl education	2.16	0.786	97
Early marriage has health effect on girl education	2.57	0.802	97
Early marriage has psychological implication on girl education	2.54	0.778	97
The custom, tradition and religion is contributing to early marriage of girls	2.58	0.814	97
The economic situation is contributing to girl marriage	2.44	0.913	97
Girl marriage has maternal mortality and morbidity effect	2.39	0.824	97
Girl marriage is open to domestic violence and sexual abuse	2.45	0.829	97
Girl marriage hampers her development	2.42	0.788	97
The girl bride does not play significant role in family decision taking	2.45	0.764	97
Do you support girl marriage in modern marriage	1.60	0.493	97

**Table 2.** Kai-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) and Bartlett's Test.

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		0.836
	Approx. Chi-Square	337.828
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Df	45
	Sig.	0.000

**Table 3.** Communalities.

	Initial	Extraction
Early marriage has effect on girl education	1.000	0.689
Early marriage has health effect on girl education	1.000	0.670
Early marriage has psychological implication on girl education	1.000	0.578
The custom, tradition and religion is contributing to early marriage of girls	1.000	0.716
The economic situation is contributing to girl marriage	1.000	0.680
Girl marriage has maternal mortality and morbidity effect	1.000	0.556
Girl marriage is open to domestic violence and sexual abuse	1.000	0.601
Girl marriage hampers her development	1.000	0.728
The girl bride does not play significant role in family decision taking	1.000	0.772
Do you support girl marriage in modern marriage	1.000	0.692

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

data analysis are questionnaires which were administered directly to the respondents. The questionnaires were retrieved through direct collection from respondents. Principal components analysis was used for the study.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The sample size was obtained using Yaro-Yamane as follows:

$$n = \frac{4047}{1 + 4047(0.05)^2} = 98 \text{ responses}$$

Table 1 shows the means, standard deviation and sample size for each variable. It appears that the average score for all the tests is very similar and all have a similar spread. The KMO value indicated that we have pretty

poor-just above miserable, how Bartlett's test of sphericity with an associated p-value of <0.001 which showed that we can proceed (Table 2).

### Communalities

This is the estimated communalities (i.e. estimates of that part of the variability in each variable that is shared with others, and which is not due to measurement error or latent variable influence on the observed variable). The initial values can be ignored (Table 3).

### Eigen Values and Screen Plot

It shows the importance of each of the ten principal components. Only the first three have eigen values over 1.00, and together these explain over 67% of the total variability in the data. This led us to the conclusion that

**Table 4.** Total Variance Explained.

Initial Eigen values		
Total % of Variance	Cumulative	%
4.222	42.222	42.222
1.438	14.380	56.602
1.022	10.221	66.823
0.691	6.913	73.735
0.616	6.158	79.894
0.537	5.366	85.260
0.414	4.136	89.396
0.405	4.051	93.447
0.360	3.596	97.043
0.296	2.957	100.000

**Table 5.** Component Matrix<sup>a</sup>

	Component		
	1	2	3
Early marriage has effect on girl education	0.460	0.604	0.337
Early marriage has health effect on girl education	0.713	0.384	-0.119
Early marriage has psychological implication on girl education	0.731	0.137	-0.156
The custom, tradition and religion is contributing to early marriage of girls	0.670	-0.184	-0.483
The economic situation is contributing to girl marriage	0.781	-0.116	-0.238
Girl marriage has maternal mortality and morbidity effect	0.661	-0.342	-0.053
Girl marriage is open to domestic violence and sexual abuse	0.744	-0.218	-0.007
Girl marriage hampers her development	0.710	-0.309	0.358
The girl bride does not play significant role in family decision taking	0.594	-0.037	0.646
Do you support girl marriage in modern marriage	0.249	0.774	-0.178

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

a.3 components extracted.

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

a. Reproduced communalities

b. Residuals are computed between observed and reproduced correlations. There are 26 (57.0%) non redundant residuals with absolute values greater than 0.05.

**Table 6.** Rotated Component Matrix<sup>a</sup>

	Component		
	1	2	3
Early marriage has effect on girl education	-.003	0.402	0.726
Early marriage has health effect on girl education	0.507	0.182	0.616
Early marriage has psychological implication on girl education	0.617	0.207	0.393
The custom, tradition and religion is contributing to early marriage of girls	0.842	-0.042	0.074
The economic situation is contributing to girl marriage	0.779	0.208	0.176
Girl marriage has maternal mortality and morbidity effect	0.655	0.347	-0.080
Girl marriage is open to domestic violence and sexual abuse	0.658	0.404	0.065
Girl marriage hampers her development	0.466	0.714	-0.035
The girl bride does not play significant role in family decision taking	0.137	0.850	0.174
Do you support girl marriage in modern marriage	0.050	-0.170	0.813

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

a. Rotation converged in 5 iterations.

three factor solution will probably be adequate (Table 4 and Figure 1).

### Unrotated factor loadings

The unrotated factor loadings showed the expected pattern, with high positive and high negative loading on the principal component (Table 5).

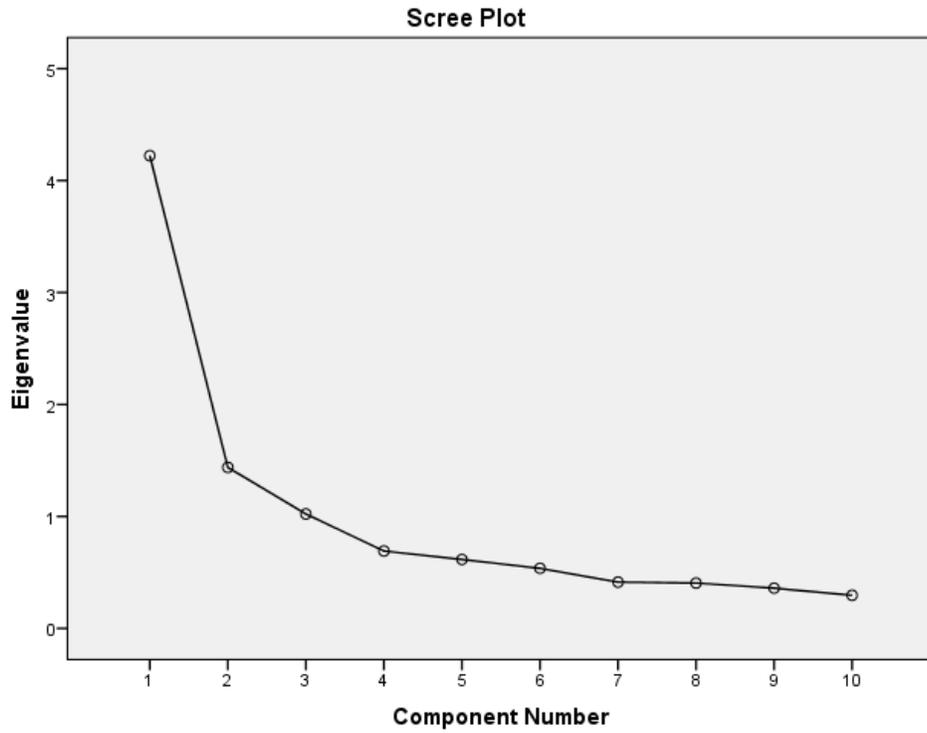


Figure 1. Scree Plot

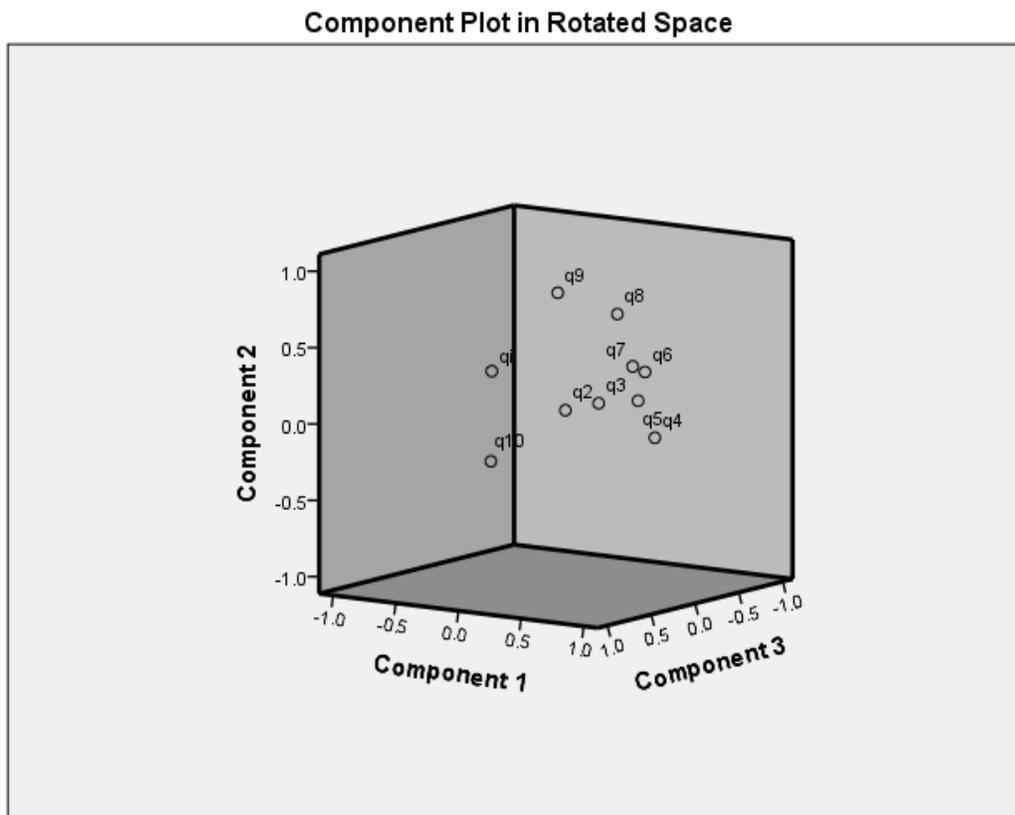


Figure 2. Component plot in rotated space.

## ROTATION

### Interpretation of principal component

#### First principal component analysis-PCA1

Using the first principal component 4 of the variable has the high value this suggests that these 4 criteria vary together. If one increases, then the remaining also increases at 0.84 approximately 84% agree that custom and tradition contributed to early marriage (Table 6 and Figure 2).

#### Second principal component analysis-PCA2

Using the second principal component 8 of the variable has the high value of 0.85 approximately 85% agree that the bride the bride does not make decision. The third principal component 10 variables have high value. 0.81 Approximately 81% agree that early marriage should be adopted in modern life.

## Conclusion

This study examines the effects of early marriage on girl education using Miri village of Bauchi state as case study. The main instrument used in the study was questionnaire. These results have an overall impact on the economy development of youths and the nation at large. The study shows that child marriage is an accepted cultural practice in many societies including North West. It is still widely sanctioned, even though it is a violation of the human rights of young girls due to various motives. Early marriage is intrinsically linked to low levels of education, high levels of violence and abuse, social isolation, severe health risks and harmful power dynamics and results in increased gender inequality and vulnerability to poverty for girls, young women, families and the society as a whole. This practice also threatens the international development effort to fight against poverty and related challenges in developing countries. To trickle this challenging phenomenon, a joint effort to formulate and implement policies and strategies is needed.

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