The Socio – Economic context of Child Marriage in Md. Bazar C.D. Block, Birbhum District, West Bengal, India: A Perspective of Sustainable Development Goals 2030

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Abstract

The study focuses on the present scenario of child marriage in Md. Bazar C.D. Block in Birbhum District, West Bengal, India on the context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 (UNO, 2015) and also examines the factors that are associated with the child marriage. This empirical study has been conducted through door to door survey of 643 ever married women aged between 20-24 years to reveal the incidence of child marriage and its distributional pattern. Data of socio-economic status of the respondents and their families have also been collected. Bivariate and Multivariate Logistic regression analysis has been applied to find out the determinants of age at first marriage and most significant factors of child marriage. Survey has revealed that the rate of girl child marriage is 72.52%. Among them, 13.84% and 58.71% of girl have got married before the age of 15 and between the age of 15-18 years. Respondents level of education, level of paternal education, social insecurity and social pressure have the significant effect on child marriage in the study area.

Keyword: Child Marriage, SDGs 2030, Education, Social Insecurity and Social pressure.

Introduction

Increasing global attention is being focused on curbing child marriage, still an entrenched practice in many parts of the world (Singh and Vennam, 2016). Even today the fact is a deep rooted tradition, a critical issue. But hopefully the elimination of the practice has finally reached the global policy agenda with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. World leaders, in UN assembly on 25th September, 2015, has committed to eliminate harmful practices and has set an aspirational target of the elimination of child marriage by the year 2030 (SDGs Goal 5, Target 5.3 & Indicator 5.3.1) (UNO, 2015). As a signatory member, India has also adapted this programme in her national agenda and has committed to end child marriage from all corner of the country (NITI Aayog, 2015). While the world has achieved progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment under the Millennium Development Goals, women and girls continue to suffer discrimination and violence in every part of the world (UNO, 2015).

Child marriage defined as marriage before the age of 18, applies to both the boys and girls (UNICEF, 2017). In India, general meaning of child marriage is a marriage of individual who marry before the minimum legal age, which is considered to be 18 years for girls and 21 years for boys (Govt. of India, 2006, 1929). Today

early and child marriage is a global phenomenon that occurs across cultures, religions and ethnic groups (UNICEF, 2017).The International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) reports that one in three girls worldwide get married before age 18, and one in nine before age 15 (2015).Worldwide, more than 700 million women alive today were married before their 18th birthday and more than one in three entered into union before age 15 (UNICEF, 2014). Approximately 15 million girls are married every year before they reach 18 years (UNICEF, 2014), that is approximately 41,000 girls every day, or one in four girls globally. Report of UNICEF says that 45% of girls under age 18 are married in South Asia, 39% in sub-Saharan Africa, 23% in Latin America and the Caribbean, 18% in the Middle East and North Africa, 15% in East Asia and the Pacific (Excluding China) and it occurs even in some communities in Europe and North America too (UNICEF, 2016). It is very shocking fact that, in the developing world, one in nine girls is married by age 15, some as young as eight or nine years of age (UNICEF, 2014). Boys also marry as children, with 156 million men alive today married before the age of 18 (UNICEF, 2014). However, girls are disproportionately affected by child marriage, and are almost seven times more likely to be affected by the practice (Girls Not Bride, 2016; UNICEF, 2014; Walker, 2012; UNO, 1999). Niger is the country where highest rate (74.5%) of child marriage is found. India has though relatively lesser but still a larger prevalence of child marriages (45%) (Parab, 2016). However, with the introduction of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the commitment within them to end child marriage by 2030, it is clear that significant scaling up of efforts are needed to meet the challenge. India is one of the countries where girl child marriage is an unbending social problem a burning issue (Lal, 2015, Ali and Jha, 2015, NITI Aayog,2015) and it has the second highest number of child marriages, only second to Bangladesh (58.25%) in South Asia (Asian Development Bank, 2017). Moreover India is one of the ten countries with the highest rates of early marriage in the world (UNICEF 2014). In India   about 30 % of all women 20-24 years of age were married before reaching their 18th birthday. West Bengal is among the worst five states in India where 41.7% of girl currently aged of 20-24 years have got married before their 18 years of age (NFHS, 2015-16). Murshidabad shows the highest rate (53.5%) of child marriage among the districts of West Bengal followed by Paschim Medinipur (52.6%), Bankura (51.6%), Birbhum (51.2%) and Bardhanan (51.2 %) (Govt. of India, 2016).

It is needless to say that child marriage has socio-economic and psycho-physical impact on bride girl as well as whole family members of the girl and society. It contributes to higher total fertility as women marrying earlier tend to both have children earlier and more children over their lifetime than if they had married later. (ICRW and World Bank, 2017). Marrying early also often has a negative impact on modern contraceptive use. Girl who had married late were more likely than those who had married early to have used a contraceptive method to delay their first pregnancy (Santhya et al, 2010). They are often socially isolated, cut off from family and friends and other sources of support with limited opportunities for education and employment. Households typically make decisions about girls' schooling and marriage jointly, not sequentially, and education tends to lose out. Accordingly, lower levels of education are found among women who married in childhood (UNICEF, 2014). Child marriage produces severe negative outcomes in the lives of young girls. For girls, it almost certainly means premature pregnancy and childbearing, and is

likely to lead to a life of domestic and sexual labour over which they have no control (Desai and Andrist, 2010). Compared to their unmarried peers or to older women, girls who marry before the age of 18 are likely to have lower educational attainment, greater chances of experiencing unwanted pregnancies, and are at greater risk of sexual and reproductive health morbidities and maternal mortality (UNFPA, 2009). Lack of education leads to financial dependence of women on their husbands or others, which further invite domestic violence, marital rape and other crimes against women (Ahmed & Ahmmed, 2015). Complications in pregnancy and childbirth are the main causes of death among adolescent girls aged 15–19 in developing countries (UNFPA, 2011 & UNO, 2006).Maternal morbidity and maternal death are more likely for 15- to 19 year-olds than for 20- to 24 year-old, and even more likely for those who become pregnant or give birth before the age of 15 (WHO, 2006). Negative health consequences for a mother also negatively affect the health and survival of her newborn children. Infant mortality, preterm birth, low birth weight and asphyxia are all more likely in infants born to young mothers (Ganchimeg, et.al., 2014 & Raj, et.al.,2010). pre-term delivery, still birth, fetal distress, birth asphyxia, anemia, low birth weight, pregnancy-induced hypertension (PIH) and spontaneous abortion were most frequently encountered complications during teenage pregnancy (Brennan et al, 2005; Goonewardena et al, 2005 & Pathak et al,2003). Girls married too early are also more likely to experience domestic violence, abuse and forced sexual relations. They are more inclined to believe that wife beating is justifiable and are less able to practice safe sex; consequently, they are more vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections, including HIV (Clark et al, 2006).

In this study we like to unfold the pattern of child marriage and its causes in Md. Bazar C.D. Block in birbhum District, West Bengal, India. To assess the prevalence of child marriage, we have taken the SDGs indicator 5.3.1 – the percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who have first married or in union before age 18, (Table 1). As the practice affects mostly girls, the focus is given on girls in this study. This study has also tried to suggest some recommendations based on the findings of the study which may be helpful for policy makers. Md Bazar C.D. Block among nineteen blocks of Birbhum District has been taken as study area as the block is less developed in respect to human development (Roy, 2013; Sinha, 2007 & Govt. of West Bengal, 2007).

The structure of the paper has been divided into following sections. It begins with a conceptual framework of Child marriage including SDGs 2030, present scenario of child marriage and objective of the study. This follows a brief description of database and methods. It then goes on to discuss the pattern of child marriage and its causes. The papers end with the discussion, conclusion part and limitations of this study.

Table 1: SDGs Framework of Child Marriage

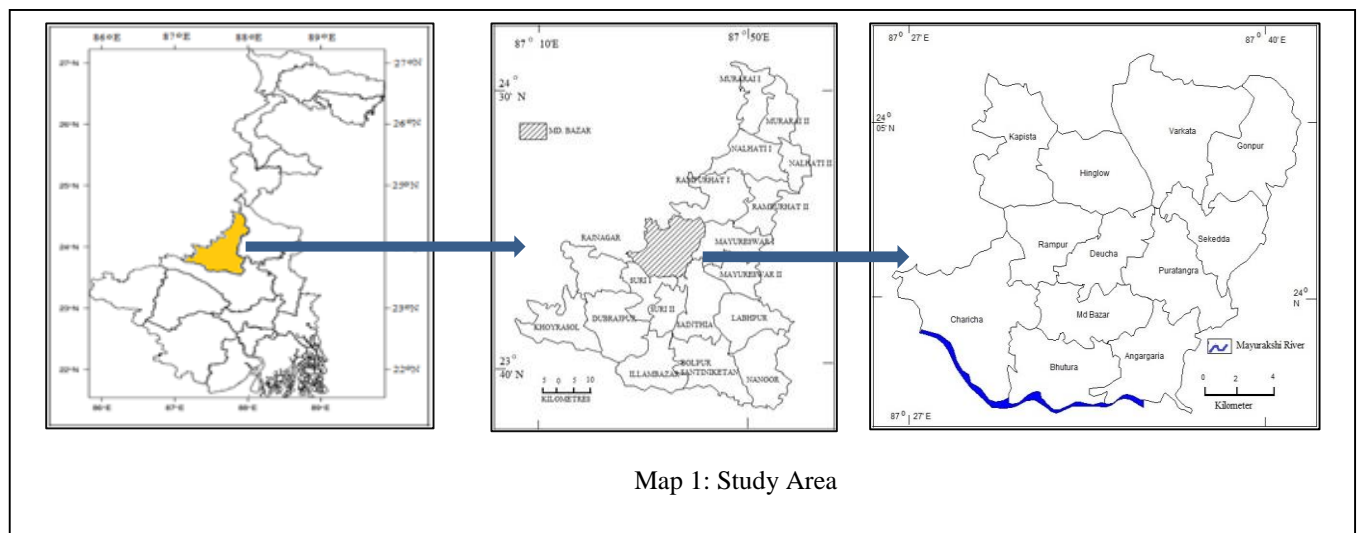| Goal 5	Target 5.3	Indicator 5.3.1
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.	Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18

Objectives of the Study

The major objectives of this study are

1. to assess the prevalence of child marriage in the study area on the light of SDGs Goal 5 (Indicator 5.3.1) of SDGs 2030
2. to explore the causes of child marriage and
3. to find out the alternative measures to solve the problem.

Study Area

Md. Bazar C. D. Block lies in the mid-western part of Birbhum District, West Bengal with an extension from 23º52'40"North to 24º03'30" North and 87º31'30" East to 87º 42'45" East. The Block is located 15 km toward north from Suri, dstrict head quarter of Birbhum and it is more or less 50 km North West by road way from Santiniketan, the working place of world poet Rabindranath Tagore. Total population and household of the study area is 164570 and 36344 respectively. It has 12 Gram Panchayet (GP) and 138 Mouzas (Census of India, 2011). The block is bounded by Dumka District of Jharkhand State on west, by Rampurhat C.D. Block on north, by Mayureswar -I C.D. Block on east, by Suri-I C.D. Block on south-east and by Suri-I C.D. Block on south (District Statistical Hand Book, Birbhum, 2017).

Map 1: Study Area

Materials and Methods

Data Collection

Primary data has been collected through in-depth interviews and field survey carried out in the area of study with a structured questionnaire. Convenient purposive sampling technique has been used in selected respondents comprising of 743 women of within 20-24 years aged, who have got married below 15 and 18 years. Survey has been carried out in the period from December-2018 to September 2019. Prior to the interview, verbal informed consent was obtained from all participants after explaining about the objective of the study.

Data analysis

Quantitative data have processed, verified and tabulated using Microsoft Excel Package and Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS 20). Data were analyzed using the Statistical software SPSS version 26

after editing, coding, classification and tabulation. Descriptive analysis has been used to describe the prevalence of child marriage and other relevant variables in the study. Cross-tabulation for different variables was made to observe relationship between variables and Pearson's Chi-square test was performed to test the degree of association between child marriage and other variables under study. To investigate the socio-economic correlates of child marriage bivariate and multivariate logistic regression was performed calculating odds ratios (OR) and 95% confidence intervals (CI). P-value less than 0.05 were considered as statistically significant. Variables significant in the bivariate analysis were included in the multivariate analysis for further analysis which reflected the controlled effect of variables on child marriage.

Outcome Variables

The outcome variables are the incidence of child marriage and have been divided into two categories – i) incidence of child marriage before the age of 15 years and ii) between the age of 15 to 18 years. Marriage at 18 tears or after age18 years has considered as legal age marriage. It has made a dichotomous variable based on the reported age at first marriage of married women. Eighteen years has selected as the cut-off point for defining the state of marriage as this is the legal female age at marriage in India.

Explanatory Variables

Explanatory variables encompass educational, economic, demographic and others

Educational characteristic

This category includes three variables - i) respondents level of education ii) paternal level of education and iii) maternal level of education. It has measured on a 4-point scale from i) no education ii) primary education iii) secondary education and iv) tertiary or higher education.

Economic characteristic

This category includes three variables- Occupation of head of the family, per day per capita income and wealth index. Occupation of head of the family has been categorized as i) daily labour ii) hawker and others iii) farmer iv) businessman and v) serviceman. Per day per capita income of the family has been categorized as below INR 27 and INR 27 and above and marked as below poverty and above poverty level respectively. Household economic status has been measured using the household wealth index. This index is calculated based on 22 dichotomous items measuring household ownership of assets and housing quality.

Demographic characteristic

This category includes three variables- family size, family type and dependency ratio. Family size has been categorized into two types- i) family with ≤ 4 family members and family with > 4 family members. Family type has been categorized into i) nuclear and ii) joint family and dependency ratio has been categorized as i) high ii) medium and iii) low.
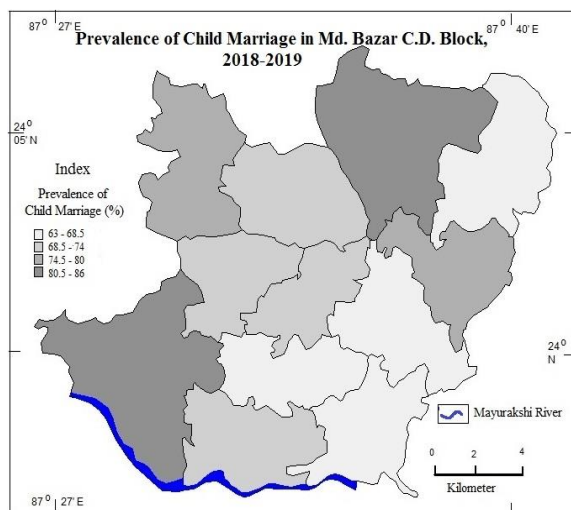
Others

Social security and social pressure or customs has also been taken as explanatory variables. Social security has been categorized in to two types- i) parents who have worried about the social insecurity of the girl and ii) parents who have not worried about the social insecurity of their girl and dichotomously coded as 'yes' and 'no' respectively. Social pressure has also been categorized into two types- i) parents who have got

social pressure from neighbor to marry their girls at early age and ii) who have not got such pressure to merry their girl at early age and also been coded as 'yes' and 'no' respectively.
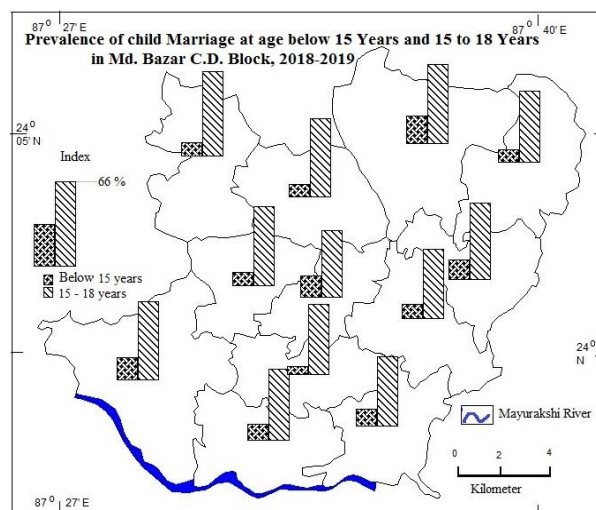
Result and discussion

Prevalence of Child Marriage and its Pattern

Highest and lowest prevalence of child marriage has been found in Varkata (84.89) and in Md. Bazar (63.00%) with an average of 72.52% Table 2 & map 2). Prevalence of child marriage at below 15 years has been observed highest in Varkata (22.04%) whereas lowest prevalence has noticed in Gonpur (9.7%) with the block average of 13.84%. The average prevalence of 15-18 years has been found 58.71% with highest and lowest prevalence in Varkata (62.85%) and Deucha (52.4%)(Table 2 & Map 3).

Map 2   **Map 3**

Table 2: Pattern of Child Marriage in Md. Bazar C.D. Block by GP

Sl No	Name of GP	No. of Respondent	Incidence of Marriage Before 15 years (%)	Incidence of Marriage at 15-18 Years (%)	Average incidence of Child Marriage (%)
1	Angargaria	54	14.37	54.51	68.88
2	Bhutura	51	13.52	56.86	70.38
3	Charicha	48	18.53	61.33	79.86
4	Deucha	54	17.92	52.4	70.32
5	Gonpur	41	9.7	56.53	66.23
6	Hinglow	49	10.32	61.3	71.62
7	Kapista	53	11.32	66.37	77.69
8	Md. Bazar	52	7.69	55.76	63.00
9	Puranagram	63	12.7	54.3	67.00
10	Rampur	43	11.62	62.09	73.71
11	Sekedda	65	16.45	60.23	76.68
12	Varkata	70	22.04	62.85	84.89
	Average	-	**13.84**	**58.71**	**72.52**

Source: Field survey and calculated by authors

Determinants of Child Marriage

Age of First Marriage in Respect to Socio-economic and Demographic Variables through Cross Tabulation

Survey has revealed that, girls having no education have highest percentage (83.8%) of getting married early than the girl of primary education (78.78%), secondary (42.33%) and higher education (3.1%). Similarly parental level of education of the married girl has also played as causative factor of child marriage and it shows as similar picture as girls' education. Higher prevalence of child marriage has found in the families where guardian or father of the married girl is daily labour (97.54%), farmer (83.76%) and or small businessman (82.86%). It has also been noticed that girl from poor and middle income family have higher tendency of getting married than the girl of rich family. Again social security and social pressure has been found strong determinants of child marriage (Table 3).

Table 3: Age of First Marriage in Respect to Socio-economic Variables through Cross Tabulation

Variables and their categories	Age at first marriage			Incidence of Legal Marriage (%)
	Incidence of Child Marriage (%)			
	Before 15 Years	15 - 18 Years	Total	
Respondent's Education				
Illiterate	30.05	53.75	83.8	16.2
Primary	26.46	52.32	78.78	21.22
Secondary	2.1	40.23	42.33	57.67
Higher	0	3.1	3.1	96.9
Father's Education				
Illiterate	28.32	59.99	88.31	11.66
Primary	19.4	69.4	88.8	11.18
Secondary	14.29	59.17	73.46	27
Higher	7.89	15.78	23.67	76.31
Mother's Education				
Illiterate	28.12	70	98.12	1.88
Primary	21.4	75.06	96.46	3.54
Secondary	0	26.53	26.53	73.46
Higher	0	4.1	4.1	95.9
Father's Occupation				
Daily labour	23.34	74.2	97.54	2.12
Farmer	18.46	65.3	83.76	16.61
Marginal Business	17.47	65.39	82.86	17.14
Business	8.33	20.83	29.16	71.08
Service	0	11.76	11.76	88.23
Daily Average Income				
< $1.27 (Below Poverty Level)	19.81	60.16	79.97	20.03
≥$1.27 (Above Poverty Level)	19.24	55.72	74.96	25.04
Family Size				
>4	15.34	62.46	77.8	22.2
≤4	11.78	59.69	71.47	28.53
Dependency Ratio				
High	15.32	67.35	82.67	17.33

Medium	13.90	66.48	80.38	19.62
Low	8.78	53.76	72.54	27.46
Family Types				
Nuclear	8.76	51.49	60.25	39.75
Non-Nuclear	18.84	56.82	75.66	24.34
Wealth Index				
Low	15.96	77.28	93.24	6.76
Medium	15.84	54.67	70.51	29.49
High	4.94	49.73	54.67	45.33
Social Security				
Having Perception	17.96	62.28	81.24	18.76
Not Having Perception	4.84	16.67	21.51	78.49
Social Pressure				
Having Perception	15.3.	53..28	68.58	31.42
Not Having Perception	5.3	25.67	30.97	69.03

Source: Field survey and calculated by authors

Logistic Regression Analysis with All Selected Independent Variables

In the bivariate logistic regression analysis it has been found that, respondent's level of education, paternal and material's level of education, paternal occupation, per day per capita income, wealth index, social security and social custom have been found associated with child marriage. (Table 3). The risk of child marriage of bellow fifteen years age among the girl who is illiterate, having primary education and having secondary education have been found likely to be 4.7 (CI=4.42-4.98) times, 3.93 (CI=3.64-4.23) times and 1.9 (CI=1.54-2.26) times higher respectively than that of children who have tertiary education. Similarly the risk for below eighteen years has been noticed likely to be 4.9 (CI=3.67-5.32), 1.89 (CI=1.85-2.90) times and 4.76 (CI=3.5-5.13) times higher for the girl having no education, primary education and secondary education respectively than that of girl who have tertiary education. On the other hand the prevalence of child marriage of below fifteen years among the girl whose father have found illiterate, primary education and secondary education have been found likely to be 4.7 (CI=4.42-4.98) times, 3.93 (CI=3.64-4.23) times and 1.9 (CI=1.54-2.26) times higher respectively than that of girl whose father have tertiary or higher education. In the case of child marriage of below eighteen years age it has been found likely to be 4.44 (CI=4.12-4.76) times, 4.0 (CI=3.56-4.45) times and 2.11 (CI=1.66-2.57) times higher. Respondents mothers level of education also found to be a significant predictor of the prevalence and the prevalence of below 15 years has found likely to be 4.60 (4.53-4.68) times, 3.53 (3.19-3.87) times and 2.0 (1.65-2.35) times more for those whose mothers education level is illiterate, primary education and secondary education respectively compared to those whose mother has educated up to tertiary level. In this case the prevalence of below 18 years has observed likely to be 4.07 (3.89-4.26) times, 3.48 (3.23-3.73) times and 2.48 (1.56-2.48) times more. Again the prevalence of below 15 years has noticed likely to be 2.75 (1.62-4.88) times, 2.47 (1.19-4.69) times, 2.48 (1.42-3.35) times and 1.95 (1.55-2.36) times more and the prevalence of below 18 years has found likely to be 2.71 (1.71-4.72) times, 2.55 (1.25-4.56) times, 2.16 (1.46-3.86) times and 1.53

(1.32-2.75) more for those whose father are daily labour, farmer, hawker and others and businessman by occupation respectively compared to those whose father has service. Similarly the prevalence of below 15 year has found likely to be 1.84 (1.67-2.21) times and of below 18 years likely to be 1.47 (1.78-2.37) times more for poor family compared to the family living above poverty level. It has also been noticed that the prevalence has observed likely to be 5.43 (4.31-6.16) times and 5.50 (4.73-5.68) times higher for below 15 years and below 18 years respectively of the girls whose fathers are being worried about the social security of his girl from sexual harassment compared to the girls whose fathers do not have worry about social security. Moreover child marriage has observed likely to be 4.61 (3.53-5.69) times and 4.62 (3.26-4.98) times higher of the girls whose fathers have a faith on social custom of marriage is necessary as soon as early compared to the girls whose fathers have not such type of perception about the matter (Table 3).

Table 2: Association between socio-economic and Demographic characteristics with Child marriage

Variables and their categories	Child Marriage (Before 15 Years) OR (95% CI)		Child Marriage (15-18 Years) OR (95% CI)	
	Bivariate Analysis	Multivariate Analysis	Bivariate Analysis	Multivariate Analysis
Respondents Level of Education				
Illiterate	4.82 (3.57-5.74)*	**4.54 (3.37-5.64)***	4.9 (3.67-5.32)*	**4.75 (3.32-5.61)***
Primary education	4.35 (3.36-5.56)*	**4.21 (2.58-5.46)***	4.76 (3.5-5.13)*	**4.12 (3.15-5.79)***
Secondary education	1.21 (0.78-2.53)*	**1.38 (0.84-2.73)***	1.89 (1.85-2.90)*	**2.1 (1.42-3.91)***
Higher education**	1	**1**	1	**1**
Paternal Level of Education				
Illiterate	4.7 (4.42-4.98)*	**4.21 (3.45-4.86)***	4.44 (4.12-4.76)*	**4.75 (3.77-4.54)***
Primary education	3.93 (3.64-4.23)*	**3.55 (2.57-4.63)***	4.0 (3.56-4.45)*	**3.62 (3.47-4.63)***
Secondary education	1.9 (1.54-2.26)*	**1.75 (1.33-2.62)***	2.11 (1.66-2.57)*	**1.8 (1.84-2.65)***
Higher education**	1	1	1	1
Maternal Level of Education				
Illiterate	4.60 (4.53-4.68)*		4.07 (3.89-4.26)*	
Primary education	3.53 (3.19-3.87)*		3.48 (3.23-3.73)*	
Secondary education	2.0 (1.65-2.35)*		2.48 (1.56-2.48)*	
Higher education**	1		1	
Paternal occupation				
Daily labour	2.75 (1.62-4.88)*		2.71 (1.71-4.72)*	
Farmer	2.47 (1.19-4.69)*		2.55 (1.25-4.56)*	
Hawker and others	2.48 (1.42-3.35)*		2.16 (1.46-3.86)*	
Business	1.95 (1.55-2.36)*		1.53 (1.32-2.75)*	
Service **	1		1	
Per Day Per Capita Income				
< INR 27 (Below Poverty Level)	1.84 (1.67-2.21)*		1.47 (1.78-2.37)*	
>INR 27 (Above Poverty	1		1	

Level)				
Family Size				
>4	1.48 (1.54-2.31)		1.57 (1.35-2.37)	
≤4	1		1	
Dependency Ratio				
High	2.21 (2.75-4.67)		2.24 (2.43-4.26)	
Medium	1.42 (1.29-3.55)		1.39 (1.68-3.11)	
Low**	1		1	
Family Type				
Nuclear	1.28 (1.34-2.22)		1.56 (1.52-2.61)	
Non-Nuclear**	1		1	
Wealth Index				
Low	4.18 93.24-5.12)*		4.24 (3.13-5.36)*	
Medium	2.94 (1.52-4.37)*		3.03 (1.78-4.28)*	
High**	1		1	
Social Security				
Worried about Security	5.43 (4.31-6.16)*	**5.62 (4.44-6.26)***	5.50 (4.73-5.68)*	**5.82 (4.64-5.57)***
Don't Worried about Security**	1	**1**	1	**1**
Social Custom				
Having Perception	4.86 (3.45-5.97)*	**4.61 (3.53-5.69)***	4.62 (3.26-4.98)*	**4.73 (3.32-4.75)***
Having No Perception**	1	**1**	1	**1**

** Reference Category, OR= Odd Ratio, CI= Confidence Interval, Level of significance p* <0.05= significant

However multivariable logistic regression model analysis showed that respondent's level of education, paternal level of education, social insecurity and social pressure have been noticed strong independent predictors for child marriage for both below 15 years and between 15-18 years.

Discussion

The above study has unfolded the alarming picture of the society in the form of child, early and force marriage of girl child in Md. Bazar C.D. Block. The rate of child marriage in the block is not only high (72.52%), but also higher than the national rate (30%) even the figure is more or less equal to the highest country rate (76% of Niger) in the World. Present study has revealed that level of education of the girl child and parental level of education are the significant determinants of child marriage and it has found that the probability of a girl child with no education and primary education getting married is significantly high than that of a girl having secondary and or tertiary education and it is because higher education level of women have attained higher occupational aspiration rather than getting married earlier (Kamal, 2012). Moreover educated girls are expected to gain more control over household resources and personal behavior so that they can achieve better bargaining power in deciding the age of their marriage as well as the selection of grooms (Kamal et al., 2014). Besides this educational attainment get obstruction to get marriage in early age. Similarly the probability of child marriage decreases when the girls' parental level of education has increases. Therefore education and early marriage are closely correlated to each other. A group of studies

have shown a significant negative association between education and child marriage and child fertility (Kamal, 2012, 2011; Jones & Gubhaju, 2009; Arayal 2007; Wong, 2005; Gupta & Mahy 2003; Lee 1982). Choe et al. and Magadi & Agwanda revealed that each additional level of education beyond primary school level lowers the probability of early marriage significantly (Magadi & Agwanda 2009; Choe et al., 2005). Accordant with these earlier studies, current study also reveals that the higher the post-primary education among the girl and parents lower the probability of child marriage. Therefore due to prolonged schooling and desire for career development, higher educated women are more likely to marry later than their lower educated counterparts. Although higher education of both females and males seems to play a protective role in child marriage, it is not the higher education itself, but the environment and other external elements developed through education that reduce the chances of child marriage (Kamal et al., 2014)

It has also been found that social security is significant predictors of child marriage and the probability of a girl of getting married is higher whose parents or guardian worried about social security of their girl than that of a girl whose parents have not such type of perception. It strengthens the fact that social security is a strong social factor responsible for child marriage. It is general perception that a married woman is safer against offenses than an unmarried girl. Unmarried girls are viewed with malafied intentions that lead to crimes against unmarried girls. To be secure from offences, assaults, teasing against their girls, parents are in an urgency to give away girl in marriage soon after she attains puberty or earlier (Lal, 2015). In most of the families it has found that they are practising early marriage as because they are feeling social insecurity and they are always worry about their girl who have entered teen age, about their love affairs to escape the girl from elope with her boyfriend and also to assure virginity. Because virginity is highly valuable in rural society and the girls who has broken her virginity before her marriage are rejected by the society (Bhanji & Punjani, 2014). Most of the parents have an opinion that if a girl elopes from house and loss her virginity no guy would want to get marries her and it would become a serious problem for the family especially for the parents. The younger the bride, the likelier she is to be a virgin. It is considered that shame would be cast on a family if a girl was not a virgin when she marries. Therefore, in order to ensure that a girl's virtue remains intact, girls may be married earlier, in order to ensure their virginity (Bhanji & Punjani, 2014).Some of the parents believe that early marriage will protect young girls from sexual attacks and violence and see it as a way to ensure that their daughter will not become pregnant out of wedlock and bring dishonour to the family. Schuler et al. (2006) suggest that the parents marry their girls in an early age to keep them from worrying about the gossips regarding sexual relationships if any about their daughters which might decrease their marriage prospects later. Too many families marry their daughters simply because early marriage is the only option they know.

Social pressure as well as social norms has also been found a significant determinant of child marriage in the study area. Most of the parents have opinion that they are forced to wed their girl in early age due to the social pressure within the community which is mainly coming from relatives and neighbour. Social pressures within a community can lead families to wed young children (Ferdousi, 2014). Many of the parents believe marrying girls before they reach puberty will bring blessings on their families and safe them

from social stigma. They have an opinion that unmarried teenage girl is not like to stay at home. Thus getting frequently pressure especially from relative parents forced to arrange marriage for their child as soon as possible. ICRW (2012) reported that traditions, culture and social settings are powerful determinants of child marriage (ICRW, 2012). Caldwell et al. (1983) reported that parents are unwilling to put off marriage beyond the teenage years because of the increased cost of dowries for older brides. UNICEF's study in Bangladesh in 2002 found the same 20 years after the study of Caldwell et al. (UNICEF, 2002). Our study also reveals that the tradition, culture and social settings guide the child marriage in the study area. However, it is not easy to assess cultural aspects quantitatively. Culture is reflected in other variables, for example religion, ethnicity and caste (Kamal et. Al., 2014).

Our findings revealed that, the income and wealth index is the determinant of child marriage but not strong and does not play significant role to determine the child marriage in the study area. This raises an important question that improvement of economic condition of households would not have any effect on reducing the high rate of child marriage. Moreover, among all the GP in the block, the family with below poverty level does not play any significant role in determining the probability of a girl's child marriage in Md. Bazar CD Block. This strengthens our conclusion that poverty is not a significant factor for child marriage in the study area.

Target 5.3 of SDGs 2030 is critical in terms of garnering action and monitoring progress on reducing child marriage globally. But fully half of the SDGs will not be achieved without significant progress on child marriage, including those related to poverty, health, education, nutrition, food security, economic growth and reduction of inequality, and other manifestations of gender inequality (Girls Not Bride, 2017). Now it is therefore, need to take ameliorative and fruitful step to end this harmful practice from the society in views to resilient, inclusive and sustainable development. The 2030 Development Agenda promises to leave no one behind and being a signatory member of UNO Government of India should need to take effective steps to solve the problem. It is needless to say that this initiative would be the important step of 'Make in India'. Though, some initiatives have already been taken from the end of state and central government.

Conclusion

Based on the findings, some recommendations have been given below to prevent the child and early marriage in the study area to reach the goal within 2030.

Firstly, increasing girl's access for schooling and attaining higher education will be the key intervention strategy for delaying age at marriage. Educational development project may be taken in higher education like 'Samagra Siksha Mission', for this purpose. Retention is also very important in secondary and higher secondary level for girls student and Government should need to invest more on education in rural area creating an environment in which girl student could get opportunity of education by free of cost. It should be kept in mind that the presence of adequate schools alone would not assure the admission and retention of girl students in schools. Develop fruitful support system to keep girl in the school and recurring financial

support as scholarship may also be providing to the girls student for this purpose. 'Kanyashree Prakalpa' could be a good instrument to reduce the child marriage.

Secondly, it is also suggested that, as most of the parents of the girls are illiterate and or their education has limited by primary level and hence it is need to grow awareness through sensitization programmes including media campaigns among.

Thirdly Create a supportive network of village leaders, club, NGO and teachers who can aware the parents about negative consequences of child marriage and empower the girls to negotiate with their parents.

Fourthly Policy makers may establish special team to reach the goal.

However, tackling child marriage is a toilful task as it is ultimately deep rooted in Indian society and the issue is embraced with social value, attitude and sentiment of the people. Hence substantial acceleration is needed in order to meet the Sustainable Development Goal target 5.3 and unless the efforts to tackle child marriage are significantly increased, the international community as well as we will miss its target to end child marriage by 2030 as envisioned in the SDGs.

Limitation of the Study

1.We have taken only eleven socio-economic and demographic independent variables to analyze the causes of child marriage in the study. There may have more significant variables which could have been included and further research is necessary for the same which has been beyond this study.

2.The information about parental household of married girl has been collected from the married women is another limitation of the study.

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