CHAPTER-IX

SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS
9.1 Introduction

Child marriage refers to the practice in which a young child, usually a girl below the age of 18, is married to an adult man or a boy. Child marriage is a global problem. It is spread across India. Child marriage is not only a gross violation of human rights as per the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discriminations against Women, but also undermines progress towards developmental goals. Child marriage is both a symptom of and a contributor to gender inequality. Studies demonstrate the clear linkages between the incidence of child marriage and poor health indicators, often due to early child bearing that contributes to high levels of maternal mortality and morbidity (ICRW, 2008).

The consequences of child marriage are often far wider than just their impact on the individual children affected. The marriage of children has negative effects on families and communities. The practice thrives on poverty and impacts adversely on a country’s health and education sectors. Young brides and young mothers are overlooked and invisible in national policy and programmes on health, education, employment and overall empowerment of women. Child marriage is often associated with multiple health risks. This is
because young brides have limited access to, and use of contraception and reproductive health services and information.

Child marriage is widespread in India despite a law banning it, and the loser in the end is invariably the girl child given the socio-economic factors that encourage the practice. India is still unable to stop this feudal practice. Most child marriages in northern India take place on an auspicious day – Akha Teej (Akshaya Trithiya). But in the south there appears to be no special occasion for such marriages. Although the illegality of the practice and the fact that such marriages are not registered make the exact numbers hard to determine, some estimates put the number of child marriages in the country at several thousand every year. In some cases, the bride and the groom are said to be little more than toddlers, though the majority are in their teens. There is considerable evidence that child marriages contribute to virtually every social problem that affects women.

However, the law alone cannot curb this harmful social practice. A change in psyche of the backward and illiterate people is required. Education and the empowerment of women are, beyond a doubt, two of the best remedies in a largely male-dominated country. Marriage before the age of 18 is a reality for many young women. According to UNICEF’s estimates, over 60 million women aged 20-24 years were married / in union before the age of 18. The number of children who enter into marriage or cohabitation each year varies according to region and across countries. Factors that influence child marriage
rates include: the state of the country’s civil registration system, which provides proof of age for children; the existence of an adequate legislative framework with an accompanying enforcement mechanism to address cases of child marriage; and the existence of customary or religious laws that condone the practice.

According to Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) child marriage is most common in the world’s poorest countries. The highest rates are in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia and also parts of Latin America and the Caribbean (ICRW 2006; NRC/IOM 2005). A UNICEF study found that 48 percent of women between 15 and 24 were married before 18 in South Asia. Prevalence of early marriage is 42 percent in Africa (UNICEF 2005), and more than 60 percent in some parts of East and West Africa (IPPF and UNFPA 2006). In Latin America and the Caribbean, the prevalence rate is 29 percent, though some countries have much higher rates (UNICEF 2005). Child marriage is also common in the Middle East, where nearly half of girls younger than 18 (Yemen and Palestine) are married (IPPF and UNFPA 2006).

Marriage qualifies as a life cycle transition that is both normative and anticipated, has the potential to be highly stressful (Boss, 1988). According to McGoldrick (1989), becoming a couple is one of the most complex and difficult transitions of the family life cycle even though it is often perceived as the least complicated and most joyous. However, Carter and McGoldrick (1989) have suggested that
marriage really represents the merger of two entire systems combining
together in developing a new, third family system. Differences in
personal attitudes, values, and beliefs can cause stress in the new
family system (Carter & McGoldrick, 1989). While forming a new
family subsystem, couples may experience differences in needs and
values over issues like: family leadership, gender, loyalty, money,
power, sex, privacy, and children (Betcher & Macauley, 1990;
Fitzpatrick, 1988; Holman & Li, 1997; Kalmykova, 1983). In addition,
Storaasli and Markman (1990) have indicated that problems related to
communication, sex, and leisure activities show significant increases
in intensity in the period between pre-marriage and parenting.
Wamboldt and Reiss (1989) have indicated that couple identity was
best achieved in a shared couple paradigm with consensus and
agreement on the valued aspects of the relationship. Johnson and
Booth (1998) found that marital quality is due largely to the dyadic
perceptions of the relationship processes rather than the perceptions
of personality stability.

An individual’s ability to successfully commit to a marriage and
a partner requires a well-developed identity, high self-esteem,
empathy, and an assumption of permanence. According to Mace
(1982), a successful marriage requires three things: (a) a high degree
of motivation, (b) a desire to make the marriage work, and (c) a
willingness to expend personal time and effort to make sure it does.
Sabatelli and Cecil-Pigo (1985) found that when both partners were
participating equally in the relationship and when there was maximum interdependence, the couple was the most committed. Therefore, it seems that marital success is attainable if the commitment is mutual (Surra, Arizzi, & Asmussen, 1988). Commitment is essential to the process of developing a marital relationship that endures (Mace, 1989). Commitments need to be made to the partner, to a belief in the importance of the institution of marriage, as well as to the willingness to invest in having a mutually gratifying marriage (Huston et al., 1981; Surra, 1987; Surra et al., 1988).

The research methodology called as the life of a research specification of methods in acquiring the information needed to structure or solve the research problem. This study was a mixture of both qualitative and quantitative approaches based on primary and secondary data sources by use of face to face interview method for data collection with serious attempts were made to evaluate the child marriages and their impact on family members include wife and husband, role conflict related to relations, mental, physical problems and its impact on children and family life with present trends. This research takes on the scientific method of exploring the concept of child marriages identity in family as well as society. Thus identifying the determinants of child marriages identity the value of marriages
and the need to improve the societal status of children with her basic responsibility taken by the parents. Present study starting from the research design with different research steps like selection of study area, sampling design, sample size, framing the objectives, hypothesis, study data required, types of data and tools of data collection, applying required test, adopting systematic sampling methods for data collection, preparation for field work, data processing, and the variable studied, definition of concept used and data analysis.

Child marriages couple will face many hurdles in regular life. Children who are married at early marriage are particularly susceptible to poor prenatal care due to fewer resources available to them.

In the modern era, gender equality is continuously highlighted in society and many of the government schemes were also formed to achieve gender equality at the state and national level. Globalization and liberalization increased the opportunities for education and employment for Indian women particularly child marriages. Socially the child marriages are not recognized. But on the other hand, they play key roles both in family as well as other allied aspects of life. Hence, child marriages are still occurring and child marriages couple
increasingly facing the problems of health. In this way, their health is neglected, hence, the present study is made to assess the health status among child marriage couple in the study area.

The study is considered significant, as it provides a different perspective to the studies done on child marriages. Only few studies have been done in the field of child marriages in the present study area. This study has a feminist perspective health and nutrition as an interlinking social aspect, subsequently an attempt is made has to understand health in view of biological concept and a social issue.

The study is significant, as it has analyzed the constraints of child marriages and to what extent they are able to face the challenges. At the substantive level it has brought out the major findings of the study, some of which can be seen as measures to resolve the problem of child marriages in the study area. The study has highlighted the problem of nutrition particularly among the mature women’s reproductive period. The study is significant because it brings out suggestions to improve the health conditions of rural women and nutrition among women.

Kalaburagi district is one of the three districts that were
transferred from Hyderabad State to Karnataka state at the time of re-organization of the state in 1956. The district is one among the 29 districts of Karnataka State. It is located in the Northern part of the state and lies between North latitude 17° 10 and 17° 45 and between east longitude 76° 10 and 77° 45. The District is a biggest district in the state covering 8.49% of the area and 5.9 present of population of the state. It has Bijapur district of Karnataka and Sholapur district of Maharashtra on the west, on the north by Bidar district of Karnataka and Osmanabad district of Maharashtra. Raichur district of Karnataka is on south of Kalaburagi. The Afzalpur, Aland, Chincholli, Chittapur, Kalaburagi, Jewargi, Sedam are 7 Talukas of Kalaburagi District.

9.2 Major findings of the study

➢ Age wise distribution of respondent of the study area. The maximum respondents (30.4%) of them are belongs to the age group 30 to 34 years, followed by 26.3% of respondents are belongs to age group between 26 to 29 years, 16.5% of respondents are belongs to the age group between 22 to 25 years respectively. However, a good percentage of respondents (12%) were belongs to the age group more than 35 years respectively.
➢ Type of family wise distribution of respondent of the study area. The maximum respondents (46.1%) of them are belongs to the nuclear family followed by 26.5% of respondents are belongs to joint family, 27.4% of respondents are belongs to the extended family type respectively.

➢ The maximum respondents (65.4%) of them are stated that, their occupation is house wife, followed by 17.92% of respondents are stated that their occupation is petty business, 10.6% of respondents are stated that, their occupation is agriculture and only 6.1% of them are stated that, their occupation is land lady respectively.

➢ The maximum respondents (58.7%) of them are belongs to the schedule caste, followed by 23.5% of respondents are belongs to schedule tribe, 17.9% of respondents are belongs to the other backward class respectively.

➢ The maximum respondents (65.6%) of them are stated that, child marriages are more in rural India than the urban places, followed by 34.4% of respondents are stated that, child marriages are more rural areas of the country as may be.

➢ The maximum respondents (55.9%) of them are stated that, child marriages are advisable, followed by 39.4% of respondents are stated that, they do not know about this matter and only 4.7% of respondents are stated that, marriage at early age is not
advisable and it should be prevented in the rural and wherever this practice is going on.

- The maximum respondents (50.6%) of them are stated that, marriage is mandatory in Indian society so that early marriage should be preferred, followed by 30.2% of respondents are stated that, civil society will respect the married women than the unmarried women so that early marriages are more in the society, and only few percentage (19.3%) of respondents are state that, lack of faith on own daughter may be the reason for early girl child in the Indian society.

- The majority of respondents (27.1%) are stated that, on loss of family members is the major disadvantage of child marriage, followed by 26.3% of respondents are stated that, loss of early childhood may be took place due to child marriages. While good percentage (23.5%) of respondents are stated that, due to child marriage bright future will be spoiled of the child. Whereas, 23.2% of respondents are stated that, loss of national talent due to child marriage.

- The maximum respondents (27.9%) of them are stated that, lower family income is the main reason for child marriages, followed by 24.9% of respondents are stated that, poverty is the main reason for early marriages, almost equal percentage (24.0%) of respondents are stated that, lower individual income is the main reason for child marriages, and good percentage
(23.2%) of respondents are state that, high prevalence of dowry may be the reason for early girl child in the Indian society.

➢ The maximum respondents (58.4%) of them are stated that, lower level of mother literacy is the main reason for child marriages, followed by 18.4% of respondents are stated that, lack of interest in higher studies is the main reason for early marriages, almost equal percentage (15.9%) of respondents are stated that, lower level of parents literacy is the main reason for child marriages, and low percentage (7.3%) of respondents are state that, high lower level of father literacy may be the reason for early girl child in the Indian society.

➢ The maximum respondents (63.1%) are stated that, to fulfill the responsibility of the parents is the main reason for child marriages, followed by 20.1% of respondents are stated that, achieving to moksha is also one of the reason for early marriages, almost similar percentage (16.8%) of respondents are stated that, in order to proclaim human race is the one of the reason for child marriages in the Indian society.

➢ The majority of respondents (44.4%) are stated that, economic reason is the major determinant of child marriage, followed by 38.5% of respondents is stated that, social reason may be the determinant child marriages. While significant percentage (17.0%) of respondents is stated that, religious determinate is the cause for child marriage.
➢ Out of 358 respondents of the study area, age between 10-13 years respondents represented by 71, in number respectively. Among threes respondents high percentage of respondents (49.3%) were stated that, social reasons, followed by 39.4% were felt that, economic reason is the major factor for child marriage, and about 11.3% were stated that religious reasons are the determinant factors for child marriage.

➢ Among the total respondents (358), high percentage of respondents (44.4%) were stated that, social reasons, followed by 38.5% were felt that, economic reason is the major factor for child marriage, and about 17.1% were stated that religious reasons are the determinant factors for child marriage.

➢ The respondents, who belong to extended families, are represented by 98, in number respectively. Among these respondents high percentage of respondents (71.4%) were stated that, economic reasons, followed by 2.0% were felt that, social reasons are the major factor for child marriage, and about 26.5% were stated that religious reasons are the determinant factors for child marriage.

➢ The respondents, who belongs to category of 20000/- to 24000/- are represented by 163, in number respectively. Among 163 respondents, high percentage of respondents (58.3%) were stated that, social reasons, followed by 37.4% were felt that, religious reasons are the major factor for child marriage, and about 4.3% were stated that economic reasons are the determinant factors for child marriage.
The majority of respondents (63.1%) are stated that, there is significant impact on physical health among child marriage girl, followed by significant percentage (36.9%) of respondents are stated that, they don’t know about impact of child marriage on physical health of the women.

The majority of respondents (75.1%) are stated that, there is high pressure of child marriage and it’s directly affect the career and professional life of women, followed by good percentage (24.9%) of respondents are stated that, they don’t know about impact of child marriage on physical professional and career.

The majority of respondents (48.9%) are stated that, there is significant pressure due to work load burden, followed by significant percentage (22.1%) of respondents are stated that, due to stress and tensions of the family psychological problems will affect the developed women. While 26.5% of respondents are stated that, there is no impact of mental disturbances due to various factors affect the psychology of developed women.

Majority of respondents (52.2%) are stated that, there are high chances of maturity at early age than the normal due to child marriages, followed by significant percentage (29.6%) of respondents are stated that, due to early marriages women may lose her physical beauty than the normal women. While 18.2% of respondents stated that, due to early marriages loss of figure or physical attraction among women.
The majority of respondents (75.1%) are stated that, there are high chances or 100% chances of impact women health after child marriage, followed by significant percentage (38.5%) of respondents are stated that, they don’t know about impact of child marriage on health of the women.

The majority of respondents (44.7%) are stated that, due to child marriages underweight baby birth may be increased, followed by significant percentage (28.8%) of respondents are stated that, due to early marriages spontaneous abortions may be occurred. While 26.5% of respondents stated that, due to early marriages under nutrition or physically handicapped baby may born.

The majority of respondents (53.6%) are stated that, there are maximum chances of MMR and IMR health problems arise among the women who married at early age, followed by significant percentage (29.6%) of respondents are stated that, due to early marriage abortions are more common among women. While 16.8% of respondents are stated that, there is no impact of early marriage anemic is more frequent health problem among women respectively.

The maximum respondents (60.6%) of them are stated that, below or equal to 18 years is the legal age for marriage, followed by 26.5% of respondents are stated that, 21 years is the legal age for marriage and only 12.8% of them are stated that above or equal to 18 years is the legal age for marriage in India.
The maximum respondents (70.7%) of them are stated that, there is difference age among the boy and girl marriage, followed by 22.6% of respondents are stated that, they do not know about age difference of marriage among boy and girl and only 6.7% of them are stated that there is no age difference marriage among girl and boy.

The maximum respondents (52.8%) of them are stated that, marriage will be occurred at early age, followed by 41.6% of respondents are stated that, marriage will be decided by the parents of the children, and only 5.6% of them are stated that marriage will be occurred in deal age.

The maximum respondents (65.6%) of them are stated that, marriage is compulsory in the Indian society, followed by 34.4% of respondents are stated that, marriage not compulsory in the Indian society.

The maximum respondents (51.7%) of them are stated that, there is Rs 50,000 penalty will be given who preferred child marriages, followed by 31.3% of respondents are stated that, they don’t know about this kind of penalty will be given to them who prefer child marriage in India, and good percentage (17.3%) of them are felt that, there may be Rs 1,000,00 penalty will be charged against who involve in child marriages.

The maximum respondents (65.6%) of them are stated that, child marriages are more in rural India than the urban places,
followed by 34.4% of respondents are stated that, child marriages are more rural areas of the country as may be.

➢ The maximum respondents (35.2%) of them are stated that, they are aware about Shadi Mubharak scheme for girl child, followed by 24.8% of respondents are stated that, they aware about Bhagya Laxmi government schemes for girl child and good percentage (23.2%) of them are felt that, they don’t know about government schemes for girl child, 16.8% respondents are stated that, they aware about Tali Bhagya government scheme for girl child provided by the state or central.

➢ The maximum respondents (59.8%) of them are stated that, Rs 50,000 are benefited by government schemes for girl child, followed by 40.2% of respondents are stated that, Rs 1,00,000 will be benefited by government schemes for girl child provided by the state or central.

➢ The maximum respondents (54.2%) of them are stated that, NGO member will be member of committee of panchayat who monitor the abolition of child marriages in villages, followed by 40.8% of respondents are stated that, all members include SDMC and NGO members will be held in committee of panchayat which monitor the abolition of child marriages in villages and only few percentage (5.0%) of respondents are stated that, only SDMC member will be held committee of panchayat which monitor the abolition of child marriages in villages.
9.3 Conclusions

✓ Many child marriage prevention programs are only beginning to explore possibilities of scale-up, but there are encouraging signs that large-scale structural efforts aimed at other goals such as education, health and poverty reduction, are beginning to make a connection with child marriage prevention. A smaller, but increasing set of such programs is providing tentative but promising evaluation results.

✓ Find the right balance between depth versus scale and sustainability by relying on the experience of child marriage prevention experts, and also exploring new government and private sector platforms and partnerships in the education, health and economic sectors.

✓ Explore alternative evaluation models that are better suited to the goals of social change, by tapping into emerging concepts such as “systems change” and “collective impact.”

✓ Consider strategies beyond standard programmatic interventions, especially innovative social change mechanisms to speed up the pace of change, such as the power of 21st century technologies for communication, connection, education and mobilization.

✓ Reconcile which model of change we expect the eradication of child marriage to follow: intervention delivery to the average individual followed by replication and scale up, or intervention
delivery to pioneers, and reliance on diffusion to reach a tipping point.

✓ Only a few programs focused exclusively on child marriage. For most programs, child marriage was a goal entwined with achieving other health, welfare, or empowerment outcomes for adolescents and youth.

  • Empowering girls with information, skills and support networks
  • Educating and mobilizing parents and community members
  • Enhancing the accessibility and quality of formal schooling for girls
  • Offering economic support and incentives for girls and their families
  • Fostering an enabling legal and policy framework

✓ Many child marriage prevention programs are only beginning to explore possibilities of scale-up, but there are encouraging signs that large-scale structural efforts aimed at other goals such as education, health and poverty reduction, are beginning to make a connection with child marriage prevention. A smaller, but increasing set of such programs is providing tentative but promising evaluation results.

✓ Despite the legislative measures and the efforts made by the state government, the practice of child marriage is still prevalent
in Karnataka. While law enforcement has been weak on one hand, there have been many problems at the ground such as lack of awareness among people, lack of sensitized and trained functionaries on the other and have been impediments in moving forward.

✓ Making children aware about their rights and the negative consequences of child marriage is equally important, which should be done by ensuring child participation in the decision concerning children and also empowering them by making them aware about their rights. Empowerment of children to be able to voice their concerns and participate in the decisions that have bearing on their rights can also go a long way in curbing this practice.

✓ Sensitisation and capacity building of enforcement officers is crucial for making the law work. It is also required to put review and reporting mechanism in place at village, taluka, district and state level.

✓ Providing alternatives to adolescents, especially girls, in terms of educational opportunities and vocational training can really help in deterring the practice of child marriage.

✓ Enforcement strategies include – adopting and adhering to guidelines and procedures for mass marriages and age determination as well as proving support the victims of child marriages and prosecuting the violator. Role of Child Welfare
Committees and the Special Juvenile Police Units is also very important for implementation of the law and rehabilitation of victims.

✔ However, the role of community is primary and important of all the efforts made for preventing and eradicating child marriages. It is required that all the stakeholders and all the state departments work in tandem and in coordination with each other in a convergent manner for the efforts made towards eradicating child marriage successful