

CAUSES OF EARLY MARRIAGES AND EARLY BIRTHS AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES

Rustamov Jakhongir,

Researcher, Department of Demographic Family Development,
Research Institute “Makhalla and Family”, Tashkent City, Uzbekistan

rustamov_9308@mail.ru

Abstract

Early motherhood is a social phenomenon that has a great influence on the subsequent socialization of a girl, and it is associated with early religious marriages, acceleration (acceleration of the process of growth, development) and early onset of sexual activity in adolescents, as well as sexual crimes against children. All this is happening against the background of ignorance of minors about reproductive health, methods of pregnancy planning, emergency contraception and abortion, and prevention of unplanned sexual intercourse.

Health risks for teenage mothers are especially high in rural areas, where the health care system is less developed. Often, underage pregnancy ends in a dangerous abortion, which in the future can cause gynecological diseases, difficulties in childbirth and infertility.

It should be noted that in most cases early marriages are not registered, therefore, in the event of a divorce, young mothers are left without material support. Many of them are victims of domestic violence, socially and legally unprotected. Not only young mothers who give birth out of wedlock are subjected to social stigmatization, but also their children. In practice, an adolescent girl often cannot overcome stigma without the help of others.

Early marriage and childbearing can jeopardize a girl's health, education, income and future, forcing her to live in poverty and helplessness for the rest of her life. The consequences for the young mother often extend to the child, who is already disadvantaged at an early age, leading to marginalization, social exclusion and intergenerational poverty.

In addition, the costs associated with early pregnancy and childbirth are not limited to the girl, but place a heavy burden on her family, society, economy and the growth and development of the country.

Thus, early motherhood becomes an actual social problem. The urgency of the problem lies in the fact that it has a high risk of negative medical, psychological and social consequences in this category of mothers. Without appropriate



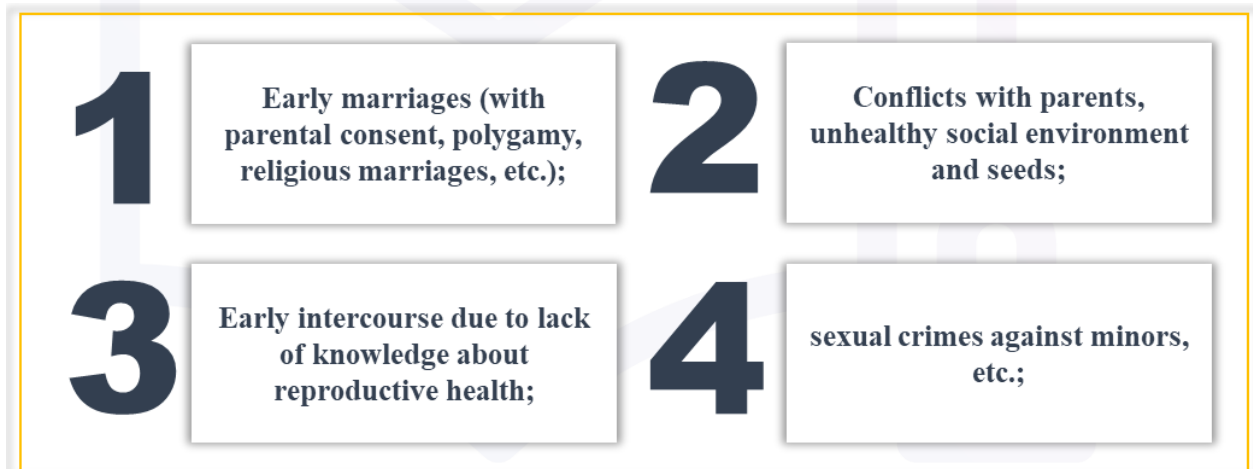


support, it is almost inevitable that he will fall into a special risk group for deviant behavior.

Information about early motherhood began to appear in the media thanks to the efforts of women's crisis centers and NGOs, children's centers, reproductive health organizations and medical workers. All of them are trying to focus the attention of the state and the public on resolving this issue.

At the same time, many civil servants who perform the function of regulating family, children and public morality issues do not consider early motherhood to be an important problem that requires state intervention. In their opinion, teenage pregnancy and motherhood belong only to the family sphere and should not be interfered with.

Data on the number of registered marriages by age categories do not allow tracking the dynamics of early marriages, since not all marriages concluded under the age of 18 are officially registered. Early marriages can be judged indirectly by the number of births to women under 18, but practice shows that pregnancy at this age does not always end in childbirth, and not all those who give birth are married. Early marriages also cannot be judged on the basis of information about abortions, because it can be not only early marriages, but also early onset of sexual activity and rape.



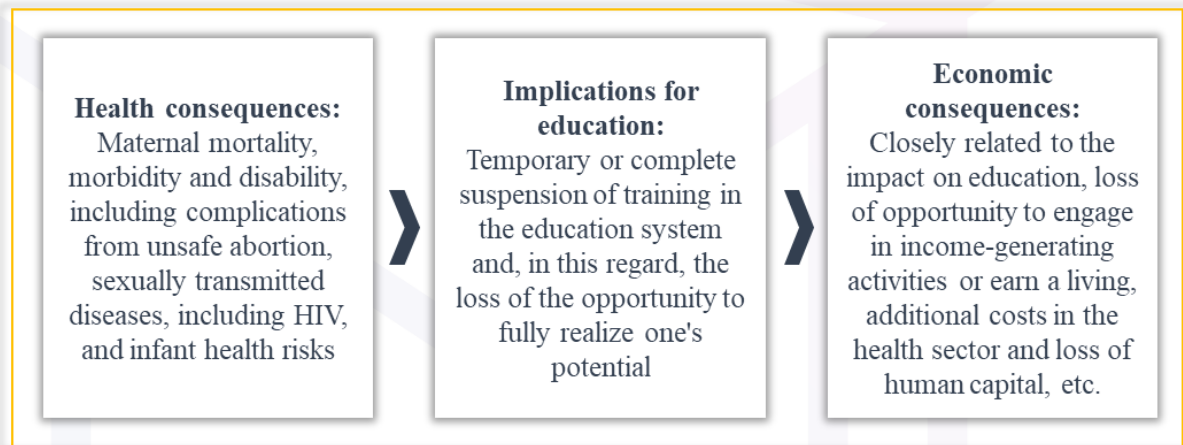
Conditions causing early births

There are also cases when a girl falls in love and starts dating a guy, while the illusion of a future marriage arises. She is not afraid to get pregnant because she is sure that her partner will marry her. There are also reports of girls having sex for financial gain or to "blackmail" their partner.

Teenagers' problems with parenting also have a direct impact on preterm birth. For example, early motherhood is observed in socially unacceptable, incomplete families, where both mothers or parents, and sometimes several generations of relatives drink alcohol, often change partners or engage in casual sex.

In general, no matter how different the reasons for early pregnancy may be, their similarity lies in the fact that almost all girls hide their pregnancy due to fear of exposure, a negative reaction from parents, relatives and relatives. Most of them do not try to resolve the issue of pregnancy on their own, do not go to medical institutions, as a result, abortion occurs late.

From the cases studied, it is known that most parents are dissatisfied with the pregnancy of their underage daughter, and most of them demand its termination, considering pregnancy and childbirth without a husband as bad news for the family.



The socioeconomic impact of pregnancy on the life of an adolescent girl

Let us now dwell on the above detailed corollaries.

Health implications. Most girls who start families early are anemic and weak. This situation can lead to brides not getting pregnant for a long time, difficult pregnancies, stillbirths or births with deviations, various postpartum complications and even infertility.

In premature women aged 15-16, the female body is not yet fully formed for the birth of a healthy baby. During the processes associated with pregnancy and childbirth, the mother's body consumes a lot of energy. A woman's body takes at least 3-4 years to recover from a broken eye. On the one hand, this ensures that the baby grows up with enough breast milk, and on the other hand, the mother is protected from the next pregnancy.



Young mothers and children die prematurely due to early marriages. This indicates that in order to raise a healthy generation, it is necessary to improve the medical culture in families and promote a healthy lifestyle.

The younger the woman, the more pathological, extragenital diseases, placental insufficiency, negative consequences of changes in the skeletal system during pregnancy. Early pregnancy often ends in miscarriage or stillbirth, which poses a great risk to the health of both mother and child due to defective fetal development. Such complications can adversely affect the normal course of the next pregnancy and natural childbirth. Therefore, the children of young married women are born surgically. Due to a chronic lack of oxygen, children who are underdeveloped in the womb weigh much less and, unfortunately, most of them do not live long.

There are also social and psychological consequences of early marriage and childbearing, exacerbating gender inequality, dependency and disempowerment. During the period of early marriage and the transition of a teenage girl to motherhood, a girl may experience stress or depression, as she is not psychologically ready for marriage, sexual relations or pregnancy, especially if these sexual relations are forced or non-consensual. Depending on the opinion of her family and society, she may be ashamed of an early pregnancy (especially if this pregnancy occurred out of wedlock), risk irreversible health consequences, and attempt an abortion.

Early pregnancy not only negatively affects the health of a young woman, but also remains an obstacle for young women to receive education and find their place in society.

Impact on girls' education. Girls who stay in school longer have a lower risk of pregnancy. Education prepares girls for life and work, improves their self-esteem, position in the family and society, and empowers them to have greater influence on the decisions that affect their lives. In addition, education reduces the likelihood of early marriages and delays pregnancy, which ultimately leads to more positive health outcomes of childbirth.

It is difficult to control for a causal relationship between teen pregnancy and early school leaving.

Pregnant girls could drop out of school before becoming pregnant or never go to school. The longer girls are out of school, the less likely they are to continue their education. Emotional support is a necessary but often not sufficient condition for



girls to return to school: young mothers often need financial support, childcare and personal counseling to help them cope with the challenges of teenage motherhood, including stigmatization.

Economic impact. According to research done by the World Bank, if a girl does not get married early and completes a higher education, she will have social opportunities that will allow her to get a job or other income-generating opportunities, that is, to gain economic opportunities. Investing in the empowerment of girls has huge economic benefits. The cost of lost life opportunities due to teenage pregnancy, measured in terms of a mother's lifetime lost income, is about 10% of China's annual GDP. Estimates are between 1 and 30 percent of Uganda's annual GDP. Opportunity cost is an indication of “what could have happened” had more been invested in girls’ development.

Because most teenage pregnancies occur while girls are in secondary school, dropping out before high school is more costly to the economy than dropping out of primary school.

It is expedient to estimate the costs of women's health in the form of deterioration as a result of premature birth. This suggests that children of teenage mothers perform worse in school, which in turn may affect the future productivity of child labor and the social costs faced by unmarried teenage mothers.

In conclusion, teenage pregnancy and childbirth can have negative consequences for girls' physical and mental health, as well as their social well-being, academic success and earning potential. These consequences are mainly caused by persistent gender inequality, discrimination in legal, social and economic structures, which is a violation of human rights.

When girls' human rights are respected, they are less stigmatized and marginalized and have more freedom to develop and maintain healthy relationships with friends and peers. They will have access to reproductive health and education services regardless of their status. They have more opportunities to become healthy, productive and empowered citizens who can be equal members of their families, communities and countries.



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