

Evaluation of Early Marriage in Istanbul, Türkiye: Investigation of Cases Adjudicated in Bakırköy Assize Courts

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Abstract

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Objective: Early marriages are a major global problem with serious implications for individual and societal development and public health. Early marriages are recognized as a form of child sexual abuse.

Methods: In our study, 150 case files related to the crime of early marriage and child sexual abuse that were concluded by Istanbul Bakırköy Assize Courts between January 1, 2011, and December 31, 2015 were examined retrospectively.

Results: The analysis showed that all 150 victims were female and all 150 spouse defendants were male. A total of 92 parents of the victims were tried for aiding and abetting the crime in question. Almost victims and spouse defendants were found to be primary school graduates. In all examined cases, the victims and the defendants had a religious marriage, and in 90% of cases, the marriage was revealed and became subject to a lawsuit after being reported by a hospital.

Conclusion: Although early marriages are largely driven by deep-rooted socio-cultural factors, low educational attainment was identified as a major contributing factor. Improving educational attainment is a key strategy in preventing early marriages. Legal arrangements that support and promote children's continued education should be implemented children to continue their education should be made, and initiatives aimed at raising awareness among both children and parents on the topic should be carried out with the support of public institutions and social media.

Keywords: Child Sexual Abuse; Early Marriage; Child Marriage; Developing Countries

Özet

İstanbul'da erken evliliklerin değerlendirilmesi: Bakırköy Ağır Ceza Mahkemelerinde görülmüş davaların incelenmesi

Amaç: Erken evlilikler, bireysel ve toplumsal gelişim ile halk sağlığı üzerinde ciddi sonuçlar doğuran önemli bir küresel sorundur. Erken evlilikler, çocuk cinsel istismarının bir türü olarak kabul edilmektedir.

Yöntem: Bu çalışmada, 1 Ocak 2011 – 31 Aralık 2015 tarihleri arasında İstanbul Bakırköy Ağır Ceza Mahkemelerinde sonuçlanmış, erken evlilik ve çocuk cinsel istismarı suçlarına ilişkin 150 dava dosyası retrospektif olarak incelenmiştir.

Bulgular: Dosyaların incelenmesi sonucunda, 150 mağdurun tamamının kadın, 150 eş olan sanığın tamamının ise erkek olduğu saptanmıştır. Toplam 92 mağdur ebeveyn, söz konusu suça yardım ve yataklık etmekten yargılanmıştır. Mağdurların ve eş olan sanıkların neredeyse tamamının ilkökul mezunu olduğu belirlenmiştir. İncelenen tüm olgularda mağdurlar ile eş olan sanıklar arasında dini nikâh bulunduğu, olguların %90'ında ise evliliğin bir hastane bildirimi sonrasında ortaya çıkarak adli sürece konu olduğu tespit edilmiştir.

Sonuç: Erken evlilikler, büyük ölçüde köklü sosyokültürel faktörlerden kaynaklanmakla birlikte, düşük eğitim düzeyi de önemli bir belirleyici olarak saptanmıştır. Eğitim düzeyinin artırılması, erken evliliklerin önlenmesinde temel bir strateji olarak değerlendirilmektedir. Çocukların eğitimlerine devam etmesini destekleyen yasal düzenlemeler yapılmalı ve kamu kurumları ile sosyal medyanın desteğiyle hem çocuklar hem de ebeveynler arasında farkındalık artırıcı çalışmalar yürütülmelidir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Çocuk Cinsel İstismarı; Erken Evlilik; Çocuk Evliliği; Gelişmekte Olan Ülkeler

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INTRODUCTION

All marriages before the age of 18 years, which marks the completion of physical and psychological development, are defined as “early marriages” or “child marriages” (1-3). In Türkiye, child sexual abuse is regulated under the Turkish Penal Code (TPC). According to Article 103, all sexual acts involving children under the age of 15 are considered sexual abuse regardless of consent. For individuals aged 15–18, sexual acts may still be considered a criminal offense depending on the presence of coercion, threat, or the inability of the child to comprehend the legal consequences of the act. Therefore, early marriages involving individuals under the age of 18 may fall within the legal framework of child sexual abuse and should be evaluated from both social and medico-legal perspectives.

According to UNICEF, every year, at least 12 million girls are married before they reach the age of 18 years, and if no action is taken, more than 120 million girls will become child brides by 2030 (4). Sub-Saharan Africa (Niger, Central African Republic, and Chad) is the most affected region, where 32% of global early marriages occur, followed by Eastern and Southern Asia with 30%. In the European region, 15% of women in Türkiye, 14% in Georgia, and 12% in Moldova were married before the age of 18 (5).

The legal age of marriage varies between 11 and 21 years worldwide. The marriageable age is 16 years or less in more than 50 countries (4-6), while it is 11 years in Nigeria and 13 years in Iran; in countries such as Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and Yemen, no specific legal age is defined (2,4,5). In Türkiye, according to the Civil Code, the marriageable age is 18. When individuals turn 17, they can marry with the consent of their parents. In exceptional cases, a judge may allow an individual who has reached the age of 16 to marry. The prevalence and causes of early marriages vary across cultures and social contexts. Poverty, lack of education, customs, prejudices toward premarital sex, and the perception that honor is directly linked to women's bodies, as well as pregnancy outside of marriage, have been shown to contribute to early marriages (2,7,8). Early marriages are accompanied by different social concepts such as bride exchange, traditions, and dowry. Bride exchange is the marriage of a woman and a man in one family with a woman and a man in another, as a decision of the family's elders, thus making an exchange (9). Dowry, on the contrary, is money, property, or other forms of wealth bestowed upon the man or his family by the family of the woman he intends to marry (10,11). Traditions are behaviors and practices adopted by individuals in a specific group or region and passed down from generation to generation (12,13).

Many international conventions, such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Istanbul Convention, aim to address and eliminate the problem of early marriages (14). Although there is a global decrease in early marriages owing to the actions taken (from one out of every four children in the past decade to one out of every five children today), they are still prevalent. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals call for urgent global action to eliminate child marriages by 2030 (4). Articles 32, 37, and 59 of the Istanbul Convention include regulations that parties need to implement to eliminate forced early marriages. These articles emphasize the necessity to protect all victims' legal rights in any case, take all legal and other measures against the crime of forced early marriage, and punish those responsible (15,16).

In order to prevent the early marriage of girls, a prevalent problem worldwide, studies on the regional reasons for such marriages need to be carried out. Our study aims to investigate the cases of early marriage in Istanbul, a city that receives significant internal migration from different parts of Türkiye, and the variables associated with these cases.

METHOD

As part of this study, files of 150 relevant cases tried by the Istanbul Bakırköy Assize Courts between January 1, 2011, and December 31, 2015, were examined retrospectively. The study period was determined to ensure that all cases had completed judicial processes, including final decisions by the Court of Cassation, and because access to complete case files was available for this period. The cases were about child sexual abuse through early religious marriages.

In Türkiye, Assize Courts are responsible for dealing with cases related to certain crimes defined in Turkish Penal Code (TPC) and cases related to crimes that require aggravated life imprisonment, life imprisonment, and imprisonment exceeding ten years.

In the judicial case files, individuals were referred to as “plaintiffs” and “defendants” in accordance with legal terminology. However, for the purpose of clarity and consistency with medico-legal literature, the term “victim” is used in this study to refer to the female individuals, and “defendant” is used for the accused individuals.

The written permission of the Board of Judges and Prosecutors and the Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal University Ethics Committee was obtained, dated April 19, 2022, and June 28, 2022, and numbered 574 and 2022-170, respectively.

The data obtained from the files (the nature of the marriages, the socio-demographic characteristics of the victims and the defendants, and the punishments of those found guilty) were recorded in a data form. The data obtained were evaluated using the IBM SPSS Statistics version 20.0 package software. The socio-demographic characteristics of the study group were presented with descriptive statistical measures such as number, percentage, and standard deviation (SD). The conformity of continuous data to a normal distribution was evaluated using the Shapiro–Wilk test. Chi-square and Mann-Whitney U tests were performed in the analysis of the data. The statistical significance value was taken as $p < 0.05$.

RESULTS

In the study, all victims (100%) were found to be female. The victims' ages ranged from 12 to 18 years, with an average of 16.1 (± 1.4) and a median of 16, and 22 victims were below the age of 15 (14.6%). The ages of the spouse defendants ranged from 18 to 57 years, with an average of 24.4 (± 8.7) and a median of 23. The mean age of the spouse defendants was higher than that of the victims ($z = 12.702$; $p < 0.001$). In all 150 examined cases, the victims were female, and the spouse defendants were male. It was found that in the examined lawsuits for child sexual abuse through early marriage, the victims' parents and the defendants were also prosecuted, increasing the number of defendants in the cases. The total number of defendants in the examined cases was 242. All spouse defendants (100%) were male. No statistically significant difference was found between the victims' and spouse defendants' education levels ($p = 0.723$). The mean ages of the victims and defendants are compared in Table 1, and their socio-demographic characteristics are compared in Table 2.

Table 1. Comparison of the mean ages of the study group

	Age		Statistical analysis z; p
	Average (SD)	Median (Q1–Q3)	
Victims	16.1 (1.4)	16.0 (15.0–17.0)	12.761; 0.000
Spouse defendants	24.4 (8.7)	23.0 (18.0–27.0)	

Of the examined cases, 47 (31.3%) had two defendants, 29 (19.3%) had three, 12 (8%) had four, and 4 (2.7%) had five defendants. The gender distribution of the non-spouse defendants is given in Figure 1. The ages of the non-spouse defendants ranged from 19 to 75, with an average of 41.0 (± 12.1).

It was found that 43 (28.7%) of the victims were born in the Eastern Anatolia Region, and 43 (28.7%) of the spouse

defendants were born in the Eastern Anatolia and Black Sea regions. It was observed that 112 (74.7%) of the victims and spouse defendants were born in the same region. No statistically significant difference was found between the victims and spouse defendants in terms of their place of birth ($p = 0.489$). The comparison of the birthplaces of the victims and spouse defendants is given in Table 3.

Table 2. Socio-demographic characteristics of the study group

Features		n (%)
Victims' education level	Primary School	147 (98.0)
	Middle school–High school	3 (2.0)
Spouse defendants' education level	Primary School	145 (96.7)
	Middle school–High school	5 (3.3)
Victims' employment status	Employed	2 (1.3)
	Not employed	148 (98.7)
Spouse defendants' employment status	Employed	150 (100.0)
	Not employed	0 (0.0)
Total		150 (100.0)

Table 3. Comparison of the birthplaces of the victims and spouse defendants

Birthplace region	Victims n (%)	Spouse defendants n (%)	Statistical analysis Chi- square; p
Eastern Anatolia	43 (28.7)	43 (28.7)	5.440; 0.489
Black Sea	38 (25.3)	43 (28.7)	
Southeastern Anatolia	30 (20.0)	37 (24.6)	
Marmara	22 (14.7)	18 (12.0)	
Central Anatolia	12 (8.0)	4 (2.7)	
Aegean and Mediterranean	5 (3.3)	5 (3.3)	
Total	150 (100.0)	150 (100.0)	

It was determined that 133 (88.67%) of the victims had a religious marriage with their spouses without a wedding ceremony, and 143 (95.3%) of them became pregnant. The

marriage and pregnancy status of the victims are given in Table 4.

Table 4. Marriage and pregnancy status of the victims

Features		n (%)
Pregnancy status	Yes	143 (95.3)
	No	7 (4.7)
Marriage status	Religious wedding without a ceremony	133 (88.67)
	Religious marriage with a ceremony	17 (11.33)
Total		150 (100.0)

It was found that 1 (0.66%) victim was involved in a bride exchange marriage and 6 (4%) victims were married in return for dowry. Additionally, 14 (9.3%) victims were over the age of 15 but did not have the capacity to understand the legal meaning and consequences of the act, and 1 (0.66%) victim did not provide consent.

Table 5. Distribution of sentences for co-defendants

Type of penalty		n (%)
Dismissal of the case		102 (68.0)
Acquittal/Exoneration		11 (7.3)
0–2 years		4 (2.7)
4–6 years		18 (12.0)
6–8 years		8 (5.3)
≥ 8 years		7 (4.7)
Total		150 (100.0)
Good conduct/Regret abatement	Yes	34 (22.7)
	No	116 (77.3)
Total		150 (100.0)

It was determined that in 135 (90%) of the files, the process that initiated the litigation was a report from a hospital, and none of the defendants had a criminal record. It was found that 34 (22.7%) of the spouse defendants received reasonable conduct/regret abatement, 37 (24.7%) were sentenced to

prison, and 102 (68.0%) cases were dismissed. The distribution of the sentences of the spouse defendants is given in Table 5.

It was found that 12 (13.0%) of the 92 non-spouse defendants were sentenced to imprisonment. It was determined that spouse defendants were sentenced to prison for over four years more frequently than the other defendants in the study group ($p < 0.001$). The comparison of the duration of the prison sentences of the defendants in the study group is given in Table 6.

Table 6. Comparison of the duration of the prison sentences of the defendants in the study group

Sentence	Defendant		Statistical Analysis Chi-square; p
	Spouse defendants	Other defendants	
<4 years	4 (10.8)	9 (75.0)	20.120; 0.000
4–6 years	18 (48.6)	3 (25.0)	
>6 years	15 (40.5)	0 (0.0)	

DISCUSSION

Our findings indicate that early marriage is an essential unresolved issue in Türkiye. A report prepared by the Turkish Statistical Institute, entitled Children with Statistics, stated that the proportion of official marriages involving girls aged 16–17 decreased from 7.3% in 2007 to 1.6% in 2024 (17). Although the decrease in the prevalence of detectable early marriage is encouraging, the Turkish Statistical Institute data does not include the early marriages of children under 15 years, which take place unofficially. One of the strengths of our study is that data regarding unofficial marriages were collected from the examined case files, and the evaluations were conducted accordingly.

In our study, the mean age of the victims was 16.1 (± 1.4), and that of the spouse defendants were 24.4 (± 8.7). The mean age difference between the defendants and the victims was 8.4 (± 8.8) years. In a Turkish study carried out in Mardin province with the participation of women aged 15–49 years, it was reported that 56.1% of the participants got married during adolescence. The mean age of marriage of the participants who had an early marriage was 16.1 (± 1.5) years. The age difference between approximately 70% of the participants and their spouses was less than nine years (18). In the study carried out by Efevbera et al. in 35 Sub-Saharan African countries, it was found that 55% of the participants got married before the age of 18, the median marriage age of those who had an early marriage was 15, the median

age of their partners was 40, and the median age difference between the partners was eight years (19). Similar results were reported in another relevant study conducted in Iran (20). In another study conducted in Erzurum, Türkiye, it was found that in judicial cases where individuals applied to have an early marriage, the mean age difference was 6.1 (± 2.8) years (21). This finding may suggest that a considerable age difference between partners is a common feature of early marriages and may reflect a power imbalance and increased vulnerability of the child involved.

“Education” appears as an essential factor among both the causes and consequences of early marriages (22). Our study found that 98% of the victims and 96.7% of the spouse defendants were primary school graduates. Different studies found that the higher the education level is, the higher the age of the first marriage is (19, 23, 24). In a study conducted by UNFPA in developing countries in 2012, it was reported that girls with no education were three times more likely, and girls who only completed primary school were twice as likely, to have an early marriage compared to those with secondary/high school education (25). In a study conducted in Diyarbakır in Türkiye in 2005, it was reported that 67.8% of participants who had married at an early age were illiterate (26). In another Turkish study, the rate of early marriage was found to be 33.6% among women with no education and 12% among women with the highest education level (27). In their study, Ahonsi et al. reported that the probability of getting married at an early age was about four times higher in those without formal education. In the qualitative part of the same study, when participants were asked about the reasons for postponing marriage, they stated that “they have academic goals” and “marrying at an early age would both negatively influence their academic lives and impact their academic success” (28). Studies have shown a two-way relationship between education and early marriage. Those who do not receive formal education are more likely to marry at an early age, while the educational activities of those who marry early are interrupted.

Socioeconomic factors are among the main determinants of early marriages, especially in developing countries. Financial concerns, poverty, the thought that childcare costs will be eliminated thanks to early marriage and securing the child's future are among the reasons that push parents to marry their children at an early age (20, 29, 30). Marriage pre-conditions such as dowry and bride exchange represent a view that sees children as a source of income. In our study, a small proportion of cases involved bride exchange or dowry practices, which may reflect the influence of traditional socio-cultural factors in early marriage. Different studies reported that reasons such as poverty and the perception of girls as an asset in solving financial problems are among the prominent

reasons for early marriages (20, 28, 31).

Early marriages undermine the educational backgrounds of women and consequently, their professional lives and ability to earn money (32). World Bank data show that girls who married at an early age earn 9% less later in adulthood than their peers who did not have an early marriage (22). Our study found that only 2 (1.3%) of the victims had a job, while all the spouse defendants (100%) were employed. It was also found that 95.3% of the victims in our study were pregnant. In the study of Montazeri et al. in Iran, it was reported that none of the girls who were married at an early age were employed (20). In a study conducted by Aychiluhm et al. in Ethiopia, it was found that unemployment was more prevalent among those who married at a young age than among those who did not. The same study concluded that employment was higher among those who did not have an early marriage, and those who married at an early age were more prevalently agricultural or day laborers than those who did not (1). These findings suggest that early marriage should not be considered solely as an individual phenomenon, but rather as a multifaceted socio-economic issue with significant implications for women's education, employment, and reproductive health.

In Türkiye, the prevalence of early marriages varies by geographical region. Relevant studies show that Southeastern Anatolia and Eastern Anatolia are the regions where the problem is most prevalent (29, 33). In our study, upon examining the birthplaces of the victims and the defendants, the regions with the highest number of early marriage cases were found to be Eastern Anatolia (28.7% of victims and spouse defendants), Black Sea (25.3% of the victims and 28.7% of the spouse defendants), and Southeastern Anatolia (20% of the victims and 24.7% of the spouse defendants). In parallel with the literature, the number of early marriage cases was high in the Eastern Anatolia and Southeastern Anatolia regions. In our study based in Istanbul, a province in the Marmara Region, the victims and defendants were found to be predominantly from Eastern Anatolia, Southeastern Anatolia, and the Black Sea regions because of internal migration from the eastern regions to the western regions of Türkiye. In this study, no significant difference was found between the victims and the defendants in terms of the regions where they were born, and the rate of marrying an individual from the same region was calculated to be 74.7%. It is suggested that the similarity of the socio-cultural structures and customs and traditions (fellow townsmanship, bridal exchange, dowry) in the same region, the motivation to keep these practices alive, and the ease of social acceptance of illegal marriages among individuals from the same region play a significant role in the mentioned phenomenon.

Child pregnancies, miscarriages, and births occur due to early marriages. In developing countries, 7.3 million females under 18 give birth every year (3,34,35). Early pregnancies lead to many health problems and endanger girls' lives (36). Worldwide, complications related to pregnancies and childbirth are among the leading causes of death in girls aged 15–19 years (22, 34). Our study found that 143 (95.3%) of the 150 victims became pregnant after marriage, with the earliest gestational age being 14 years. In a study conducted in Erzurum, Türkiye, it was reported that 48.7% of 39 girls who filed lawsuits were pregnant when they filed the lawsuit (21). The 2018 Turkey Demographic and Health Survey (2018 TDHS) reported that 5.1% of women in the 15–19 age group were married, and 3.5% had experienced pregnancy (37). Considering that most cases examined as a part of our study were reported by hospitals where the victims sought medical attention for reasons related to pregnancy, it is natural that the pregnancy rate among the victims in the study group is high. Early marriage is associated with significant short- and long-term consequences, including increased maternal and neonatal health risks, interruption of education, limited employment opportunities, and long-term socioeconomic disadvantages. These outcomes highlight the importance of addressing early marriage not only as a legal issue but also as a major public health and social concern.

Most people living in the Republic of Turkey are Muslims (38). Most couples have both a “religious marriage” and a civil marriage. The Turkish legal system aimed to prevent unofficial early religious marriages by making it compulsory to present a civil marriage certificate before performing a religious marriage. The Constitutional Court of Türkiye decided to annul the provisions of the TPC that imposed penalties on those who perform a religious marriage without a civil marriage license, finding the said provisions unconstitutional (39). However, there is a need for criminal sanctions against couples and officials who perform a religious marriage before a civil marriage ceremony. The absence of criminal sanctions against religious marriages without a civil marriage paves the way for early marriages. Our study found that all 150 victims (100%) were married at an early age through religious marriage.

Early marriage of girls without a civil marriage is considered a type of child sexual abuse. According to Article 103 of the TPC, “Sexual molestation covers the following acts; a) All kinds of sexual attempts against children who are under the age of 15 or against those attained the age of 15 but cannot understand the legal consequences of such act, b) Sexual behaviors committed against other children by force, threat, fraud or another reason affecting the willpower.” In Article 104, titled “Sexual intercourse between/with persons

not attained the lawful age,” the Law states that “Any person who had sexual intercourse with a child who reached the age of 15, without using force, threat, and fraud, is sentenced to a term of imprisonment from two years to five years upon the filing of a complaint.” As it can be inferred from the TPC, the defendants are not punished in case of consent of children who have completed the age of 15 and who can perceive the meaning and consequences of the act. In the Law, the imposition of a sentence is conditional on complaint (38). As per TPC Article 104, cases are dropped and end in acquittal when victimized women under the age of 18 who have completed the age of 15 do not file a complaint or declare that they have consented to sexual intercourse and have a religious marriage in line with the customs and traditions of the society. Community pressure, the superior social position of the accused compared to the victim, or the social influence of the accused will significantly reduce the possibility of victims filing official complaints. If the victim has not completed the age of 15 at the time of sexual intercourse, a lawsuit is filed without seeking consent. Our study found that the trials of 102 spouse defendants (68.0%) were dropped, and 11 defendants (7.3%) were acquitted because the victims were over the age of 15, did not file a complaint, and declared consent.

In the files examined as a part of our study, of 242 defendants, 150 (61.9%) were the spouses of the child brides, and 92 (38.1%) were accused of aiding and abetting the crime of child sexual abuse through early marriage. Our study concluded that the spouse defendants were sentenced to prison in only 37 (24.6%) of the 150 cases. The sentences of the non-spouse defendants who are tried for aiding and abetting the crime also depend on the sentence of the spouse defendant. As most of the victims were over the age of 15 and the child's consent is taken into consideration in such criminal cases, the number of defendants sentenced to prison is low. Similarly, the presence of cases in which victims lacked the capacity to understand the legal consequences or did not provide consent highlights the complexity of consent in early marriage cases. Whether the victims gave consent is affected by many socioeconomic and cultural factors. In child sexual abuse cases, it is essential to investigate whether the child has consented to the incident in an appropriate legal and pedagogical setting.

According to Article 62 of the TPC, discretionary mitigation, widely known as “good conduct abatement,” is implemented after evaluating the “background, social relations, and behavior of the offender after the offense and during the trial period, as well as the potential effects of the penalty on the future of the offender.” Our study found that 34 (91.8%) sentenced defendants received reasonable

conduct abatement. This hampers the deterrence of potential criminal sanctions and renders the duration of imprisonment insufficient to prevent the said crime (35).

Child marriages can remain clandestine due to both social pressure and consequent penalties. Therefore, their actual prevalence is yet to be understood. This makes it challenging to tackle the problem. In the Turkish legal system, the public and healthcare professionals are obligated to report such cases to the relevant authorities (22, 39). In our study group, 135 (90%) of the victims were identified as a result of the reports made by the hospital staff. Therefore, it is imperative to increase the awareness of key officials on the subject.

This study has several limitations. First, it is based on retrospective judicial case files from a single center, which may limit the generalizability of the findings. Second, only cases that were reported to judicial authorities and resulted in legal proceedings were included; therefore, early marriages that remained unreported are not represented in this study. Third, some variables may be underreported or incomplete due to the nature of legal documentation. Despite these limitations, the study provides valuable insights into the medico-legal aspects of early marriage cases.

CONCLUSION

As in the rest of the world, early marriages are a crucial issue in Türkiye. This problem may have severe implications for individuals and society in the short and long term. Legal measures should be undertaken to increase individuals' education levels, and other necessary actions should be taken to raise social awareness on the topic. Society should be further informed on the issue through the media. Public service announcements on the topic to be prepared by public institutions or non-governmental organizations should be broadcast, and social media campaigns should be utilized as a tool to raise awareness. This study highlights the importance of judicial data in understanding early marriage cases from a medico-legal perspective. The findings provide insight into the legal outcomes and socio-demographic characteristics of such cases, contributing to the limited literature in this field. Future studies should focus on multi-center and prospective designs to better evaluate causal relationships and to develop effective prevention strategies.

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The authors declare that they have no conflict of interests regarding content of this article.

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Ethical Declaration

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Authorship Contributions

Conceptualization: NC; Design: NC, FK; Supervision: ZZE, NC; Data Collection: FK; Analysis: EE, ZA; Writing – Original Draft: ZA, EE, FK; Critical Review: ZZE

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