

Socio-demographic factors affecting under registration of marriage in India

Introduction

CRVS systems are also critical to the 2030 development goals across the life-course, with 15 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals using indicators that require high-quality CRVS data (WHO & UNICEF, 2018). In most developed countries, only legal forms of marriage exist, Civil and religious marriage (United Nations, 2002). Marriage registration and certification is particularly important for women and children. Proof of marital status provides them with legal protection from discrimination in enjoying the benefits accorded by the marital union. Marriage registration systems enforce and often specify exceptions to a country's minimum age to marry, potentially protecting children from early marriage. In many countries, marriage registration is also a prerequisite for transferring benefits between current or former spouses (UNICEF, 2019). In Pakistan, Low marriage registration despite Muslim Family Law 1962 flaws the entire system and causes preventing early marriage close to impossible (Keifer & Effenberger, 1967). The study from Burkina Faso, only a minority (2%) of marriage were celebrated before a civil registration office. Religious marriage is most common (77%) in the area. Even when people have a choice between the different types of unions, the majority chose religious marriage (Niamba, 2020).

In India, a marriage is made compulsory to registrar irrespective of religion (No.270, 2017). The time of compulsory to register marriage very form states to states of India. Proposing and supporting legislation that improves the birth and marriage registration system in India is necessary. Birth registration in the country is at a low 41 percent. Preventing early marriage becomes close to impossible if a girl's age at the time of marriage cannot be proved (Keifer & Effenberger, 1967). TNN (2015) found that around 70 percent of people don't register their instant; it is compulsory Registration of marriage Act (2020) in Visakhapatnam. Surprisingly, it is not just those from the socially and economically weaker section of society unaware of the importance of registering marriages. Most of the educated urban lot does not bother to register for marriage unless the marriage certificate is required.

Methodology

Study design

The study used primary data collected in 2019-2020 from the high child marriage prevalence districts of Rajasthan – an Indian state with a high child marriage rate. Complete mapping and household listing were carried out to identify eligible respondents. In this sample survey, a location map, along with its entire boundary, was drawn first, followed by the household listing operation. This showed the location of every household with at least one eligible resident. Women married in the last five years before the survey were selected based on the following criteria: Currently, marriage, one woman will be selected from a single household if two women are eligible for the interview. A total of 150 women samples were interviewed. The estimated response rate was 96.77% ($150 \times 100 / 155$), where 155 was the total number of identified eligible respondent and 150 was the total number of respondents who completed the interview.

Information was collected through structured and semi-structured questionnaires. Both forced-choice and open-ended type questions were asked to collect information on the respondent's marriage registration.

Dependent variable

The dependent variable for this study is marriage registration. The marriage registration variable is dichotomous, where 1 indicates an individual women who have registered marriage and 0 otherwise. In this paper, the analysis of marriage registration is restricted to women who have married in last five years at the of survey.

Background variables

Background variables representing the socio-demographics of the respondents and their categories were: respondent's age (less than 20, 20-24, more than 24); respondent age at marriage (less than 18, 18 or more) respondent's level of education (less and equal 10, 11-12, 13 and more); respondent work status (Yes, No); respondent's caste (SC/ST, OBC, Other); religion (Hindu and Muslim); Place of residence (Urban, Rural). For the present study, cross-tab and bivariate logic regression were performed to understand factors affecting marriage registration.

Results

Descriptive results in table 1 show that about 40 percent of women register their marriage. According to respondent characteristics, women who marry after legal age has a high register of marriage as compared to before legal age. Women with high years of schooling, working has high registering marriage. Whereas, according to household characteristics, OBC and Other caste has higher register marriage as compared to SC/ST caste. Women who belong to the Hindu religion have a higher register of marriage as compared to the Muslim religion. According to the community level, women who belong to urban has high registered marriage as compared to rural areas.

Table 2 present the odds ratios (ORs) of background characteristics for marriage registration among women who have married in the late five years. Women who have an age of more than 24 have high marriage registration as compared to women with less than 20 years of age. According to education, 13 or more years schooling has eight times high registering marriage as compare to lee or equal to 10 years of schooling. Whereas, according to working status, women with no working status has likely to register their marriage as compared to women with working status.

Conclusion

India has a diverse culture, and still, solemnization of marriage took place traditionally or culturally, mostly in rural areas. Around 60 percent of women are not aware of marriage registration, where to use it, and why it is essential in Rajasthan. They have misunderstood the marriage registration in rural areas. The education and working status of women play an important role in registering marriage. There is a limitation in marriage registration as compared to the birth and death act in India, as it is known that their different laws were made according to religion and also have different rules to register their marriage. That makes it very difficult to compile all registered marriages in one place. The present study also found woman

married below 18 don't register their marriage. To stop child marriage directly, the government should make laws compare to register all marriages.

Reference

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Table 1. Percent of currently married women who have Non or Register marriage in the last 5 years preceding the survey by Background characteristics, 2019-2020

<i>Background Characteristics</i>	<i>Non-Registration</i>	<i>Registration</i>	<i>Chi</i>
Respondent characteristics			
Age			0.001
Less than 20	90.9	9.1	
20-24	61.4	38.6	
More than 24	42.5	57.5	
Age at Marriage			0.001
Less than 18	100.0	0.0	
More than 18	56.0	44.0	
Age gap between Spouse			
No difference	25.0	75.0	
1-4'	45.8	54.2	
5+	23.1	76.9	
Years of schooling			0.000
Less than equal 10	100.0	0.0	
11-12'	83.7	16.3	
13+	65.5	34.5	
Working			
Yes	11.1	88.9	0.002
No	63.8	36.2	
Household characteristics			
Caste			0.595
SC/ST	65.6	34.4	
OBC	57.1	42.6	

Other	57.7	42.3	
Religion			0.508
Hindu	59.9	40.2	
Muslim	69.2	30.8	
Community characteristics			
Place of resistance			0.664
Urban	64.3	35.7	
Rural	59.8	40.2	
Total	40.2	59.8	

Table 2. logistic regression showing factors to reporting of marriage registration in the last 5 years among currently married women, 2019-2020

<i>Background Characteristics</i>	Odd Ratio	95% Conf. Interval	
Respondent characteristics			
Age			
Less than 20 [®]			
20-24	7.04*	1.40	35.28
More than 24	16.27**	2.89	91.75
Age gap between Spouse			
No difference [®]			
1-4'	5.13	0.46	57.03
5+	2.14	0.17	26.84
Years of schooling			
Less than equal 10 [®]			
11-12'	3.52*	1.04	11.93
13+	8.16***	2.80	23.77
Working			
Yes [®]			
No	0.09*	0.01	0.97
Household characteristics			
Caste			
SC/ST [®]			
OBC	0.95	0.36	2.50
Other	0.57	0.17	1.88
Religion			
Hindu [®]			
Muslim	0.60	0.12	3.00
Community characteristics			
Place of resistance			
Urban [®]			
Rural	2.20	0.75	6.44