



# A bibliometric analysis of the global research trend in child marriage:(in during the years 1990 to 2022)

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## *Abstract:*

**Background:** Child marriage is a global health issue. Achieving global health, development, and gender equality requires understanding the social, economic, and cultural contexts for effective interventions. The aim of the present study is bibliometric analysis of global research on the subject of child marriage in during the years 1990 to 2022.

**Methods:** In the present study, the data were extracted from the web of science database and analyzed on the social network, which includes a review of the number of articles, journals, authors, leading countries, and finally a review of frequently used keywords.

**Results:** The results show that a total of 11,841 articles have been published in 2734 journals in which the fields of family, sociology, and public health have received the most attention. The leading country was the United States of America. The largest number of articles was published in 2020. There was an increasing trend in the number of articles published during the last five years, which indicates an increase in attention to achieving the goals of sustainable development.

**Key-words:** Child marriage, early marriage, the bibliometric analysis.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Marriage as one of the oldest customs involves a commitment by which a couple shares their life, emotions, possibilities and future (1). but the phenomenon of child marriage or early marriage (2), regardless of gender, is regarded as a concern today that has been a concern for researchers, governmental and non-governmental organizations, advocacy groups and the global media from cultural and biosocial perspectives on children (3-5). Child marriage is often synonymous with early marriage, which is defined as a marriage of a girl or boy before the age of 18 according to The United Nations Children's Fund. An

estimated 650 million girls and women worldwide are married before the age of 18 (6).

Factors influencing child marriage include customary and cultural beliefs about women and girls in some societies, religious laws, livelihoods and patriarchy, low level of education (7), low social and economic status of the family, excitement and love of adolescence (8), gender inequality (9), emergencies caused by disasters including war and its consequences such as migration and human trafficking (10).

It is known that that early marriage is associated with irreversible consequences physically, socially and psychologically in all human dimensions (11). It leads to dropping out of school (12), sexual violence (13), social isolation (14) and unwanted pregnancy and its subsequent complications (15). These people, despite not going through the puberty, are forced to accept great responsibilities and experience it (11). Despite the global focus on child marriage negative impacts to the rights and well-being of girls, evidence shows that there is still no area on the way to achieving the fifth goal of sustainable development, i.e., gender equality and ending child marriage, early and forced marriages by 2030 (6).

Currently, there are few bibliometric studies on the subject of child marriage. Considering the need for evidence on the global trend of child marriage research, the aim of the present study is to provide an overview of bibliometric studies on previous child marriage articles to understand their progress from 1990 to 2022.

## II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

A cross-sectional study was designed to analyze the Bibliometric related to child marriage.