

**PRAXIS OF GENDER INEQUALITY: CROSS CULTURAL STUDY OF INDIA AND  
YEMEN**

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**Abstract:**

According to UNICEF offering girl's basic education means giving them much greater power and enabling them to make genuine choices to live their better life. The convention on the rights of the child and the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women establish for basic human rights. Seth et.al (2018), conducted qualitative case studies and explore that patriarchy, coercion, social customs, and norms were identified as major social determinants. The two cases demonstrate that social norms influence intergenerational norms and lead to uninformed decision-making and child marriage. In low- and middle-income countries, medical professionals should urgently address child marriage as a major public health problem. Primary care physicians and medical professionals should implement preventive measures and provide anticipatory guidance to prevent child marriage. Basic aim of the study was to compare the cross cultural practices and gender discrimination in the context of marriage and education in India and Yemen. Exploratory and descriptive design was used. Self structures interview schedule was used and sample was selected by using non probability with purposive sampling.

**Keywords:** *Gender equality, India, Yemen, Culture, Child marriage*

**Introduction:**

Gender discrimination not only restricts girl's abilities to accumulate human social and productive assets, limiting their future educational and employment opportunities, but also hinders their well being and diminishes their self belief (UNICEF, 2020).

Yemen, the poorest country in the Middle East, is beset by high unemployment, widespread corruption and rampant human rights abuse. These abuses include child marriages, which are widespread (Human Rights Watch 2011). Child marriage is global issue found in various cultures, religions and ethnicities. Every year, 12 millions girls marry before age of 18. In Yemen 32% and in India 27% girls married by 18 years and by 15 years in Yemen it was 9% and in India it was 7%. India is the seventh largest country by the area, the second most populous country and most populous democracy in the world. India had actively supported Yemen's independence from the British. India was one of the first countries to recognize Yemen Arab Republic (YAR) in 1962 and People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) in 1967. In 1990, YAR and PDRY merged to become Republic of Yemen.

There is high influence of cultural and religious norms and poor enforcement of legislation prevent Yemeni women from having equal rights to men. Child marriage is one of the biggest threats to young girls in Yemen. It often prevents them from getting an education and following their dreams (Dr. Janni & Dr. Mariel, 2012). Women education rate in Yemen is very low and there is huge disparity between the boys and girls and between rural and urban area. Early marriage is major cause in rural area which leads to high dropout rate (Al-Kamel Mohammad 2018).

According to the UNFPA 2004 report, sex-selective abortion and female infanticide have resulted in at least 60 million "missing" girls in Asia. Study shows that there is a need for effective policies and programmes to end the practice of child marriage and targeted intervention should be made to improve nutritional outcomes of children born to women married in childhood. (Paul et.al 2019)

In January 2014, Yemen's National Dialogue Conference, a 565 -member forum created to establish the building blocks of new Constitution, recommended that the government set the minimum age for marriage at 18 in accordance with international standards. The political crisis in Yemen has paralysed parliamentary action on this and many other legislative reforms. A powerful group of

conservative parliamentarians have opposed setting a minimum age for marriage, arguing that it will be led to immorality, undermine family values and contradict Sharia law. During its 2014 Universal Periodic Review, Yemen's Minister of Human Rights was commended on taking an active stance against child marriage. Yemen Organisation for Combating Human Trafficking runs a community-led awareness project on the harmful consequences of child marriage in Yemen-Sana'a, but recent conflict has made it challenging to continue. The Safe Age of Marriage project was piloted in 2009 in Amran Governorate. The project covered communities in Al-Swad and Al-Soodeh districts, where only 8% of girls aged 15-17 attended school. The Danish Refugee Council has worked with community leaders in Saada to raise awareness about the dangers of the child marriage.

To mitigate the problem of child marriage 'The Extending Service Delivery Project in partnership with BHS and YWU has implemented community based pilot intervention called 'Safe Age of Marriage' in Al-Sawd and Al-Soodah district in Yemen's Amran Governorate. The intervention has aimed to foster change in social norms and communities attitude to early marriage, promote the girl's education and advance the rights of the girl child. Results shows that there was an 18% increase in awareness about the benefits of delaying marriage and 16% increase agreement that there is relationship between early marriage and early pregnancy and child bearing. The Ministry of Religious Affairs in Amran asked all religious leaders to disseminate messages on the health and social consequences of child marriage in their Friday sermons. Meanwhile, community members began mobilizing to build a girls' school and hire female teachers, successfully nominated a female community educator to become a school principle.

Tzemach Gayel (2014) highlights in the book that Child marriage harms women and girls: it is practice that disrupts a child bride's educational and economic opportunities, raises her chances of exposure to violence and abuse, and threatens her health and health of her children and ultimately hampers progress towards nearly every international development goal.

Parab and Bose (2016), highlighted that, there is a higher incidence of child brides as a proportion of the total women in the urban areas than in the rural areas. Various districts in the states of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Rajasthan have a higher concentration of child brides. The comparative statistic has revealed a result that shows the incidence of Buddhists and Muslims higher in the urban areas, and the Buddhists surpassing the Hindus in the same.

Jamel & Joshi (2020) highlighted that there are a few states where the prevalence of early marriage is reported high due to high preference of cultural and social values to marry off daughters before attaining puberty.

UNICEF (2017) key findings shows that are outlined within the framework of the UNFPA UNICEF programs five outcomes are Adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage are better able to express and exercise their choices. Households demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviours regarding gender equality and equity. Relevant sectoral systems deliver quality and cost-effective services to meet the needs of adolescent girls. National laws, policy framework and mechanisms to protect and promote adolescent girls' rights are in line with international standards and properly resourced. Governments support and promote the generation and use of robust data and evidence to inform programme design, track progress and document lessons.

### **Objectives of the Study:**

- To compare and analyse the cross cultural practices of marriage and its effects on education of women in India and Yemen.
- To study the forms of gender inequality in the context of marriage and education in India and Yemen.
- To explore the vulnerability and effect on reproductive health due to early marriage.

### **Research design:**

Exploratory and Descriptive research design will be used to conduct the investigation. Feelings and dreams of women about their life which were not fulfilled due to their early marriage and its effect on their reproductive health will be explored.

Various characteristics of cultural life of women such as social, economic condition, education, cultural practices, traditions, etc. will be described.

**Sampling design:**

India and Yemen these two countries are universe of the study. In Yemen Al jawf and Al-Baidah villages will be selected and In India from Maharashtra Latur, Beed and Usmanabad these three districts will be selected as sample frame.

Total two hundred women will be sample size and only such women included in the study those married before eighteen years of age.

**Sampling Method:** Non Probability sampling method with purposive sampling method will be used to collect the data. Sample will be collected from total twenty four villages, where prevalence of child marriage is more.

**Tools for data collection:**

Majority of respondents are illiterate or having only primary level of education hence Interview schedule will be used to collect the data in detail and observation and Focus Group Discussion will also be used to understand their feelings and expressions about their situation. Data was analysed in SPSS and independent ‘t’ test was applied to compare the cross culture.

**Data Analysis:**

**Table 1**  
**Age of Marriage of Women in India and Yemen**

Marriage age	Country		Total
	Yemen	India	
12-14	17	8	25
15-17	76	64	140
18-19	7	28	35
Total	100	100	200

Independent t test

Marriage age	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
	F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
								Lower	Upper
Equal variances assumed	.471	.493	5.249	198	.000	-.96000	.18288	1.32064	-.59936
Equal variances not assumed			5.249	193.977	.000	-.96000	.18288	1.32069	-.59931

It was found that current average age of marriage of Indian women was 15 years and 14 years of Yemeni women. It was found there was a significant difference in age of marriage of two countries. More number of women was married between the age group of 15-17 years. It concludes that more number of child marriages was conducted in both countries.

**Table 2**  
**Number of Children of Women**

Number of Children	Country		Total
	Yemen	India	
0-3	11	28	39
4-7	50	69	119
8-11	39	3	42
	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>200</b>

Independent Samples Test

No of children	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
	F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
								Lower	Upper
Equal variances assumed	55.037	.000	8.712	198	.000	2.31000	.26515	1.78713	2.83287
Equal variances not assumed			8.712	136.623	.000	2.31000	.26515	1.78568	2.83432

It was found that Indian women had average two children and Yemeni women had four children. It was found there was a significant difference in number of children women had in two countries. More number of women had 4-7 children in both countries however Yemeni women also had 8-11 children.

**Table 3**  
**Education of Women**

Education	Country		Total
	Yemen	India	
Illiterate	21	2	23
Primary	26	26	52
secondary	43	68	111
Graduate	10	3	<b>13</b>
Postgraduate degree	0	1	<b>1</b>
Total	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>200</b>

Independent Samples Test

Education	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
	F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
								Lower	Upper
Equal variances assumed	33.107	.000	-2.423	198	.016	-.27000	.11142	-.48973	.05027
Equal variances not assumed			-2.423	169.315	.016	-.27000	.11142	-.48996	.05004

It was found that Indian and Yemeni women had average education at level of secondary. It was found there was a significant difference in educational level of women in two countries. More number of women had completed secondary level of education in both countries however more Yemeni women were illiterate compare to India.

**Table 4**  
**Type of marriage of women in India and Yemen**

Type of marriage	Country		Total
	Yemen	India	
Arranged marriage	62	78	140
Love marriage	2	7	9
Love+ decided	15	10	25
Forcibly	21	5	26
Total	100	100	200

Independent Samples Test

Type of marriage	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
	F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
								Lower	Upper

Equal variances assumed	50.659	.000	3.439	198	1	.53000	.15411	.22610	.83390
Equal variances not assumed			3.439	174.447	.001	.53000	.15411	.22585	.83415

It was found that in India and Yemen women maximum number of women had arrange marriage. It was found there was a significant difference in type of marriage of women in two countries. Compare to Yemen more women had love marriage and less number of women had forcibly marriage in India.

**Table 5**  
**Opinion of Women about the Opportunity to Select their Partner in India and Yemen**

Choose your partner	Country		Total
	Yemen	India	
Yes	18	29	47
No	82	71	153
Total	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>200</b>

Independent Samples Test

Choose your partner	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
	F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
								Lower	Upper
Equal variances assumed	13.908	.000	1.841	198	.067	.11000	.05976	-.00784	.22784
Equal variances not assumed			1.841	192.757	.067	.11000	.05976	-.00786	.22786

It was found that in India and Yemen women maximum number of women did not have choice to select their partner. It was found there was a significant difference in selection of partner in two countries. Compare to Yemen Indian more women had opportunity to select their partner.

**Table 6**  
**Information about Employment of Women in India and Yemen**

Nature of Employment	Country		Total
	Yemen	India	
Yes full time	0	29	29
Yes, part time	5	21	26
No, home maker	84	38	122
Runs a small business from home	11	12	23
Total	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>200</b>

Independent Samples Test

Nature of job	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
	F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
								Lower	Upper
Equal variances assumed	149.876	.000	6.637	198	.000	.73000	.10998	.51311	.94689
Equal variances not assumed			6.637	128.008	.000	.73000	.10998	.51238	.94762

It was found that in India maximum numbers of women were working in unorganised sector especially in farming compare to Yemen. It was found there was a significant difference in employment status of women in two countries. More number of women in Yemen were home maker.

**Table 7**  
**Information about Women used Family Planning Method in India and Yemen**

Use of family planning tools	Country		Total
	Yemen	India	
Yes	24	10	29
No	76	83	122
Other	0	07	23
Total	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>200</b>

Independent Samples Test

Use of Family Planning Tools	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
	F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
								Lower	Upper
Equal variances assumed	15.975	.000	-3.524	198	.001	-.21000	.05959	-.32750	-.09250
Equal variances not assumed			-3.524	197.717	.001	-.21000	.05959	-.32750	-.09250

It was found that in maximum numbers of women were not used any kind of family planning tool in both countries. More women in Yemen compare to India responded that they used family planning tool. It was found that there was a significant difference in use of family planning tools by women in two countries.

**Table 8**  
**Opinion of Women about Traditional Values Affects on Education in India and Yemen**

Do traditional values affect education?	Country		Total
	Yemen	India	
Yes	99	58	157
No	1	42	43
Total	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>200</b>

Independent Samples Test

Effect of traditional Values on education	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
	F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
								Lower	Upper

Equal variances assumed	1373.707	.000	-8.102	198	.001	-.41000	.05060	-.50979	-.31021
Equal variances not assumed			-8.102	107.034	.001	-.41000	.05060	-.51031	-.31021

It was found that in India and Yemen women maximum number of women had opinion those traditional values affects on education. It was found there was a significant difference in type of marriage of women in two countries. Compare to India more Yemeni women had opinion that culture affects on their education.

**Table 9**  
**Opinion of Women about of Interrelation between Religion and Education in India and Yemen**

Religion and education interrelated.	Country		Total
	Yemen	India	
Yes	37	89	126
No	63	11	74
Total	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>200</b>

Independent Samples Test

Effect of Traditional Values on Education	Levene's t-test for Equality of Means Test for Equality of Variances								
	F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
								Lower	Upper
Equal variances assumed	96.103	.000	8.993	198	.000	52000	.05782	.40597	.63403
Equal variances not assumed			8.993	169.689	.000	52000	.05782	.40586	.63414

Significant difference found in opinion of women about effect of religion and education in India and Yemen. More Indian women felt that religion definitely affects on education while more Yemeni women felt that religion do not affects on education.

**Table 10**  
**Opinion of Women about of Their Feelings after Marriage in India and Yemen**

Feeling about the Marriage	India		Yemen	
	N	Percent	N	Percent
Happy	60	55.6%	15	13.39%
Neutral	20	18.5%	56	50%
Angry	10	9.3%	17	15.17%
Feeling sad	18	16.7%	24	21.42%
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>100%</b>

Multiple Choice Answers

The above table shows that there was significant difference found in both countries that maximum Indian women felt happy after marriage because they had full consent for marriage and maximum Yemeni women felt neutral after marriage because they more believe on socialization made by parents and accept their decision. Very few Indian women felt angry because spouse is totally stranger and love imposed on her and very few Yemeni women felt happy after marriage. Women felt sad after marriage 18(16.7%) and 24(21.42%) in India and Yemen respectively because they want to complete their education.

**Table 11**  
**Opinion of Women about Their Feelings When Compared with Unmarried Relatives or Friends in India and Yemen**

Feelings when compared to unmarried relatives				
Education completed	12	11.0%	5	4.90%
Education remained incomplete	59	54.1%	56	54.90%
Entered from extended family to nuclear family	23	21.1%	3	2.94%
Entered from nuclear family to joint family	15	13.8%	38	37.25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>100%</b>

Multiple Choice Answers

The above table shows feelings of women from both country when they compare their life with their unmarried relatives or friends. Maximum number of women from both countries had strong feeling that their education remains incomplete. 12(11 percent) and 5(4.90 percent) women respondent from India and Yemen felt that they were able to complete education after marriage. More women respondent from India entered into nuclear family in contrast Yemeni women had reported that they entered in joint family.

**Table 12**  
**Opinion of Women about Effect of Education on Marriage in India and Yemen**

		India		Yemen	
		N	Percent	N	Percent
positive/negative effect on marriage	yes, due to As my education more than my husband husband I get more love and respect respect in in my family.	31	27.2%	7	6.6%
	Due to lack of education I get low quality treatment	30	26.3%	12	11.42%
	All family responsibilities given to me	53	46.5%	86	81.90%
Total		114	100.0%	105	100

Multiple choice answers

The above table shows how education affects on life of women positively or negatively. Maximum women from both countries highlighted that all family responsibilities given to them after marriage. Compare to Yemen, Indian 31(27.2 percent) women reported that they had higher education than their husband they get more love and respect in family. Even 30(26.3 percent) from India and 12(11.42 percent) women were reported that due to lack of education they got low quality treatment.

**Table 13**  
**Feelings of Women about Situation of Women After Marriage in India and Yemen**

		India		Yemen	
		N	Percent	N	Percent
Happened to marriage	Dream came true	32	32%	18	18%
	Dreams were shattered.	68	68%	82	82%
Total		100	100.0%	100	100%

Multiple choice answers

The above table highlighted about feelings of women about their situation after marriage. Maximum women both countries reported that their dreams were shattered i.e. 68 percent in India and 82 percent in Yemen.

It concludes that early marriages ruined dreams of women.

**Table 14**  
**Opinion of Women about the Changes Found in Themselves After Marriage in India and Yemen**

		India		Yemen	
		N	Percent	N	Percent
How has marriage changed you?	Became very patient	58	35.4%	63	63 %
	Became frugal	48	29.3%	19	19%
	Became forgiving	21	12.8%	12	12%
	Habits Changed	37	22.6%	6	6%
Total		164	100.0%	100	100

Multiple choice answers

The above table describes about changes found in women after marriage in both countries. Maximum women reported that they become very patient after marriage. Compare to India more Yemeni women become tolerant. Compare to Yemen 19 percent Indian women 49 (29.3 percent) reported that they became frugal. 21 (22.6 percent) Indian women and 12 percent Yemeni women revealed that they became forgiving after marriage. Compare to Yemeni women 6 percent Indian women 37(22.6 percent) stated that their habits have changed. Compare to Yemen Indian women were belonging to low socio economic group thus change their habits and became frugal. Due to patriarchy in both countries women became patient.

**Table 15**  
**Health Issues of Women after Delivery in India and Yemen**

	India		Yemen	
	N	Percent	N	Percent
Bleeding	59	39.9%	88	84.61%
Vaginal pain	37	25.0%	10	8.4%
Breastfeeding questions.	34	23.0%	1	0.84%
Other...	18	12.2%	5	4.23%
Total	148	100.0%	104	100%

a. Dichotomy group tabulated at value 1.

The above table describes about health issues of women faced after delivery. More women from Yemen (84.6%) had bleeding issues compare to India. Vaginal pain was more in India (23%) in women after delivery.

### Findings:

It concludes that more number of child marriages was conducted in India and Yemen too. It was found that average age of marriage in India was 15 years and in Yemen it was 15 years.

Due to early marriage women in both countries had average 4 to 7 children. However independent t test applied which shows statistical difference  $t(198) = 8.712, p= 0.000$  in both countries that 39% Yemeni women had 8-11 children.

More number of women in both countries were not using any family planning method. It shows statistical difference  $t(198) = -3.524, p= 0.001$

Significant difference was found in educational status of women. 21% Yemeni women were illiterate and no one postgraduate Average education of women in both countries was secondary education. Levene's Test for Equality of Variances found to be significant. ( $f = 33.107, p=0.000$ ).

Maximum number of women in both countries did not had choice to select their partner as they had arrange marriage. 21% Yemeni women reported that they had forcible marriage. Levene's Test for Equality of Variances shows statistically significant ( $f = 50.659, p=0.000$ ). 50% women from Yemen were neutral not very happy with their marriage compare to Indian women

Due to early marriage education and economic independency affected. It shows statistical difference  $t(198) = 6.637, p= 0.000$  that compare to India 84% percent Yemeni women were homemaker. Indian women are working in farming which is unorganised sector.

Women from both countries had strong opinion that culture and religion affects on their education and shows statistical significant Levene's Test for Equality of Variances shows statistically significant ( $f = 1373.70, p=0.000$ ). Thus had feeling about education remain incomplete and reported that their dreams were shattered

Status of women in their family depends on their education. Women those had more education than husband get love and respect in family. Those who were not much educated got low treatment in

family. Maximum women from both countries were reported that all family responsibilities were given in the family.

Maximum women described that due to early marriage and family responsibilities their habits have changed and they become very patient.

Women had faced a lot of health issues after delivery due to early marriage.

### **Conclusion:**

Gender discrimination in India and Yemen shows its effect on education and health. It shows statistical difference in both countries in the context of marriage age, education, employment, type of marriage, number of children and effect on the emotions of women. There is need to create awareness about gender equality at global level too.

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