

Child Marriage Situation in COVID 19 and the Application of Child Marriage Restraint Act (CMRA) in Barisal District





Final Report- 2020

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Acronym

COVID	Corona Virus Disease
CMRA	Child Marriage Restrain Act
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GAA	Girl Advocacy Alliance
GBV	Gender based Violence
IDI	In-depth Interview
KII	Key Informant Interview
LGI	Local Government Institutions
MICS	Multi Indicator Cluster Survey
NGCAF	National Girl Child Advocacy Forum
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NID	National Identity Card
OC	Officer in Charge
SSC	Secondary School Certificate
UNICEF	United Nations
UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
UP	Union Parishad
VAW	Violence against Women
VAWG	Violence against Women and Girls

Executive Summary

Child marriage, a malevolent exposure of the discriminatory and unequal power relations between females and males, violates the rights of the girl child to be free from all forms of discrimination, inhumane and degrading treatment. Bangladesh is considered fourth highest prevalence rate of child marriage country in the world, which gloomed the current achievement of Bangladesh. Several factors including poverty, lack of education, patriarchal mentality, gender discrimination, natural disasters and climate change driving the high rate of child marriage. The current global pandemic make the children, particularly girl child more vulnerable to be a victim of violence and psychosocial distress and they are at an increased risk for various harmful practice predominantly child marriage. The National Girl Child Advocacy Forum (NGCAF) as a part of its 'Girl Advocacy Alliance (GAA)' project in Barisal and Dhaka, has commissioned the study title 'Child Marriage Situation in COVID 19 and the Application of Child Marriage Restraint Act (CMRA) in Barisal District'. The aim of the study is to analyze current context of Child Marriage in COVID 19 and identify law/policy implementation gap of the CMRA.

The study has adopted a latitudinal study approach and applied both qualitative and quantitative methods and techniques including secondary data analysis. A semi-structure survey tool have been administered with 320 respondents following a statistical formula for quantitative techniques. Along with survey tools different qualitative techniques have applied in order to get empirical information from different age and gender groups of population. These qualitative techniques included 12 In-depth Interview (IDI), 8 Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and 12 Key Informant Interview (KII). Moreover, newspaper content on child marriage of four dailies from 1st March to 30th June 2020 has been analysed.

Study Findings

Impact of COVID-19 on Girl Child

- About 91% of the respondents agreed that the corona virus infection changes socio-economic condition of their respective area.
- About 55% of the respondents said the income of poor people has decreased, 42% said that many of the people have lose job or work, 37% said the economic condition of the family become downturn, 21% said day laborers' condition become worse.
- About 55% respondent agreed that Corona Virus infection impacted on the girl child.

- About two-third respondents (68%) said that the education of the girl child will be hindered and in most cases it will be discontinued and 28% respondents said that the tendency of marrying girl child will be increase particularly, in low-income families.
- A good number of respondents said that the present situation changes a social cohesion and the tendency of committing social wrong, predominantly crimes within the family sphere has increased.

Child Marriage Prevalence in Working Area

- About 91% of the survey respondent said 'yes' the child marriage is taking place in their respective area and almost all of the respondents (99.3%) said female are the most victims of the child marriage.
- 35.7% respondents replied about 1- 10 marriages and 40% replied about 11-20 marriages were solemnized in last two years in their Union. In the follow up question, 76% of the respondents replied that among them about 1- 5 marriages and 9% replied 6-10 marriages were child marriages in last two year.
- 45% respondents' viewed that there are 'few' child marriage taking place currently while 25% respondents' viewed 'notable'.
- In some instance, parents and gurdians secritly arrange child marriage by making a 'Sora', (religiously solimnised marriage) and they do not register the marriage. After attaining the legal age of the bride and bridegroom they register it in the Office of Marriage Register.

Factors Pursue or Prevent Child Marriage

- Survey respondents were asked what are the main causes of child marriage and provided option for more than one cause from the list. 'Poverty of the family' hit the highest frequency (298) among the option followed by 'maintaining family honor' (189), 'fear of sexual violence and harassment' (156), 'fear of social status' (132), 'lack of women empowerment' (123), 'fear for not to be married if the age increased' (112) and 'lack of education' (70).
- The FGD respondents unanimously agree that the most child marriage held in their locality within the poor, lower income family due to their poverty, illiteracy and supersition.
- Parents feel their daughter as a burden of the family, and poverty, social insecurity and illiteracy trigger such feelings. The FGD and KII respondents considered that the main reasons of a child marriage are inequal gender relation, so called family honor and social and financial insecurity.

Application of CMRA, 2017

- The application of special provision on child marriage (Section-19) is very rare. Even the respondents informed that they have no idea on the special provision of CRMA before this discussion.
- Both FGD and KII respondents informed that they have not a single experience or knowledge of a marriage solemnised under special provision of CRMA in last two years in their area.
- Any information of child marriage received by UNO or Upazila Women Affairs Officer or Police Officer than they jointly drive to stop the child marriage with local elected representatives, NGO representatives and local respected people.
- Some instance of conducting Mobile Court to stop child marriage and father of both bride and bridegroom have been finished through Mobile Court.
- Very few example of court case on child marriage under CMRA, 2017 in the study area.

Knowledge on the CMRA

- 80% of the survey respondents said that the statement - 'the minimum legal age of a girl for marriage is 18' - is correct and 1% respondents said the statement is not correct while 19% respondent said they don't know.
- 19% respondents said that the statement - 'the minimum legal age of a boy for marriage is 18' - is correct and 23% respondents said they don't know about this, only 58% respondents said the statement is correct.
- About 20% respondents don't know the minimum legal age of a girl for marriage and 42% respondents don't know the minimum legal age of a boy for marriage.
- Among the respondents 76% replied yes, a marriage can stop when the marriage is a child marriage, but 24% respondents replied no, a marriage cannot stop when the marriage is a child marriage.
- 78% respondents said 'yes' there are punishment provision for child marriage however, 22% respondents said 'no'.
- The respondents have partial knowledge about child marriage law. Most of the them know the minimum age of child marriage and the sentencing provision. However, they don't know in details, particularly the role of the government officials, elected representatives and the law enforcing agencies to stop child marriage.

Recommendations for Government

- Government should keep the girls and women at the center of all COVID-19 responses, both during the pandemic and economic recovery.
- Governments must continue to consider child marriage as a priority to combat COVID-19 pandemic. The implementation effort of existing government policies and programmes to address child marriage must be enhanced.
- The authorities should take programmes to support accessible and inclusive distance learning that will reach the most marginalized girls and make sure that they don't fall further behind.
- Government should priorities child protection and gender-based violence services for the most vulnerable, particularly adolescent girls by increasing provisions of telephone hotlines, psychosocial support for women and girls, GBV referral mechanism and using public communications messaging.
- While entering the new normal by opening educational institutions, there should be a special instruction from the respective ministry for school management and teacher to take special care to return back the dropout girl child.
- The government must push its national plan of action to end child marriage, with special monitoring mechanisms during this pandemic including a greater awareness through media campaigns and enforcement of anti-dowry and anti-child marriage laws.
- The new CMRA is not popularize among the mass people. Administration can undertake a mass awareness campaign on the new law on restraining child marriage focusing on both social and legal consequence of child marriage.

Recommendations for CSOs/ NGOs:

- CSOs and NGOs should an advocacy initiative to hold the girl child in the center of the government response and recovery programs for pandemic.
- CSOs and NGOs should enhance their effort to reach girl child by increasing provisions of telephone hotlines, online and referral mechanism.
- CSOs and NGOs should monitor the COVID-19 response to ensure girl child's access to basic services and undertake special awareness campaign on child marriage in their respective catchment area.
- CSOs and NGOs should continue advocacy and design programmes to enhance the application of new law as well as to eliminate the inconsistency in the laws.

1. Background

1.1. Introduction

Child marriage, a malevolent exposure of the discriminatory and unequal power relations between females and males, violates the rights of the girl child to be free from all forms of discrimination, inhumane and degrading treatment. It is such a harmful practice that destroys the hope and aspiration of a girl child as well as the society. A number of social, cultural and structural factors conduces to keep on this harmful practice which engenders, ramifies, and regenerates the subordination of women in the society and ultimately downward the development.

Bangladesh is considered fourth highest prevalence rate of child marriage country in the world. According to UNICEF report, 59% of girls in Bangladesh are married before their 18th birthday and 22% are married before the age of 15. A 2017 study estimates that ending child marriage in Bangladesh could see a 12% rise in earnings and productivity.¹ According to Multi Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), nationally 23.8% of women age 15-19 years who were first married or in union before age 15 and in Barishal division it is less (20.8%) than the national. Again, nationally 62.8% of women age 20-49 years who were first married or in union before age 18, while in Barishal division it is higher (65.8%) than the national.² Child marriage is a violation of human rights which adversely affects the health particularly reproductive health, education and well-being of girls. Those who marry at childhood are more likely to experience domestic violence, abuse and forced sexual relations, reduced levels of sexual and reproductive health and lower levels of education. It often tends to the girl child to chronic and extreme poverty.³

Bangladesh's success in achieving a good number of development goals, however, the high rate of child marriage gloomed the achievement. In Bangladesh there are several factors driving the high rate of child marriage. Gender discrimination feeds social attitudes and customs that harm girls at

¹ <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage/bangladesh/>

² Progotir Pathy Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2012 -2013, Key Findings. BBS and UNICEF Bangladesh 2014, Dhaka, Bangladesh

³ World Vision. *Untying the Knot: Exploring Early Marriage in Fragile States*. 2013

every stage of their lives and fuel the country's extremely high rate of child marriage. Desperate poverty remains a daily reality for many families in Bangladesh, and many parents see child marriage as their best option to safeguard the future of a daughter they feel they can neither feed nor educate nor protect. Bangladesh's status as one of the countries in the world most affected by natural disasters and climate change adds an additional element of hardship to many families, especially those living in the most marginal and disaster-affected parts of the country.

Bangladesh's government has responded to the growing attention to the harms linked to child marriage by promising swift action. At the July 2014 Girl Summit in London, Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pledged to take steps to reduce child marriage in Bangladesh and to ultimately end it by 2041. She committed, by 2021, to end marriage for girls under 15 and reduce by more than one-third the number of girls between the ages of 15 and 18 who marry. As part of this effort, she pledged that her government would revise Bangladesh's law which prohibits child marriage, the Child Marriage Restraint Act (CMRA), before 2018, develop a national plan of action on child marriage by the end of 2030, and take other steps to change social norms and engage civil society in the fight against child marriage. Goal 5 of the SDG in its target 5.3 set to eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation by 2030.

Currently Bangladesh is going through pandemic situation due to COVID 19 disease. According to government statistics, till date⁴ 2,97,083 people are infected, 3,983 people are died and 1,82,875 people are recovered. Government has announced *de facto* lockdown in all district from 18th March to prevent the contamination of the virus. Due to school closure from mid-March, education has been disrupted. The quarantine measures make children, particularly girls more vulnerable to be a victim of violence, gender-based violence and psychosocial distress and they are at an increased risk for various abuses including child trafficking, intimate partner violence, child labour and child marriage.

⁴ August 25, 2020

One of the major concerns of the civil society and women's rights activists regarding the new Act is the provision that allows marriage under the statutory minimum age. As per section 19 of the Act, a child marriage would not be considered an offense if it was for the interest of the underage girl. However, this has to be done in line with the directive of a Court, with the consent of the parents, and following due procedure. Critics are concerned about the potential abuse of this provision. The new law increases the punishment for committing or assisting in child marriage. If the accused is an adult, he would be punished with imprisonment up to 2 years and/ or a fine up to BDT 1 lakh. Similar punishment will be applicable to the guardians, relatives or marriage registrar who directly get involved in child marriage. The license of the registrar could also be cancelled. Moreover, the local authorities have been provided the power to stop a child marriage instance and the Executive Magistrate have power to punish the perpetrator conducting a Mobile Court under Mobile Court Act, 2009.

The National Girl Child Advocacy Forum (NGCAF), formed in 2000, is a platform to combat the subjugation of girl children in Bangladesh to generate mass awareness and a social movement against all forms of discrimination and harmful practice faced by the girl children in the family and society. NGCAF is implementing the 'Girl Advocacy Alliance (GAA)' project in Barisal and Dhaka. The major objective of GAA is "Girls and Young women in Bangladesh are living in an enabling environment, free from Gender Based Violence and Economic Exclusion by 2030". This project is working under three thematic areas including Child Marriage, VAWG and Economic exclusion. As part of this intervention, NGCAF is intended to commission a study title 'Child Marriage Situation in COVID 19 and the Application of Child Marriage Restraint Act (CMRA) in Barisal District'

1.2 Objectives of the Study:

The overall objective of the study to analyze current context of Child Marriage in COVID 19 and identify law/policy implementation gap of the Child Marriage Restrain Act, 2017 in four Upazilla under Barisal district. The specific objectives of the study are:

1. To know the current context of child marriage in post COVID 19 and understand the vulnerability of young girls to be victim of child marriage in pandemic situation;
2. To identify the risk of girls child post COVID 19 particularly child marriage and action need to be taken to stop child marriage after the crisis;
3. To understand the situation of the application of CRMA, relevant laws and policies and identify the implementation gaps;
4. To identify actions, need to be implement at local and national level for ending child marriage post COVID 19 crisis.

1.3. Limitations of the Study

- Due to pandemic outbreak orientation on data collectors were held in online and also some respondents denied to give interview. Besides, the data collectors have faced challenges in organising FGD maintaining health rules in pandemic.
- The study could not cover all area or Upazila of the Barishal district. Only specific areas where NGCAF working for ending child marriage were covered.
- The selection of respondents that was non-probability. Probability sampling is more appropriate for generalization. Since the purpose of the research was not to generalize but to reveal the process and patterns, this limitation was resolved through saturation of data and triangulation.

2. Methodology

2.1 Study Design

The study aim to understand the child marriage situation in COVID 19 as well as to assess the application of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017 in the Project working areas, hence the study has adopted a latitudinal study approach and applied both qualitative and quantitative methods to get the in-depth information around the issue. In addition, secondary documents including laws, policies, government orders and other research findings related to child marriage have been reviewed in order the factors that pursue or prevent child marriage in the community. The study has covered different strata of the selective areas of the Barishal district.

2.2 Data Collection Techniques

A survey tool has been administered for quantitative techniques and different qualitative techniques have applied in order to get empirical information from different age and gender groups of people. These techniques included Survey Questionnaire, In-depth Interview (IDI), Focus Group Discussion (FGD), Key Informant Interview (KII) and Newspaper Content Analysis. Multiple techniques have been applied to complement each other and to ensure the maximum validity and reliability of data for reducing the chances of bias. Various open-ended interview guidelines have utilized to get the information from the respective respondents.

2.3 Study Population and Sampling

2.3.1 Quantitative Sampling:

A random sampling procedure has been adopted for this study. The Union were selected first and then random sampling technique has been applied for selecting the survey respondents.

The sample size for this survey was calculated by using following formula:

$$N = \frac{z^2 pq}{d^2}$$

Where,

N = Desired sample size

Z = Standard normal deviate usually set as 1.96 which corresponds to the 95% confidence interval

p = Proportion in the target population estimated to have particular characteristic and here it takes to be 0.50 such that $p + q = 1$

d = Desire precision (here desire precision is to be considered as 6% i.e. 0.06)

Putting those values in above formula we got,

$$N = \frac{z^2 pq}{d^2}$$

$$= 266.78 \cong 267$$

It is necessary to take into account the design effect because in reality, very few practical designs are as straight forward as considered in sample size calculation using the above-mentioned formula. In the study areas, for estimating prevalence of social practice i.e. child marriage, the design effect is slightly greater than one. Considering the above factors, we have proposed to use design effect = 1.2 in determining the sample size. Considering the design effect = 1.2, the total sample = $267 \times 1.2 \cong 320$. Thus, a total of 320 semi-structure survey tools have administered from different age group including boys, girls, male and female.

2.3.2 Qualitative Sampling

A variety of people have been interviewed to get the information for this study. This group of people were include officials of Upazila Parishad, Social Service Department, Police Officer, Union Chairman and Member (female), Marriage Register for Muslim, CSO leader and NGO Staff. A total of 12 key informant interviews have been carried out with selected respondents and 12 in-depth interviews were conducted with selected victims/potential/already under legal process of child marriage. In addition, a total of 8 FGDs have been conducted with identical groups separately including Muslims, Hindu, and Christian in urban-rural settings. The distribution of KII, IDI and FGDs are;

Matrix-1: Qualitative Tools Distribution

SL#	Upzilla	Ward/Union/Pourashava	Sampling and data collection tools		
			KII	IDI	FGD
1	Barishal Sadar	Shestabad	2	1	1
		Charmonai	1	2	1
		Chandramohon	1	1	1
2	Babugonj	Jahangirnagar	2	1	1

		Dehergoti	1	2	1
3	Hizla	Guabaria,	2	1	1
		Horinathpur	1	2	1
4	Gournodi	Batajor	2	2	1
		Total	12	12	8

2.3.3 Content Analysis

The study has also conducted a content analysis of reported news on child marriage and impact of COVID -19 on girl child from four daily newspaper, three Bangla and one English, from 01 March 2020 to 30 June 2020. The selected newspaper were the Daily Prothom Alo, the Daily Ittefaq, the Daily Samakal and the Daily Star.

3. Survey Respondents

3.1 Introduction

The quantitative survey, one of three broad methods of data collection, was conducted at individual level targeting four working area of Barishal district in rural setting. A total 320 sample survey tools, which was determine by a scientific formula, were administered purposively from different age groups. The findings of the sample surveys, disaggregated by sex and by basic attributes/characteristics or categories of areas, are given in the Tables by sections in Annex-1.

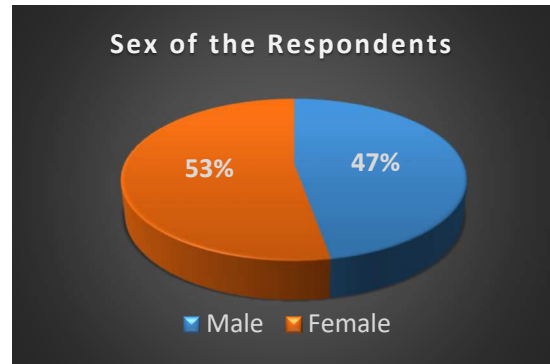


Figure-1: Survey Respondents by Sex

3.2 Basic Demographic and Socioeconomic Profile

Sex and Age of Respondents:

Of the total 320 respondents, 169 respondents (about 53%) are females and 151 respondents (about 47%) were male and the female-male ratio is largely maintained in all four working areas of the Barishal district. Average age of the respondents for both male and female has been 29.84. It is shown that highest respondent are from the age group of 20-24 years and about 75% of the respondents below 40 years old. As the child marriage directly and or indirectly, in most incidence, impact on the persons of this age span. The survey modalities purposively selected the respondents of this age span. The figure-2 presents the overall age distribution of surveyed population.

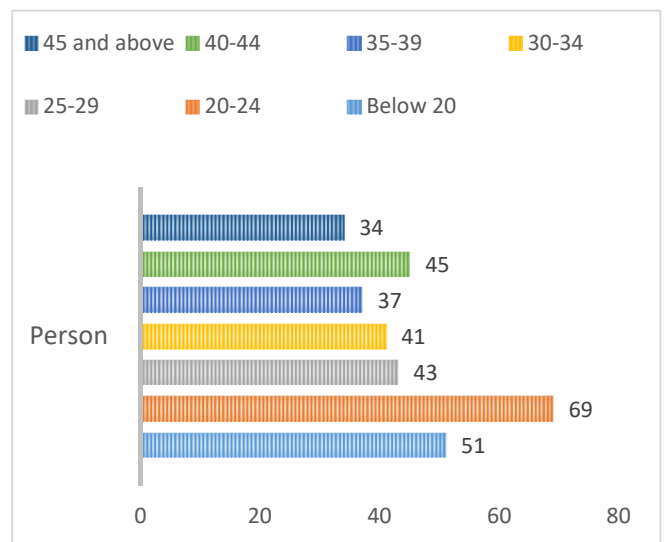


Figure-2: Age Group of the Respondents

Survey Respondents by Religion:

Of the total survey respondents, 76.6% are Muslims and 23.4% Hindus and no one from Christian. Highest number of Hindu respondents were found in Barishal Sadar (49 respondents) followed by Gouronadi (15 respondents).

Matrix-2: Religion of the Survey Respondents

Religion	Upazila				All	
	Barishal Sadar	Hizla	Gowronadi	Babugonj		
	Respondent	Respondent	Respondent	Respondent	Total	%
Muslim	57	74	55	59	245	76.6
Hindu	49	0	15	11	75	23.4
Total	106	74	70	70	320	100

Marital Status of the Respondents:

The survey targeted ever both married and unmarried respondents to assess the impact of COVID-19 on girl child and the causes of child marriage as well as the application of the laws. Among the total 320 respondents, 108 were unmarried (33.8%), 211 respondents were married (66%) and one respondents were divorced. Table-1.6

Educational Qualification of the Respondents:

About half of the respondents (52%) are from grade one to nine, and significant number of respondents have no education (12%). However, 14% of the respondents have completed their Secondary certificate and 13% accomplished their Higher Secondary certificate. At the same, among the respondents 12% of them have completed their graduation. Four respondents were from vocational/polytechnic institute and very insignificant number of respondents were post-graduation. (Table 1.4)

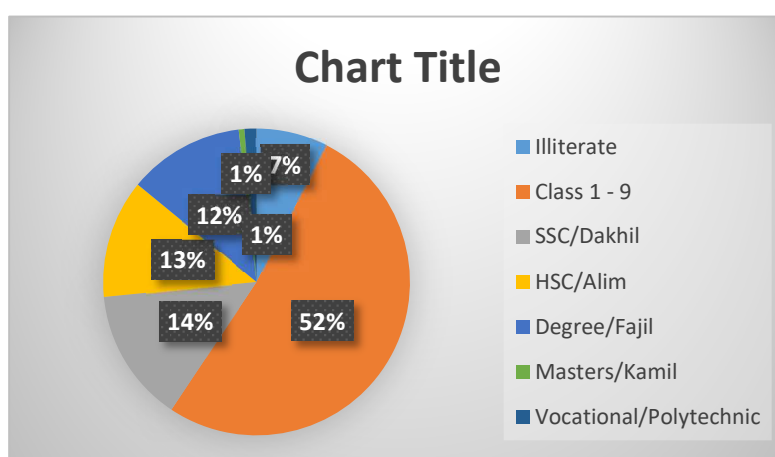


Figure-3: Education of the Survey Respondents

Main Occupation of the Respondents:

Respondents are engaged in wide variety of occupations (Table 1.5). The important ones, in order of frequency, include: house maker (32%), Student (25%), small business (9%), non-government job (8%), and agriculture (5%). The other occupations' frequency is very nominal.

Average Monthly Income of the Respondents:

The survey instrument have designed to understand the average monthly income of the respondents and also tried to explore the comparative income situation during COVID-19 and prior to COVID-19. It was asked to the respondents that how much average income was for last four month (during COVID-19) and how much average income was prior months. Predictably, the average income of the respondents were considerably down during COVID-19 in contrast with prior to COVID-19. In each working area shows that the monthly average income of the respondents were less after COVID-19.

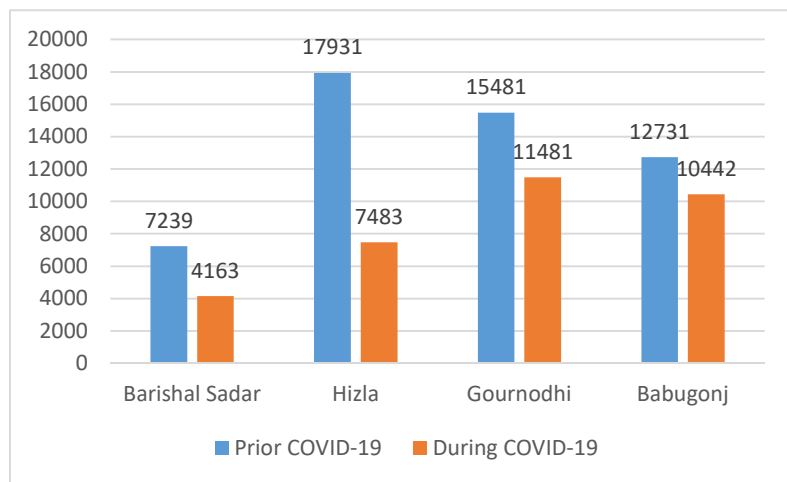


Figure-4: Monthly Average Income during COVID-19 and Prior

4. Study Findings

4.1 Impact of COVID-19 on Girl Child:

In any natural disaster and emergency situation women and girl become potentially vulnerable due to patriarchal social structure. In the COVID-19 pandemic situation girl child is at risk as potential child bride. At the beginning of the pandemic, it was reporting in various media that child marriage incidence was increasing. Multifaceted factors in pandemic situation trigger off the child marriage. Plan International research shows that, in crisis settings, girls live in fear of violence and are not only concerned about the constant presence of armed men, but also about gender- based violence (GBV) within families.⁵ In the pandemic includes challenges like loss of household income, higher risk of VAW, lack of access to schooling, going out for play, overall community structure breakdown. During the lockdown of the pandemic situation (April to July, 2020) Manusher Jonno Foundation conducted a telephonic survey on the violence against women and girl in 53 district through their partner organization in their catchment area on monthly basis. This telephonic survey shows that in April 33 child marriage take place and 141 child marriage stopped, in May 170 child marriage take place and 233 child marriage stopped, in June 462 child marriage take place and 207 child marriage stopped and in July 174 child marriage take place and 132 child marriage stopped.⁶

The survey respondents were asked that they do think Corona Virus infection changes the socio-economic condition of their area. About 91% of the respondents replied that the corona virus infection changes socio-economic condition of their respective area when 9% of the respondents think there is no changes. In the following question, the respondents were asked that what economic changes are take place due to the Corona Virus infection in their area. About 55% of the respondents said the income of poor people has decreased, 42% said that many of the people have lose job or work, 37% said the economic condition of the family become downturn, 21% said day laborers' condition become worse. Moreover, the respondents have mentioned some other socio-economic changes like, sales of agricultural products have declined; business has suffered a lot; individual borrowing has increased; poor become poorer; having is not enough food in the houses of middle class people; unemployment has risen and people are struggling to meet their daily needs.

⁵<https://plan-international.org/publications/adolescent-girls-crisis#download-options>

⁶ <http://www.manusherjonno.org/resources/research/>

The survey respondents were further asked what social changes are take place due to the Corona Virus infection in their area. About two-third respondents (63%) answered that the people are maintaining social distance and staying at home. Due to complying with health rules in pandemic, people are no longer sit together and chat as before and the social interaction among the people has decreased which has also a negative effect in the society. As stated by the respondent that, in compliance with the health rules instructed by the government, sick people are staying at home, cleanliness among the people has increased and people are to use mask. The respondents also said that a panic surge among everyone on Corona Virus infection and the public places including Bazar, tea-stall, playground become very less crowded; the social events reduces drastically and the gathering in these social events become insipid. The educational institutions are closed for long time and the children are disappointed as they were used to different timetable. A good number of respondents think that the present situation changes a social principle of cohesion and thus the tendency of committing social wrong has increased. They stated that the crimes within the family sphere has increased due to long staying in home as well as other social and economic pressure which tend to mental stress.

The survey respondents were asked do they think any impact on girl child and young girl due to Corona Virus infection. About 55% respondent replied positive that the virus infection impact on the girl child and the rest 45% replied negative. Those who think that there are impact on girl child, they were further asked what the impact are on girl child. Most of the respondents (68%) describe that the education of the girl child will be hindered and in most cases it will be discontinued. Secondly, the respondents (28%) describe that the tendency of marrying girl child will be increase particularly, in low-income families. The respondents also mentioned some other impact of corona virus infection that due to staying at home for a long time they will face mental stress and will be at risk of domestic violence and they have to spend more time on household chores.

4.2 Child Marriage Prevalence in Working Area

The total population of the Barishal Zila enumerated in 2011 census is 2324310 of which 519016 (22.33%) constitute urban population and the remaining 1805294 (77.67%) constitute rural population.⁷ According to the

⁷ Population Census, 2011

BBS data, the average (mean) age of marriage for male is 24 and for female the average age for marriage is 17.7 in Barishal.⁸ The present survey respondents were asked that are there child marriage currently taking place in their respective area. About 91% of the respondent responses 'yes' and only 9% of the respondent replied 'no'. It was found that about 97% of the respondents from Barishal Sadar acknowledge the incident of child marriage taking place in their area. According to the opinion of the survey respondents, about all of the respondents (99.3%) said female are the most victims of the child marriage.

The survey respondents were asked that approximately how many marriages took place in your locality in last two years, 35.7% respondents replied about 1- 10 marriages were solemnized, and 40% of the respondents replied about 11-20 marriages and some other respondents replied more.

Matrix-3: Age Group of the Survey Respondents

# of Marriage	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1-10	64	60.4	23	31.0	7	10.0	20	28.6	114	35.7
11-20	42	39.6	31	41.8	5	7.1	50	71.4	128	40
21-30	0	.0	10	13.5	30	42.9	0	.0	40	12.5
31-40	0	.0	9	12.1	14	20.0	0	.0	23	7.1
41 -50	0	.0	1	1.3	11	15.7	0	.0	12	3.8
50 above	0	.0	0	0	3	4.3	0	.0	3	.9
N	106	100.0	74	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	320	100.0

In a follow up question, the survey respondents were asked, in last two years, among the marriages solemnized, how many were the child marriages, about 4% of the respondents replied none. But 76% of the respondents replied that about 1- 5 marriages were child marriages, 9% of the respondents replied 6-10 marriages were child marriage and 7% of the respondents replied they don't know about this.

⁸ Trends, Patterns and Determinants of Marriage in Bangladesh, BBS, November 2015

Matrix-4: Number of Child Marriage Solemnized in Last Two Years

# of Child Marriage	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
None	0	.0	10	13.5	3	4.3	0	.0	13	4.0
1-5	100	94.3	54	72.9	21	30.0	69	98.6	244	76.2
6-10	3	2.8	10	13.5	16	22.9	1	1.4	30	9.4
11-20	0	.0	0	.0	11	15.7	0	.0	11	3.4
20 above	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0
Don't know	3	2.8	0	.0	19	27.1	0	.0	22	6.9
N	106	100.0	74	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	320	100.0

To measure the prevalence of child marriage, the respondents were asked to choose the current child marriage status (as per perception) in their area by providing five options i.e. 'Very Few' 'Few' 'Notable' 'More' 'Too Much'. About half of the respondents (145) chose 'few' and 80 respondents pick 'notable'.

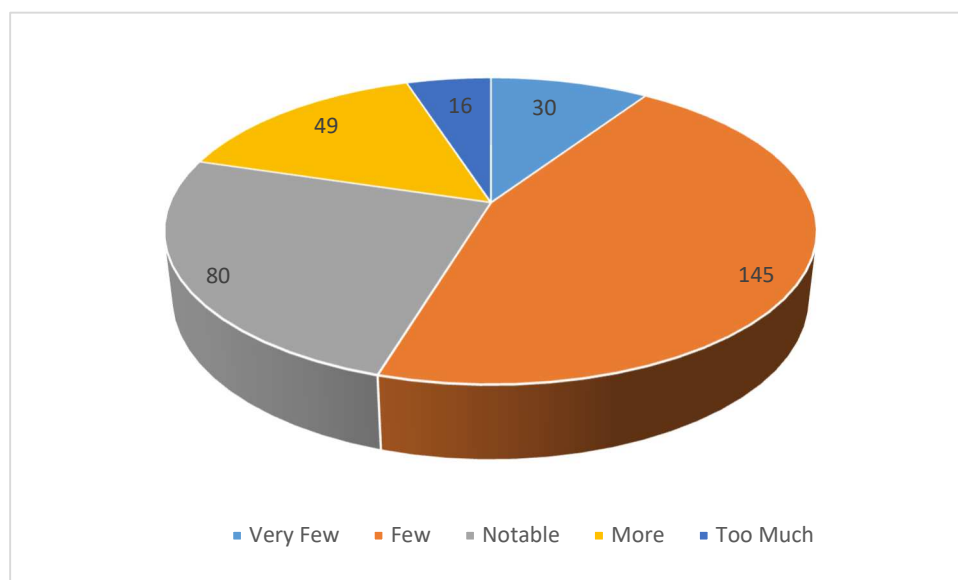


Figure-5: Respondents' Perception on Current Child Marriage Prevalence

The FGD respondents describe about the minimum age of a child marriage prescribe by the law and they have explained the circumstances when a marriage become a child marriage. While responding on the child marriage prevalence in their respective areas, they acknowledge the existence of child marriage in their area and unanuously agree that comparatively less in number than before, particularly before 2017. They explain, in some instance, both the party know that the age of bride is less than minimum age and they arrange the marriage under indirect support by the social influential in that local area. In some instance, parents arrange a child

marriage secretly and do not register the marriage. They just make a promise locally called it '*Sora*' and after attaining the legal age of the bride and bridegroom they register it in the Office of Marriage Register. One of the IDI respondents said, even the journalist become silent when any child marriage fixed finally. A KII respondents opined that most of the child marriage take place in secrets and in remote village and *Char* area. Similarly, a local government representative (KII with UP Chair) said, in his Union, 5 complaints of child marriage came to his knowledge and among these 3 marriage were stopped successfully and they could not stop 2 marriage as the parents took the bride and bridegroom in another place and solemnised the marriage secretly. Similarly, the IDI respondents also echoed the same findings on the prevalence of child marriage in their respective area. They acknowledge the prevalence of child marriage in their respective area comparatively less than before.

4.3 Factors Pursue or Prevent Child Marriage

The prevalence of child marriage in Bangladesh can be attributed to several factors, including, in no particular order, its use to create or maintain family ties and relationships, the persistence of gender inequality and adherence to discriminatory and patriarchal attitudes regarding the safeguarding of virginity for family honor, poverty and the lack of economic opportunities for women, demand for increased dowry as a girl ages, fear of sexual violence, and non-enforcement and inconsistency in laws aimed at preventing or punishing child marriage and its various dimensions.⁹

The survey respondents were asked why female become the most victim of child marriage, 198 responses due to the poverty, 130 responses lack of education, 109 responses unawareness among the family members and parents, 72 responses fear of dishonor and 50 responses due to family pressure. The respondents also mentioned other causes, i.e. superstition, social pressure, unemployment of women, to be a victim of harassment while

⁹ Ending Impunity for Child Marriage in Bangladesh: Normative and Implementation gaps, Center for Reproductive Rights, USA, 2018

in street movement, lack of social security, family pressure, non-application of law and love affair. (See Table -2.3)

Survey respondents were asked what the main causes of child marriage are and opted for more than one option in the list. 'Poverty of the family' hit the highest frequency (298) among the option followed by 'maintaining family honor' (189), 'fear of sexual violence and harassment' (156), 'fear of social status' (132), 'lack of women empowerment' (123), 'fear for not to be married if the age increased' (112) and 'lack of education' (70). The other factors also choose by the respondents.

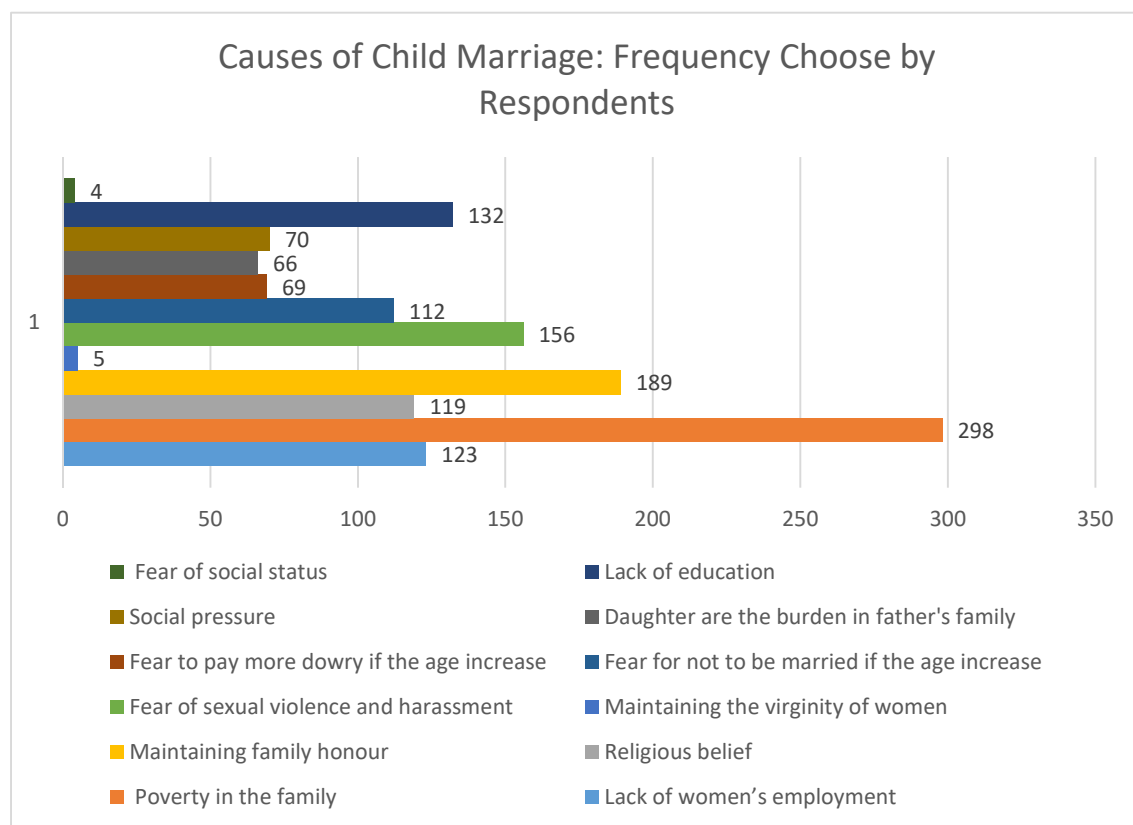


Figure-6: Causes of Child Marriage

The FGD respondents unanimously agree that the most child marriage held in their locality within the poor, lower income class and uneducated people due to their poverty, illiteracy and supersition. This classes of people are not capable to enhance the health awareness, the capability to understand the sound development of male and female. Most of the families are not aware

about the health risk of the child marriage. Thus they arranged and solimnised marriage for their girl child without any hesitation and any upward thinking. Parents feel their daughter as a burden of the family, and poverty, social insecurity and uneducation trigger such feelings. The FGD respondents considered that the main reasons of a child marriage are inequal gender relation, so called family honor, customary harmful practice and social and financial insecurity.

The survey respondents were asked that what the factors are contributing to reduce the risk of child marriage. The respondents were at liberty to answer one and more factors and from their answer, it was found about 20 factors they have said. However, the highest most six factors are given in the bellow graphs with respondents' frequency.

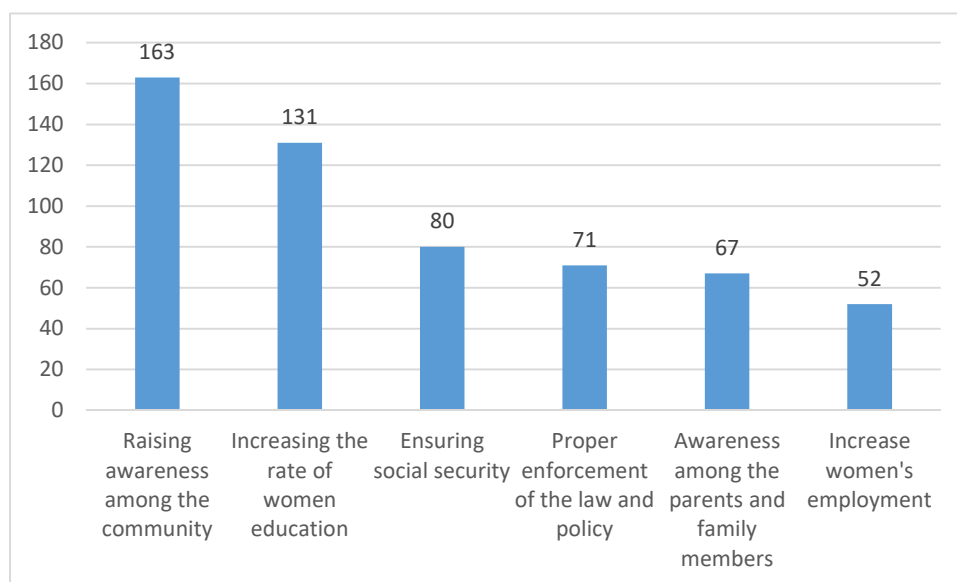


Figure-7: Factors Contribute to Reduce Child Marriage

Moreover, the survey respondents were asked what are negative impact of a child marriage and offer them for multiple answers. The respondents opted a good number of negative impact and among them the following are the remarkable; decrease of women education and increase of drop out; country's development will be at stake; increase of maternal mortality; increase of child mortality; family violence; adverse impact on children and premature death due to malnutrition.

The FGD respondents raised the negative impact of the child marriage. They emphasised on the health impact of the girl, particularly the reproductive health issues i.e. maternal death, unsafe pregnancy and child mortality. They also focused on the social impact of the girl child i.e. drop out from education.

4.4 Application of CMRA, 2017

The National Parliament of Bangladesh passed the long awaited Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017 (CMRA 2017) on February 27, 2017, which repealed and replaced the CMRA, 1929 and strengthened penalties for child marriage. However, it also introduced degenerating measures and remains silent on several existing gaps in the legal framework on child marriage. According to the 2017 CMRA, an adult man or a woman who marriage a child could face up to two years' imprisonment, a fine of up to BDT 50,000, or both, and the license of the registrar of the marriage may be canceled.¹⁰ Similar punishments would be applicable to the parents or guardians who arrange or negligently fail to prevent a child marriage.¹¹ The 2017 CMRA prescribes higher punishments than the 1929 CMRA, where the perpetrators faced imprisonment of up to one month and/or a fine up to BDT 1,000.

The 2017 CMRA further clarified governmental responsibility to prevent child marriages. Section 3 calls for the formation of “prevention committees” comprising “government officials of national, district, sub-district and union level, local government representatives, officials of non-government organizations and local elite persons” to work toward the prevention of child marriages.¹²

The 2017 CMRA maintained 18 and 21 years as the minimum legal age of marriage for girls and boys, respectively. However, it also introduced a retrogressive exception that allows child marriages without any minimum legal age in “special cases.” Section 19 of the 2017 CMRA states that, *‘No matter what is said in other clauses in special cases for the greater good of an*

¹⁰ Section 7 & 11 of the CMRA 2017

¹¹ Section 8 of the CMRA 2017

¹² Section 3 of the CMRA 2017

*adolescent, by the order of the court and with the consent of parents following the procedure of the law a marriage of such girl will not be considered a crime.*¹³ Though the “special cases” exception risks legalizing child marriage without any minimum age, but, the Rule provide a long procedure to solemnized a marriage under section 19 of the Act, which, in fact, discourage the child marriage. According to the section 17 of the CMRA, 2017, a Mobile Court lead by an Executive Magistrate can take cognizance of the crime of this Act subject to be included in the Schedule of the Mobile Court Act, 2009. The government has already included the crimes under CMRA, 2017 in Schedule of the Mobile Court Act, 2009; thus an Executive Magistrate can impose punishment under this Act through Mobile Court.

The application of special provision on child marriage (Section-19) is very rare. Even the respondents informed that they have no idea on the special provision of CRMA before this discussion. The FGD respondents reported that they have no such experience on marriage under special provision of CRMA in last two years in their area. Generally, if the administration receive any information of child marriage they jointly (UNO, Upazila Women Affairs Officer, police, elected representatives, NGO representatives and local respected people) drive to stop the child marriage. A Police Officer of Barishal Sadar thana (KII respondent) said that, during the last two years, we have received 7 (seven) information of child marriage and with the help of the local administration and elected representative we prevented these child marriage. Among thses incidence, in one case the father of both bride and bridegroom have been punished through Mobile Court. He also informed that, in the year 2017, three (3) cases were lodge under Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017 and till now thses cases are pending before the Court.

The officials from local administration like UNO, OC and elected representatives of the local government take an important role to stop the child marriage. When an information of child marriage come to their knowledge they jointly try to stop this and release them by signing bond and warn them not to do the same in future and also explain the laws and bad

¹³ Section 19 of the CMRA 2017

impact of child marriage. Sometime local administration conduct Mobile Court and punish the perpetrators for child marriage.

The FGD respondents describes few incidents of stopping child marriage. The school teachers with the help of local elected representatives and police stop child marriage in spot. The enlightened people of the society come forward to stop child marriage, they try to counsel the parents as well as the girls and boys through awareness meetings and discussion.

An IDI respondent informed that though I don't know about the law of 2017, however, my marriage was fixed and I was underaged. The information of my marriage was spread out and our Union Chairman and members had tried to stop my marriage and they tried to counsel my parents and the bridegrooms parents but they did not stop my marriages. Than the Chairman and Members informed police and police arrest the bridegroom and sentence him for six month and fine 100,000 taka. Another IDI respondent inform that in January 2019, her marriage was solimnised when she was only 14. Her family is a very poor family and she agree for marriage due to the financial crisis of the family. Though, the relatives and local respected persons have suggested not to marry, however, police and administration did not take any initiative to stop the marriage.

4.5 Knowledge on the CMRA

The study has design to assess the knowledge on CMRA 2017 and accordingly inserted few structured and open ended questions for survey respondents. This issue was also placed in qualitative tools for respondents. The survey respondents were asked a structured question is a statement form that 'the minimum legal age of a girl for marriage is 18'. Among the survey respondents 80% of them said this statement is correct and 1% respondents said the statement is not correct while 19% respondent said they don't know.

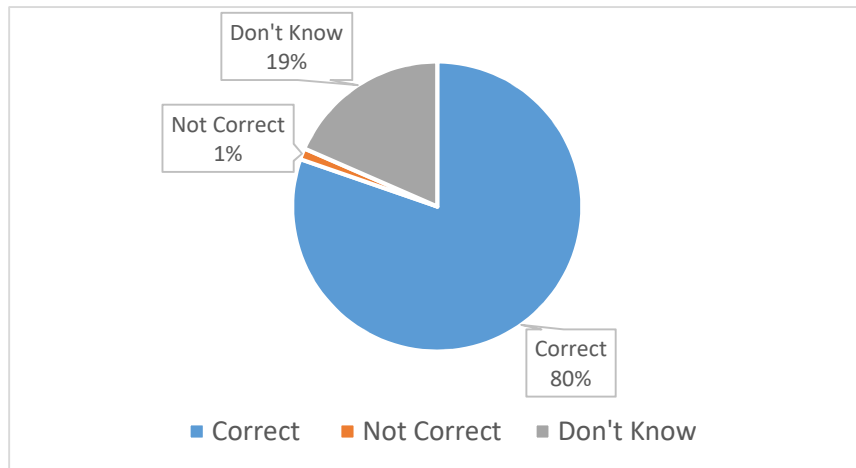


Figure-8: Minimum Legal Age of a Girl for Marriage is 18

Thereafter, another structured question in a statement form was also asked the respondents. The statement was 'the minimum legal age of a boy for marriage is 18'. Interestingly, about 19% respondents said this statement is correct and 23% respondents said they don't know about this, only 58% respondents said the statement is correct.

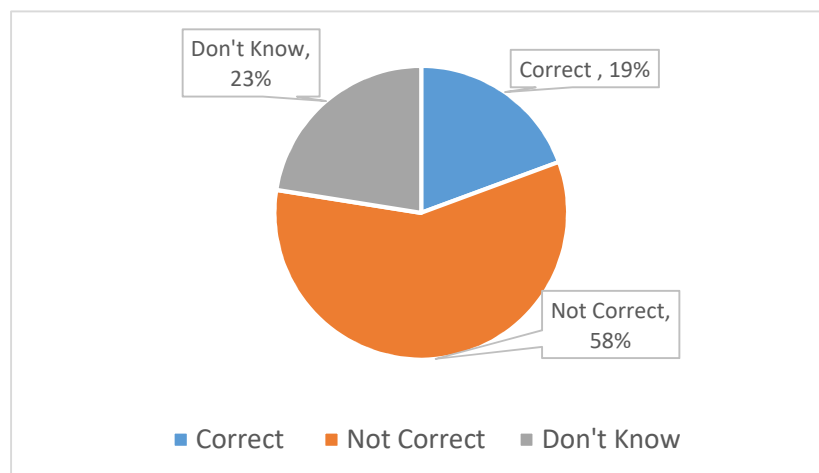


Figure-9: Minimum Legal Age of a Boy for Marriage is 18

This shows that comparatively more people know the minimum legal age of girl for marriage, however, relatively less people know the minimum legal age of a boy for marriage. About 20% respondents don't know the minimum legal age of a girl for marriage and 42% respondents don't know the minimum legal age of a boy for marriage. It may be the result of patriarchal mind set to contemplate girls' age of marriage.

Further, the respondents were asked can a marriage be stopped when a child marriage is going to organize in order to understand the simple procedural knowledge of the respondents on the law for stopping a child marriage instantly. Among the respondents 76% replied yes, a marriage can stop when the marriage is a child marriage, but 24% respondents replied no, a marriage cannot stop when the marriage is a child marriage. This data recognize that a good number of people don't aware of the simple legal provisions on child marriage.

The survey respondents were asked which government officials can take initiative to stop child marriage and provided several options. The respondents choose police officer (235) highest frequency followed by UP Chairman/Member (203) and UNO (87).

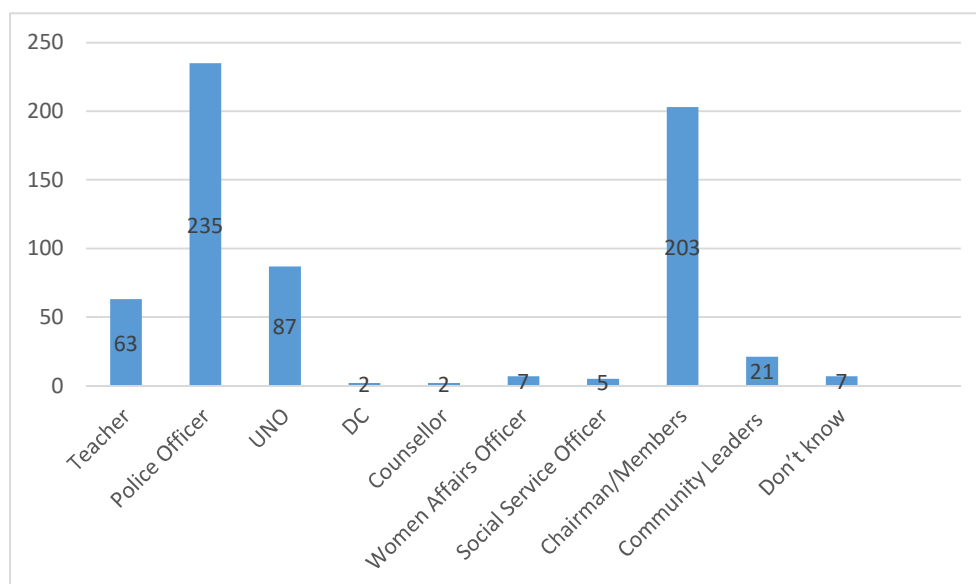


Figure-10: Person can Stop Child Marriage

According to the section 4 of the CMRA, 2017, the government has empowered some designated government officials to stop child marriage. The officials are Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Executive Magistrate, Upazila Women Affairs Officer, Upazila Social Service Officer, Upazial Primary or Secondary Education Officer, Officer-in-Charge of the Thana and Elected Representatives. The officials having complaint by written or verbal or having information in any way, can stop the child marriage and take further steps as per law.

Similarly the survey respondents were asked which documents need to consider to ascertain the age of the bride or bridegroom. The highest frequency was birth registration (267) and the other respondents said NID (169). Again, the survey respondents were asked, is there any punishment for child marriage. About 78% respondents said 'yes' but 22% respondents said 'no'. It was also asked to the respondents that according to law who can be punished for arranging a child marriage and the respondents were at liberty to give multiple answer. The highest frequency shows that parent can be punished for child marriage according to law and followed by sibling, uncle and aunt, relatives and marriage register. However, according to the CMRA 2017, adult bride or bridegroom can be punished for marrying a child.¹⁴ A child bride or bridegroom may be punished in an exceptional situation.¹⁵ Besides, parents, guardians or any other person, who illegally order, approve or work to arrange a child marriage can be punished under the CMRA, 2017.¹⁶ Moreover, any person who conduct or accomplish or register a child marriage can be punished under the law.¹⁷

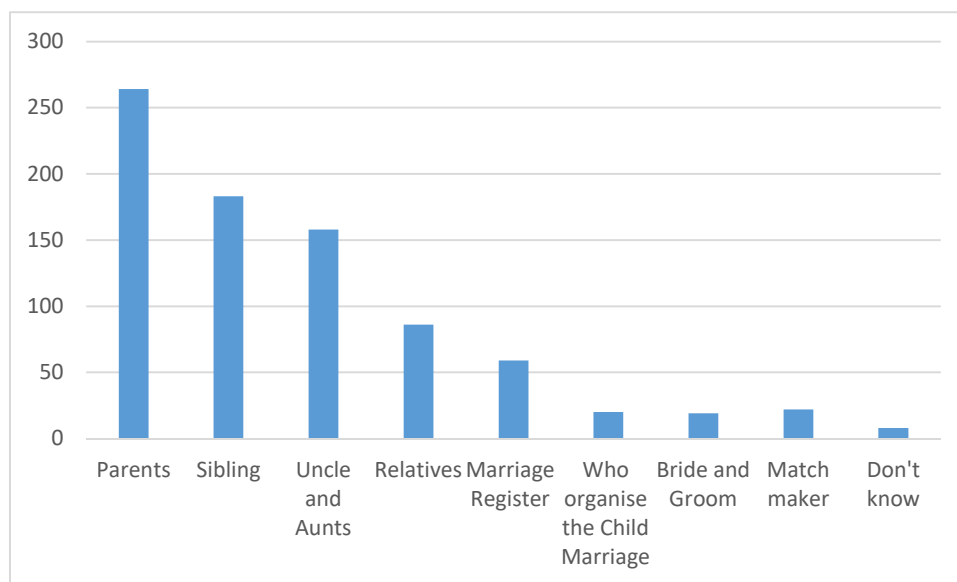


Figure-11: Person can be punished for arranging Child Marriage

¹⁴ Section 7(1) of CMRA, 2017

¹⁵ Section 7(2) of CMRA, 2017

¹⁶ Section 8 of CMRA, 2017

¹⁷ Section 9 & 11 of CMRA, 2017

The IDI and FGD respondents also support the findings of the survey respondents. The respondents have partial knowledge about child marriage law. They know the minimum age of child marriage and the sentencing provision of the CRMA. However, they don't know about the details of the CRMA, particularly the role of the government officials, elected representatives and the law enforcing agencies. Moreover, the respondents are not well knowledge on the procedure of stop child marriage and to get remedy from the concern authorities.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusion:

The study findings shows that due downturn of the economic activities in the country as well as in the project field area caused by the COVID-19 crisis have increased child marriage. Families facing economic hardships and widespread school closures accelerate the trend to marry off their girl child. The low income families may feel they have no choice but to marry daughters off as soon as possible to reduce the number of people in the household to feed. Child marriage is associated with many harmful consequences, including maternal and infant mortality associated with early and closely spaced pregnancies, lower educational achievement for girls who marry earlier, a higher incidence of domestic violence, and an increased likelihood of the bride and her family living in poverty.

Undoubtedly, law works as a gatekeeper for getting access to justice against different forms of social evil. However, the study reveals that merely having law against child marriage is not sufficient to reduce the prevalence and magnitude of child marriage. In order to get benefit from the new law, it must be substantially implementable in the real world. Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017 is the primary law to tackle the harmful traditional practice of child marriage in Bangladesh. Though CMRA does not directly allow a girl to be married off before 18 years, however, child marriage is taking place in secret or by managing the local influential.

The study finds that a notable amount of child marriage incidents are prevented due to the active role of the administration. But the informal preventive undertaking of government administration would not be drivers of change. There should be an exemplary legal action need to be undertaken. Similarly, government administration, LGIs, CSOs and general people need to be sensitized to report the incidents of child marriage to proper authority and to follow legal procedures for bringing a real end of child marriage.

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study related to the Child Marriage Situation in COVID 19 as well as the Application of Child Marriage Restraint Act (CMRA), the following recommendations are described. The recommendations are

mainly a compilation of suggestions provided by the respondents and analysis of the findings of the study.

5.2.1. Recommendations for Government

- Girls and women, particularly from the poorest and socially marginalised groups, are the most affected by the pandemic. Thus girls and women must be at the centre of all COVID-19 responses, both during the pandemic and economic recovery. Women and girls' rights to protection, education, health and livelihoods, must be prioritised in all government plans and policies on COVID-19.
- Governments must continue to consider child marriage as a priority to combat COVID-19 pandemic. The findings shows that the pandemic is diminishing the progress to end child marriage. Thus the implementation effort of existing government policies and programmes to address child marriage must be enhanced.
- The findings shows that due to the shutdown of the educational institutions in the COVID-19 pandemic, the girl child are at risk to be a child bride. Thus the authorities should take programmes to support accessible and inclusive distance learning that will reach the most marginalized girls and make sure that they don't fall further behind.
- Government should priorities child protection and gender-based violence services for the most vulnerable, particularly adolescent girls by increasing provisions of telephone hotlines, psychosocial support for women and girls, GBV referral mechanism and using public communications messaging.
- During the recovery phase of the pandemic, government should undertake special measure to prevent school dropout of the girl child. While entering the new normal by opening educational institutions, there should be a special instruction from the respective ministry for school management and teacher to take special care to return back the dropout girl child.
- The government must push its national plan of action to end child marriage, with special monitoring mechanisms during this pandemic including a greater awareness through media campaigns and enforcement of anti-dowry and anti-child marriage laws.
- Government should take all necessary efforts to undertake for achieving universal birth registration. Digitalization of birth registration system could be an effective way to check and authenticate age of girls. In order to ensure strict compliance with the

Birth and Death Registration Act, 2004 through enhancing interagency coordination and entrusting specific organization in this regard.

- Government can take an initiative to aware the Hindu Community Leaders and Hindu Marriage Register to ensure the registration of Hindu marriage under the Hindu Marriage Registration Act, 2012.
- The District Administration should develop monitoring and reporting systems to track the reporting of child marriage and also to monitor the implementation of the new law preventing child marriage. In doing so, District Administration may entrust 'District Women Affairs Officer' to monitor these activities. Moreover, District Administration may engage NGOs/CBOs to monitor the implementation of laws and to conduct social audit to check the implementation of the laws.
- The new CMRA is not popularize among the mass people. The District Administration can undertake a mass awareness campaign on the new law on restraining child marriage focusing on both social and legal consequence of child marriage.
- As the present study finds that school-going children and teachers work as first responder of child marriage, various social and legal issues of child marriage should be discussed in the meeting with primary and secondary school teachers by the District Administration.

5.2.2. Recommendations for CSOs/ NGOs:

- CSOs and NGOs should an advocacy initiative to hold the girl child in the centre of the government response and recovery programs.
- CSOs and NGOs should enhance their child protection and gender-based violence services for the most vulnerable, particularly adolescent girls by increasing provisions of telephone hotlines, psychosocial support for women and girls, GBV referral mechanism and using public communications messaging.
- During the school shutdown in COVID-19, the CSOs and NGOs should continue their support to the girl child, who are most vulnerable and marginalized, for ensuring their distance learning by providing accessible and inclusive distance learning devices.
- CSOs and NGOs should monitor the COVID-19 response to ensure girl child's access to basic services and undertake special awareness campaign on child marriage in their respective catchment area.
- This study identifies that the application of new law is very rare, the government duty bearer are not interest to apply the hard rule of the

new law, rather they are kin to address by counselling and other alternative means, where they receive information of child marriage, that denotes a soft approach among the communities. Thus, CSOs of Barishal district should continue advocacy and design programmes to enhance the application of new law as well as to eliminate the inconsistency in the laws.

- General people should be informed that, like other criminal offences, child marriage is also a crime and punishable by the law. The awareness campaigns should not necessarily mean only information dissemination, but also behavioural change at personal and family level, for example, through *Uthan Boithok* (Courtyard Meeting), including curriculum in formal education up to secondary level, personal counselling by health workers, regular oversight by UP Standing Committee on Women and Children Welfare, etc.
- Promoting education of girls is a proven mechanism for delaying marriage of girls. Therefore, along with the government, NGOs should initiate programs to provide opportunities for girls to continue their education. CBOs should undertake education program with particular focus on girl child to build economic empowerment of the targeted girl child.
- At grassroots level, NGOs can play a vital role in ensuring birth and marriage registration. To promote these registrations, a programme need not be necessarily for combating child marriage. Since birth registration has wider use and application, all programs can keep a provision to promote birth and marriage registration.
- In Barishal, several NGOs are working on child rights in a dotted and isolated way. It is suggested that the CBOs of Barishal should launch effective media campaign and mass education campaign in concentrated and coordinated way with other stakeholders including State Actors to ensure the implementation of Child Marriage Restrain Act, 2017 as well as the adverse effects of child marriage. Moreover, the campaign should address the traditional harmful practice of child marriage;

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Annex-1: Tables of Survey Respondents' Demography

Child Marriage Situation in COVID 19 and the Application of Child Marriage Restraint Act (CMRA) in Barisal District

Tables of Survey Respondents' Demography

Table-1.1: Age of the Survey Respondents

Age Group	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Below 20	20	18.9	15	20.3	5	7.1	11	15.7	51	15.9
20-24	16	15.1	18	24.3	23	32.9	12	17.1	69	21.6
25-29	19	17.9	5	6.8	12	17.1	7	10.0	43	13.4
30-34	15	14.2	4	5.4	13	18.6	9	12.9	41	12.8
35-39	7	6.6	15	20.3	3	4.3	12	17.1	37	11.6
40-44	11	10.4	14	18.9	10	14.3	10	14.3	45	14.1
45 and above	18	17.0	3	4.1	4	5.7	9	12.9	34	10.6
N	106	100.0	74	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	320	100.0
Average	29.98		29.76		28.99		30.57		29.84	

Table-1.2: Sex of the Survey Respondents

Sex group	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Male	52	49.1	32	43.2	35	50.0	32	45.7	151	47.2
Female	54	50.9	42	56.8	35	50.0	38	54.3	169	52.8
N	106	100.0	74	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	320	100.0

Table-1.3: Religion of the Survey Respondents

Religion	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Muslim	57	53.8	74	100.0	55	78.6	59	84.3	245	76.6
Hindu	49	46.2	0	.0	15	21.4	11	15.7	75	23.4
N	106	100.0	74	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	320	100.0

Table-1.4: Occupation of the Survey Respondents

Occupations	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Agriculture	7	6.6	3	4.1	1	1.4	5	7.1	16	5.0
Day Labour (Agri)	3	2.8	2	2.7	0	.0	0	.0	5	1.6
Day Labour	6	5.7	1	1.4	1	1.4	1	1.4	9	2.8
Fisher men	0	.0	2	2.7	0	.0	0	.0	2	.6
Rickshaw/Van driver	3	2.8	0	.0	0	.0	1	1.4	4	1.3
Motor vehicle labour	0	.0	2	2.7	1	1.4	0	.0	3	.9
Garment workers	3	2.8	4	5.4	0	.0	0	.0	7	2.2
Small Business	10	9.4	5	6.8	7	10.0	6	8.6	28	8.8
Large Business	0	.0	2	2.7	2	2.9	0	.0	4	1.3
Housewife	32	30.2	17	23.0	28	40.0	24	34.3	101	31.6
Students	19	17.9	26	35.1	20	28.6	15	21.4	80	25.0
Non-government Job	11	10.4	1	1.4	4	5.7	9	12.9	25	7.8
Government Job	5	4.7	0	.0	2	2.9	6	8.6	13	4.1
Migrant Worker	1	.9	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	1	.3
Do not work due to Person with Disability/Retired/ Severely sick	1	.9	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	1	.3
Unemployed	2	1.9	0	.0	0	.0	1	1.4	3	.9
Tailor	0	.0	6	8.1	1	1.4	0	.0	7	2.2
Mechanic	1	.9	1	1.4	0	.0	0	.0	2	.6
Village doctor	0	.0	1	1.4	0	.0	0	.0	1	.3
Others	2	1.9	1	1.4	3	4.3	2	2.9	8	2.5
N	106	100.0	74	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	320	100.0

Table-1.5: Education of the Survey Respondents

Educations	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Illiterate	0	.0	23	31.1	1	1.4	0	.0	24	7.5
Class one - Class Nine	75	70.8	21	28.4	33	47.1	37	52.9	166	51.9
SSC/Dakhil	9	8.5	18	24.3	8	11.4	10	14.3	45	14.1
HSC/Alim	7	6.6	10	13.5	14	20.0	9	12.9	40	12.5
Degree/Fajil	12	11.3	2	2.7	14	20.0	11	15.7	39	12.2
Masters/Kamil	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	2	2.9	2	.6
Vocational/ Polytechnic	3	2.8	0	.0	0	.0	1	1.4	4	1.3
N	106	100.0	74	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	320	100.0

Table-1.6: Marital Status of the Survey Respondents

Marital Status	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Unmarried	32	30.2	28	37.8	28	40.0	20	28.6	108	33.8
Married	74	69.8	45	60.8	42	60.0	50	71.4	211	65.9
Divorce	0	.0	1	1.4	0	.0	0	.0	1	.3
N	106	100.0	74	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	320	100.0

Table-1.7: Average Monthly Income of the Survey Respondents for Last Four Months

Income Group	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
None	10	21.7	1	3.4	8	29.6	1	3.8	20	15.6
1000-5000	25	54.3	11	37.9	10	37.0	9	34.6	55	43.0
5001-10000	5	10.9	13	44.8	2	7.4	4	15.4	24	18.8
10001-15000	4	8.7	2	6.9	0	.0	6	23.1	12	9.4
15001-20000	2	4.3	1	3.4	0	.0	3	11.5	6	4.7
20001-25000	0	.0	1	3.4	1	3.7	2	7.7	4	3.1
25000 above	0	.0	0	.0	6	22.2	1	3.8	7	5.5
Total	46	100.0	29	100.0	27	100.0	26	100.0	128	100.0
Average	4163.04		7482.76		11481.48		10442.31		7734.38	

Table-1.8: Average Monthly Income of Prior to Corona Virus Infection of the Survey Respondents

Income Group	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1000-5000	28	60.9	0	.0	1	3.7	6	23.1	35	27.3
5001-10000	10	21.7	4	13.8	6	22.2	5	19.2	25	19.5
10001-15000	6	13.0	14	48.3	10	37.0	8	30.8	38	29.7
15001-20000	2	4.3	6	20.7	5	18.5	4	15.4	17	13.3
20001-25000	0	.0	1	3.4	3	11.1	2	7.7	6	4.7
25000 above	0	.0	4	13.8	2	7.4	1	3.8	7	5.5
Total	46	100.0	29	100.0	27	100.0	26	100.0	128	100.0
Average	7239.13		17931.03		15481.48		12730.77		12515.63	

Annex-2: Tables of Survey Findings

Child Marriage Situation in COVID 19 and the Application of Child Marriage Restraint Act (CMRA) in Barisal District

Tables for Survey Findings

Table-2.1: Do you think that Corona Virus infection changes the socio-economic condition of your area?

Categories	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Yes	106	100.0	45	60.8	70	100.0	70	100.0	291	90.9
No	0	.0	29	39.2	0	.0	0	.0	29	9.1
N	106	100.0	74	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	320	100.0

Table-2.2: What are economic changes take place due to the Corona Virus infection in your area, describe in details?

Categories	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Many have stopped working	75	70.8	10	22.2	6	8.6	20	28.6	111	38.1
There has been downturn in the economics	48	45.3	9	20.0	9	12.9	42	60.0	108	37.1
Sales of agricultural products have declined	10	9.4	0	.0	3	4.3	3	4.3	16	5.5
The income of poor people has decreased	62	58.5	4	8.9	48	68.6	46	65.7	160	55.0
The business has suffered a lot	21	19.8	7	15.6	7	10.0	5	7.1	40	13.7
Somehow the family is going on	17	16.0	0	.0	0	.0	3	4.3	20	6.9
Borrowing has increased	2	1.9	0	.0	1	1.4	0	.0	3	1.0
Day laborers' condition is worse	28	26.4	0	.0	0	.0	32	45.7	60	20.6
Poor become poorer	20	18.9	0	.0	2	2.9	24	34.3	46	15.8
There is not enough food in the houses of middle class people	28	26.4	0	.0	0	.0	20	28.6	48	16.5
Losing job	0	.0	9	20.0	2	2.9	1	1.4	12	4.1
People are struggling to meet their daily needs	0	.0	2	4.4	0	.0	1	1.4	3	1.0
No such change was seen	0	.0	1	2.2	0	.0	0	.0	1	.3
The number of passengers in the transport is less	1	.9	2	4.4	1	1.4	0	.0	4	1.4
Unemployment has risen	0	.0	2	4.4	3	4.3	0	.0	5	1.7
N	106	100.0	45	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	291	100.0

Table -2.3: What are social changes take place due to the Corona Virus infection in your area, describe in details?

Categories	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
As before, people no longer sit together and chat	40	37.7	3	6.7	14	20.0	33	47.1	90	30.9
Sociality has decreased among people	35	33.0	8	17.8	16	22.9	8	11.4	67	23.0
People come home less	3	2.8	0	.0	0	.0	5	7.1	8	2.7
Maintains social distance	75	70.8	20	44.4	21	30.0	68	97.1	184	63.2
The market is less crowded	17	16.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	17	5.8
People stay at home	44	41.5	0	.0	1	1.4	19	27.1	64	22.0
Everyone becomes aware and uses masks	6	5.7	1	2.2	0	.0	11	15.7	18	6.2
Social events are also less	7	6.6	0	.0	3	4.3	5	7.1	15	5.2
The people of the village follow the hygiene rules	0	.0	1	2.2	0	.0	0	.0	1	.3
There has been a policy change among the people of the society	1	.9	0	.0	0	.0	1	1.4	2	.7
Sick people stay at home	18	17.0	0	.0	7	10.0	27	38.6	52	17.9
There is panic among everyone	0	.0	7	15.6	8	11.4	3	4.3	18	6.2
The crime trend has increased	0	.0	1	2.2	5	7.1	0	.0	6	2.1
Poverty rates have risen	2	1.9	2	4.4	0	.0	0	.0	4	1.4
People do not move in transport for fear of corona	3	2.8	4	8.9	0	.0	2	2.9	9	3.1
School and college are all closed	22	20.8	0	.0	0	.0	7	10.0	29	10.0
Cleanliness has increased among people	17	16.0	0	.0	0	.0	9	12.9	26	8.9
N	106	100.0	45	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	291	100.0

Table-2.4 In your opinion, is there any impact on girl child and young girl due to Corona Virus infection?

Categories	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Yes	58	54.7	21	28.4	56	80.0	39	55.7	174	54.4
No	48	45.3	53	71.6	14	20.0	31	44.3	146	45.6
N	106	100.0	74	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	320	100.0

Table-2.5: If there any impact than, what are the impact (describe in details)

Categories	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
It's the same	3	5.2	0	.0	0	.0	3	7.7	6	3.4
Loss of education	21	36.2	5	23.8	11	19.6	26	66.7	63	36.2
The education of the poor will be stopped	10	17.2	1	4.8	32	57.1	13	33.3	56	32.2
The tendency to marry girls from low-income families has increased	23	39.7	3	14.3	2	3.6	20	51.3	48	27.6
So frustrated to stop studying	20	34.5	0	.0	1	1.8	11	28.2	32	18.4
Girls now spend more time on household chores	13	22.4	0	.0	0	.0	4	10.3	17	9.8
Having been at home for a long time, he has become mentally weak	32	55.2	0	.0	4	7.1	13	33.3	49	28.2
Burden for the family	8	13.8	2	9.5	0	.0	1	2.6	11	6.3
Having trouble getting married	2	3.4	8	38.1	8	14.3	0	.0	18	10.3
Raising the price of practical products raises the problem of child rearing	0	.0	1	4.8	0	.0	0	.0	1	.6
Humanity has been affected	4	6.9	1	4.8	1	1.8	1	2.6	7	4.0
N	58	100.0	21	100.0	56	100.0	39	100.0	174	100.0

Table-3.1: Is there child marriage in your area now?

Categories	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Yes	103	97.2	70	94.6	51	72.9	67	95.8	291	91.0
No	3	2.8	4	5.4	19	27.1	3	4.2	29	9.0
N	106	100.0	74	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	320	100.0

Table-3.1a: If happen, who are the most victims of child marriage in your opinion?

Categories	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Male	2	1.9	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	2	.7
Female	101	98.1	74	100.0	51	100.0	70	100.0	296	99.3
N	103	100.0	74	100.0	51	100.0	70	100.0	298	100.0

302. Why male/female become most victims of child marriage?

Categories	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
১. দারিদ্রতার কারণে	99	96.1	26	35.1	10	19.6	63	90.0	198	66.4
২. শিবার অভাবে/শিবারহার কম হওয়াজন্য	71	68.9	6	8.1	7	13.7	46	65.7	130	43.6
৩. নারীশিবা	1	1.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	1	.3
৪. কুসংস্কার	1	1.0	4	5.4	0	.0	1	1.4	6	2.0
৫. সামাজিকচাপ	27	26.2	2	2.7	1	2.0	6	8.6	36	12.1
৬. নারীর কর্মসংস্থান	0	.0	0	.0	4	7.8	3	4.3	7	2.3
৭. সম্মনহানীর ভয়ে	51	49.5	2	2.7	5	9.8	14	20.0	72	24.2
৮. সামাজিক নিরাপত্তার অভাব	2	1.9	4	5.4	4	7.8	2	2.9	12	4.0
৯. পরিবারের মানুষ অসচেতন থাকলে/মাবাবার কারণে	52	50.5	16	21.6	10	19.6	31	44.3	109	36.6
১০. যৌনির্ঘাতনের কারণে	0	.0	2	2.7	0	.0	0	.0	2	.7
১১. পারিবারিক চাপ	30	29.1	4	5.4	0	.0	16	22.9	50	16.8
১২. আইনের প্রয়োগনা থাকা	1	1.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	1	.3
১৩. সম্পর্কের কারণে	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	1	1.4	1	.3
১৪. জানিনা	0	.0	5	6.8	0	.0	1	1.4	6	2.0
১৫. মেয়ের বয়স বেশি হলে যৌতুক লাগে	1	1.0	2	2.7	1	2.0	0	.0	4	1.3
১৬. পারিবারিক আর্থিক অস্বচ্ছলতা	3	2.9	1	1.4	2	3.9	2	2.9	8	2.7
১৭. নারীদের দুর্বল ভাবে	0	.0	0	.0	8	15.7	0	.0	8	2.7
N	103	100.0	74	100.0	51	100.0	70	100.0	298	100.0

303. How many child marriage take place in last two years in your area? (Approximate Number)

Categories	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1-10	64	60.4	0	.0	7	10.0	20	28.6	91	28.4
11-20	42	39.6	0	.0	5	7.1	50	71.4	97	30.3
21-30	0	.0	0	.0	30	42.9	0	.0	30	9.4
31-40	0	.0	0	.0	14	20.0	0	.0	14	4.4
41 -50	0	.0	0	.0	11	15.7	0	.0	11	3.4
50 above	0	.0	74	100.0	3	4.3	0	.0	77	24.1
N	106	100.0	74	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	320	100.0

204. How many child marriages took place among the marriages in last two years in your area?
(Approximate Number)

Categories	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
None	0	.0	10	13.5	3	4.3	0	.0	13	4.0
1-5	100	94.3	54	72.9	21	30.0	69	98.6	244	76.2
6-10	3	2.8	10	13.5	16	22.9	1	1.4	30	9.4
11-20	0	.0	0	.0	11	15.7	0	.0	11	3.4
20 above	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0
Don't know	3	2.8	0	.0	19	27.1	0	.0	22	6.9
N	106	100.0	74	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	320	100.0

205. In your opinion, currently the child marriage are

Categories	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Very few	0	.0	0	.0	30	42.9	0	.0	30	9.4
Less	86	81.1	0	.0	13	18.6	46	65.7	145	45.3
Notable	20	18.9	17	23.0	19	27.1	24	34.3	80	25.0
Much	0	.0	46	62.2	3	4.3	0	.0	49	15.3
Very much	0	.0	11	14.9	5	7.1	0	.0	16	5.0
N	106	100.0	74	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	320	100.0

401. In your opinion, what are the causes of child marriages (More than one response)

Categories	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
01 = Lack of women's employment	42	39.6	32	43.2	24	34.3	25	35.7	123	38.4
02 = Poverty of the family	105	99.1	67	90.5	56	80.0	70	100.0	298	93.1
03 = Religious belief	61	57.5	27	36.5	2	2.9	29	41.4	119	37.2
04 = Maintaining family honour	95	89.6	21	28.4	24	34.3	46	65.7	186	58.1
05 = To maintain the virginity of women	1	.9	1	1.4	3	4.3	0	.0	5	1.6
06 = Fear of sexual violence and harassment	72	67.9	29	39.2	7	10.0	48	68.6	156	48.8
07 = Fear for not to be married if the age increase	57	53.8	7	9.5	5	7.1	43	61.4	112	35.0
08 = Fear to pay more dowry if the age increase	27	25.5	14	18.9	3	4.3	25	35.7	69	21.6
09 = Feeling the burden of the daughter in the father's family	24	22.6	20	27.0	4	5.7	18	25.7	66	20.6
10 = Social pressure	25	23.6	17	23.0	7	10.0	21	30.0	70	21.9
11 = Lack of education	20	18.9	67	90.5	24	34.3	21	30.0	132	41.3
12 = Fear of social status	0	.0	2	2.7	0	.0	2	2.9	4	1.3
13 = Others (Specify)	0	.0	0	.0	7	10.0	0	.0	7	2.2
N	106	100.0	74	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	320	100.0

402. In your opinion, what reasons contribute to reduce the risk of child marriage?

Categories	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Increasing the rate of women education	61	57.5	16	21.6	19	27.1	35	50.0	131	40.9
Raising awareness among the community	73	68.9	4	5.4	33	47.1	53	75.7	163	50.9
Awareness among the parents and family members	17	16.0	21	28.4	14	20.0	15	21.4	67	20.9
Poverty must be reduced	5	4.7	7	9.5	12	17.1	1	1.4	25	7.8
To be aware of the evils of child marriage	13	12.3	3	4.1	4	5.7	5	7.1	25	7.8
Proper enforcement of the law and policy	29	10.4	2	1.4	18	10.0	22	28.6	71	12.2
Increase women's employment	14	13.2	7	9.5	6	8.6	16	22.9	52	13.4
Women's self-reliance	4	3.8	3	4.1	0	.0	2	2.9	9	2.8
Rapid trial of sexual abuse	1	.9	0	.0	0	.0	1	1.4	2	.6
Career oriented education system	6	5.7	3	4.1	0	.0	2	2.9	11	3.4
Socially excluding child marriage	12	11.3	0	.0	1	1.4	10	14.3	23	7.2
Increase of violence against women	0	.0	0	.0	1	1.4	0	.0	1	.3
Stop the free movement of girls	3	2.8	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	3	.9
Stop sexual abuse	0	.0	0	.0	1	1.4	0	.0	1	.3
Exclusion of dowry system	0	.0	3	4.1	0	.0	0	.0	3	.9
Ensuring social security	44	41.5	9	12.2	3	4.3	24	34.3	80	25.0
Don't know	2	1.9	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	2	.6
N	106	100.0	74	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	320	100.0

403. In your opinion, who become the most victims of child marriage?

Categories	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Boy	2	1.9	0	.0	2	2.9	1	1.4	5	1.6
Girl	104	98.1	74	100.0	68	97.1	69	98.6	315	98.4
N	106	100.0	74	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	320	100.0

404. In your opinion, what damages can be held by a child marriage? (Write the damages)

Categories	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
The rate of education may decrease	35	33.0	0	.0	1	1.4	27	38.6	63	19.7
The development of the country will be less	104	98.1	40	54.1	22	31.4	69	98.6	235	73.4
Study stopped	20	18.9	13	17.6	45	64.3	9	12.9	87	27.2
Maternal mortality rate increases	2	1.9	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	2	.6
Infant mortality increases	2	1.9	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	2	.6
Family quarrels may arise	3	2.8	0	.0	3	4.3	1	1.4	7	2.2
Divorce	1	.9	0	.0	2	2.9	2	2.9	5	1.6
The baby may be underweight	0	.0	0	.0	2	2.9	1	1.4	3	.9
Adverse effects on children	55	51.9	62	83.8	42	60.0	44	62.9	203	63.4
Premature death due to malnutrition	10	9.4	0	.0	1	1.4	10	14.3	21	6.6
Dowry	1	.9	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	1	.3
It is difficult to run the family	0	.0	0	.0	2	2.9	0	.0	2	.6
Increase Population growth rate	1	.9	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	1	.3
N	106	100.0	74	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	320	100.0

501. In case of women, the minimum legal age for marriage is 18

Categories	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Correct	71	67.0	73	98.6	68	97.1	45	64.3	257	80.3
Not correct	2	1.9	0	.0	2	2.9	0	.0	4	1.3
Don't know	33	31.1	1	1.4	0	.0	25	35.7	59	18.4
N	106	100.0	74	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	320	100.0

502. In case of male, the minimum legal age for marriage is 18

Categories	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Correct	35	33.0	0	.0	3	4.3	24	34.3	62	19.4
Not correct	29	27.4	69	93.2	67	95.7	21	30.0	186	58.1
Don't know	42	39.6	5	6.8	0	.0	25	35.7	72	22.5
N	106	100.0	74	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	320	100.0

503. Can a marriage be stopped when a child marriage is organized?

Categories	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Yes	106	100.0	2	2.7	66	94.3	70	100.0	244	76.3
No	0	.0	72	97.3	4	5.7	0	.0	76	23.8
N	106	100.0	74	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	320	100.0

504. Which government officials can take initiative to stop child marriage? (designations)

Categories	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Teacher	35	33.0	0	.0	1	1.4	27	38.6	63	19.7
Police Officer	104	98.1	40	54.1	22	31.4	69	98.6	235	73.4
UNO	20	18.9	13	17.6	45	64.3	9	12.9	87	27.2
DC	2	1.9	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	2	.6
Councilor	2	1.9	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	2	.6
Women Affair Officer	3	2.8	0	.0	3	4.3	1	1.4	7	2.2
Social Service Officer	1	.9	0	.0	2	2.9	2	2.9	5	1.6
Chairman and Member	55	51.9	62	83.8	42	60.0	44	62.9	203	63.4
Local influential / local leaders	10	9.4	0	.0	1	1.4	10	14.3	21	6.6
Don't know	2	.9	0	.0	4	.0	1	.0	7	.3
N	106	100.0	74	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	320	100.0

505. Which documents need to consider to ascertain the age of the bride or bridegroom (write the name of the documents)

Categories	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
জন্ম নিবন্ধন	88	83.0	42	56.8	70	100.0	67	95.7	267	83.4
আইডিকার্ড	76	71.7	35	47.3	22	31.4	36	51.4	169	52.8
N	106	100.0	74	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	320	100.0

506. Is there any punishment for child marriage?

Categories	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Yes	106	100.0	4	5.4	68	97.1	70	100.0	248	77.5
No	0	.0	70	94.6	2	2.9	0	.0	72	22.5
N	106	100.0	74	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	320	100.0

507. Who can be punished for child marriage?

Categories	Upazila								All	
	Barishal Sadar		Hizla		Gowronadi		Babugonj			
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Parents	84	79.2	54	73.0	67	95.7	59	84.3	264	82.5
Siblings	83	78.3	39	52.7	3	4.3	58	82.9	183	57.2
Uncle and Aunt	82	77.4	30	40.5	2	2.9	44	62.9	158	49.4
Relatives	52	49.1	29	39.2	0	.0	5	7.1	86	26.9
Marriage Register/Priest	9	8.5	28	37.8	13	18.6	9	12.9	59	18.4
Involved with child marriage	12	11.3	0	.0	0	.0	8	11.4	20	6.3
Bride and Bridegroom	3	2.8	3	4.1	12	17.1	1	1.4	19	5.9
Match maker	10	9.4	1	1.4	1	1.4	10	14.3	22	6.9
Don't know	7	6.6	0	.0	0	.0	1	1.4	8	2.5
N	106	100.0	74	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	320	100.0

Annex-3: Survey Questionnaire

Child Marriage Situation in COVID 19 and the Application of Child Marriage Restraint Act (CMRA) in Barisal District

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

Stating Time of the Interview									
100	Identity of the Respondents								
101	Name of the Respondent								
101 A	Mobile No (if agree)								
102	Age (Full Year)		102 A	Sex			1= Male, 2 = Female, 3 = Others		
103	Holding/House No								
104	Village/Para								
105	Union/Ward/Sector/Mouza								
106	Upazila/Thana/Pourashova								
107	District/City								
108	Religion			Muslim = 1, Hinduy = 2, Christain = 3, Buddishit = 4 Others = 5 (Specify)					
109	Occupation (Code)				Occupation Code in Next Page				
110	Education (Code)				Education Code in Next Page				
111	Marital Status (Code)				Marital Status Code in Next Page				
112	Average Monthly Income		Taka:		Include all income source				
113	Interviewer's Name								
114	Date of Interview		D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y
127	Supervisor								
129	Data Entry Operator								
130	Date of data entry		D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y

109. Occupation Code: 01 = Agriculture 02 = Day Labour (Agri) 03 = Day Labour (Non-agri) 04 = Fisherman 05 = Rickshaw/Van driver 06 = Motor vehicle labour 07 = Engage in self small cottage 08 = RMG Labour 09 = Small Business 10 = Large Business 11 = Housewife 12 = Student 13 = Non-government Job 14 = Government Job	15 = Migrant Worker 16 = Do not work due to Person with Disability/Retired/Old age/ Severely sick 17 = Begging 18 = Unemployed 19 = Domestic worker 20 = Child Labour 21 = Tailor 22 = Mechanic 23 = Village doctor 24 = Midwifery 25 = Others	110. Educational Qualification Code: 00 = Illiterate 01 = Class one (Thus Class Nine) 10 = SSC/Dakhil 12 = HSC/Alim 14 = Degree/Fajil 16 = Masters/Kamil 77 = Not Applicable (Children under six years) 88 = Vocational/Polytechnic 99 = Know only signature 98 = Other	111. Marital Status 1 = Unmarried 2 = Married 3 = Widow 4 = Divorced 5 = Separated
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200	Impact of COVID-19 on Girl Child		
		Code	
201	Do you think that Corona Virus infection changes the socio-economic condition of your area?		1 = Yes, 2 = No
202	What are economic changes take place due to the Corona Virus infection in your area, describe in details?		
203	What are social changes take place due to the Corona Virus infection in your area, describe in details?		
204	In your opinion, is there any impact on girl child and young girl due to Corona Virus infection?		1 = Yes, 2 = No
205	If there any impact than, what are the impact (describe in details)		

300 Prevalence of Child Marriage													
										Code			
301	Is there child marriage in your area now?												1 = Yes, 2 = No
301 A	If happen, who are the most victims of child marriage in your opinion?												1 = Male, 2 = Female
302	Why male/female become most victims of child marriage?												
303	How many child marriage take place in last two years in your area? (Approximate Number)												
304	How many child marriages took place among the marriages in last two years in your area? (Approximate Number)												
305	In your opinion, currently the child marriage are;												
	Very few	1	Less	2	Notable	3	Much	4	Very much	5			

400 Causes and Impact of Child Marriage												
401	In your opinion, what are the causes of child marriages (More than one response)					01 = Lack of women's employment 02 = Poverty of the family 03 = Religious belief 04 = Maintaining family honour 05 = To maintain the virginity of women 06 = Fear of sexual violence and harassment 07 = Fear for not to be married if the age increase 08 = Fear to pay more dowry if the age increase 09 = Feeling the burden of the daughter in the father's family 10 = Social pressure 11 = Lack of education 12 = Fear of social status 13 = Others (Specify)						
402	In your opinion, what reasons contribute to reduce the risk of child marriage?											
403	In your opinion, who become the most victims of child marriage?					Boy	1	Girl	2			
404	In your opinion, what damages can be held by a child marriage? (Write the damages)											

500 Awareness on Child Marriage Restrain Law								
		Code						
501	In case of women, the minimum legal age for marriage is 18		Correct	1	Not correct	2	Don't know	3
502	In case of male, the minimum legal age for marriage is 18		Correct	1	Not correct	2	Don't know	3
503	Can a marriage be stopped when a child marriage is organized?		Yes	1	No	2		
504	Which government officials can take initiative to stop child marriage? (designations)							
505	Which documents need to consider to ascertain the age of the bride or bridegroom (write the name of the documents)							
506	Is there any punishment for child marriage?		Yes	1	No	2		
507	Who can be punished for child marriage?							