



ENG1121

Unit 2 Writing Assignment

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U2 Annotated Bibliography

Introduction

How are the lives of children affected by Child marriage?

I got interested in this question because this is a problem in many third world countries; and because of culture and religion beliefs the countries government are not doing anything about it. This question interested me because I believe it is not something that should be happening. This problem is attempting against children's live. Children should be worrying about learning, playing, and preparing themselves. When a child is married through an arranged marriage, most of the times, the child will be sexually molested by the husband. In many cases children are married to older man that are only worried about their "man needs" and not the wellbeing of the child. I believe that the arrange marriages have to do a lot with poverty, so I believe this should be a concern of the government to help their people to grow economically. I expect to find organizations working to solve this problem. I expect to have governments and organizations with laws proposals that can completely ban child marriage. Parents who arranges a child marriage should be convicted, as well as the man or woman the marries the child. If I find something that would not fit my hypothesis, I would like to do some more research because I am sure that more people should be interested in this matter. I would probably try to contact legal entities that are willing to fight for children rights in these third world countries.

Citation

Parsons, Jennifer, et al. "ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF CHILD MARRIAGE: A REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE." *Taylor & Francis Online*, 23 Oct. 2015, www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15570274.2015.1075757.

Summary

Child marriage is a social, cultural, ideological, socio-economical and educational problematic. The poorest countries have the highest child marriage rates. In many situation parents use marriages of girls to get economic benefits from the husband. In cases where the bride's family obtains a financial benefit, the younger the bride is the greater the benefit. Governments should provide education and financial support to girls and parents so that they can make better decisions to keep the girls in school instead of arranging their child's marriage. Girls in arranged marriages often don't have the opportunity to decide about their life. Usually, when a girl is married at an early age, they end up being under the husband's control and many times taking away their ability of voicing their opinion and making their own plans. Many of the girls that marry at an early age do not finish school and limit themselves from being educated and skilled. The lack of education blimits a girl of obtaining a formal paid employment. Additionally, in many cases girls experience sexual violence by their husband. They can also suffer from depression and emotional violence. Moreover, early marriages affect girl's health, as in many cases, they experience malnutrition, isolation and depression. Girls also have a higher mortality risk when giving birth. Not only the girl's life is at risk but also, the baby's life could be endangered. A 60 percent of the babies born from a mother younger than 18 years old have a higher mortality rate than a baby born from a mother older than 18. To end child marriage not only there has to be law and policies reformation, but there has to be formation of girls, by providing education, skills and support networks. There has to be an approach from the religion leaders as the relationship between child marriages and faith is very strong.

Reflection

I completely agree with this article, child marriage affects the girls or boys live in every single way. Girls who are the most affected, live an oppressed and miserable life. Girls are limited because the majority of the times they do not finish school and they dedicate themselves to be a housewife. Girls are in many situations sexually assaulted by their husband. Moreover, young mothers under 18 years old and their babies' life are in a higher mortality risk. I have found possible solutions for this problematic within the article, but the article does not explain why there has not been a complete stop of this practice. I would like to find more specific and expanded solutions for this problem.

Quote

"The low value placed on girls and women perpetuates the act and acceptability of child marriage in societies where the practice is common" (1).

Citation

Bucher, Amy. "Child Brides Stolen Lives." *PBS*, 2007,
www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/52759/Child-Brides-Stolen-Lives.

Summary

The documentary is about real girls that have gotten married as a child. The first case was in Rajasthan, India where 70% of the girls become brides before turning 18. Family struggle to survive with less than \$1. Girls in these poor countries are seen as burden, as they have to pay a price or gifts to the husband; for the brides' families the earlier the girl is married the faster they get relieved. The first girl interviewed was only 7 years old when she was married out, she was kept in their parents' house until she reaches puberty. In India these marriages are illegal, however communities hold wedding in the middle of the night to avoid the law. For the second case the brides were even younger, about three to four years old. These girls' lives will soon be turned to years of household labor, also physically abused by their in-laws. The case of another girl was showed where her in-laws and husband beat her with wooden sticks, shoes, because for them she was not pretty; she even lost her child because of how badly she was beaten by them. A government social worker was sent to break a child wedding. There were 21 children getting married, she tried to stop the wedding and three nights after she was assaulted in her own house, she was struck with a machete until she was almost dead.

Then, they arrived at Niame, Niger where more than three quarter of girls marry before they are 18 years old, as early as 9 years old. Same as in India girls' fathers decided who and when to marry. In this community girls are married at an early age because the parents are afraid of the girl getting pregnant before getting married. Niger has one of the highest fertility rates Because of early marriage woman have more kids leading to a skyrocket population. Additionally, Niger has one of the highest maternal mortality rates.

Reflection

I found this documentary very compelling; it shows real cases of girls that have suffered physically and mentally because of early marriages. This documentary shows how girls are being married even before they hit puberty. They are being forced into sex and then getting pregnant. It is very shocking to see that their lives are put in jeopardy because of poverty or simply traditions. I do not think this documentary is being Bias because it is just showing the cruel reality of many girls in third world countries. I agree with this source because I was able to see real lives of girls affected by child marriage.

Quote

"...girls from all over the world who could grow up into productive citizens, but in places where child marriage prevails, they are treated instead like commodities, bought and sold into marriages that they don't choose and are not ready for"

Citation

“Child Marriage.” *UNICEF DATA*, 7 Oct. 2020, data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/child-marriage/.

Summary

Child marriages many times stops girls from developing, by limiting them to education, social interaction and by getting pregnant. Not only girls, but boy that are married as child could experience economics pressure and reduce the opportunity for higher education. Boys are also forced into responsibilities that they are certainly not prepared for. International Conventions such as Convention on Consent to Marriage and Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages among others, address child marriage through international agreements. Sub-Saharan, Africa has the highest child marriage rate before 18 years old at 35%. The child marriage rate is decreasing, in South Asia the rates dropped from 50% to below 30%. Despite the effort the total number of girls married annually is significantly high. If the process does not speed up, there will be about 120 million girls will marry before turning 18 by 2030.

Reflection

This source was helpful to get an idea of the rates of girls married under 18 around the world. This data base helps me understand that there has to be more work implemented in this matter to save the life of those millions of girls that can be married out before turning 18. We can see that the rates have decreased thought the years, but it needs to decrease at a faster pace. This source as well as the previous two helps me understand the multiple ways child marriage is harmful. How the live of girls and boys that go through it change drastically. This source also shows that action much be taken immediately.

Quote

“Still, the total number of girls married in childhood stands at 12 million per year, and progress must be significantly accelerated in order to end the practice by 2030 – the target set out in the Sustainable Development Goals. Without further acceleration, more than 120 million additional girls will marry before their 18th birthday by 2030”.

Conclusion

With this research and resources, I was able to visualize the misery boys and girl face when married under 18 years old specially if it's through arrange marriage. Child marriages is completely is completely against children's right. In third world countries such as India, Niger among other, girls specially are forced to get married at an early age, in many cases too young to understand what is going on. Girls are married out because they are seen as burden; in other cases, because they cultural traditions, or religion. It is outrageous to see that even to this date the lives of these young one is put in jeopardy by getting pregnant at an early age, when their body is not fully developed. I believe this research is important because kids need people to defend them, defend their rights. Children are helpless human beings that deserve to be happy, to play and receive an education, so that in the future they can help their communities grow. This problematic is part of a discourse community that cares about children around the world.