



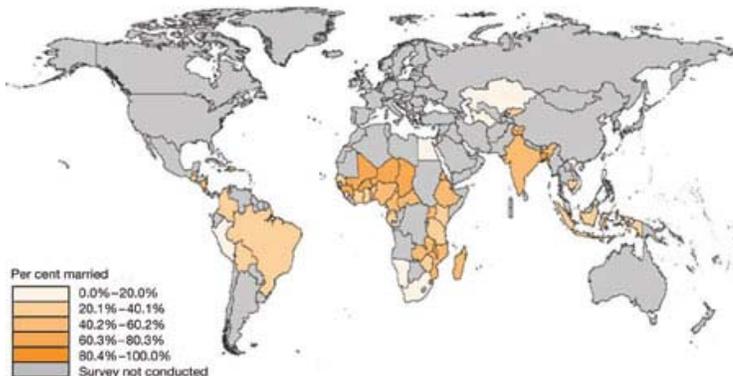
TIPPING POINT

Child Marriage: Digging Up the Roots to Replant the Future

Child Marriage Fact Sheet

Global:

- One third of the world's girls are married before the age of 18 and 1 in 9 are married before the age of 15.
- If present trends continue, 142 million girls will be married before their 18th birthday over the next decade. That's an average of 14.2 million girls each year.
- While countries with the highest prevalence of child marriage are concentrated in Western and Sub-Saharan Africa, due to population size, the largest number of child brides resides in South Asia.
- Girls with higher levels of schooling are less likely to marry as children. In Mozambique, some 60 percent of girls with no education are married by 18, compared to 10 percent of girls with secondary schooling and less than one percent of girls with higher education.
- Girls living in poor households are almost twice as likely to marry before 18 than girls in higher income households.
- No one religious affiliation was associated with child marriage; rather, a variety of religions are associated with child marriage in countries throughout the world.



Bangladesh:

- In Bangladesh the legal age for marriage is 21 for boys and 18 for girls. This was established with the national Child Marriage Restraint Act in 1929.
- According to UNICEF's State of the World's Children (2011), one-third of women aged 20-24 in Bangladesh are married by the age of 15 and about two-thirds by the age of 18.
- A higher proportion of women (71%) in rural areas are married before 18 years of age, compared

to 54 percent of women in urban areas.

- There are strong associations among child marriage, education and economic status, with higher rates of child marriage among women with low or no education and for those from families living in poverty.
- There has been only a very slight increase in the average girl's age for marriage, from 16 years in 2004 to 16.4 in 2007.

Nepal:

- A recent study (SOLID Nepal 2012) on child marriage found that 52% of women and 34% of men aged 20 to 24 were married before the legal marriageable age.
- Child marriage was most prevalent among non-literate, *Janajati* and *Dalit* castes of Nepal (especially among the women in these groups). This study also found that child marriage rates were higher among women with less education.
- A study reports that according to household heads, the major causes of child marriage were family pressure (32.1%), children's own desire (32.1%), and the need for support in carrying out household activities (14.2%); whereas those who had married young said parental pressure (52.7% for male and 67.1% for female) and the need for support in carrying out household chores (45.2% for male and 1.2% for female). (SOLID Nepal 2012)

Excerpts compiled from:

International Center for Research on Women | Child Marriage Facts and Figures; Asia Child Marriage Initiative, Plan Asia Regional Office; SOLID Nepal: Child Marriage in Nepal, 2012; Population Reference Bureau | Child Marriage fact sheet; UNICEF | Child Marriage fact sheet