



## CHILD MARRIAGE AND ITS IMPACT IN TAMILNADU

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### Abstract

Women beginning from mother's womb to tomb face irresolvable hurdles and hindrances In the name of weak sex, their rights viz., Life, Survival, Development, Education, Employment, Liberty, Speech and Association were constantly under trouble in the concretized male dominated society. This happens invariable of education, employment and wealth status. To put it in a nutshell they are simply exploited for the fulfilment of happiness of male gender. Discrimination is everywhere in the world, western as well as eastern countries. However the degree varies when comparing different countries. Rights are natural and inborn for all the creatures in the modern civilization.

### Introduction

Among all discriminations and exploitative activities in a territory it is women, particularly girl children are the worst affected in the modern era. As mentioned in this chapter already women in all spheres of life face enormous struggles to exercise their rights. Indian constitution in its Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) provides for free and compulsory education. In its fundamental rights, it emphasize for right against exploitation. Women as children were utilized for different types of exploitative purpose viz., labors, prostitutes, running errands which affect their education, employment and other development rights. Specifically child marriage which was followed as a social custom along many centuries play a devastating role in the life of girl children. If religion shown as a cause for this heinous and dastardly practice it is not as such, since this custom and traditional practice is also followed in African countries. It is inferred that not only in Hinduism but also in other civilizations it is being followed as a social practice.

Comparatively speaking 1/3 of girls in the developing nations was married before 18yrs or before 15. There are 15 Million girl children married before 15 years every year in the world. This practice is at high level in western and sub Saharan African countries. Besides religion, the African countries are having highest level of percentage of child marriages. Due to the burgeoning population in south Asia, child brides are higher compared with African countries.

Economically scrutinizing in the poor households, girl children are likely to marry twice before 18 years than higher income families. This is due to the reason of health condition and as well as age old bride grooms as partners. Girl children from Mozambique, Nigeria and Bangladesh were married before 18 years (Half of the girls) who are running the families with 2 dollars a day.

The present study aims to

- Probe into the causes of child marriage
- Ponder over the consequences
- Penetrate the impact upon health issues
- Scrutinize the level of impact upon mental health
- investigate the impact of child marriage upon women empowerment

### Research Methodology

For in order to study the impact of child marriage and rights violation it is not plausible to get data or responses from the victims since the data that is drawn may not be credible. Hence it is intended to draw exact responses from Panchayats Level Core Committee who are responsible for protecting the rights and restraining the child marriage activity. Among 7500 such type of committee members some 300 respondents were chosen on the basis of simple random sampling method. Obviously survey method is appropriate by framing questionnaire and as well as interview schedule in order to draw precise results. Villupuram district has been chosen for the study since the prevalence is higher comparatively

### Gender Classification

Age	Male	Female	Total
	150	150	100
Percentage	50	50 %	100%



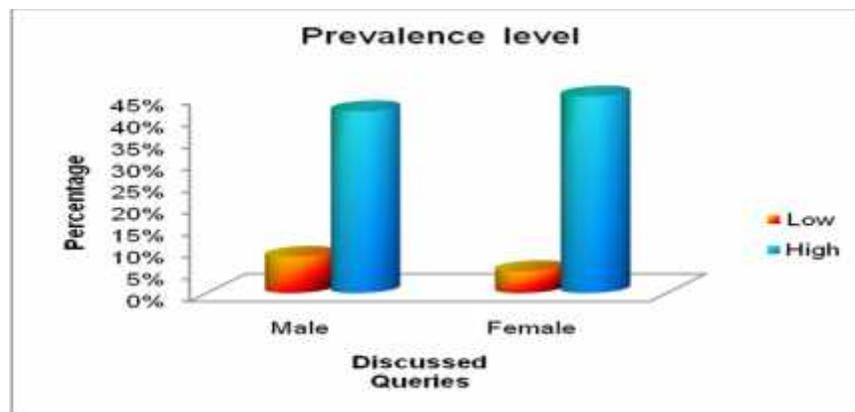
**Gender wise Respondents' Opinion**

Discussed Queries	Female		Total	
	H	L	H	
Prevalence	125	15	135	300
	41.6%	5%	45%	
Customary Practice	110	20	130	300
	36.6%	6.6%	43.3%	
Forced one	100	15	135	300
	33.3%	5%	45%	
Awareness	125	40	110	300
	41.6%	13.3%	36.6%	
Rights impact	135	20	130	300
	45%	6.6%	43.3%	

**Gender-wise Respondents' Opinion**

The composition of male, female community were provided with questionnaire consists of queries related with prevalence level, customary practice, forced one, awareness of act, right violation, education impact, health impact and status of women.

For the question of the level of prevalence of child marriage 41.6% of male members opted for high level and only 8.3% of them responded at low level of child marriage prevalence.



Among female respondents, its 45% of them opined at high level and 5% of them opted for low level of prevalence.

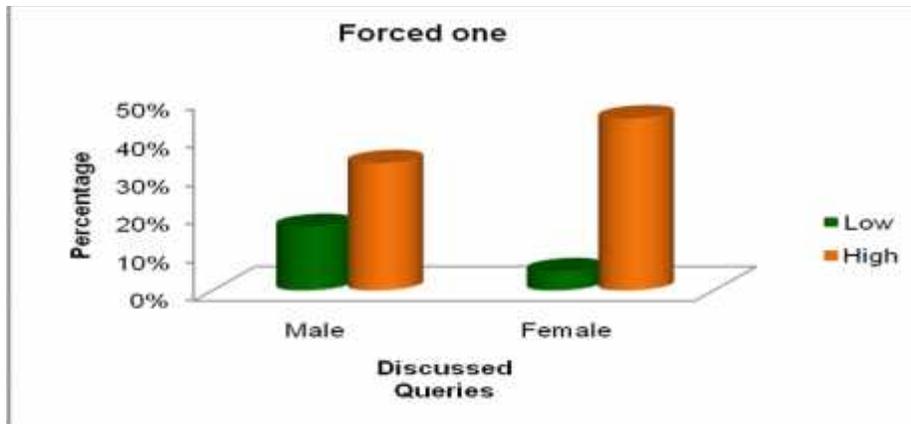
For the question of child marriage as a customary and traditional entity 36.6% of the male respondents accepted at high level and only 13.3% of them denied or accepted at low level.



### Gender Status wise Customary Practice

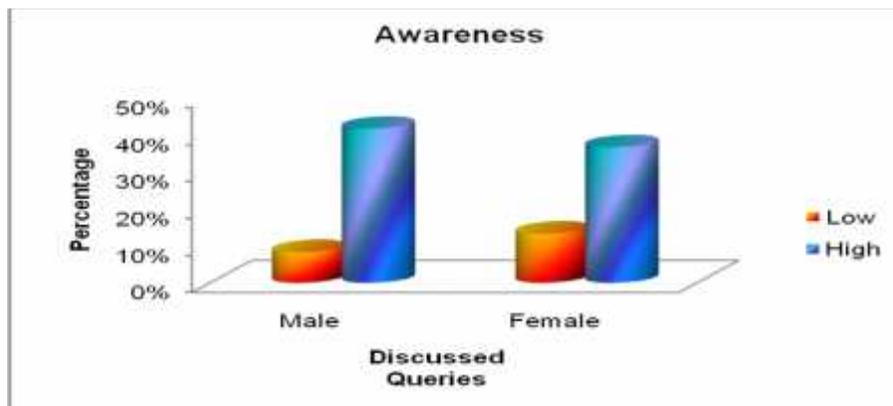
Among the female respondents, 43.3% of them accepted it as a customary practice and only 6.6% of them at low level of opinion.

For the question of child marriage as a forced one, 33.3% of the male respondents opted at high level and 16.6% at low level for various reasons.



Among female respondents 45% of them accepted it as forced one and 5% of them not accepted.

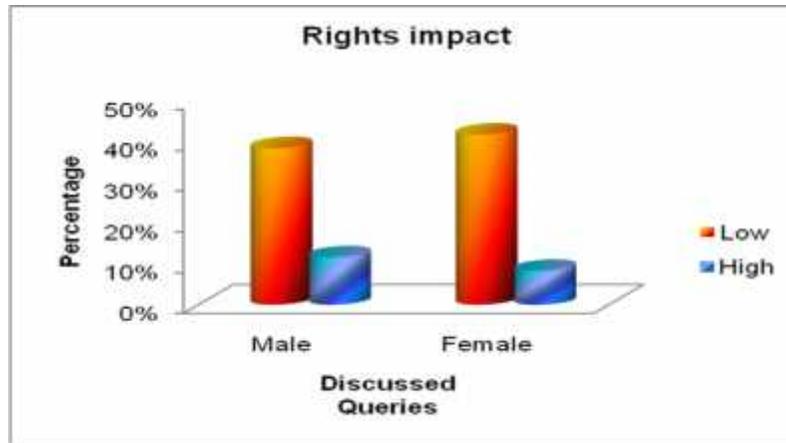
Regarding awareness of CMRA, among male community 41.6% are well aware and 83% of them are aware or less aware of the act. Among female respondents 36.6% of them are aware and 13.3% of the respondents are less aware of the CMRA.





### Gender wise Awareness

Related with the question of effect or rights among girl children due to child marriage among male respondents 45% of them opted for high level and 15% of them at low level effect.



Among female respondents 43.3% of them out rightly opined the negative impact upon children and 6.6% of the female respondents opted for low level of impact or unaware of the rights.

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