

A Comparative Study to Assess the Knowledge Regarding Early Marriage and Early Pregnancy among Adolescent's Boys and Girls at Madhuramangalam

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Abstract: *Early marriage is defined as a marriage carried below 21 years before the girl is physically, physiological, and psychologically ready to shoulder the responsibilities of marriage and child bearing. When in young women marry early, their former education often terminates, preventing them to acquire knowledge and skills determining the prospects for employment opportunities. Girl brides face isolation from school friends and workplace and therefore lack of social support critical for their emotional well-being and economic opportunities. Teenage pregnancy 15-19 years is on the Rise emerging as a serious problem today all over the world and more so in the developing countries like India as early marriage are the cultural norms of our society. Teenage pregnancy can have immediate and lasting consequence for young women's health education and income earning potential which is often passed on to her children. complications from pregnancy and childbirth are among the leading causes of death among women. So the present study is done to comparative study to assess the knowledge regarding early marriage and early pregnancy among adolescents boys and girls at maduramangalam.. A descriptive research design was done in rural area of maduramangalam. 50 boys and 50 girls with adolescents age are included in our study. Simple random sampling techniques method was used in selecting the samples. Structured questionnaire was used to collect data on knowledge regarding early marriage and early pregnancy among adolescent's boys and girls. While comparing the level of knowledge on early marriage and early pregnancy among girls and boys, the girls 11(22%) has good knowledge than boys 7(14%).*

Keywords: knowledge, adolescent's boys and girls, early marriage, early pregnancy

1. Introduction

Early marriage is defined as a marriage carried below 21 years before the girl is physically, physiological, and psychologically ready to shoulder the responsibilities of marriage and child bearing. ^[1] The fact that is still prevalent in Indian explain that is a Herculean task to devise measures to eradicate this social evil. When in young women marry early, ^[2] their former education often terminates, preventing them to acquire knowledge and skills determining the prospects for employment opportunities. ^[3] Girl brides face isolation from school friends and workplace and therefore lack of social support critical for their emotional well-being and economic opportunities. ^[4] Health related consequences of teenage pregnancy include risk of maternal death. Teenage pregnancy also contributes to illness and disability, related to fistula, and unsafe abortion complication, sexually transmitted infections and HIV ^[5]. As teenage pregnancy also affects young women education and economic opportunities. ^[6] The consequence related to education include the interruption of a termination of the school and the accompanying lost opportunities with regard to Labour participation and status about household and community level. ^[7] In India early pregnancy is there because early marriage especially in rural areas, urban slums and low socio economic people. Each country has its own legal age of having sex. The early marriage restrains act of 1978, the minimum age for marriage has been raised to 21 years for girls and 24 years for boys. Still the menace of early marriage has been continuing. In India nearly half of the

women were married before the legal age of 21 years. ^[8] The media, education, government and health care service can play an important role in challenging the attitudes and customs that underpin early marriage and early pregnancy.

2. Objectives

- To assess the knowledge regarding early marriage and early pregnancy among adolescent's girls and boys.
- To compare the level of knowledge regarding early marriage and early pregnancy among adolescent boys and girls.
- To associate between the selected demographic variables with the level of knowledge regarding early marriage and early pregnancy.

3. Material and Methods

The samples are 50 boys and 50 girl's adolescent's age group. Samples are selected simple random sampling techniques. The descriptive study was conducted during a one-week period. Data collection was conducted in maduramangalm government higher secondary school, after getting permission from the headmaster of the school. Demographic variable consists of age, religion, type of family, education, socio-economic status, education status of father and mother, and structured questionnaire of early marriage and early pregnancy. The study investigators explained to the adolescent's boys and girls about the study's objectives, and requirement of

consent to participate in the study. The investigators then provided instructions for filling the questionnaire, and then guided the adolescent's boys and girls. Understanding of each question was checked by asking the adolescents boys and girls to repeat the meaning. During the filling of questionnaires, the investigators helped the women throughout and helped simplifying the meaning of each question, clarifying doubts and checking for completeness of filling up the questionnaire. Chi-square test was used to test the association between categorical variables. $P < 0.05$ was taken as statistically significant.

4. Results

Shows that majority of samples in girls(54%) were 16-18yrs and boys(56%) were 13-15yrs, girls(40%) were 12th

standard and boys (32%) were 9th standard, in girls 30% were education status of the father was degree and boys 38% were education status of the father was 6-12, in girls 30% were non-formal and boys (38%) were 6-12 was in education status of the mother, in girls(40%) were in 1st child in the family and boys (60%) were 1st child in the family, in girls (30%) were working status was farmer and in boys (50%) were working status of father was company worker, in girls 40% were working status of mother was company worker and in boys (70%) were working status of mother was coolly, in girls(40%) were Hindu and in boys 70% were Hindu, in girls(74%)were in nuclear family and in boys(68%) were in nuclear family, in girls (70%) were mother tongue was Tamil and in boys(66%) were mother tongue was Tamil.

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variable among adolescent's girls and boys

S.No	Demographic Variable	Girls		Boys	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1	Age in years				
	a) 13-15yrs	23	46%	28	56%
	b) 16-18yrs	27	54%	22	44%
2	Educational status				
	a) 9 th standard	7	14%	16	32%
	b) 10 th standard	11	22%	12	24%
	c) 11 th standard	12	24%	13	26%
3	Education status of the father				
	a) 1-5	12	24%	5	10%
	b) 6-12	8	16%	19	38%
	c) degree	15	30%	16	32%
4	Education status of the mother				
	a) 1-5	8	16%	14	28%
	b) 6-12	13	26%	19	38%
	c) degree	14	28%	7	14%
5	Birth order in the family				
	a) 1 st child	20	40%	30	60%
	b) 2 nd child	17	34%	3	6%
	c) 3 rd child	8	16%	10	20%
6	Working status of the father				
	a) Farmer	12	24%	19	38%
	b) Company	8	16%	25	50%
	c) Coolly	15	30%	3	6%
7	Working status of the mother				
	a) Farmer	17	34%	6	12%
	b) Company	20	40%	3	6%
	c) Coolly	9	18%	35	70%
8	Religion				
	a) Hindu	20	40%	35	70%
	b) Christian	15	30%	10	20%
	c) Muslim	15	30%	5	10%
9	Type of family				
	a) Nuclear	37	74%	34	68%
10	Mother tongue				
	a) Tamil	35	70%	33	66%
	b) Urdu	15	30%	17	34%

Table 2: Level of knowledge on early marriage and early pregnancy among adolescent’s girls and boys

Level of knowledge	Below average		Average		Good	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Girls	14	28%	25	50%	11	22%
Boys	17	34%	26	52%	7	14%

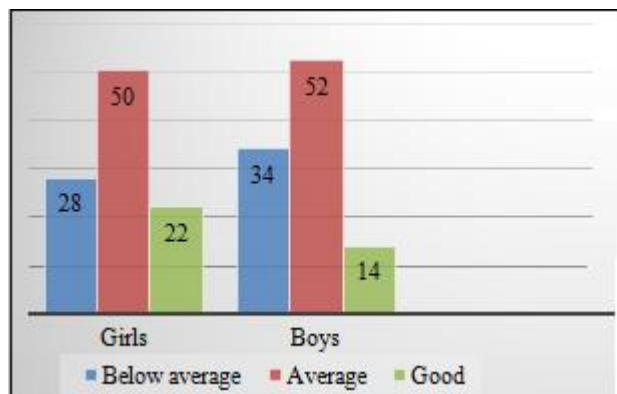


Figure 1: Level of knowledge on early marriage and early pregnancy among girls and boys

Table II: Shows that girls are 14(28%) has below average, 25(50%) has average knowledge and good knowledge is 11(22%), In boys are 17(34%) has below average knowledge, 26(52%) has average knowledge and good knowledge is 7(14%).While comparing the level of knowledge on early marriage and early pregnancy among girls and boys, the girls 11(22%) has good knowledge than boys 7(14%).

Table III: Comparison of the level of knowledge on early marriage and early pregnancy among adolescent’s girls and boys

Knowledge on early marriage and early pregnancy	Mean	Standard deviation	Unpaired t-test	
			t-value	p-value
Girls	12.26	2.68	T=2.0787	0.0403
Boys	11.06	3.08	Df=98	

Table III: Shows that the mean and standard deviation of knowledge on early marriage and early pregnancy among girls is 12.26 and 2.68 in boys the mean and standard deviation is 11.06 and 3.08. In unpaired t-test for comparing significant difference, t-value is 2.0787 and p-value is 0.0403. $p < 0.05$ shows the level of knowledge regarding early marriage and early pregnancy was statistically significant in both boys and girls.

5. Discussion

The present comparative study to assess the knowledge regarding early marriage and early pregnancy results are in girls 14(28%) has below average, 25(50%) has average knowledge and good knowledge is 11(22%), In boys are 17(34%) has below average knowledge, 26(52%) has average knowledge and good knowledge is 7(14%).

Which is similar to findings reported by study conducted by V.VANDANA et al the findings of the present study also indicated that the mean percentage of attitude score of the school girls were relatively high (69.9) showing the moderately favorable attitude of school girls.^[9]

The findings of present study indicated that the occupation of father and mother, education of school girls was influenced on early marriage and early pregnancy which similar to the study conducted by sanker obaida nasrin et al (2015) which revealed that education, family’s monthly income, religion are the most influential factors in determining the likelihood of early age at marriage^[10]

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