

ABSTRACT

Child marriage is a practice that has been present in Bangladesh for decades. Due to its pervasiveness, Bangladesh is among the countries with the highest rate of child marriage. Child marriage in Bangladesh happens under strict social norms and difficult economic conditions. Girls in Bangladesh are constructed to marry early; as soon as a girl reaches puberty, they are expected to get married immediately. Under economic hardships, daughters are seen as an economic burden; marrying them off early would ease the family's economy. As a response to the high rate of child marriage in the country, the Government of Bangladesh set the goal to end the practice as a national priority. The alarming number of child marriage in Bangladesh has also pushed NGOs to intervene. However, despite years of efforts, child marriage is still present in Bangladesh. Therefore, this study aims to understand how child marriage in Bangladesh is still prevalent despite intervention by the government and NGOs. This thesis will utilize post-structural feminism as the theoretical framework to highlight how the interventions fail to understand the experience of adolescent girls and young women in Bangladesh regarding child marriage, resulting in the stagnation of the rate of the practice in the country.