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# An Overview of Early Marriage Status Among Females of Terracotta Artisans of Panchmura Village in West Bengal: A Socio-Demographic Studies

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#### ARTICLE DETAILS

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#### **ABSTRACT**

The inequality among genders is the burning issue not only in Indian village but in the towns and last cities it found in a prevalent way. It becomes a major issue for occurrence of early marriages especially among females in India. This early age marriage has a severe impacts on their psycho-physical status and their families as well as in concurrent societies which becomes a life threatening and a serious violation of human rights in some cases. This research studies aimed to discover key determinants of early marriage of female members in Kumbhakar artisans in Panchmura village by using multiple regression model. Panchmura is famous for its age old Terracotta artifacts especially the elongated neck horse made by terracotta soil. The Kumbhakar artisans are the creator of this sculpture. This study considers early age marriage as the dependent variable, whereas unemployment, education, wealth, rural poverty, and gender disparity are regarded as independent variables. The study's findings reveal a strong association between rural poverty and unemployment, and the occurrence of early marriage. This suggests that the elevated poverty rate may contribute to an increase in instances of child marriage. Whereas the educational status has a negative relation with early marriage as it increases employability and empowerment status of concerned craft village. The outcome of the study is very crucial for policy formulation and implementation and also plays a crucial role to address the gender inequality in Terracotta village.

#### **Introduction:**

The United Nations has set a globalize objectives known as Sustainable Development (SDG's) which is intended to promote basic rights and welfare of an individual as well as community. It also prioritizes the elimination of all social inequalities and deprivation for all communities specially for marginal sectors like women, tribes and other vulnerable groups. In SDG-5 it is mentioned that gender equality in terms of education, health and other social convenience must be provided irrespective of all genders,

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class, caste and sexual orientation. In addition the right to live with dignity, autonomy and self determination is also treated as basic right to every people regardless of their gender (United Nations, 2022). Marriage before attaining at age of 18 is treated as child marriage which impacts life of millions in world (Sana, 2023). The girl Childs are more prone to affect by this early aged marriage because of their social discrimination and social situation as outcast (Rahiem, 2021). The national women commission of India reports that 94% rise in rape conditions among women had occurred during the Covid lock down period which putting over women at a danger zone in India (Padmanabhan, 2022). In our studied craft village female students have experienced an early age marriage because of their traditional and obsolete social myth, economic backwardness etc. Notably, the female member of Kumbhakar artisan's family who got married at early 20's, had a higher chance of having inaccessibility to professional prenatal care or having their babies at home or by untrained personnel or faced problem such as postpartum haemorrhage. This village is abandoned with a productive youth age group and have a high chance of early age marriage because of their low education and financial state. Women who have child at their early stage have been suffering by complications regarding pregnancy and child birth. In many cases they have continuously got abused by their spouse and in laws. As they have married at very young age they drop out from school and limit their potential to get job in futures (Hamad et al, 2021).

#### Literature Review:

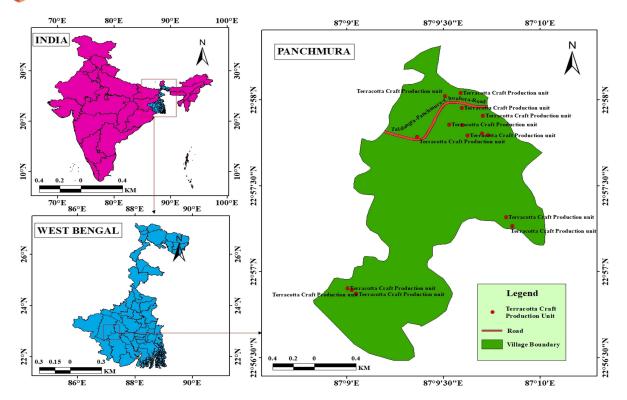
Early age marriage is treated as a curse of society. Girl child who got married at a early stage are more prone to be poor and deprived. As majority of them are forced to leave the school and becomes less potential to get job. According to Ziegert and Sulvia (2002) early marriage perpetuates in a cycle of poverty and economically disadvantageous situation, as children borns from teenage mother group are more likely to be affected by malnutrition, metal retiredness and other various complexities. Gular & Kucuker (2010) administered a research survey on physical and mental health of teenage girls of Turkey for the period of 2000-2006 and explored that the sample respondents need to complete their primary education before getting married in addition they argued that they received a very little sex education from their formal institutions. Krukowski (2022) conducted a survey on early and forced marriage in his country and suggests that preventing early age marriage is very crucial o solve social contradiction and maintain sustainability among populations. In addition some governmental actions need to implement from public health perspective. Duran and Eraslan (2019) in their research study took a survey on 651 women within the age group of 30 who had gotten their marriage during



childhood. The survey report entails the main reason for early marriage are poverty, lack of education, societal pressure, lack of family awareness which put them at a high risk. Gok (2016) explored some factors of early marriage like legal, medical, economic, political and social for early marriage. He recommends some solutions like proper education and enforcement of law etc. Gular and Kucuker (2012) focuses on the effect of early marriage of 1349 married women at the age between 21-29 in Northern Ghana. By using an OLS and Logical regression model he discovered that lower schooling, high rate of poverty and worse health status becomes a reason of early marriage. Brahmapurkar (2017) in his survey established the fact that lowering the education status becomes a crucial factor for early marriage of women in Indian states and Union Territories. He established this fact by using descriptive statistics. Kumari & Shekar (2023) in their case study in some specific district of Rajasthan concluded that early marriage among women are prevalent in this district. Backdated and obsolete socio-cultural myths, poverty, low education are the key determinants of early marriage in aid district.

#### Study area:

Panchmura is a renowned village famous for its exceptional production of terracotta artefacts. It is situated inside the Taldangra block and Khatra subdivision of the Bankura district, located in the state of West Bengal, India. The distance between Bishnupur and the location in question is around 21 kilometres. This site is renowned for its terracotta sculpture known as 'Bunkura Ghora'. It has now evolved into a prominent emblem representing the handicraft industry in India at a national level. In recent times, a temple named Tridhara Temple has been erected by Bhajan Dutta, a prominent local entrepreneur. This temple is designed as a scaled-down duplicate of the renowned Vrindavan. Panchmura is situated in the geographical coordinates of 22.9667°N latitude and 87.1667°E longitude. The structure possesses an average vertical dimension of 68 metres (equivalent to 223 feet). The total area of the village is 5 square kilometers. Some famous hamlets (para) are Kumarpara, Tilipara,Bagdipara, Dompara, Majh Kuli, Sattatorpara etc. Majority of the population belongs to OBC-B category. The Kumbhakar potters also belong to this category. Only a few tribes lives in Panchmura. Rest people belongs to unreserved category.



## Significance of the study:

- i. This study would contribute in understanding the relationship between education level and child marriage in Panchmura craft village. It may also provide an insightful thaught for the economist, planner and policy maker to reduce poverty issue in Panchmura village.
- ii. It would also establish the relationship between poverty and unemployment rate with early age marriage among women which will be a helpful aid for policy maker for strategic intervention.
- iii. It would help to assess the role of gender inequality and early age marriage among women which will be helpful for developing targeted intervention in Panchmura craft village.
- iv. It explore the knowledge and awareness regarding economic development, adequate scope of employment, strong wealth base, high education rate, gender equality will decreases the chance of early age marriage of women in studied village. It will also becomes an useful way to build new strategies to the planner.

By providing a micro-level socio-economic assessment of artisan's family of Panchmura, this study will be helpful; for a proper and rational policy formulation and implementation.

### **Research Objectives:**



- i. To find out the relationship between educational level and the incidence of early marriage among female child in artisans family.
- ii. To examine the impact of economic status to take decisions for early marriage of female child in artisans family.
- iii. To determine the impact of unemployment on occurrence of early marriage of female child in artisans family.
- iv. To find out the role of poverty for causing early marriage of female child in artisans family.
- v. To explore the influence of gender inequality for causing early age marriage in female child in artisans family.

### **Research Hypothesis:**

- H1: There is an adverse correlation between the incidence of early marriages and level of literacy (education) in Panchmura.
- H2: Resource base (Wealth status) has a significant influence on the decision to take early marriages among women in Panchmura village.
- H3: There is a positive correlation between the early age marriage and the rate of unemployment among females in Panchmura craft village.
- H4: Poverty has a positive correlation with occurrence of early marriage among females of Panchmura craft village.
- H5: Gender inequality plays a crucial role to promote early marriages in Panchmura craft village.

### **Research Methodology:**

This research study aims to focus on the relationship between early age marriages of Kumbhakar artisans with educational status, wealth (resource base), unemp1loyment scenario and gender inequality in Panchmura. The population of the research study (N) -50 was selected by Random sampling technique. The sample respondent taken for studies was in the age of above 18 years. A purposive sampling method was taken for this study. A set of questionnaire was formed and asked to the sample respondent in due course of field visit. The questionnaire was covered the parameters like early age marriage, educational status, wealth (assests), unemployment status and gender inequality. This study



aims to find out the underlying causes of early marriage of females in Panchmura village and develop some strategic intervention which aims to reduce the frequency of early marriage and improving their potentialities.

In this research study, the dependent variable was early marriage, while the independent variables were education, wealth base, unemployment, and poverty and gender inequality. The independent variables are wealth which means the accumulation of resources (valuable assets), education means the adequacy of acquiring skills and knowledge, unemployment which means inability to find suitable job position, and poverty means lack of access on basic infrastructure and services. Finally gender inequality is the last independent variable which indicates the disparities of behaviour between male and female in public setting.

A descriptive statistics is used which provides an overview of the sample taken for research study and the distribution of variables. It includes the statistical methods like mean, median, mode, percentage analysis of each variable category. A five point likert scale is used to analyze the various perception ranges of selected variables among surveyed respondents. A multivariate regression analysis also administered to investigate the relationship between early age marriage as a dependendent variable with independent variable such as education, wealth, unemployment, poverty rate and gender inequality. Thus a regression model is constructed which allows to examine relative importance of these factors in predicting the incidence of early age marriage and identify potential mitigation in this regard. The following regression model is constructed to test above mentioned research hypothesis.

Early age marriages =  $\beta 0 + \beta 1$ (Educational status) +  $\beta 2$ (Resource base) +  $\beta 3$ (Unemployment status) +  $\beta 4$ (Poverty level) +  $\beta 5$ (Inequality among gender) +  $\epsilon$ 

In the above said equation early marriage is the dependent variable and the outcome of interest. While the educational status, wealth (resource base), unemployment status, rural poverty and gender inequality is treated to be an independent factor and this items are represented as coefficient ( $\beta$ 1,  $\beta$ 2,  $\beta$ 3,  $\beta$ 4, and  $\beta$ 5 respectively). These coefficients represented the relationship between dependent and independent variables. The positive coefficient shows a positive relationship whereas a negative relationship is illustrated by a negative coefficient. The ' $\beta$ 0' is constant value represents baseline of early marriage of women of Panchmura village whereas ' $\epsilon$ ' denotes an error term which indicates the unexplained variability of that very outcome.



# **Results and Analysis:**

**Table: 1 - Socio-Economic Profile of sample respondents** 

Demographic Parameters         N         %           Respondents Gender         N         %           Male         17         34           Female         33         66           Respondents Age         N         %           15-20         4         8           21-25         13         26           26-30         19         38           31-35         8         16           36-40         4         8           < 40         2         4           Educational status         N         %           Primary Level         13         26           Secondary and HS         20         40           College and Higher education         9         18           Technical and Vocational Education         6         12           No formal education         2         4           Marital status         N         %           Married         44         88           Unmarried         5         10           Widowed/ divorced         1         2           Respondents monthly income         N         %           > 5000         15         30 <th>Socio-Economic Profile</th> <th></th> <th></th>	Socio-Economic Profile		
Male       17       34         Female       33       66         Respondents Age       N       %         15-20       4       8         21-25       13       26         26-30       19       38         31-35       8       16         36-40       4       8         < 40       2       4         Educational status       N       %         Primary Level       13       26         Secondary and HS       20       40         College and Higher education       9       18         Technical and Vocational Education       6       12         No formal education       2       4         Marital status       N       %         Married       44       88         Unmarried       5       10         Widowed/ divorced       1       2         Respondents monthly income       N       %         > 5000       15       30         5000-15000       18       36         15000-25000       9       18         25000-35000       6       12	Demographic Parameters		
Female       33       66         Respondents Age       N       %         15-20       4       8         21-25       13       26         26-30       19       38         31-35       8       16         36-40       4       8         < 40       2       4         Educational status       N       %         Primary Level       13       26         Secondary and HS       20       40         College and Higher education       9       18         Technical and Vocational Education       6       12         No formal education       2       4         Marital status       N       %         Married       44       88         Unmarried       5       10         Widowed/ divorced       1       2         Respondents monthly income       N       %         > 5000       15       30         5000-15000       18       36         15000-25000       9       18         25000-35000       6       12	Respondents Gender	N	%
Respondents Age         N         %           15-20         4         8           21-25         13         26           26-30         19         38           31-35         8         16           36-40         4         8           < 40	Male	17	34
15-20	Female	33	66
21-25	Respondents Age	N	%
26-30       19       38         31-35       8       16         36-40       4       8         < 40	15-20	4	8
31-35   8   16	21-25	13	26
36-40	26-30	19	38
< 40	31-35	8	16
Educational status       N       %         Primary Level       13       26         Secondary and HS       20       40         College and Higher education       9       18         Technical and Vocational Education       6       12         No formal education       2       4         Marrial status       N       %         Married       44       88         Unmarried       5       10         Widowed/ divorced       1       2         Respondents monthly income       N       %         > 5000       15       30         5000-15000       18       36         15000-25000       9       18         25000-35000       6       12	36-40	4	8
Primary Level       13       26         Secondary and HS       20       40         College and Higher education       9       18         Technical and Vocational Education       6       12         No formal education       2       4         Marital status       N       %         Married       44       88         Unmarried       5       10         Widowed/ divorced       1       2         Respondents monthly income       N       %         > 5000       15       30         5000-15000       18       36         15000-25000       9       18         25000-35000       6       12	< 40	2	4
Secondary and HS       20       40         College and Higher education       9       18         Technical and Vocational Education       6       12         No formal education       2       4         Marital status       N       %         Married       44       88         Unmarried       5       10         Widowed/ divorced       1       2         Respondents monthly income       N       %         > 5000       15       30         5000-15000       18       36         15000-25000       9       18         25000-35000       6       12	<b>Educational status</b>	N	%
College and Higher education       9       18         Technical and Vocational Education       6       12         No formal education       2       4         Marital status       N       %         Married       44       88         Unmarried       5       10         Widowed/ divorced       1       2         Respondents monthly income       N       %         > 5000       15       30         5000-15000       18       36         15000-25000       9       18         25000-35000       6       12	Primary Level	13	26
Technical and Vocational Education       6       12         No formal education       2       4         Marital status       N       %         Married       44       88         Unmarried       5       10         Widowed/ divorced       1       2         Respondents monthly income       N       %         > 5000       15       30         5000-15000       18       36         15000-25000       9       18         25000-35000       6       12	Secondary and HS	20	40
No formal education       2       4         Marital status       N       %         Married       44       88         Unmarried       5       10         Widowed/ divorced       1       2         Respondents monthly income       N       %         > 5000       15       30         5000-15000       18       36         15000-25000       9       18         25000-35000       6       12	College and Higher education	9	18
Marital status       N       %         Married       44       88         Unmarried       5       10         Widowed/ divorced       1       2         Respondents monthly income       N       %         > 5000       15       30         5000-15000       18       36         15000-25000       9       18         25000-35000       6       12	Technical and Vocational Education	6	12
Married       44       88         Unmarried       5       10         Widowed/ divorced       1       2         Respondents monthly income       N       %         > 5000       15       30         5000-15000       18       36         15000-25000       9       18         25000-35000       6       12	No formal education	2	4
Unmarried       5       10         Widowed/ divorced       1       2         Respondents monthly income       N       %         > 5000       15       30         5000-15000       18       36         15000-25000       9       18         25000-35000       6       12	Marital status	N	%
Widowed/ divorced       1       2         Respondents monthly income       N       %         > 5000       15       30         5000-15000       18       36         15000-25000       9       18         25000-35000       6       12	Married	44	88
Respondents monthly income       N       %         > 5000       15       30         5000-15000       18       36         15000-25000       9       18         25000-35000       6       12	Unmarried	5	10
> 5000       15       30         5000-15000       18       36         15000-25000       9       18         25000-35000       6       12	Widowed/ divorced	1	2
5000-15000       18       36         15000-25000       9       18         25000-35000       6       12	Respondents monthly income	N	%
15000-25000       9       18         25000-35000       6       12	> 5000	15	30
25000-35000 6 12	5000-15000	18	36
	15000-25000	9	18
< 35000 2 4	25000-35000	6	12
	< 35000	2	4



Source: Author's survey.

Table 1 shows the status of demographic variables of the selected respondents. Regarding the gender, there were 66% female and 34% male among samples. This indicates that the majority of females among sample respondents. This could be an important parameter for its interpretation as gender may be a crucial indicator of early age marriages among females. In age related survey it was found that the majority of the respondents are between 26 years to 30 years (38%), followed by 21 years to 25 years (26 %), 31 years to 35 years (16%), This could be an important parameter for considering during analyzing the result in regards of age as a vital predictor of early age marriage.

The literacy level of the respondents is also surveyed, and the majority of the respondents have completed secondary and higher secondary exam (40%), followed by primary level of education (26%) and college level UG education (18%). This could also become an important criteria during interpretation of the results of the study, as educational status may be a vital predictor of early age marriages. The majority of the sample respondents comes under the income category of 5000-15000 (36%), followed by less than 5000 (30%), 25000-35000 (12%), and < 35000 (4%). This could be an important parameter to consider during interpretation the results as income of artisans family may be a crucial predictor of early age marriages.

**Table 2: Distribution of frequency in Percentage:** 

Q.No.	Statements	Strongly	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly				
		Disagree				Agree				
Early a	Early age marriages									
1	Early marriages destroy the fundamental	70	6	6	12	6				
	rights of girls									
2	Early marriages adversely affect the	68	14	8	8	2				
	health of the female child									
3	Early marriage is a global phenomenon	32	6	10	28	24				
Educat	Education									



4	Education is a vital medicine to abolish early marriage custom	64	18	8	8	2
5	Education enriches the ability of taking rational decisions and analytical cognition of females that helps to decrease early age marriages.	62	26	6	4	2
Wealth						
6	In Improvement of wealth potential in rural society, early age marriages act as a crucial hindrance		16	12	16	6
7	Increasing employment opportunities reduces early marriages in society	48	22	14	8	8
Unemp	ployment					1
8	Crisis of job creates societal division that leads to increase early age marriages.		26	12	14	8
9	Lack of employment indulges mental stress that accelerates the incidence of early marriages.		10	6	14	8
Rural	Poverty					1
10	Early marriages occurs among poor artisan families in Panchmura	66	18	6	6	4
11	Rising inequality in income increases the rate of early marriages in Panchmura		20	6	10	2
Gende	r Inequality				1	
12	The increasing impact of gender disparity in educational sector leading for occurrences of child marriages		14	6	8	4
13	The increasing impact of gender disparity in labor market leads to occur early marriages	24	54	6	12	4



The majority of the sample respondents admitted with the thought that early age marriage that child marriages ruins the right of girls (76%) and have a negative effect on their health (82%). 40% of sample respondents agreed that it is a global phenomena and education is a vital medicine to reduce this social stigma of early marriages (82 %). Majority of them (88%) supported that education helps to take rational decision by female members. Additionally, a majority of the samples admires that improving asset (wealth) in society sharply reduces child marriages (66%) and broadening the scope of employment opportunities reduces early age marriages (70%), lack of employability makes social divisions which leads to an increase of early age marriage (66%), unemployment also induces frustration and mental anxiety which increases early age marriage (72%), and the poverty in rural areas also induced by early age marriages (84%). In addition, a majority of the sample respondents supported that that rising graph of income inequality accelerates the growth rate of early age marriages (82%). At present rising gender disparity in educational sector increases early marriages (82%) and increasing gender disparity in labour market induces early age marriages (78%).

Hence, majority of the respondents admitted that early age marriage in this craft village ruins the basic right of girl child and negatively affect upon the health of them. They also admitted that education is a basic need of girl child which make them self dependent and improves analytical wisdom that could minimizes the occurrence of early age marriages. The respondents are also supports that increasing resource base (wealth) of the rural society helps to lowering the rate of early age marriages and increasing employment opportunities can make successful reduction in rate of early age marriage. The sample artisans also agree that lack of employment creates societal division which leads to occurrences of early age marriage and increasing mental trauma, stress and anxiety also causing early marriages. Majority of them also believes that rural poverty and massive income inequality accelerates the rate of early age marriages. They also admitted that increasing dimension of gender disparity in educational domain and labour market, leads to increase of early age marriages in Panchmura.

**Table 3: Descriptive statistics of the variables.** 



Variables	Minimum	Maximu	Mean	Std. Deviation
		m		
Level of Early age marriage	1	5	2.56	0.75
Is poor Education becomes a	1	5	4.58	0.57
crucial factor for early age marriage				
in Panchmura				
Is financially sound family ( Wealth	1	5	3.28	1.06
full) have low early marriage				
evidences				
Is Unemployment condition	1	5	4	0.98
accelerates the incidence of early				
marriage in Panchmura				
Is Rural Poverty accelerate the	1	5	4.3	0.85
incidence of Child marriage				
Is Gender Inequality become a	1	5	3.32	1.05
crucial factor for early age marriage				
in Panchmura				

This research study examined some selected variables in relation to early age marriages, including literacy status, wealth status, employment status, poverty, and gender disparity. The dependent variable variable, early age marriages, had a minimum value of 1 and a maximum value of 5, a mean of 2.56, and a SD value of 0.75. It indicates that the majority of the values for early age marriages falls under the men range of 0.75 of the mean (2.56) and are concentrated around the said value. Likewise, the independent variable of Literacy status (education) had a mean of 4.58 and a standard deviation value of 057, which indicates that majority of the values for literacy tends to be distributed within 0.57 of the mean. The other independent variable of Resource base (wealth) had a mean of 3.28 and a SD value of 1.06, which indicates a wider distribution of value sets from mean value. Unemployment factor had a mean value of 4 and a standard deviation of 0.98, the variable Rural Poverty had a mean of 4.3 and a SD value of 0.85 whereas the independent variable Gender Inequality had a mean value of 3.32 and a standard deviation value of 1.05 which also indicates a wider dispersion of values.



The aforementioned likert scale is taken a scale value 1 to 5. In this survey, 1 means disagreement and 5 means agreement with the said variable. The mean values showing the average state of agreement or disagreement among the respondents view regarding corresponding variable. For instance, the mean value of 2.56 for "Early age marriages" suggests that the average level of agreement among the sample respondents is somewhere between the continuum range of "Disagree" and "Neutral" on the Likert scale. The SD values indicate the degree of variability or distribution of variation of the responses from its mean value for respective variable. A smaller SD indicates about the responses which is closely concentrated around mean, while a large SD value indicates a wider dispersion of responses from the mean value. For example, the SD value of Education 0.75 is relatively small. The smallest SD value found in Educational status (0.57) indicating the close concentration of database within its mean value (4.58). Hence, it is found that in those variable where mean value is relatively smaller suggests that the majority of the responses are within disagree or strongly disagree with the said parameter.

**Table 4: Multivariate Regression Estimates** 

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
		В	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	1.328	.329		4.035	.000
	Education	.178	.057	.392	3.111	.003
	Wealth	180	.087	258	-2.076	.044
	Unemployment	.277	.114	.333	2.420	.020
	Rural Poverty	.021	.086	.031	.241	.811
	Gender Inequality	184	.093	269	-1.984	.050

a. Dependent Variable: Early\_age\_marriage

AN	ANOVA <sup>b</sup>									
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.				
1	Regression	7.699	5	1.540	4.584	.002 <sup>a</sup>				
	Residual	14.781	44	.336						



	Total	22.480	49					
a. Predictors: (Constant), Gender Inequality, Wealth, Education, Rural Poverty, Unemployment								
b. I	b. Dependent Variable: Early_age_marriage							

Model Summary <sup>b</sup>											
Model					Std. Error	Change St	atistics				
			R	Adjusted	of the	R Square	F			Sig.	F
		R	Square	R Square	Estimate	Change	Change	df1	df2	Chang	ţe
dimension0	1	.585ª	.342	.268	.580	.342	4.584	5	44	.002	
a. Predictors: (Constant), Gender Inequality, Wealth, Education, Rural Poverty, Unemployment											

b. Dependent Variable: Early\_age\_marriage

The "t" column in multivariate regression analysis displays the t-values associated with each independent variable. The primary purpose of this method is to ascertain the level of significance associated with the calculated coefficient of each independent variable. The significance column represents the probability (p-value) of receiving a t-value, which is calculated from the sample, under the assumption of the null hypothesis being either true or incorrect. This study demonstrates a positive correlation between educational status, jobless status, and rural poverty with early age marriages, but wealth and gender disparity exhibit a negative association with child marriages. Educational status, wealth status, unemployment status and gender inequality variables are statistically significant with p-value of 0.003, 0.04, 0.02, 0.05 respectively which indicates that relationship between said variables with early age marriages is statistically significant as all p values are lower than 0.05. On the contrary rural poverty is statistically insignificant, with p-value of 0.811 which is greater than 0.05, indicating about the relationship between rural poverty and child marriages is not statistically significant.

With regards to the particular coefficient values (Unstandardized Coefficients), the model predicts that a one-unit increase in education is associated with a 0.178-unit rise in early age marriages, assuming all other factors remain constant. In a similar vein, it is anticipated that a rise in unemployment status by one unit will result in a corresponding increase of 0.277 units in the occurrence of early age marriage.



Similarly, an increase of 1 unit in rural poverty is anticipated to result in a corresponding increase of 0.021 units in the prevalence of early age marriage. Contrary to the initial assumption, it is observed that a one-unit rise in asset base (wealth) is associated with a decrease of about -0.180 units in early age marriages. Similarly, a one-unit increase in gender inequality status is associated with a fall of approximately -0.184 units in early age marriages, assuming all other factors remain constant.

The findings unequivocally demonstrate that significant characteristics such as limited access to school, unemployment, and pervasive poverty in rural regions are strongly associated with the prevalence of early-age marriages. The respondents hypothesised that early age marriage might perhaps mitigate the financial difficulties faced by female children or serve as a strategy to relieve rural poverty. Furthermore, the absence of formal education might also result in a deficiency of critical thinking skills and awareness regarding the negative consequences associated with early marriage.

Therefore, it may be posited that there exists a correlation between higher levels of education, improved wealth position, reduced rural poverty, decreased unemployment, less gender inequality, and a decrease in the prevalence of early age marriages. When a population possesses a high level of knowledge, sufficient resources, and experiences gender equality, it is less probable for them to perceive child marriage as a requisite means for achieving financial security. Consequently, they are more inclined to take proactive measures in order to prevent child marriage. It is noteworthy to consider the statistical significance of the outcome, as indicated by the p-value. This suggests a robust association between educational status, unemployment conditions, and rural poverty with early age marriage. However, the relationship between gender inequality and wealth with early age marriage is comparatively less pronounced. The findings and analysis of this study align with prior studies concerning the correlation between early marriage and socio-economic variables. Existing scholarly research has similarly identified a range of factors, including limited access to education, inadequate technical progress, socioeconomic deprivation, and gender inequality, as significant contributors to the prevalence of early marriage.

Naveed & Butt (2020) mentioned in their research article that lack of literacy, poverty, obsolete customs, social stigmas are the main factors for child marriage in Pakistan. In addition it has a strong negative impacts on the biological and psychological status of girl child's as well as on their life's opportunities like education and employment. The study concludes with some suggestive measures which could reduce the harsh effect of child marriage by implementing basic and compulsory education



for girl Childs in Pakistan. **Das et al. (2022)** provides a picturesque overview of the different types of child, early and forced marriage and their backgrounds. In their article they have analyzed the diverse factors and consequences of this social curse. According to their survey report social norms, stigma, poverty, illiteracy are the common key driver for this early and immature marriage practice. **Aggarwal et al. (2023)** in their research report shows that brides with younger age have faces numerous difficulties in their body and mind and make struggle with their physical and mental health issues which includes anxiety, mental dilemma and anxiety. The study suggests that early age marriage is associated with poor literacy status, poor skill and efficacy development, joblessness, negative mental and physical health outcomes, increased vulnerability, sexual abuse and irreversible loss for teenage girls which could reduce their potentialities. Various strategic efforts and policy measures must be taken to reduce early age marriage for girls and young women at Panchmura in local as well as global scale.

#### **Conclusion:**

This study investigates the major determinants of early age marriage among females of artisans family in Panchmura . A strong positive correlation is found between early marriage and poverty. Whereas it have been noticed that a sharp adverse relationship is found between literacy rate and early marriage. So enriching educational status among females through proper schooling and skill based training programme may prevent this child marriage issue. A holistic approach may need to take regarding developmental activities for girl child's through government and other organization. Gender equality at every stage of society also becomes very crucial to implement. A proper monitoring and continuous evaluation of these policies should be conducted on a regular basis.

A few suggestive measures are recommended in context of this terracotta village. These are as follows

- i. Implementation of proper education and guidance is very needed along with empowerment of girl child which make them self-dependent, reduced poverty and may positively check the early marriage issue.
- ii. Various skill based training and workshop is need to arrange for school going female child of this artisan family. Thus providing economic opportunities, micro-finnace and credit facilities should be provided for their economic stability and it could reduce early marriage issue as a financial coping measures.



- iii. An adequate number of public awareness campaign and seminars need to be organize about the negative effect of early marriage. Various educational and health campaign, community engagement programs will act as a good strategy to combat this issue.
- iv. Strengthening legal protection of girl child's and young women against early age marriage need to be enforce properly.
- v. A proper support system along with rescue service for girls and women's need o be active in this village and they may carefully observe the girls and women of artisan family who remains at a high risk of early age marriage. The supports like education, counselling, health check-ups and safe house need to provide them.

A comprehensive approach requires being evolved trough different sectors and staholders to combat the issue of early age marriage. It's an acute violation of human rights. It not just a soul responsibility of the government, but also artisan society, and media will combat together to abolish this practise. So a uniform and multi dimensional approach can ensure the bright future of girl Childs of artisans' family and protect them from shadow zone of early age marriage. Thus it could be prevented and rationally addressed.

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