Nursing Students' Awareness about the Risk Factors Related to Early Marriage

Thesis

Submitted for Partial Fulfillment of Master Degree in Nursing Science (Community Health Nursing)

By

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(Aml Gomaa Elsayed)

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Abb.	Meaning
FGC	Female Genital Cutting
ICRW	International Centre for Research on Women
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
RH	Reproductive health
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
SD	Standard Deviation
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
WHO	World Health Organization
YRH	Youth Reproductive Health

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Abstract

Early marriage is still a serious issue and a form of violence against girls. **Aim:** Assess nursing students' awareness about the risk factors related to early marriage**. Design**: This is descriptive study. **Setting:** Nasser Institute Nursing School, Cairo, Egypt. **Sample**: Purposive sampling was used in this study, it included 120 all students presented in Nasser Institute Nursing School, their age under 18 yrs. **Tools:** Self-administered questionnaire: to assess of: Socio-demographic data of the nursing studied students., students' knowledge as regard to early marriage and reproductive health and nursing students' perception of adverse physical, psychological and social health consequences of early marriage. **Results:** More than half of the nursing students (50.8%) were between age16-17 years old with mean age 14.6±1.2, about half of them (49.1%) were ranking as a second child. Regarding social status, less than two thirds of them (64.2%) were not engaged. More than half of the nursing students (58.3%) were live in a rural area. More than two thirds of the nursing students (68.3 %) were had enough monthly income. less than two thirds of the studied nursing students had unsatisfied knowledge about early marriage and reproductive health. Also, more than two thirds of them had positive perception regarding early marriage. **Conclusion:** There were a highly statistically significant relation between socio-demographic of the nursing students and their knowledge regarding early marriage. There is a positive correlation between knowledge and perception of the nursing students regarding early marriage. **Recommendations:** Further research studies are needed for ongoing assessment of girls awareness about the risk factors related to early marriage including large sample for generalization of results.

Key words: Early marriage, Nursing students' awareness.

Introduction

A marriage is a legally recognized union between a man and a woman in which they are united sexually; cooperate economically, and may have children through birth or adoption, early marriage is either one or both of the married couple being under the age of 18 years old or in high school *(Vue, 2014)*. Marriage is a social activity entered into through a public act, religious or traditional ceremony and it reflects the purpose, character, and customs of the society in which it is found. It unites people in a special form of mutual dependence for the purpose of founding and maintaining a family *(Adamu et al., 2017)*.

These days, the devastating impact of female child marriage continues to be ignored in the developing world. Millions of child brides, are denied access to health, education and economic opportunities. The majority of them are burdened with the roles and responsibilities of wives and mothers without adequate support, resources or capabilities. Girls are either seen as an economic burden or valued as capital for their exchange value in terms of goods, money or livestock that is for economic and social reasons, controlling girls sexuality which is directly linked

to family honor and status for strong social pressure on families to either conform or face ridicule, disapproval or family shame for traditional practices *(Bayisenge, 2014).*

Female child early marriage is a public health concern that violates international human rights laws and seriously compromises the development and health of individuals, households, community and countries. Female child marriage has a direct effect on realizing at least six of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) such as causes for poverty, denies to access education, against gender equality and empowerment, increase child mortality and maternal health problems. It has also a risk factor in the spread of HIV and other STIs and erodes the health and well-being of girls and the overall welfare of communities *(Myers & Harvey, 2014).*

Among the factors for female child early marriage are socio – cultural, religious, economic security and dependency are some that contribute for the practices of female early child marriage: In many communities, child marriage is a long-standing tradition, since a delayed marriage would not be acceptable in the eyes of the community. Getting a daughter married early may be seen as a means of ensuring her and families safety, sexual

abstinence and virginity are also considered important values that if not protected will affect the family honor. Moreover, in families where parents cannot provide daughters a safe space to live, child marriage is considered to be a protection from risks such as abuse than giving prioritizes for education *(Unicef, 2016)*.

Forcing children, especially girls, into early marriages can be physically, emotionally and socially harmful. It violates their rights to personal freedom and growth, curtails girls' education, increase maternal and infant morbidity and mortality. Child marriage and lesser age of effective marriage create negative psychological impact on thinking of a girl. She is in state of distress, anxiety and insecurity at time of consummation of marriage. If she does not get any emotional support from in-laws, it totally ruins her overall development and self esteem. Also, married girls have limited social networks *(Narang & Vaishnav, 2017).*

Significance of the study

Female child early marriage has numerous challenges both at global and regional level. It denied access to education and economic opportunities and has a big impact on the health of the child with its complex problem on maternal and child mortality. In the world 10 million girls under the age of 18 marry each year that is around 833,333 a month 192,307 a week 27,397 a day 19 every minute or, around one girl every three seconds *(Kibret et al., 2014).* In Egypt, 17% of girls are married before their 18th birthday. While the rate of child marriage in Egypt is declining, religious and traditional ideals and customs have stalled this progress. Child marriage mainly affects girls living in poorer rural areas and is on the rise in some locations, including Upper Egypt *(Girls Not Brides, 2015).*

Therefore, assessment of nursing students' awareness about the risk factors related to early marriage is deemed important in improving quality of care.

Aim of the study

The aim of the present study is to assess nursing students' awareness about the risk factors related to early marriage through:

1- Assessing nursing students' knowledge regarding early marriage & reproductive health.

2- Assessing nursing students' perception according to their socio-cultural factors.

Research questions:

1- Is there a relations between nursing student's sociodemographic characteristics and their knowledge regarding early marriage?

2- Is there relations between nursing student's perception and their socio-cultural factors?

Outlines

Part I: Overview of Adolescence Stages

Part II: Reproductive Health

Part III: Early Marriage and risk factors

Part V: Strategy to Prevent Early Marriage

Part IV: Community Health Nursing Role Regarding Prevention of Early Marriage