

A Peek at Early marriage with Walker, Judith-Ann.

Early marriage is any marriage carried out involving a child who is below the age of 18 years (Walker, 2012). These marriages take place before the girl brides are physically, physiologically and psychologically ready to shoulder marital responsibilities and childbearing.

Some of the factors which interact to keep the girl children at risk of early marriage in sub-Saharan Africa include historical, religious, cultural, economic and sociological factors.

According to Walker (2012), individuals who engage in the practice of early marriage use religious injunctions and time honored cultural practices to justify the preference.

Harmful effects

Some of the harmful effects of early marriage on girls health includes experiencing early sexual debut, giving birth to more children than usual and chances of losing more children to neonatal and childhood diseases (Walker, 2012).

Standing By Your Dream Initiative is in full support of any individual efforts towards curbing early marriages of female children. We seek to promote the education of school aged girl children with zeal for education but facing the phenomenon of early marriages spanning from culture and religious beliefs.

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Reference

Walker, J. (2012). Early marriage in Africa - trends, harmful effects and interventions. African Journal of Reproductive Health, 16(2), 231-40.

Jordan

The practice of early marriage shows no sign of abating in Jordan, according to a study issued by UNICEF. The "Study on Early Marriage in Jordan" said there has been no significant decline in the rates of child marriages registered in the Kingdom's courts from 2005 to 2013. The definition of 18 years as the legal age for marriage in Jordan is undermined by an acceptance that special permission -- dependent on the discretion of individual judges -- may be given for children as young as 15 to marry.

Standing By Your Dream Initiative is in full support of any action towards curbing early marriages of female children. We seek to promote the education of school aged girl children with zeal for education but facing the phenomenon of early marriages spanning from culture and religious beliefs.

Reference:

Malkawi, K. (2014, Jul 17). 'Early marriages still common in Jordan'. TCA Regional News

## **Uzbekistan**

The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan and its local branches cancelled about 160 weddings in 2013 as part of ongoing government efforts to prevent early marriages.

Standing By Your Dream Initiative is in full support of the action. We seek to promote the education of school aged girl children with zeal for education but facing the phenomenon of early marriages spanning from culture and religious beliefs.

Reference: Uzbek women's body prevents 160 weddings amid campaign against early marriages. (2014, Feb 23). BBC Monitoring Central Asia

## **Ethiopia and Early marriage**

Ethiopia has one of the highest rates of early marriage in Sub-Saharan Africa. Up to 19% of Ethiopian girls are married out before their 15th birthday (Erulkar & Muthengi, 2009).

In Ethiopia, the legal marriage age is 18 for both girls and boys, however, laws governing marriage are seldom enforced by the Ethiopian authorities.

Standing By Your Dream Initiative is in full support of any individual efforts towards curbing early marriages of female children.

We seek to promote the education of school aged girl children with zeal for education but facing the phenomenon of early marriages spanning from culture and religious beliefs.

## **Reference**

Erulkar, A. S., & Muthengi, E. (2009). Evaluation of berhane hewan: A program to delay child marriage in rural ethiopia. *International Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 35(1), 6-14.