Impact of Child Marriage on the Slum People of Rangpur City

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Abstract : Slum is almost a universal phenomenon in every city of the world. No country can deny this reality as all metropolitan cities in the world are most affected by many problems; child marriage is one of them. Any marriage where one of the parties is below the age of 18 years is considered a child marriage. To find out the "Impact of Child Marriage of Slum People in Rangpur City, we use contingency and regression analysis. From our study we had seen that 16% respondents were married under 14 years of age, 36% respondents were married at age interval 14-15, 26% respondents were married who were aged 15 to 16 years of age and 22% respondents were married in between 16 to 18 years. We have concluded that child marriage has positive significant impact on educational qualification, dowry, number of children, and healthy condition.

Keywords: Slum, child marriage, Rangpur, dowry, education, health and Bangladesh.
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I.   INTRODUCTION

Slum is almost a universal phenomenon in every city of the world. No country can deny this reality as all metropolitan cities in the world are most affected by this problem though the characteristics of slums like poor and congested housing , disorganized families, low literacy rate, deviant behavior, high population density, etc. vary from region to region, the unemployed and homeless people come to the metropolitan cities obviously because the prospects of making a living are better(at least as perceived by the potential migrants) in the big cities than in small towns or rural areas. A major reason for their being homeless is non-availability of affordable housing in the metropolitan cities. Hence, these homeless people build slums in the big cities.

Urbanization under the conditions of rapid population growth creates two sets of problems for metropolitan cities in the developing countries; the problem of intense population pressure arising out of population growth and migration from rural areas and small towns, and the problem of the collapse of the limited infrastructure economic resources in large cities. These, turn, result in the growth of slums in such cities. Contrary to this, metropolitan cities in the developed countries do not face the burden of demographic pressure except of that through the limited migration. This is precisely due to the reason that the density of the population in these cities is usually i.e. drifting of population towards suburbs. In other words, urbanization is in effect decentralized in the industrially advanced societies due to the easy availability of modern technology even in the suburbs.

Slum is defined as a densely populated temporary residential house built lawfully or unlawfully having no water supply, sanitation facilities or electricity supply. Most of these are one-roomed dwellings and extremely over-crowded. The World Bank, in a survey report that was conducted in collaboration with the Housing and Settlement Directorate, Govt of Bangladesh (GoB) and Centre for Urban Studies, defined a slum as a residential area where more than three hundred people live in one acre (0.405 hectors) of land.

Slums can be divided into three groups:
1.   Unauthorized occupation of government or semi-government lands.
2.   Living in thatched houses made of papers, polythene, tin etc., built on unauthorized vacant land near railway lines or on the footpath or by side of the main roads.
3.   Living in unauthorized private lands.

The common factors of these slums are poverty, poor-quality households, over-crowded, center of low–income people, skilled and unskilled manpower, limited health care service and unhealthy environment, awkward social structure, corruption etc.

The living conditions of these slums are inhuman. There are no water supplies for drinking, bathing or cooking. Most of the dwellers have to spend daily Tk. 10-15 on average for buying water, which is unaffordable

for many. Apart from this, there are few sanitation facilities. In the majority of slums, up to 20 - 100 families use one toilet and only on payment. The slum dwellers are also deprived of primary health care facilities. There is no medical center for them. The child death rate is unusually high, more than 15 per cent. Most of the children suffer from malnutrition.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Any marriage where one of the parties is below the age of 18 years is considered a child marriage, although the laws of individual countries allow marriage to take place at different ages, some even below that age. For example, Maldives allows marriage of boys and girls aged 15 years, whereas in Bangladesh the minimum age is 21 years for boys and 18 years for girls. In most countries of Europe, girls are allowed to marry at the age of 16 years with parental consent. In the USA the legal age for marriage is generally 18 years, but most states allow girls to marry variously at 15, 16 or 17 with parental or court consent. In case of "special cause" New Hampshire allows boys aged 14 and girls aged 13 to marry with parental consent and court permission.

Marriage systems in many parts of the world, including southern Europe in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, have been dominated by the influence of the corporate family. In societies where individuals are closely linked to extended families, marriage decisions also retain the imprimatur of the family. Extended family residence and joint property-holding often keep the economic fortunes of individuals tied to their families. However, purse strings are not the only ties that bind; individuals' social nexus are often determined by the ties of kinship, caste, and clan, whose social status is enhanced or diminished by the selection of a marriage partner, age at marriage, and the manner in which marriage takes place. Modernization theories that posit marriage as an individually-driven phenomenon often fail to provide a satisfactory account of the linkages between gender and marital patterns, resulting in calls for a focus on a better understanding of contextual factors Hence, in this article, we develop a theoretical framework linking gender and marriage timing, keeping in mind a social context within which marriage decisions are overwhelmingly made by the corporate family.

According to a 2012 United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) report:

Bangladesh has one of the highest child marriage rates in the world, ranking fourth in the league table. About 66% girls will be married before their 18th birthday and in the western part of the country the figure may be as high as 74%. These figures are "much higher than the regional average for South Asia (46%).

Child marriage is associated with girls "who are the least educated, poorest and living in rural areas. The report goes on to say, "girls from the poorest 20% of the households were almost twice as likely to be married/in union before age 18 than girls from the richest 20% of the households."

Slums are easy targets for all forms of sexual harassment as the security there is minimal (which again relates to poverty-stricken areas). People living in urban slums are essentially displaced persons who migrate to the towns from the rural areas in order to eke out a living. When both parents go out to work, the young girl becomes an easy target for sexual harassment. Bagley (1991) found that there are long-term psychological negative effects of child sexual abuse. The shanty hut/plastic tent does not provide any safety or security for her. Refusals of marriage proposals and other sexual advances from sexual harassers have even culminated in grave physical attacks upon the victim, including through the use of acid, where the perpetrator throws acid upon the face or body of the victim with the intent of scarring and disfiguring her for life. One news report noted that a Dhaka-based NGO, Steps towards Development, has stated that, "in a country where more than 64 per cent of girls marry before they are 18, some parents have pushed Eve-teasing victims into early marriage to "protect" their honor and safety." There have been examples of girls who have committed suicide due to stalking and sexual harassment. A poor family may have limited means to achieve redress, and "given the importance of chastity, early marriage is seen as a solution." Families have been known to leave their home and move to distant parts to escape from harassers.

The international NGO Plan International, names sexual harassment as one of the two root causes (along with the prospect of reduced dowry payments for a younger bride) of early marriage in Bangladesh. A recent Baseline Report on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Violence Against Women and Girls in Dhaka Slums found that inherent insecurity and extreme poverty in a slum increases the vulnerability of the young girls to sexual abuse and violence; they are not safe in the streets or in the homes as parents and elders in the family are at work each day. The report goes on to say that social insecurity, combined with cultural pressure for protecting virginity and chastity of an unmarried girl and upholding family honor result in restricting the girls' mobility, which creates immense pressure on the girls for marriage. One private tutor who was interviewed commented as follows:

"Girls are not safe in this area. There are so many gangsters, spoiled/derailed boys out there. They harass the girls. Sometimes girls cannot go to school because of such harassment. Parents therefore want to get their daughters married off before anything bad happens to them."

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives we thought are outlined below.
1.	To study the nature, causes and consequences of child marriage.
2.	To develop a framework that could be used to quantify the cost of child marriage.
3.	To gather primary data to quantify the cost of child marriage on the individual and family levels at local area of Rangpur
4.	To understand the level of education they hold and their perception

Besides, the way it could impact on the community as a whole is also considered as objective.

IV. METHODOLOGY

The research was based on review of secondary materials, survey and case study. In addition to that, informal discussions have been conducted with the community to have a clear picture of the slums. We collected primary data from selected areas. With the application of SPSS, we used contingency analysis and regression to show the impact of evident variables.

## V.	DATA COLLECTION

The primary data was collected through direct interview method by using pre-tested structured interview schedule. We also gathered some information through informal discussion. We also collected data through observation on the living condition of the slums. We selected different slum areas of Rangpur city (Hotatbosti, Courtpara, Nurpurbosti) to collect primary.

VI. FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION

Frequency distributions are visual displays that organize and present frequency counts so that the information can be interpreted more easily. Frequency distributions are used for both qualitative and quantitative data.

6.1 Age of the respondent
Table-6.1.: The frequency distribution of age of the respondents.

Age of the respondents	Frequency	Percentage
<15	2	2.0
15-25	15	15.0
25-35	41	41.0
35-45	24	24.0
45-55	9	9.0
55-65	5	5.0
65+	4	4.0
Total	100	100.0

Comment: From the above table, 2% respondents were aged under 15,15% respondents were aged in between 15 to 24, 41%respondents were in the age group of 25 to 34, 24% respondents were between 35 and 44 years age, 9% respondents are 45 to 54, 5% respondents were between 55 to 64 age group and 4% respondents were aged above 65.

6.2 Educational qualification of the respondent
Table-6.2: Frequency distribution of educational qualification of the respondents.

Education qualification of the respondents	Frequency	Percent
Illiterate	18	18.0
Primary	71	71.0
Secondary	10	10.0
Higher secondary	1	1.0
Total	100	100.0

Comment: From the above table we found that 18% respondents were illiterate, 71% respondents were primary, 10% respondents were secondary and 1% higher secondary.

6.3 Educational qualification of husband

Table-6.3: Educational qualification of husbands.

Educational Qualification of husbands	Frequency	Percent
Primary	61	61.0
Secondary	20	20.0
Higher secondary	9	9.0
No Education	10	10.0
Total	100	100.0

Comment: From the above table we found that 61% respondents passed primary level, 20% respondents passed secondary, 9% respondents had higher secondary level education and 10% respondents had no education.

6.4 Age of getting married of the respondents

Table-6.4: Frequency distributions of age of getting married of the respondents.

Years of Getting Married	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
< 14	16	16.0	16.0
14-15	36	36.0	52.0
15-16	26	26.0	78.0
16-18	22	22.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	

Comment: From the above table we found that 16% respondents were married at the age under 14, 36 % respondents were married at age interval 14-15, 26% respondents were married at the age between 15 to 16 and 22% respondents was married in the age interval of 16 to 18.

6.5 Relationship with husbands

Table-6.5: Frequency distribution of relationship with husbands.

Relationship with husbands	Frequency	Percent
Well	61	61.0
Not well	25	25.0
Moderate	10	10.0
Others	4	4.0
Total	100	100.0

Comment: From the above table we have found that 61% respondents in relationship with their husbands were well, 25% respondents expressed were not well and 10% respondents said moderate.

6.6 Number of children of the respondents

Table-6.6: Frequency distribution on children of the respondents.

Number of children	Frequency	Percent
2	11	11.0
3	52	52.0
4	23	23.0
6	14	14.0
Total	100	100.0

Comment: From the above table we found that 11% respondents had 2 children, 52% respondents had 3, 23% respondents had 4 and 14% respondents has number of children 6.

6.7 Dowry taken by in-law of the respondents

Table-6.7: Frequency distribution in dowry taken by in-law of the respondents.

Dowry taken in-law	Frequency	Percent
No	13	13.0
Yes	87	87.0
Total	100	100.0

Comment: From the above table we have found that 87% respondents took dowry and 13% did not take.

6.8 Health status of respondents
Table-6.8: Frequency distribution of health status of the respondents.

Health Status	Frequency	percent
No	58	58.0
Yes	42	42.0
Total	100	100.0

Comment: From the above table we have found that 42% respondents were healthy, 58% respondents were not healthy.

6.9 Proportion of birth and death of children
Table-6.9: Frequency distribution on birth and death of children.

Proportion of birth and death of children	Frequency	Percent
Yes	38	38.0
No	62	62.0
Total	100	100.0

Comment: From the above table we found that 38% respondents gave birth to a dead child.

6.10 Health condition of children
Table-6.10: Frequency distribution of health condition of the respondents' children.

Healthy condition of children	Frequency	Percent
Yes	29	29.0
No	71	71.0
Total	100	100.0

Comment: From the above table we found that 29% respondents of her children were healthy, 71% respondents of her children were not healthy.

6.11 Service of the respondents
Table-6.11: Frequency distribution on getting care by the respondents.

Cared while sick	Frequency	Percent
Yes	74	74.0
No	26	26.0
Total	100	100.0

Comment: From the above table we found that 26% respondents got no service and 74% respondents got care.

VII. CONTINGENCY ANALYSIS

The contingency analysis is investigated the degree of association between different phenomenon that could be useful in the analysis. At first, we have constructed some simple cross table and we have examined the association. For contingency analysis, it is assumed that the hypothesis of independence or homogeneity as the null hypothesis. The expected frequency under the null hypothesis is

$$E_{ij} = \frac{O_i \times O_j}{N}$$

Where,
Eij= The expected number of respondent in the (i,j)th cell
Oi= Number of respondent at the ith row of respective contingency table.
Oj= Number of respondent at the jth column of respective contingency table.
N= Total number of respondent.

All contingency tables are prepared on the basis of classification of variables or attribute. For each contingency table computing chi-square makes examination of association between the component and the various segments of the components. To test the association between variable, the contingency tables were used.

8.1 Contingency analysis on child marriage with educational qualification of respondent

Table-8.1: Contingency table on Child marriage with educational qualification of respondents.

		Illiterate	Primary	Secondary	Higher secondary	Total
Educational qualification of the respondents						
Age of Marriage	< 14	4	9	3	0	16
	14-15	8	24	3	1	36
	15-16	4	19	3	0	26
	16-18	2	19	1	0	22
	Total	18	71	10	1	100

Hypothesis testing:

Null Hypothesis, H_0: There is no impact on child marriage and educational qualification of the respondent.

Alternative Hypothesis, H_1: Null hypothesis is not true.

Chi-Square Statistics

Name of test	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig.
Pearson Chi Square	79.572	9	.000
Likelihood Ratio	96.193	9	.000

Comment:

From the above table, we see that the Pearson Chi-square statistics at 5% level of significance with 9 degrees of freedom is .000, which is asymptotically significant since less than 0.05 but some cell frequency is less than 5. So, we consider likelihood ratio statistics at 5% level of significance with 9 degrees of freedom is .000, which is asymptotically significant since less than 0.05. So, we may reject the null hypothesis, which indicates there is an impact of child marriage on educational qualification of the respondent.

8.2 Contingency analyses on child marriage with dowry

Table-8.2: Contingency table on child marriage with dowry.

		Yes	No	Total
Dowry				
Marriage age	< 14	12	4	36
	14-15	33	3	26
	15-16	22	4	22
	16-18	20	2	16
	Total	87	13	100

Hypothesis testing:

Null Hypothesis, H_0: There is no impact on child marriage and dowry.

Alternative Hypothesis, H_1: Null hypothesis is not true.

Chi-Square Statistics

Name of test	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig.
Pearson Chi Square	22.158	3	.002
Likelihood Ratio	21.902	3	.001

Comment:

From the above table, we see that the Pearson Chi-square statistics at 5% level of significance with 3 degrees of freedom is .002, which is asymptotically significant since less than 0.05 but some cell frequency is less than 5. So, we consider likelihood ratio statistics at 5% level of significance with 3 degrees of freedom is .001, which is asymptotically significant since less than 0.05. So, we may reject the null hypothesis, which indicates there is an impact of child marriage on dowry.

8.3 Contingency analyses on child marriage with number children of the respondent

Table-8.3: Contingency table on Child marriage with number of children of the respondent.

		Number of children of the respondent				
		2	3	4	6	Total
Marriage age	< 14	0	11	3	2	16
	14-15	6	17	6	7	36
	15-16	3	13	8	2	26
	16-18	2	11	6	3	22
	Total	11	52	23	14	100

Hypothesis testing:

Null Hypothesis, H_0: There is no impact on child marriage and number of children of the respondent.

Alternative Hypothesis, H_1: Null hypothesis is not true.

Chi-Square Statistics

Name of test	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig.
Pearson Chi Square	34.088	3	.000
Likelihood Ratio	33.697	3	.001

Comment:

From the above table, we see that the Pearson Chi-square statistics at 5% level of significance with 3 degrees of freedom is .000, which is asymptotically significant since less than 0.05 but some cell frequency is less than 5. So, we consider likelihood ratio statistics at 5% level of significance with 3 degrees of freedom is .001, which is asymptotically significant since less than 0.05. Thus, we may reject the null hypothesis, which indicates there is an impact of child marriage on number of children of the respondent.

8.4 Contingency analysis on child marriage with health status of the respondents.

Table-8.4: Contingency table on child marriage with health status of the respondents.

		Completely healthy		
		Yes	No	Total
Marriage age	<14	8	8	16
	14-15	21	15	36
	15-16	17	9	26
	16-18	12	10	22
Total		58	42	100

Hypothesis testing:

Null Hypothesis, H_0: There is no impact on child marriage and feel completely healthy.

Alternative Hypothesis, H_1: Null hypothesis is not true.

Chi-Square Statistics

Name of test	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig.
Pearson Chi Square	48.590	3	.000
Likelihood Ratio	57.552	3	.000

Comment:

From the above table, we see that the Pearson Chi-square statistics at 5% level of significance with 3 degrees of freedom is .000, which is asymptotically significant since less than 0.05. The likelihood ratio statistics at 5% level of significance with 3 degrees of freedom is .000, which is asymptotically significant since less than 0.05. So, we may reject the null hypothesis, which indicates there is an impact of child marriage on free completely healthy of the respondent.

8.5 Contingency analysis on child marriage with occupation of the respondents.

Table-8.5: Contingency table on child marriage with occupation of the respondents.

		Occupation of the respondent		Total
		Housewife	Labor	
Marriage age	< 14	9	7	16
	14-15	17	19	36
	15-16	15	11	26
	16-18	10	12	22
Total		51	49	100

Hypothesis testing:

Null Hypothesis, H_0: There is no impact on child marriage and occupation of the respondent.

Alternative Hypothesis, H_1: Null hypothesis is not true.

Chi-Square Statistics

Name of test	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig.
Pearson Chi Square	1.119	3	.773
Likelihood Ratio	1.122	3	.772

Comment:

From the above table, we see that the Pearson Chi-square statistics at 5% level of significance with 3 degrees of freedom is .773, which is asymptotically insignificant since greater than 0.05. The likelihood ratio statistics at 5% level of significance with 3 degrees of freedom is .772, which is asymptotically insignificant since greater than 0.05. So, we may accept the null hypothesis, which indicates there is no impact of child marriage on occupation of the respondent.

8.6 Contingency analysis on child marriage with health condition of the children of the respondents

Table-8.6: Contingency table on child marriage with health condition of the children of the respondents.

		Health condition of children		Total
		No	Yes	
Marriage age	<14	15	1	16
	14-15	22	14	36
	15-16	17	9	26
	16-18	17	5	22
Total		71	29	100

Hypothesis testing:

Null Hypothesis, H_0: There is no impact on child marriages and healthy condition of children.

Alternative Hypothesis, H_1: Null hypothesis is not true.

Chi-Square Statistics

Name of test	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig.
Pearson Chi Square	16.550	3	.008
Likelihood Ratio	17.711	3	.005

Comment:

From the above table, we see that the Pearson Chi-square statistics at 5% level of significance with 3 degrees of freedom is .008, which is asymptotically significant since less than 0.05. So, we consider likelihood ratio statistics at 5% level of significance with 3 degrees of freedom is .005, which is asymptotically significant since less than 0.05. So, we may reject the null hypothesis, which indicates there is an impact of child marriage on healthy condition of children of the respondent.

VIII.   REGRESSION ANALYSIS

Before fitting the model, we consider the following variables for logistic regression analysis-

Table-9.1: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA).

ANOVA						
Variables		**Sum of Squares**	**Df**	**Mean Square**	**F**	**Sig.**
Occupation of the respondents	Between Groups	.484	3	.161	.631	.596
	Within Groups	24.506	96	.255		
	Total	24.990	99			
Educational qualification of the respondents	Between Groups	1.963	3	.654	1.538	.008
	Within Groups	116.797	96	1.217		
	Total	118.760	99			
Dowry taken by in-law	Between Groups	.414	3	.138	1.217	.008
	Within Groups	10.896	96	.113		
	Total	11.310	99			
Health Status	Between Groups	2.028	3	.676	2.905	.039
	Within Groups	22.332	96	.233		
	Total	24.360	99			
Gave birth to dead children	Between Groups	1.599	3	.533	2.330	.789
	Within Groups	21.961	96	.229		
	Total	23.560	99			
Opinion for taking children	Between Groups	.711	3	.237	.978	.407
	Within Groups	23.289	96	.243		
	Total	24.000	99			

Comment:

➢ From the above ANOVA table, we can see that the p-value for the occupation of the respondents is 0.596, which is greater than 0.05. Therefore, we may conclude that there is a statistically insignificant difference in the mean of occupation to the analysis between the different variables.

➢ From the above ANOVA table, we can see that the p-value for educational qualification of the respondents is 0.008, which is less than 0.05. Therefore, we may conclude that there is a statistically insignificant difference in the mean of educational qualification of respondent to the analysis between the different variables.

➢ From the above ANOVA table, we can see that the p-value for dowry taken by in-law of the respondents is 0.008, which is less than 0.05. Therefore, we may conclude that there is a statistically significant difference in the mean of dowry taken by in-law to the analysis between the different variables.

➢ From the above ANOVA table, we can see that the p-value for completely healthy respondents is 0.039, this is less than 0.05. Therefore, we may conclude that there is a statistically significant difference in the mean of completely healthy to the analysis between the different variables.

➢ From the above ANOVA table, we can see that the p-value for give birth to a dead child of the respondents is 0.789, which is greater than 0.05. Therefore, we may conclude that there is a statistically insignificant difference in the mean of giving birth to a dead child to the analysis between the different variables.

➢ From the above ANOVA table, we can see that the p-value for counting opinion for taking children of the respondent is 0.407, which is greater than 0.05. Therefore, we may conclude that there is a statistically insignificant difference in the mean of counting opinion for taking children to the analysis between the different variables.

IX. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Any research work needs high degree of involvement regarding collection of information, creation of database, literature review and analysis of data. While doing so, many limitations arise even though we always try to give our level best effort to avoid them. In conducting the present study, we have faced the limitations:

1. It was very difficult to collect the primary information. Mostly individuals are not interested to provide information,
2. The time and cost were not sufficient for the study, there may have non-sampling errors in this study.
3. In some cases, the respondents could not remember exact answer of the information.
4. In some cases, the respondents could be failed to give accurate age, age at first marriage, income, expenditure etc. in such cases we had to apply indirect technique.
5. Many respondents hesitate to give right answer about their marriage and other related questions in questionnaire.

X. CONCLUSIONS

Bangladesh is the most densely populated country in the world. The present study attempts to investigate the factors influencing child marriage. Actually, research is a systematic search for knowledge. It is a sincere attempt of finding truth. It is careful inquiry or examination to expend and to verify existing knowledge. The aim of my study is to review the impact of child marriage on slum people of Rangpur city. In this study an investigation has been made to get a clear conception that most of the slum people are married in early and they are lower educated.

It is evident from our study that child marriage has positive significant impact on educational qualification, dowry, number of children and health condition.

XI. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The study findings lead to the following policy implications:
1. To increase the level of education of the slum people.
2. Great attention should be taken to the family planning.
3. To expand social work for slum people.

In addition to this, everyone should understand the fact that no one should be lagged behind in any circumstances.

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