

Causes and Consequences of Teenage Marriage Among Dalit Teenagers

Dr. Lalmani Acharya

Associate Professor

Mahendra Multiple Campus Nepalgunj, Banke

Corresponding author: lalmani45@gmail.com

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Abstract

The study seeks to identify the different causes and its consequences women's health. The study is based on quantitative research design. To achieve the devised objectives of the study, the researcher has selected 90 respondents from Barbardiya Municipality using purposive sampling method. The data was collected from primary source. The only tool for collecting data was semi structured interview schedule. The collected data was coded, edited and proceed manually. Number and percent were major statistics measures used in analyzing and interpreting the data. Out of 90 respondents i.e. sample population 61.11 percent respondents are illiterate. It is also found that 64.66 percent respondents got married between the ages of 15-19 years. 60 percent women became pregnant within one year after the marriage. Likewise, 19.33 percent respondent did not checkup their health during pregnancy. Most of the respondents have involved in agriculture. 58.88 percent respondents belong to joint family. The most of respondents, 66.66 percent got teenage marriage because of their parent's decision. Most of the respondents have knowledge about family planning devices. 38.88 percent respondents used family planning devices. In this study area, most of respondents (45%) have more than two children. Likewise, 68.81 percent respondents suffered from miscarriage due to teen age marriage. 82.22 percent respondents' place of delivery was at home. In conclusion, it was found that the main cause of early marriage has lack of education, tradition, socio-economic condition, poverty

Key Words: Dalit women, cause, impact, teenage marriage

Introduction

Teenage marriage can have several harmful effects on the overall wellbeing of a girl child who is not mentally, psychologically emotionally and physically prepared for marital life it's determined by culture education status social character love enjoyment and discrimination etc. The consequences of teenage marriage which results low education unwanted pregnant, unsafe abortion. Teenage marriage increase population maternal and child mortality rate because when a girl was have the probability of bearing more children. Mother and her children many kinds of health problems. Teenage marriage is a global issue, which is prevalent stay every where it after the girls reproductive health and wellbeing of people. Teenage marriage can have several harmful effect on the overall wellbeing of a girl child who is not mentally, psychologically, emotionally and physical prepared for a marital life and early marriage runs has of opportunity of starting or continuing education and deprives personality developments and rules like a good wife, perfect daughter in law and a responsible mother. The most important factors of early marriage are religious beliefs and practice of premarital sex, parents are willing to marry than children at an early age which is one of the most sensitive issue in Nepal where virginity is given high social value the female marriage age is found to have younger. Nepal has patriarchal society and female virginity is valued highly which a prerequisite for marriage too. This is one of the reasons for teenage marriage of Nepal.

Barbardiya Municipality of Bardiya district is one of the municipalities where there is still practice of teenage marriage. The most of the Dalit people of Barbardiya Municipality are illiterate. Due to their traditional belief, superstition and cultural barrier, they often get teenage marriage. It proves that there is strong need to conduct a study on such teenage marriage practices in Barbardiya Municipality. So the researcher has selected the topic 'Causes and Consequences of Teenage Marriage among Dalit Teenagers in Barbardiya Municipality Bardiya District'.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to identify the causes and consequences of teenage marriage among Dalit teenagers in Barbardiya Municipality of Bardiya district. The specific objectives of the study were as below:

- to assess their knowledge on the effects of teenage marriage
- to find out the causes of teenage marriage.
- to identify the consequences of teenage marriage.

Review of Literature

Hammond and et al. (1995) studies 'Religious heritage and teenage marriage' stated that teenage marriage may be a ways of legitimately culminating a sexual relationship and attaining adults states. Our purpose is to investigate whether the religious in which a young person was raised has an impact on the decision it marry early extrapolating from our findings on premarital research of other. We hypothesized that fundamentalist and institutional sector produce higher rates of teenage marriage.

Santow (1997) women's inferior social status in many societies causes women to have and inferior nutritional status resulting from consuming less too, than men. This situation is particularly severe for young adult women who may have elevated nutritional requirements because they are pregnant or location. status issue also increase the risk of child bearing women in many developing countries are under pressure to produce large families efforts to improve women's health situation include improving female education and researcher are beginning to delineate the role of men and extended family members in improving infant and child mortality.

CBS (1997) state that increasing age at marriage was having a depressing effect on number of younger women who are exposed to pregnancy. It was to pregnancy. It was noticed that there has been an increase in female age at marriage from 15.4 to 18.1 between 1961 and 1991 in Nepal. This has apparently been achieved mainly due to the tendency of younger persons to post phone marriage there may be combination factors and contributing to this expansion of literacy education and health services, development of other section such as transport and communication are the increasing urbanization and the fixation of the legal minimum age at marriage according to the national act of 1955, the legal minimum age at marriage is in Nepal is 18 years of for female without consent and 16 with consent of parent.

United Nation (UN,, 2006) Reported on 'World marriage pattern' show that early marriage result into early pregnancy. pregnant women younger than 15 years are four times more likely to die during pregnancy and child birth. It results in adequate growth under nutrition hypertension and anaemia. Mother hood imposed on an immature body can result in prolonged and obstructed labour and lifelong health problems. Adolescent women married too much older men are unable to communicate negotiable the timing and frequency of intercourse and wife therefore unable to control their own fertility.

UNICEF (2006) report on 'early marriage harmful Traditional practices A statistical exploration' has shown that globally 36 percent of women aged 20-24 were married or in union before they each 18 years of age an estimated 14 million adolescent between 15 and 19 give birth each year's girls the age group are twice as likely to die during pregnancy or child birth as women in their twenties marriage of young girl is most common in sub-Saharan. Africa and south Asia in Niger, 77 percent off 20-24 year old women were married before the age of 18. In Bangladeh this rate was 65 percent.

Ghimire (2005) conducted astudy on ' Effects of early marriage on women health in Damain community of Bhorletar VDC Lamjung ' with the objective to find the cause of early marriage. He used descriptive research design and purposive random sampling method for determining the sample for the study found that the cause of early marriage is the practice or traditional value which is 76.67 percent among total Damain women have assess

o health facilities during pregnancy. Among all 73.33 percent women were illiterate. His study concluding that the main cause of early marriage is the proactive of traditional value norms and religion in Damain community. Achaya (2008) conducted his study on 'determinant of teenage marriage and its effect on mother and child health in Jukena VDC of Arghakhachi district. 'with the objective to found out the determinant actors of teenage marriage and its effect on health of child and mother. His study revealed in below 15 years. Similarly, 67 percent respondents did not have any knowledge about early marriage. His study also showed that 71 percent of the girls got pregnant for this first time between the age of 15-19 years. The monthly income of the 43 percent of the respondent in below 10 thousand per month.

Methodology

This study employ quantitative research designs. The study mainly focused on cause and consequences of teenage marriage among Dalit Teenagers. The study is based on primary data which was collected through semi-structured schedule.

The population of the research consists of all the Dalit women of Barbardiya Municipality of Bardiya District who are under the age of 25 and got married in teenage period. Thus, the population of the study area is 568 household women (Municipality profile of Barbardiya Municipality, 2075) who got married below 19 years. The sample population consisted of 90 married teenaged Dalit (8 women from 1-10 number wards and 10 women from 11 number wards) women of Barbardiya Municipality. Sample unit for the study was obtained using purposive sampling method.

The tool for this study was semi structured interview schedule. To collect necessary information, 35 questions were incorporated for the respondents. Both open and closed ended questions were included in semi structured interview schedule. Semi interview schedule was constructed on the basis of causes and consequences of teenage marriage among Dalit teenagers

Collected data was presented in different table and groups. After the collection of information, data were checked, verified at the field manually to reduce its error. The final data was tabulated and interpreted by using the tables, simple and simple statistics.

Result and Discussion

Knowledge about Teenage Marriage

The respondents were asked whether they had familiar with the term teenage marriage or not. Most of the respondents were unknown about it.

Table No. 1

Knowledge about Teenage Marriage

Response	No of Respondents	%
Yes	80	88.89
No	10	11.11

The above data shows that out of 90 respondents, 80 respondents were unknown about teenage marriage. Only 11.11 percent i.e. 10 respondents were familiar with teen age marriage.

Knowledge Regarding the Merits and Demerits of Teenage Marriage

Teenage marriage may have some *merits* and demerits. The view of respondents is given in the following table

Table No. 2

Familiarity on merits and demerits of teenage marriage

Yes	Percent	No	percent	Don't know	Percent
35	38.89	45	50	10	11.11

The respondents were asked if there are any advantages and disadvantages of teenage marriage . 38.89 percent of the respondents remarked the advantages of teen age marriage , 50 percent of the respondents told the it doesn't have any advantages and 11.11 percent of the sample population were not sure whether it has benefit or demerits.

Benefits of Teenage Marriage

According to respondents, teenage marriage has some advantages as well. Their views are presented below

Table No. 3

Advantages of teenage marriage

Benefits	No of Respondents	Percent
Ease to rare child	35	38.88
Romance in time	5	5.57
No feeling of responsibility	15	16.57
Getting support in the early life from the children	25	27.77
Getting help from the family members	10	11.11
Total	90	100

The above table clearly shows that among 90 participants 38.88 percent respondents told that if we got teenage marriage it is easy to rare the children. Similarly 5.57 percent respondents viewed that teenage marriage is beneficial to get romance in time. 27.77 percent respondents were in favour of teenage marriage because of getting support in the early life from their sons and daughters. And 11.11 percent sample population viewed that to get help from the family members it is beneficial

Perception of Society on Teenage Marriage

The view of respondents regarding the perception of society on teenage marriage is given below.

Table No. 4

View of society on teenage marriage

Good	percent	Bad	percent	Don't know	percent
13	4.44	67	4.44	10	11.11

The researcher asked how is the teenage marriage viewed in the society.14.44 percent viewed good, 74.44 percent viewed bad and 11.11 percent didn't have replied we don't know.

Satisfaction due to Teenage Marriage

Normally we are not satisfied in teenage marriage . Their satisfactions and dissatisfaction in teenage marriage is given below.

Table No. 5

Satisfaction in teenage marriage

<i>s</i>	<i>No of respondents</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Yes	26	28.89
No	64	71.11
Total	90	100

The data above clearly shows that most of the participants 71.11 percent were not satisfied of teenage marriage and only 28.89 percent were satisfied.

Prominent Health Problems due to Teenage Marriage

Teenage marriage may create serious health problem on both child and mother. The view of the respondents regarding this is given below.

Table No. 6

Health problem due to teenage marriage

<i>Responses</i>	<i>No of Participants</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Miscarriage	9	10
Child's death	55	61.11
Mothers death	26	28.89

Miscarriage, child's death and mother's death are the major health problem due to teenage marriage. According to 10 percent of the respondents miscarriage is the main problem, for 61.11 percentage child's death and for 28.89 percent mother's death is the major health problem due to teenage marriage.

Causes of Teenage Marriage

Teenage marriage is a common problems in our society. According to the recent survey to percent of girl aged 16 get married. So, it is necessary to analyze and find out the causes of teenage marriage. Some of the cause are immature love affairs, social norm, traditional causes and poverty. These factors are responsible for the teenage marriages in teenage marriage in Dalit communities are percent in the table.

Table No. 7

Causes of teenage marriage

<i>Causes</i>	<i>No. of respondents</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Love	23	25.55
Social causes	4	4.44

Causes	No. of respondents	Percent
Traditional cause	55	61.11
Poverty	8	8.88
Total	90	100

Which account 25.55 percent much alike traditional. Causes and love attain, poverty was another factor that obliged Dalit respondents to get married in the teenage. The data reveals that 8.88 percent were married due to the poverty. It is evident that only few 4.44 percent were married due to social causes.

The major causes of teenage marriage in Dalit community were traditional causes and traditional norms and value prevalent in this society..

Economic Causes of Teenage Marriage

Teenage marriage is affected by economic condition people of middle class can manage basic needs for their son/daughter but people of lower classes cannot manage and fulfil their needs. As a result get teenage marriage economic cause of teenage marriage in Dalit community are presented in Figure 1.

Figure No.1

Economic causes of teenage marriage

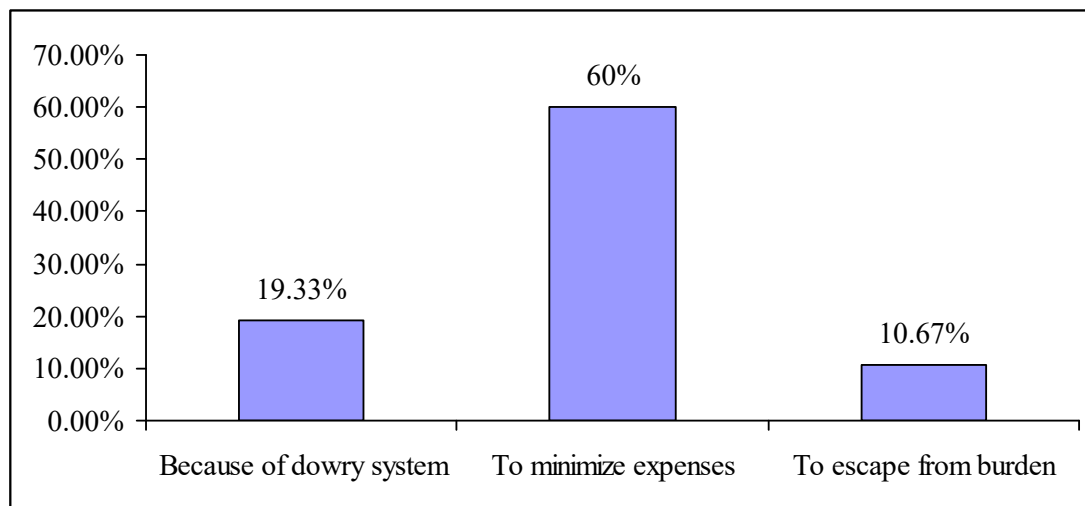


Figure 4 shows that 60 percent respondents causes of teenage marriage was to minimize family expense because most of the Dalit respondents tall under the joint family and more family members increase cost of living. So they in teenage age decide to many their children. In the some way 19.33 percent respondents got married before that age of 19 because of dowry system. In addition to there 10.67 percent respondent got married before age of 19 to escape from further burden.

The most of the respondents of Dalit community get married in order to minimize the second majority of the respondents got married in teenage because of dowry system and the least of the respondents got married in order to escape from further burdens.

Consequences of Teenage Marriage

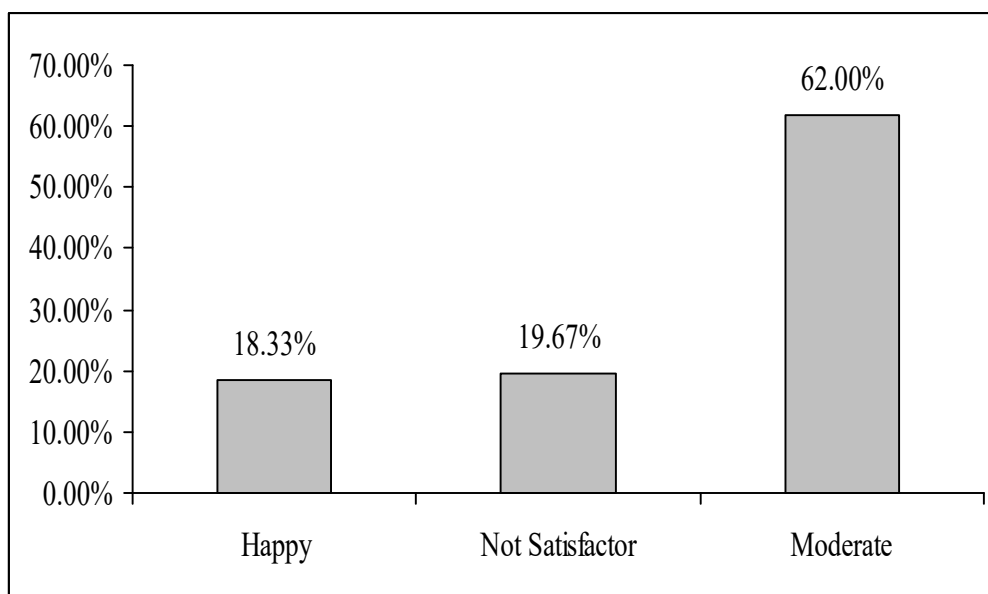
Teenage marriage levees its everlasting effect on the health of women. When the girls below the age of 20 are married get pregnant and forced to bear a child. Certainly her health is affected by it since her overall physical development is not possible in such age on the other hand early marriage contributes in increase of population, which may be problematic for poor familiar. Not only those, there is the high risk of miscarriage, stillbirth too the consequences of teenage marriage is presented in different subtopic herewith.

Feeling after Marriage

Who have get married in teenage after that is their felling? (Like as somebody feel happy, somebody feel moderate and somebody feel sad? Their feelings are different. In this study they were asked about the taking of often marriage which is shown in figure 2.

Figure No. 2

Feeling the respondents after marriage



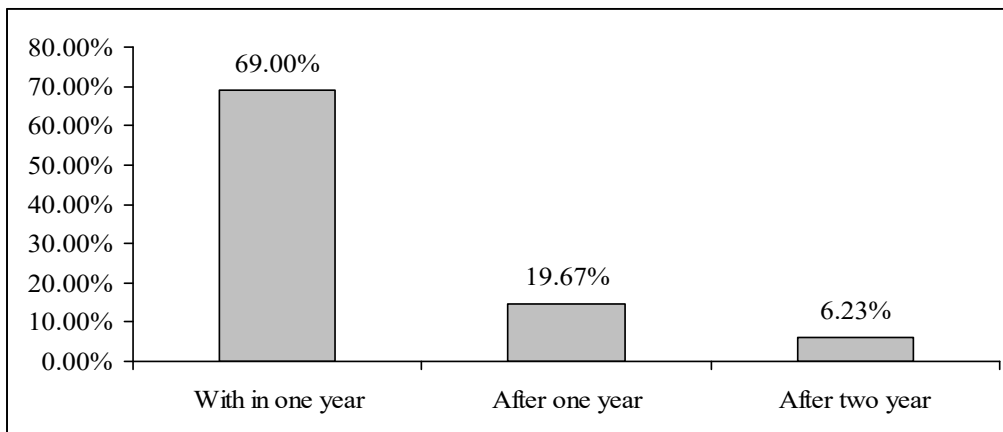
In this figure shows that majority of the respondents 62 percent of women felt moderate the second majority of the respondent weren't satisfied and 19.67 percent were not satisfied after marriage. Likewise the second majority of Dalit respondents 18.33 percent are happy.

Time of First Pregnancy

Time of first Pregnancy is most important factor of teenage marriage. Women's age should be at least 18 years of bearing first child as their physical and mental health is not prepared. The following figure show the time of first pregnancy of the respondents.

Figure No. 3

Time of pregnancy



In this figure shows that the time of first pregnancy of respondents majority of the respondents included in the study were pregnant within one year of marriage which is 69 percent in Dalit community. The second majority of the respondents were pregnant after one year which is 14.71 percent. The study found that only few of the respondents were pregnant after two years from their marriage which is 6.23 percent in Dalit community.

Time of first pregnancy is most important factor of teenage women's are should be at least 18 years for bearing first child the study area most of respondents were pregnant within one year after marriage. All respondent have got pregnant in under the age of 18. So it is harmful for other and child health.

Delivery Place

Usually in rural community the delivery of child is protected at home and some delivery practices in health post or by experienced women its effect on their reproductive health. Delivery practices leads to the death of mother and is equally harmful to child in the study area place of delivery affects maternal and child health. Unhygienic delivery practices led to the women so many problems e.g. bleeding, tetanus, uterine rapture etc.

Safe delivery practice is essential to protect the life and health of mother and her child by insuring the delivery of a baby safety. An important component of efforts its reduce the health risk to mother and children is to increase the proportion of babies delivered under the supervision of health professionals. The national safe motherhood programme encourage women to deliver health facilities are upgraded and provided are delivered at home either with assistance of TBA or relatives and friends. At the national level only 19 percent by births delivered in health post (NDHS, 2002).

Table No. 8

Delivery place

Place of delivery	No. of respondents	Percent
At home	74	82.22
At birthing center	16	17.77
Total	90	100

In this table shows that most of respondents e.g. 82.22 percent place of delivery was at home. It is found that only 17.77 percent of respondents delivery place was at birthing center.

Safe delivery practice is essential to protect the life and health of mother and her child by insuring the delivery of a baby safety. In the national level 39 percent of babies delivery by doctor (NDHS, 2009). But in this study area most of respondents 17.77 percent of babies delivery by doctor. That due to the traditional practice, lack of education and health facilities are the responsible factors which promote delivery at home. It was poor condition in this study are than national level.

Problems of Pregnancy and Delivery Time

Complications are important causes of maternal and child mortality and mortality. Maternal death is defined as any death that occurred during pregnancy child birth an within six week after the birth. In this regard respondents were asked, 'what kind of problems you faced during pregnancy and delivery period?' response of them is given in table 9.

Table No. 9

Problems of pregnancy and delivery time

Problem	No. of respondents	Percent
Heavy bleeding	45	50.00
Back pain	25	27.77
Anaemia	20	22.22
Total	90	100

Table 8 shows 50 percent of the respondents have suffered from heavy bleeding 27.77 percent respondents suffered from back pain and 22.22 percent suffered from anaemia.

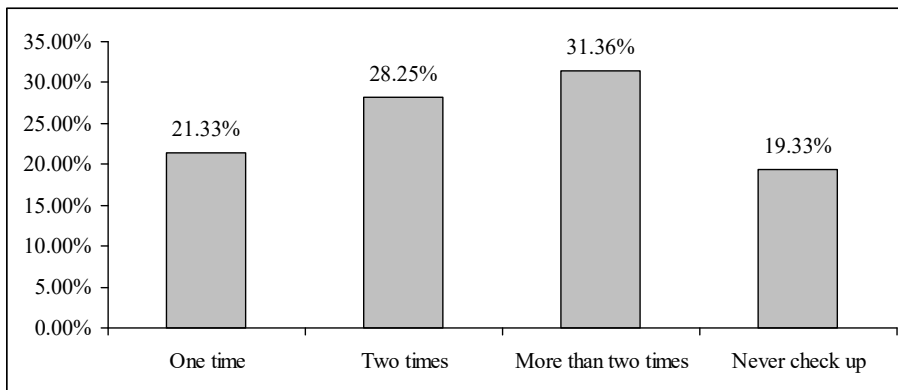
Early pregnancy majority of the respondents have suffered from different type of complication during pregnancy and delivery. The data indicate that larger proportion of married women have suffered from heavy bleeding. So, due to early pregnant lack awareness, poor health condition n low level of educational attainment compare to appropriate g married women.

Health Check up During Pregnancy

Pregnancy is the period from conception to delivery of time of the foetus. Health check up during pregnancy means to examine pregnant mother health during pregnancy period. The national safe motherhood programmed guideline in Nepal recommended at least four times visit should be made soon the mother realize that she is pregnant. The second visit should be made between the fifth and seventh month of pregnancy. The third visit should be made at the beginning of the nine month and last visit should be made the same week that the baby is due But lack of a wareness, poor economic condition, lack of health facilities most of the pregnant women do not go for check up of their health regularly. The status of health check up of the respondents at the time of their pregnancy is presented below.

Figure No. 4

Health check-up during pregnancy of respondents



In this figure shows that the respondent's average has gone for health check up during pregnancy. It is evident from the data that 21.33 percent respondents have gone one time for health check up during pregnancy 28.25 percent responded have gone two times, 31.36 percent responded have visited more than two times health check up during pregnancy and 19.33 percent respondents never visited anywhere for health check up during pregnancy.

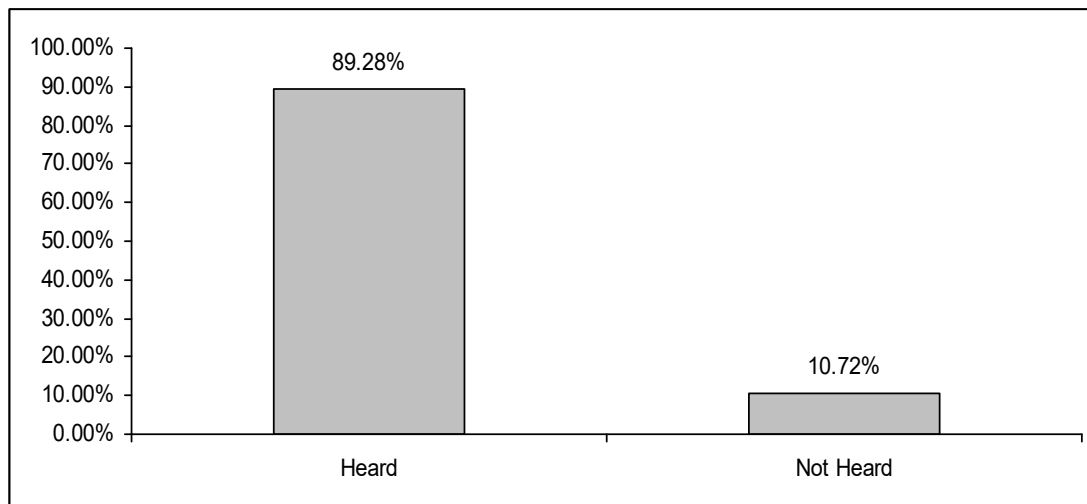
Up during pregnancy the study concludes that due to teenage marriage must of the respondents are known about the importance of health check up during pregnancy Dalit respondents believed in their superstition. Another factor is the poor economic condition which deprives them to access the facilities provided by health post of hospitals.

Knowledge about Family Planning

Family planning is an important aspect of reproductive health of women. The knowledge of family planning determines the maternal and child health. It effects on to marriage family size of the people. The figure below show knowledge of the respondent bout family planning:

Figure No. 5

Knowledge about family planning



In this figure show that most of the Dalit respondents had heard about family planning. The study reveals that most of respondents had knowledge about the family planning devices but they were not enough knowledge about temporary method of family planning and few respondents have not heard yet.

Conclusion

The study has done under the topic 'Causes and Consequences of Teenage Marriage among Dalit Teenagers in Barbardiya Municipality.' The following conclusion is drawn on the basis of analysis of data.

The study has found that the main reason teenager marriage and out traditional culture. These reasons play vital role to increase the rate of teenage marriage. Teenage marriage and pregnancy brings different kinds of health problems in mother as well s children. Similarly the most of the women were pregnant before 19. So, the pregnancy without proper physical development is very kits for mother and child. Mother are died due to early postnatal. In the case of antenatal and postnatal check up it is also poor which creates many problems among early pregnant. Anaemia, weakness, swelling bleeding one the common health problem of early pregnant women. Majority of the respondents have got married by decision of their parents. They do not have more knowledge about the different consequences the teenage marriage. They do not know about the right age of marriage so it is increased the rate of early marriage.

The women married at appropriate age are conscious about demographic variable a com pored to teenage married women. Teenage married women are facing different kind of physical and mental health problems. Most of the women married at appropriate age attempted their delivery at health post and hospital. The analysis of result clearly shows that most of the teenage married women do not care for regular and complete health check up during pregnancy due to lack up knowledge and poor economic condition.

Overall observation and interview indicate that most of the respondents are suffering from different health problems due to the teenage marriage. Among of the respondents they have expressed their views that women are backward in society due to male dominant culture and lack of education.

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