

Early Marriages as a Form of Gender-Based Violence

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Abstract

Early marriage, defined as formal marriage or informal union before 18, has been normalized depending on the expectations on gender roles. Especially in patriarchal societies, girls and young women who are married without their consents unwillingly accept the situation without having anything to say. Some young women, married early, on the other hand, become a "role model" to help the continuation of the system. Cultural implications that emphasize unequal gender roles, dominant male authority, and leaving females without power and autonomy in the society females depending on the patriarchy and its reflections are effective on the continuation of the early marriages and the occurrence of gender-based violence against young women. Girls growing up and getting married early in such a society are being exposed to different forms of physical, psychological, sexual, social and financial violence especially through the marriage starting from the marriage decisions made on behalf of them. The purpose of this study is to discuss how gender-based violence against young women and girls caused by early marriages occurs. In other words, gender-based violence before the marriage/union, considering especially the marriage decisions, and through the marriages is analyzed. Finally, suggestions aiming to prevent early marriages of girls and young women, and by extension, to deter gender-based violence are offered in this study.

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