

1 Every 3 Seconds

When did you get married? I am guessing you didn't get married before the age of 18. Well, did you know that girls are getting married under 18 all over the world? Imagine sitting in your room, you are a kid maybe as young as 10. You are poor. Then your parents come in and say you must get married. The next day your parents dress you up in your prettiest dress and take you to a house. You go in and a man stares at you and talks to your parents. Later you figure out that man was your future father-in-law and he was seeing if you were good enough to marry his son. After a few days you are in a fancy dress again. You see a man that looks 20 years older than you. Soon your wedding is over, and people are congratulating you. Then you realize your life will never be the same.

Girls are being forced into marriage and they're just kids! Child marriage is a serious problem. "Each year, 12 million girls are married before the age of 18. That is 23 girls every minute. Nearly 1 every 3 seconds"(girlsnotbrides). When girls should be in school, girls are forced to be brides and they need to worry about stuff that no girl should worry about. These girls are sometimes abused but they don't know what to do. They don't know where to go if they run away so they become stuck in an endless circle of unhappiness. This needs to stop! Girls are being abused. In addition, the husband often wants a child and it is very likely for young girls to die during childbirth or have health issues. In fact, "research shows that globally girls aged 10-14 are five times more likely to die during delivery than mothers aged 20-24; girls aged 15-19 are still twice as likely to die during delivery than women aged 20-24. (marry before your house is swept away)

United Nations has a goal that people will be treated equal no matter their gender. Female child marriage falls under this goal. United Nations has other goals besides gender

equality like no poverty, good health, quality education, zero hunger. (sustainable development: goal of the month). If I was hired by the United Nations to lead a project addressing gender equality by empowering woman and girls, I would stop child marriage. I would inform parents that getting married early might cause health issues and is not good for their children. I would encourage girls to stay in school. I would also help girls get a good job so they can feed their family. These jobs for young girls will help them feed their families so their parents do not need to sell their daughters into child marriage to feed the rest of the family.

I would want to work in Bangladesh because Bangladesh has the highest rate of child marriage involving girls under the age 15(Ending Child Marriage UNICEF). Bangladesh is a country in southern Asia next to India that has a strong cultural practice to be married as a child. Two important facts about Bangladesh are 59% percent of girls get married before they are 18 in Bangladesh” and Bangladesh has the “second highest number of absolute child brides – 4,451,000.” (GirlsNotBrides).

To prevent girls in Bangladesh from getting married while they are kids, I would try to keep girls in school. I would do this by going to every school in Bangladesh and telling the kids why it is important to stay in school. I would go house to house informing parents that getting married early can cause health issues for their children and that education is important. Finally, I would make more jobs for girls and woman available. I would do this by helping girls get micro loans so they can set up a small business selling something they enjoy making like a “Nakshi Kantha which is a popular handicraft. Woman put together pieces of old cloth with crafty stitches”.(saarcculture) and then they get a loan to buy the materials they need or set up a donations box for old cloth.

I don't know about you, but I cannot imagine getting married as a kid, but girls everywhere are doing just that. In conclusion, I would stop child marriage in Bangladesh. I would stop child marriage because it is against a girl's will. They can't follow their dreams. They often need to drop out of school. They can't finish their education or even start it. Girls might be abused and giving birth at a young age can cause health issues. I will stop child marriage by keeping girls in school, informing parents that child marriage will cause health issues and make more jobs available for girls and women. We must act before countless girls have to be put through the torture of child marriage not just in Bangladesh but everywhere. You can help by letting more people know about child marriage so we can solve this problem together.

Bibliography

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