

KAZGUU LIBERAL ARTS DIGEST

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INFORMATION ABOUT THE JOURNAL

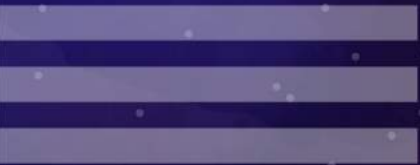
“KLAD” is a student journal first published at M. Narikbayev Kazguu University School of liberal arts. This journal is aimed at enhancing students’ involvement into science and research.

«KLAD” journal admits for publication various types of articles: original research, review articles, short reports or essays, reflections, case studies, methodologies and cases in english; containing the results of fundamental and applied research in the field of philosophy and identity, history of kazakhstan, pedagogy, linguistics and methods of teaching languages, translation, and tourism.



PART 03

KAZGUU LIBERAL ARTS DIGEST ESSAYS





YOUNG WOMEN SHOULD GET MARRIED ACCORDING TO CIVIL LAW BUT NOT TO TRADITIONS

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It is widely known that for plenty of years ago, people used to marry off girls at a very early age, and in some countries, this event is just a tradition which is still honored. It is common in West Africa, South Asia, East, and Central Africa; 75% of girls in Niger, 72% in Chad and 71% from Mali were already married before 18 years old (Population Reference Bureau [PRB], 2011). None of them wants to accept the fact that these girls are still children and have the right to choose what to do with their lives. Society sees them as wives or mothers only, but not as individual personalities who have their own voice. It could be respectable in the past when women had no opportunities to have ordinary freedom outside of the family. Now the majority of women are well educated and able to live independently. However, it does not mean that people can turn a blind eye to this problem, because it may lead to some negative consequences such as physical and mental issues, deprivation of liberty, and personal development.

Early marriage often leads to severe health problems for girls, as they are still in puberty and their bodies have not changed to the end, there sometimes happens that almost everyone is forced to have sexual interactions with their partners. According to the Unicef report (2021), 27.2% of females aged 20-24 have already given birth before 18 years old in Western and Central Africa. In this area, it is common to be pregnant right after marriage, even if it is unintended.

Childbearing at this early age causes risks which harmfully affects both the child and the mother; moreover, most of the time in a married couple, male is usually much older than the female, and logically, these men had more sexual partners, which can be the reason of HIV/AIDS infections (PRB, 2011). Global statistics conducted a study that showed pregnant females who lived in Sub-Saharan Africa and aged 15 to 19 years old, with the result that at least one in seven girls was infected with HIV. (UNAIDS, 2022). Sometimes those same adult men allow themselves to abuse their wives physically and this is called domestic violence. Unfortunately, it happens more often in families where a female was married before turning 18 years old. A Unicef report has shown that India has the highest rate among all countries and has reached about 67%, it is the percentage where a girl has experienced domestic violence (UNICEF, 2005). As for the psychological effect, to which quite plenty of girls are subjected also must be known. Through some analyses, students from the American Academy of Pediatrics researched that some girls who are married before the age of 18 are 10% more probable to have psychological disorders than other girls who are married at a more mature age (Le et al., 2011). This is due to the fact that their mental state has not yet reached a certain level to cope with, for instance, stress, and the abrupt change of status, environment and the emergence

of new responsibilities such as a household, caring for a husband, his relatives, and a child. The outcomes of these diseases or accidents may be unpredictable; however, they are definitely harmful to health and sometimes can lead to death.

Since we live in a modern society where the most essential thing in people's life is their development, and to have their own family at a very young age is not correct. First of all, everyone has a choice of whom they will marry or not. However, some traditions force girls to marry just after the menarche, even if they are not in love with their partner. All of them are still children, and they are not interested in marriages, instead of this they want to live as other peers from other countries without that tradition. People, on a legal basis, have rights about whom they marry and what age is the most appropriate for entering into this relationship. Almost every country does not accept child marriages. However, unfortunately there are some countries that make it legal and they are Yemen, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, and South Sudan (Pew Research Center, 2016). Having a strict legal minimum age is important, since in most cases, the girls' personal rights are violated. They can be expressed by all types of abuse, ban of freedom of expression or action (Unicef, 2022). One more thing young females lose when they get married is education, most often, they do not have time for that, or their families do not think that they have to. Most of them do not even finish secondary school, meaning they do not have a bare minimum to work somewhere or apply to university. For instance, in India boys are more likely to enroll in secondary education than girls by as much as 20% (The Alan Guttmacher Institute, 1998). Not getting any knowledge or a job could lead to a lack of social skills, no friends, or being a part of society. Being educated is the essential ability for everyone in this world; it is not only about obtaining a diploma, but it is also for full personal development and experience; since, they were not given a life

just for being mothers or wives, they should first know what they want to be and whom they want to become.

Despite the fact that overwhelming number of countries do not practice child marriage and even take strict measures, the issue still exists elsewhere of the world and needs to be solved as soon as possible, since so many negative outcomes could happen if let everyone to do what they want hiding behind traditions and running away from responsibilities. Women are not only objects with which anyone can do whatever people want, but they are also individuals, and they have the right to do what they want in their lives. Now people live at a time when everyone has equal rights, where no one should hide their own voice; after all, early marriages have a negative impact not only on females themselves, but society as a whole.

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