



WOLKITE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

**THE CAUSE AND CONSEQUENCE OF DELAY IN MARRIAGE IN
URBAN AREA: THE CASE OF WOLKITE TOWN**

**A SENIOR ESSAY SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIOLOGY IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT FOR THE REQUIREMENT
OF BACHELOR OF ART DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY**

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Abstract

This research the aim of the study was to explore the cause and consequence of late in marriage among females in Gurage zone particularly in the case of wolkite town in 05 kebele. the general objective of this study was to explore the main cause of delay in marriage and its consequence among female residents of wolkite Town in 2015. And the specific objectives of the study were to know the cause of delay marriage, to comprehend explore the consequence of delay in marriage and to know the perception of unmarried women toward marriage. The research was conducted using qualitative research methodology, and the study employed a phenomenological research design and used purposive sampling techniques to get the informants. Both types and sources of data, primary data and secondary data, were employed in the study. The researchers employed in-depth interviews, key informant interviews, as data collection tools to gather information to attain research objectives. Data from the informant was analysed using thematic qualitative analytical research methods. The result of this research is that there are many factors for women's late marriage. One of the reasons for the finding was economic the others are family economic situation, cohabitation, their economic situation, family disintegration, waiting for the right person, to achieve their goal and the researches recommend- Government should create employment opportunities that improve the income of family. Awareness creation program should be practice about the consequence of late marriage. local authority whose work is related to marriage should discourage late marriage. it's better to marriage a right age because late marriage has negative impact on persons psychology.

Key Words: Marriage; Delay in Marriage; Economic Causes; Social Causes

ACRONYMS

UN-United Nation

HIV-human immune verse

USA-United States of America

NGO-non-governmental organization

SNNPR-South Nation Nationality and people's region

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CHAPTER ONE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Marriage is a relation between one or more persons (male or female) who recognized by society as having continuing claim to the right of sexual access to one another. Although in many societies husband and wife live together as member of some house hold but this is not true in all society and though most marriage around the world tend to involve single spouse, most society permit and record as the desirable marriage of one individual to multiple spouses (Bell, D.1997).

Over the past few decades, the age of marriage has been increasing in every region of the world for both men and women; furthermore, more than half of marriages occur after age 30 in many developed nations (Carroll, 2017).

Late marriage here refers to situations when a person who has reach the state of maturity in every facet of life that is; mentally, spiritually, financially and physically is not married probably as a result of unavailability of spouse or some other factors. De Lay in marriage is pushing the age at marriage in to the 30 and higher (Wedgate, 2021).

Late marriage has depicted the rising trend of pushing the age of marriage into the late 30s and higher, by personal preference and choice. Urban men and women equipped with good education and well-paid jobs are now more likely to postpone marriage. The long-held idea of 'marriageable age' has changed and it is confirmed by the latest statistics on marrying later in life. The average age for women getting married has increased from 18.3 years to 19.3 years as per the released data (Wedgate, 2021). Late marriage (above age 25) seems to be a common feature of modern western societies and Japan at the end of the 20th century, as well as some atypical Southern African societies (South Africa, Namibia, Botswana). Other developing countries and transitional societies seem to be in general in the 20–24 age band, with large variations at the individual level (UN yearbook; Singh and Samara 1996; Westoff, Blanc and Nyblade 1994, Althaus 1991).

In developed countries, the late marriage begins popular among people, and many people start not to give importance to marriage because of accepting pre-marital sex, priorities of women's and men's careers, and many other things. On the other hand, with the increase in career opportunities for both women and men, they do not want to have a baby or get married early or on time (Karamat,2016).

Late marriage is one of the prevailing universal trends where people decided to get married at later ages. Delay in marriage is an undeniable trend in the United States. By the early 1990s, median marriage age had risen to its highest level in the 20th century, both women and men. From the mid-1980s it has become increasingly evident that throughout several east and south East Asian counties the age of marriage has increase almost up to 25 years for women at their first marriage (leete, 1994).

In Kenya, the occurrence of late in marriage is high due to effective reasons for instance; education, premarital sex, unemployment. And delayed age at marriage directly affects completed fertility by reducing the number of years available for childbearing (Lawrence D.E. Ikamari).

Causes for delay in marriage or reasons nowadays many people delay their marriages because of education and career opportunities, globalization has a great effect. The advent of internet and TV has brought western culture to our door steps as peoples follow shows like friends, difficulty to find the right person, cohabitation many people believe that cohabitation before marriage declines the number of divorces; however, many researchers point out that cohabitation before marriage has historically been connected with greater probabilities of divorce (Carroll, 2017). Marriage rate decreases have usually accompanied by non-marital cohabitation and pre-marital childbearing (Maharaja & Shangase, 2020). So, people delay their marriage even if they are in a relationship, getting used to a single life, and becoming normal with pre-marital sex and living together. Due to this reason adults postpone their marriage age (maharaja & shangase, 2020).

Late marriage is a factor that has both positive and negative consequence. In positive consequence the adults have education and career opportunity, time for personal growth, martial stability and adjustment, good mental health, enjoy personal freedom for a long period of time, become sure of what kind of partner is right for you etc.(Karamat,2016 and (viteli,2017).and the

negative consequence of late in marriage has(decline in birth rate, generation gap between children and parents, late marriage and the risk of HIV/AIDS, the risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases and infections including HIV/AIDS is very high among never married people compared to currently married people based on the fact that they are more likely to change partner. Globally, HIV infects some 33 million people-half of them under the age of twenty-five and the number continues to rise 40 million abnormality in children and deficiency in pregnancy (kalani Karamat 2016).

Ethiopia is one of the most multi [culture, language, and religious] nation in Africa. In Ethiopia there are many ethnic groups with their own distinct Culture and marriage system (open journal of women's studies (Kibrom Berhane Guesses' 27 February 2020). Although the Ethiopian constitution explicitly states that "marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses" and the minimum legal age for marriage is 18 for both boys and girls, the laws are not always enforced.

In Ethiopia late marriage occur on adults due to different reasons determining age at first marriage, for example as mentioned above, many people delay their marriages because of economic, education and career opportunities, unemployment rate, increase living coast, difficulty to find the right person or weighting the right ones, lack of personal relationship stability, personal freedom, getting used to a single life, and becoming normal with pre-marital sex and living together, residing in urban (Ayalew and kassiem, 2011).in our country Ethiopia late marriage age is after 25.

Now days, and as it is possible to understand from studies, delay in marriage is becoming highly prevalent and topical issue in our country Ethiopia. Therefore, this study is intended to explore the causes and consequences of delay in marriage among wolkite town female residents through the employment of qualitative research approach.

1.2. Statement of the problem

Late marriage (delaying marriage) is a very common issue in the world and it is becoming an issue in the developing countries like Ethiopia currently. Late marriage has common concern among many youngest today. It affects adults in many ways for instance, abnormality of children and difficult in pregnancy in this late marriage can also be a reason for abnormality in children. Even if the women can give birth, sometimes these births result in children having mental problems (Karamat, 2016). An older mother might face some risks during her pregnancies, for example, miscarriage, birth defects, high blood pressure, gestational diabetes, and difficult labour. Some studies indicate that although there is a risk of pregnancy issues in older women over 30 their babies might not have more problems than babies of younger women (University of Rochester Medical Centre, 2021). Decline of birth rate due to delayed marriage has negative implications on a society and on individuals in particular. The most important negative implication of delayed marriage is delayed childbearing which consequently affects the population growth and Generation gap between children and parents, late marriage and abortion because of unwanted pregnancy (kalani Karamat 2016). Late marriage and risk of HIV AIDS, People who postpone marriage might begin engaging in pre-marital sexual behavior. For this reason, the risk of acquiring sexually transferred diseases and infections including HIV is very high among never-married people (Karamat 2016) thus effects are result of different causes education and career opportunities, Globalization, cohabitation, premarital sex, and also personal decision play vital role in every one life and density, traditional requirement/poverty, ignorance, personal character, parental choice, spiritual forces (Henzy, 2018).

Delay marriage is major problem in pacific Asia that affects the fertility level. Pacific Asia has in its vanguard countries were fertility rates are among the lowest in the world (Gavin w. jones, 2007).

Late marriage is major cause in Kashmir north western India and the trend is growing year after year among women's due to different reason that effect on fertile persons social progression (Rayeesa Akhter and Mohamed Rafik Bhat 2018).

Likewise, delay in marriage is a topical issue in Ethiopia. However, the causes and effects of delay in marriage among females has been remained untouched by many researchers. For

example; Eshetu and Mace (2003) in their study entitled: “Determinants of age at first marriage in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia” were made an endeavor to show the causes of delay in marriage. The study was mainly focused on causes or determinant factors (education opportunity, unemployment, cohabitation, increase cost of living, and other factors tended to delay in marriage). But this study failed to indicate the effects of delay in marriage.

Similarly, Kebede simiminet (2016). in their study entitled: psychological problem and perception associated with delayed marriage. The case of women. This study was mainly focused on late marriage and tried to explore the psychological and related consequence of late marriage on women. But this study was failed to the causes that leads to psychological and related consequence of late in marriage.

Another attempt in studying cause and consequence of late in marriage among women has been made by Akhter and Mohamed (2018) in a study entitled: “Late marriage consequence and concern among women in Kashmir valley”. The study finding indicated that the trends of late in marriage among women is growing year after year in Kashmir valley. However, this study was obsessed with narrating the effect of late marriage on women’s fertility and health related complications.

Accordingly, this study conducts to fill the above identified gaps through the employment of qualitative research approach. The study was conduct in wolkite town 05 kebele, south nation and nationality of people regional state with the aim of examining the cause and consequences of delay in marriage among females.

1.3. Objective of the study

1.3.1 General Objective

- The general objective of this study was to explore the main cause of delay in marriage and its consequence among female residents of wolkite town through the employment quantitative research approach.

1.3.2 Specific Objective

- To describe understand cause of delay in marriage.
- To comprehend explore the consequence of delay in marriage.
- To know the perception of unmarried women toward marriage.

1.3.3 Research question

- What are the causes of delay in marriage?
- What are the consequences of delay marriage?
- What are the perceptions of unmarried women toward marriage?

1.4 Significance of the Study

At the end of the study, the result of this study is the baseline of other students and researches who study in the same issue. The study may help concerned organizations in the area to be effective and develop sustainable solutions for the problems. This study will important for governmental body to make policy on late in marriage to develop comprehensive strategic plan to put effective mechanism to reduced unmarried women. It will help for the society to understanding the issue of late in marriage at a study area. After this study conduct it is important to know the cause and consequence of late in marriage at a study area. As a sociology student it is important to know and understand the problem of late marriage to put the ways of resolving their problem and to make awareness for the society.

1.5 Scope of the study

This study was mainly focus on exploring the cause and consequence of late marriage among unmarried Wolkite town female residents by using a qualitative research approach. In so doing, we have incorporated female informants who are above the age of 30; and in-depth interview, key informant interview was used as methods of gathering primary data from the informants.

1.6 Limitation and problems of the study

this research limits itself only to such as:

1. this research limit its scope only on women it doesn't include many
- Problems encountered during
2. absence of written material or document
3. Lack of skill to conduct
4. reluctance of some respondents to provide information
5. lack of enjoy time and experience to collect data

1.7 Operational definition

Marriage: the legally or formally recognized union of two people as partners in a personal relationship.

Delay in marriage: Delay marriage has depicted the rising trend of pushing the age of marriage into the late 30s and higher,

Cohabitation; is an arrangement where people who are not married, usually couples, live together. They are often involved in a romantic or sexually intimate relationship on a long-term or permanent basis.

Premarital sex; Premarital sex is penetrative vaginal intercourse performed between couples before formal marriage

Cause; something or someone that produces an effect, result, or condition: something or someone that makes something happen or exist.

consequence; the effect, result, or outcome of something occurring earlier.

CHAPTER TWO

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Delay in marriage: A global perspective

Marriage is the legal union or contract made by two people to live together. Marriage, which includes the coupling of two people possessing different interests, desires and needs, is a special association given shape by social rules and laws and significantly affects individuals' development and self-realizations (Ersanlı & Kalkan, 2008) Functions such as meeting the need for love and being loved, meeting both individuals' biological, social, psychological and motivational needs, bringing new generations to world, gaining a place in society, the feelings of being safe and protected, the sense of cooperation, being confident about the future, feeling proud of each other and healthy functioning of sexual life (Canel, 2012) Delay marriage is pushing the age at marriage in to the 30 and higher.

In the 1940's and 1950's women were expected to get married right out of high school and begin a family soon after. However today, women are increasingly exploring other options for themselves.

According to the U. S Census Bureau populations with later mean ages at first marriage tend to be more urbanized, to have higher levels of educational attainment and to use family planning with in marriage. Later marriage also permits "women to complete their education build labour force skills and develop career interest that competes with child bearing with in marriage. Some groups have a higher tendency to delay marriage than others, Constance L seam says, well-educated men and women with carers are much more likely to postpone marriage. People in lower classes are the least likely to put off marriage. African American women are less likely than white to be married at all.

Most African societies use gender and age for the scrimption of status. In these countries there are is belief to attach certain role for the description of women as wife and me as husband with certain age limit blossfeled. H. P and J. Huinink (1991).

An age category is a generalized role description in to which specific role is built. Every individual possesses a variety of stages in the process of life: - in all case there is an age category

which is determined by both biological and social factors. One of the age categories that are relevant to this senior essay is “age of marriage” As it was discussed earlier in both developed and developing countries, the initial age of both male and female is often specified by law for a valid marriage. Even though there is no indication in any law that limit the maximum age of marriage, we may be able to specify which age categories is early for marriage and which one’s late. Therefore, the evolution of initial age specie in marriage law, the natural biological reason and the social and cultural practice etc. Some of the major factor to determine the age category for both early marriage and delay in marriage (Join, 1996).

Studies done in the last few decades show that the age at marriage is an important factor in marital stability. A rise is often observed in marital instability among couples that marry early. This is due to lack of preparation for the marital role, the late age marriage has similar consequence due to the well-developed role performance during single living that gives less room for adjustment. The problem connected with mate choices due to marriage squeeze” is also actor in late marriage, marriage squeeze in mate selection is that the best one is desirable by many selected earlier and the less desirable partners are the one that are left over for marriage couples. So, there is possibility for less homogeneity in late marriage. The problem of marriage squeezes and heterogeneity among the late marriage couple that can cause problem in marital adjustments. (Giant D.T 1974)

2.2 Cause or factors for delay in marriage

2.2.1. Financial factors

Financial independence plays a vital role in mate selection which adds to the delay in the marriage decision. Parents viewed a good job or independent business as essential in a good proposal. An increase in unemployment has led to delay in marriage as parents prefer settled mates for their children. Financial stability and late employment are one major reason. There is growing unemployment in the country instead of high education. That’s why mostly children go abroad for employment and this process takes a lot of time. In result, youth cross their accepted marriage age. For a timely marriage, education, good job, beauty and good character is needed.

2.2.2. Familial factors

The structure and size of family and finding a spouse as per the desires causes a delay in marriage. Small family size while some prefer strong family background of mate-selection, marriage is a family affair, and the whole family is involved in this matter. The parent in causing delayed marriage ability also mentioned the family's role in decision making and preference for an arranged marriage. In addition, parents also look for the job status of the siblings and family members. In familial factors, parent's decision-making power is found to be the pertinent factor contributing towards delays in marriages. Parents with poor decision-making skills make late decisions of marriage for their children. Despite having the least information regarding appropriate criteria of mate selection for their children, parents explicitly claimed their part as prime in choosing a spouse for their son or daughter.

2.2.3. Sociocultural factors

Most of the participants caused a delay in daughters' marriage was Dowry which has become an integral part of marriage dowry itself becomes a headache for parents because of high demands from the boy's family. Other than that, dowry payment being low is also a problem. "The urban residence is preferred more than the rural residence when selecting a partner. As one parent said, "Those who are well-educated hold public office and those who live in cities are considered and preferred. "Parents also mentioned equal or better than their socioeconomic status of the family to marry their children. Also, social pressure to maintain a prestigious position in the family and social circle causes parents to look for a mate meeting the high standards is one primary reason for the delay of marriages. Along with this, comparison within relatives and to surpass them adds to this delay as well.

2.2.4. Demographic factors

Higher-educated women are more likely to put off getting married. The age of a woman when she marries is one of the most important factors in her fertility. Women with higher educational degrees are more inclined to postpone marriage and childbirth. People marry later in life as a result of their education, which reduces fertility. As the average age of marriage rises, so does the likelihood of entering the workforce. This promotes a more positive attitude toward the

small-size norm, as well as increased awareness of and compliance with family planning measures. The caste system is one of the key causes of late marriages. Late marriages are common in caste systems, where the feudal family structure and people's social standing make late marriages necessary. Exogamy marriage is frowned upon by parents who want their children's blood, land, social status, and family honour to remain pure. As a result, many girls and boys marry later in life or remain unmarried.

2.2.5. Cohabitation

Cohabitation is an arrangement where people who are not married, usually couples, live together. They are often involved in a romantic or sexually intimate relationship on a long-term or permanent basis. Such arrangements have become increasingly common in Western countries since the late 20th century, being led by changing social views, especially regarding marriage, gender roles and religion.

Marriage is delayed when women decided to live with their partner before or without being married.

2.2.6. Personal freedom

Some women choose to delay marriage so they can travel, focus on personal interests or postpone having children. The responsibilities that come with having a spouse and raising a family may deter women who would rather have more experience before making such serious commitments. Women who choose to marry late in life may use time for personal freedom to work on emotional or psychological healing from past hurts trying to resolve certain issue before committing to marriage.

2.2.7. Higher education and career focus

A commonly reported reason for women to choosing to delay marriage is so that they can focused on obtaining higher education and reaching career objectives. This is not to say that these women have no interest in being married many prefer to establish financial security before settling down with a partner. Author melanin not kin with psychology today warns against viewing the "career woman" as selfish and cold hearted for choosing to build a legacy through her occupation. Notkin says that negative stereotype about unmarried career focused women are heart full and unsubstantiated.

2.2.8. Waiting for the right person

Another woman might stay single until she meets someone she's truly in love with. This woman doesn't want to settle for the wrong guy just because she feels anxious about not being married. Triller point out that as women are waiting longer to get married, the divorce rate is going down; she speculates that this may be because older people know themselves and what they want in a partner.

2.2.9 Having personal goal to achieve

Some women's want to achieve personal goals and to exploring themselves before they explore a relationship. Sadie stain writing for "mare Claire" told the story of how she learned who she was by singing karaoke and going to movie alone before dating someone new.

2.3. Possible consequence of delay in marriage on individual

Late marriage is a factor that have negative consequence. Although some people prefer to get married in their late life and some people do not have an opportunity to get married at a suitable age, both of them would face the consequences of late marriage.

3.2. 2 .Negative consequence

1. The Decline in Birth Rate

Worldwide, the establishment of the marriage bond is generally accepted as a prerequisite for fertility; therefore, late marriage negatively affects the fundamental function of family institutions' persistence of lineage (Eralp & Gökmen, 2020). One of the most major negative impacts of late marriage is delayed childbearing which impresses population growth. A study published in Human Reproduction says that a woman's fertility begins decreasing as early as her late 20s and not in her thirties as was previously believed (Karamat, 2016). Many women's ovarian responsiveness drives into the zone, and as this decline develops, women have less possibility of becoming pregnant (McIlhaney & Sprigg, 2021). Because women delay their marriage, this decreases their fertile years, and endeavours at birth may become difficult (Karamat, 2016).

2. Generation Gap between Children and Parents

Late marriage is a way of this generation gap, and there are many disagreements between children and parents. For example, different generations sometimes speak different languages

even though they speak the same language (Akhter & Bhat, 2018). Also, parents tolerate their children's mistakes rarely because of their view of the world, so this lack of tolerance can result in a lack of communication and understanding. Besides these, late married couples and their children cannot have enough interactions. For example, older parents can get tired easily and cannot play with their children (Nagaraj, 2019).

3. Late Marriage and the Risk of HIV

People who postpone marriage might begin engaging in pre-marital sexual behaviour. For this reason, the risk of acquiring sexually transferred diseases and infections including HIV is very high among never-married people compared to currently-married people. Females are more affected by diseases related to per-marital sex than their male counterparts (Karamat, 2016).

4. Abnormality in Children and Difficult Pregnancy

Late marriage can also be a reason for abnormality in children. Even if the women can give birth, sometimes these births result in children having mental problems. On the other hand, sperm loses its vitality which can direct many abnormalities in children (Karamat, 2016). An older mother might face some risks during her pregnancies, for example, miscarriage, birth defects, high blood pressure, gestational diabetes, and difficult labour. Some studies indicate that although there is a risk of pregnancy issues in older women over 30 their babies might not have more problems than babies of younger women (University of Rochester Medical Centre, 2021).

2.4 Attitude of unmarried people toward marriage

2.4.1 Attitude of current generation towards marriage

Present generation considers marriage as necessary and a positive practice. Males have more realistic attitude about marriage while female have more emotional attitude towards it. Both genders consider it a great life incident that transforms lifestyle and provides greater responsibility. Males think that marriage is a legal sanction for sexual relationship, a gateway to bearing children and emphasize good planning to take it on. They keep self-reliance as the criterion for marriage. Females think marriage can determine happiness or sadness based on the nature of husband they get. Some females said that no marriage is better than bad marriage.

2.4.1.1 Conative attitude towards marriage

Cognitive attitude covers the factors like intention and actions. In the present generation, there were those who said that not marrying is okay. In the parent generation, concept of 'no marriage' was almost null. Most unmarried people of marriageable age in current generation were found to have the intention to marry but they wanted to be 'capable' first. It means the present generation wants to postpone marriage till they are able to take on economic burden.

2.4.1.2 Cognitive attitude towards marriage

Cognitive attitude includes the thoughts and beliefs. Present generation responded that marriage was a good practice. Their thoughts about way of marrying are changing. They showed dissatisfaction about its gaudiness. They believed that marriage should be planned well, a caring, loving and understanding partner is to be tracked down based on the feelings and issues of compatibility, and it should be considered an ordinary practice that endows extraordinary responsibilities. The marriage was taken for granted in parent generation. Present generation is mostly positive about it while a few individuals are indifferent about it.

2.4.1.3 Affective attitude towards marriage

Affective attitude is about feelings. Career again is the primary factor for the present generation. Just because they are not economically ready, they are fearful, uncertain and confused about marrying. The emotions of delight and fun are also associated with their thoughts of marriage. The level of emotion of fear associated with marriage has arisen for present generation.

2.5 conceptual frame work

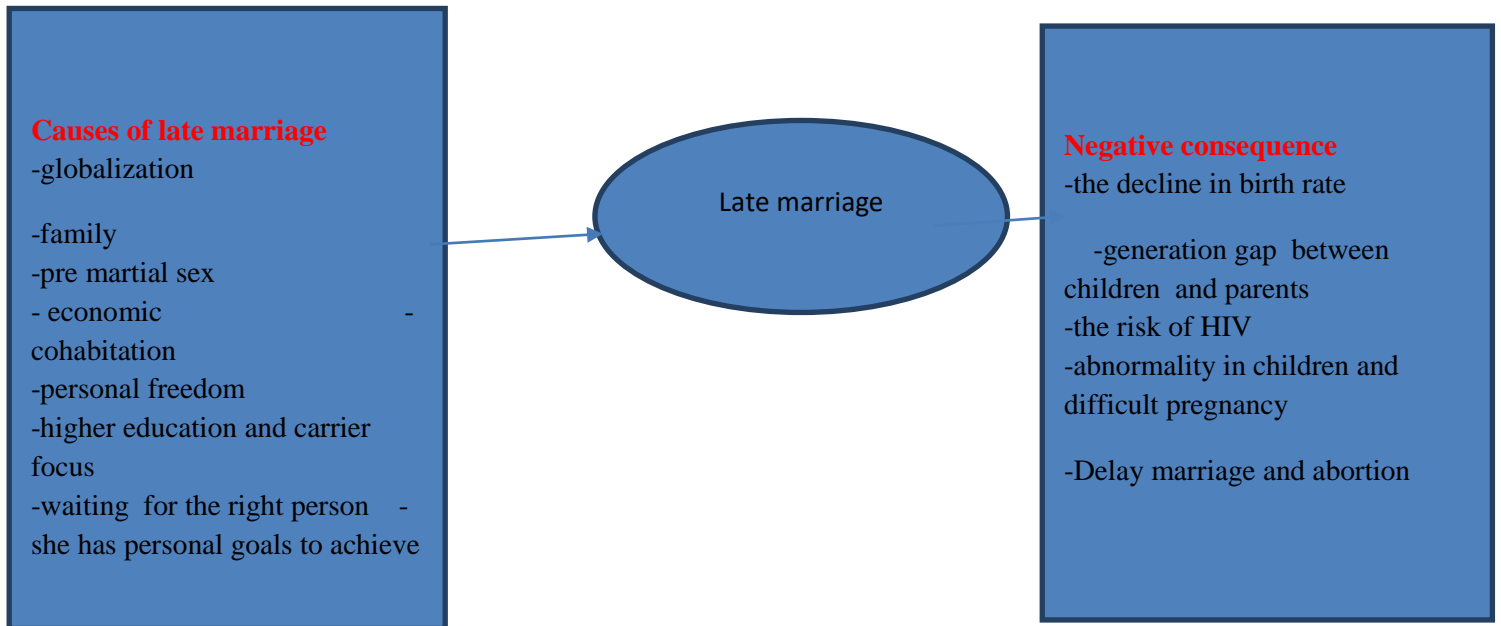


Figure 1.the conceptual framework

The above figure is developed by the researchers and it show that the conceptual frame work which comparing different variables. At the canter of the diagram we find that the dependent variables which means women become late in marriage due to different reasons for example, personal goal to achieve, freedom, family, economy, etc. And are influenced by independent variable this causes that affect women and pushes women to marry late and women become vulnerable to different consequences i.e. risk of HIV, Stigma, gossip, pregnancy related problem etc.

CHAPTER THREE

3.1 Research Methodology

This section of the research deals about the research approach, design, methods and sampling techniques that was employed for this study purpose. Besides, method of data analysis tools and ethical issue has included.

3.1.1 Description of the Study area

This study was conduct in wolkite town kebele 05. Wolkite Town is a town and separated woreda in south western Ethiopia found in 158 kilo meters away from the capital city of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa. Administration center of Gurage zone of the southern nation, nationalities and people's region (SNNPR). This town has a latitude and longitude of 8 o 17' N 37 o 47' E|8.283 o N 37.783 E and an elevation between 1910 and 1935 meter above sea level. It is surrounded by Cheha woreda; one of the reform town in the region and has a town administration, municipality, there sub cities and five kebele. The town has structural plan. Based on the 2012 census conducted by the CSA, Woreda of wolkite has a total population of 70,796. of whom 53% are Men and 47% are Women. The plurality of the inhabitants practiced Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity, with 48.17% of the population reporting that belief, while 42.31% were Muslim, 7.86% were Protestants, and 1.34% were Catholic (2007 Census).

3.1.2 Justification of the study site selection

We chose this study site (Wolkite town) because it is near for the researchers and we are interested or attracted to conduct a research on this issue to fill the knowledge gap of previous works. So that we have conducted researchers want to conduct this research topic in this study site on the issue of late marriage among women.

3.2. Target population

The units of analysis were the unmarried females of respondent who live in wolkite town at 05 kebele above the age of 30. Therefore 10 in-depth interviewees and 2 key informants have been

included as a study participant. According to United Nations (UN) defines late marriage as pushing the age at marriage in to the 30 and higher

3.3. Research Design

This study employed phenomenological research design. Since it is appropriate to investigate and discover answer for these research objectives. It was able to have a deep investigation into the causes and consequence of late marriage through their life experience.

3.4 Research approach

For the purpose of this study we have used a qualitative research approach. The reason behind using this approach is issues like late marriage are hard to conduct using quantitative approach because it is hard to get the actual sample frame of the respondents and also qualitative approach is help us to collect more details or deep information through asking, understanding respondent's emotion and responses. Qualitative research method is was help to gather accurate data for the study and to conduct effective research.

3.5 Source of data

We have employed from both primary and secondary data resources sources to get valid information about our study.

A) Primary sources: what we used are in-depth interview, key informant interview

B) Secondary sources: secondary source of data was important for setting the back ground of the study. To do so, we used various books, scientific journal article, and reliable internet source. The data was collected from different website, library and books and we were use both published and unpublished documents, reference books and internet.

3.5.1. Method of Data Collection

In this research we used qualitative data collection methods presented below.

3.5.1.2 In-depth Interview

In-depth interview was conducted with unmarried adults of females to understand their thoughts, feelings and lived experiences. Through in-depth interview the researcher was to uncover detailed information about the subjective experience of unmarried adults. The interview was held in the living and working places of unmarried adults. This research method employed to gather rich information from respondents by interviewees. In this method of data collection the interviewee is allowed to talk freely about various aspects of a topic. People interviewed at considerable length; and where the objective is to develop in-depth information only a few respondents are involved because it is difficult to find out it and it is rare in this area.

3.5.1.3. Key informant interview

In this study the key informant is selected on the basis of their knowledge, proximity to the issue, experience and willingness to participate. Key informant interviewing is an integral part of field research. Good informants are people who you can talk to easily, who understand the information you need, and who are glad to give it to you or get it for you (Yeraswork 2010 p. 106). In the context of this study, interviewing of key informants was performed with the concerned people who are serving in governmental offices as women and social affairs experts.

3.6. Sampling technique

For this study we use non-probability sampling techniques, and from non-probability sampling techniques we use snowball and purposive (judgmental) sampling. Why we use these non-probability techniques is because we don't have the actual list of unmarried women and snowball to help us to get the unmarried by networking and we use purposive (judgmental) sampling technique to purposively select the first unmarried and to get the other unmarried by snowball sampling technique.

3.7 Method of Data Analysis

We employed the thematic method of qualitative data analysis. The researchers first find patterns/themes for the data obtained from informants in line with the specific objectives of the study, and in accordance with concepts which have a resemblance.

According to Alhojailan (2012) thematic analysis is a type of qualitative data analysis used to analyze, classifications and present themes (patterns) that relate to the data. It illustrates the data in great detail and deals with diverse subjects via interpretations. It allows the researcher to associate an analysis of the frequency of a theme with one of the whole contents. This will confer accuracy and intricacy and enhance the research's whole meaning (p. 40). Marks and Yardley (2004) also stated that thematic analysis gives an opportunity to understand the potential of any issue more widely. It moves beyond counting explicit words or phrases and focuses on identifying and describing both implicit and explicit ideas. Codes developed for ideas or themes are then applied or linked to raw data as summary markers for later analysis, which may include comparing the relative frequencies of themes or topics within a data set, looking for code co-occurrence, or graphically displaying code relationships.

3.8 Ethical Consideration

Ethics is among the crucial components of social research. According to Yeraswork (2010) research must be regulated by ethical norms and values, even where there is disagreement over which ethical norms are applicable. Research projects which presuppose active participation must as a general rule only be initiated with the freely obtained and informed consent of the participants. Informants are free at any time to discontinue their participation, with no negative consequences for themselves. Also, the subjects of research are entitled to confidential treatment of all information they give on personal matters. The researcher must prevent the use and transmission of information which may harm the individual on whom the research is being carried out (p. 221). Thus, this study will be carried out in line with the above values, norms and code of ethics which required in scientific academic research.

CHAPTER FOUR

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

This section of the paper deals with data presentation and interpretation. The data obtained from the informants have presented and discussed in line with the specific objectives of the study. Thus, the first part of this chapter brings discussion about the causes of late in marriage. In this connection, the economic and social causes of late marriage have been discussed. The second section discusses about the consequence of late in marriage. Moreover, unmarried women's perception of marriage has been presented and discussed in the third section of this chapter.

4.1 Personal attributes of the late marriage women

As per the data obtained from the informants, personal attributes have an impact on their involvement in the late marriage women. Thus, under this section of the paper an effort has made to understand the effect of age, educational level, occupation, religion of the informants on their participation in the late marriage women

4 .2. Causes of late marriage

nowadays many people delay their marriages because of education and career opportunities, difficulty to find the right person, getting used to a single life, and becoming normal with pre-marital sex and living together. Study conducted by (molalign Gulalu & yihenew mitiku) The most significant contributing factors to delaying time to age at first marriage of women aged 15–49 in Ethiopia were increased education level of women, increased education level of the head, increased income, residing in urban and being followers of religion other than orthodox, catholic, protestant & Muslim.

In particular, many women delay their marriage because of childbearing and the unfavorable effects of being married on work-life (Karamat, 2016). Besides women, some men also do not prefer to get married due to their career development. Late marriage can provide people to pursue their career and educational dreams.

4.2.1. Economic cause

Economy has effect on marriage. Which means economy is a base for life. Almost all person needs live in comfortable way of life which means fulling the needs and achievable wants this needs economy its known that all person not able to get enough money habit of hard work should be adapted. Then to achieve this working for more time is necessary, therefore until a person get and save enough money for his or her life they live alone and late their marriage. Simply low economic level has contributed for late marriage.

1.Family Economic situation

Family economic situation is on factor behind delay in marriage as the data obtained from the informants shown. One of the informants replied that:

The main reason that contribute for the late marriage for me is my family.my family income is low. Current I am a government worker before I found the job the responsibility of my family is taken by my elder brother including full fill school materials for me. unfortunately, he was died. After he died the responsibilities of caring my family shift to me, this responsibility enforces me to late in marriage because, I should full fill the need of my family since the main cause for the success of my is their strong effort or support and patient. Due to this I decided to late in marriage since when I married my support to my family also decrease because the responsibility of me also to two. Generally, my family is the main reason for the late marriage of me.

She says that;

“The main reason that enforce me to late marriage is the low income of my family. Since my family low income enforce then to improve my family income level and living standard. I decide to drop my education and marriage to other countries where there is high income payment. To done this, some initial money is need then we have land and enforce my family to sell the land. Surprisingly, my family agree to sell the land. I migrate to Saudi Arabia and has lived for 10 (ten) years in that country after that I return back to my country and we start work i.e. shop, because I believe having permanent source income is important for better live to achieve this decide late my

marriage". According to our respondent from data the researchers collected, the family low level income has cause for them to delay marriage and the responsibility of family on the hand of her.

Also, the data from the key informants confirmed the above ideas of the in-depth interviewees. Thus, in this regard, one of the key informants said that:

"If her family is from a low economic source, she may delay her own marriage by accepting the responsibility of her family usually observed in Wolkite society that children are the ones who accept the responsibility of families with low economic resources, especially women. When women accept the responsibilities of their families, they stop paying attention to their own lives and delay their marriage"

2. Cohabitation

Cohabitation is used primarily to denote the arrangement between two individuals who live together, either as spouses or unmarried organ arrangement where people who are not married, usually couples, live together. They are often involved in a romantic or sexually intimate relationship on a long-term or permanent basis. Such arrangements have become increasingly common in Western countries since the late 20th century, being led by changing social views, especially regarding marriage, gender roles and religion.

Marriage is delayed when women decided to live with their partner before or without being married. (Last updated in June of 2021 by the Wex Definitions Team)

she says that;

The reason for me to late in marriage is cohabitation. I have a boyfriend but not have a husband. And., We live together for many years. Unfortunately, we do not decide to marry because we have plan that should be attained before marriage now, we are live in renting house, and we want to have own house, then to achieve the only opportunities for us are working for long time. Because it is not easy to buy house. As we know life, without having own house is difficult so we decide to live on cohabitation by sharing our economic and social activities until our income increase and we have own house and post pone our marriage.

Data collect from the respondent the factors enforce to delay their marriage is cohabitation.

3. Their economic situation

Although individuals with low incomes aspire to marriage and stable partnerships as much as more affluent individuals (Trail & Karney, 2012), their aspirations are less likely to be fulfilled. Compared to those with higher SES, poorer individuals are less likely to marry and five times more likely to have children out of wedlock (Lundberg & Pollak, 2015). When they do marry, they marry earlier (Lundberg et al., 2016) and are roughly twice as likely to divorce (Raley & Sweeney, 2020). Couples with low incomes, therefore, have less access to the benefits associated with satisfying and enduring marriages, including greater emotional (Whitton et al., 2014), financial (Zissimopoulos et al., 2013), and physical well-being (Robles et al., 2014), and better academic, social, and psychological outcomes for their children (Brown, 2010).

"Yes, my salary is not more left from covering my family expenses. if my salary is left more from my family expense, I am also need married and married at the appropriate age since this is done there is income left from the expense of my family that spend on my own house expense".

"Yes, my economic status is enforced to me late in marriage because of low income, what I need is not easy full filled. Then to improve I increase income level I decided to work until get enough income that sustain my live and improve living standard. So, my economic circumstance is factor to being unmarried".

"Yes, the wage that earned from my work is low and it is in adequate to fill full my need. That is not enough to cover house rent, food expense and other miscellaneous expense".

"Yes, my economy is influence to late in marriage. My economy level is not enough to fill full need and want furthermore, the responsibility of my family is left for me for example to teach my young sister and brother, this need expense of schooling for them. To cope up or reduce the stress of shortage of income, I desire husband who has better a better economic status".

" Yes, as I told you previous, the main reason for my late marriage is to plan to have own house. Both I and my boyfriend are government worker, as we know the wage of government workers in our country is low. And we do not have other source of income, the only way of buying house is working for long time, late marriage and try to work additional work plus to government work to increase our income".

Data collect from our respondent the main factor that contribute them to delay their marriage is low level of their income or low wage earned from their work.

4.3.2. Social causes of Delay in Marriage

1. Family Disintegration: (Might be presented under the social causes of late marriage).

The disintegration of family is one cause of late marriage because, if the family is disintegrated their children also opposed for different problem for example, lack of money, this enforces to work, and get money. This needs more time during this the right marriage age of a person is left and they marry at old age. Therefore, family disintegration is one cause of late marriage.

"The main reason that enforce me to late marriage is the died of my mother and father at the early age of me, as we know life is more difficult Without mother and father. Furthermore, when my mother and father were died there was no left resource that help for me, this enforces me to find work and get income that is necessary for full filling my need. The only opportunity to me at that time was leave or drop my education and migrate to Addis Ababa, unfortunately I could not find any job and there was no person who support me, the I decide to return to our home. And you see I work in these hotels as a hast, beside this I work as abased. Moreover, my job is another factor that late my marriage". According to our respondent the main factor for her delay marriage is the died of her parents.

2. Waiting for the Right person

Another woman might stay single until she meets someone she's truly in love with. This woman doesn't want to settle for the wrong guy just because she feels anxious about not being married. Trailer point out that as women are waiting longer to get married, the divorce rate is going down; she speculates that this may be because older people know themselves and what they want in a

partner. Its nature that any one need suitable and comfortable life that is free from any violation, conflict, and disagreement. This needs the selection of right mate and waiting until getting right mate this leads to late marriage

"she says that; The main reason that contribute for my late in my late marriage is unable to get a friend who fill full my criteria. I need a person who is comfortable for me, means who is assertive, optimistic and other thing that make life interesting. I am not decided to late marriage immediately rather than I take experience from my friend. My friend's life is boring since usually she passes her life with her husband by fighting, noising, and the like, their life is full of fighting and misunderstanding. When I see this, I can't inter simply in to marriage, and I decide to late marriage until I find appropriate person". Data collect from our respondent the factor that she become delay in marriage is unable to get the right mate to full fill her criteria.

Also, one of the key informants articulated that:

"she may delay her marriage until she get the right mate and also she is looking for her own criteria for marriage, for example, a man who is economically better, an educated man and etc. It may take her a long time until she finds the right situation, then she will end up marrying late"

3.To achieve their goal

Responsibilities increase with marriage; for this reason, some people cannot focus on their personal goal (Karamat, 2016). When people get married, they might not have enough time for the development of their personality. In the modern era, personality goal begins to be more important than before because many people have started to give importance to their careers as well as their personalities. In particular, women who get married early and give birth cannot focus on their personality goal because of their other responsibilities. Some women can delay their plans when they are pregnant. Besides women, men may also have to delay their plans related to their personality goal; therefore, late marriage can be a way of developing people's personalities (Haotanto, 2016). So, personal goal is a significant factor in delaying marriage, and both men and women take care of it. Due to late marriage, many people focus on their career

development and personalities. For this reason, focusing on personal goal is one of the factors of delaying marriage for people.

"The main reason that enforce me to late my marriage is the desire to achieve my goal. I have a goal, currently I am the teacher of fifth class or I teach at primary school and I graduate in diploma. Then I need to learn further which is degree i.e., I need graduate in degree. Then to get degree, I know that it needs time and before learning degree, program I don't need any marriage, simply my marriage program is after learning degree program". Data collect from our respondent' according to her the factor that contributes her marriage is desire to archive goals before being married. The data from the key informants indicate that:

"If she has her own goals to achieve before marriage, she may delay her marriage until she achieves her goals".

4.4 The Consequence of Delay in Marriage

Previous studies show that late marriage have a number of adverse effects. is a factor that have negative consequence. Although some people prefer to get married in their late life and some people do not have an opportunity to get married at a suitable age, both of them would face the consequences of late marriage (Ankita banerjee). Many women's ovarian responsiveness drives into the zone, and as this decline develops, women have less possibility of becoming pregnant (McIlhane & Sprigg, 2021). Because women delay their marriage, this decreases their fertile years, and endeavors at birth may become difficult (Karamat, 2016). In some cases, delayed nuptials have caused problems such as mental disturbance, psychological and emotional disorders, adverse biological issues, suicides, divorces, pre-marital sexual relationships, and much more. To have a deeper understanding of the issue and to understand its negative impact on overall society, 'Kashmir Images' spoke to some experts and the relevant people (Fayaz Ahmad).

4.4.1 The Decline in Birth Rate

Worldwide, the establishment of the marriage bond is generally accepted as a prerequisite for fertility; therefore, late marriage negatively affects the fundamental function of family institutions' persistence of lineage (Eralp & Gökmen, 2020). One of the most major negative

impacts of late marriage is delayed childbearing which impresses population growth. A study published in Human Reproduction says that a woman's fertility begins decreasing as early as her late 20s and not in her thirties as was previously believed (Karamat, 2016). Many women's ovarian responsiveness drives into the zone, and as this decline develops, women have less possibility of becoming pregnant (McIlhane & Sprigg, 2021).

4.4.2. Abnormality in Children and Difficult Pregnancy

Late marriage can also be a reason for abnormality in children. Even if the women can give birth, sometimes these births result in children having mental problems. On the other hand, sperm loses its vitality which can direct many abnormalities in children (Karamat, 2016). An older mother might face some risks during her pregnancies, for example, miscarriage, birth defects, high blood pressure, gestational diabetes, and difficult labor. Some studies indicate that although there is a risk of pregnancy issues in older women over 30 their babies might have more problems than babies of younger women (University of Rochester Medical Center, 2021).

4.4.3. Late Marriage and the Risk of HIV

People who postpone marriage might begin engaging in pre-marital sexual behavior. For this reason, the risk of acquiring sexually transferred diseases and infections including HIV is very high among never-married people compared to currently-married people. Females are more affected by diseases related to pre-marital sex than their male counterparts (Karamat, 2016).

4.4.5. Generation Gap between Children and Parents

Late marriage is not beneficial for the family and society because it may lead to a generation gap between the children and parents (Akhter & Bhat, 2018). The definition of the generation gap is an irritating absence of contact between young and old or a valuable period that divides culture within a society permitting them to evolve their personality (Adcox, 2021). This gap provokes a lack of touch and arrangement between the two ages since the old generation's and the news belief of the world was dyed by how the community operated during their youth (Nagaraj, 2019). Late marriage is a way of this generation gap, and there are many disagreements between children and parents. The data obtained from our informants indicate that discrimination, living

under fear of sexually transmitted diseases. are among the major consequences of delay in marriage.

According to the data obtained from the in-depth interviewees and key- informants, the following are the major consequences of delay in marriage.

1. Stigma and discrimination

For unmarried negative stereotypes and discrimination Compared to married or coupled people, who are often described in very negative terms, singles are assumed to be immature, maladjusted, and self-centered. Although the perceived differences between people who have and have not married are large, the actual differences are not illa (M. DePaulo and Wendy L. MorrisView all authors and affiliations-

"I faced different problem from my late marriage for example: - people call me as a woman who benefit a husband traditionally (komo ker).and I regret when I see married woman"

"Late in marriage or being un married bring more negative consequence to me for example, I feel inferiority regression, when I see my married friend I feel regret"

"The majority of man do not want to marry women that work in restaurant because they think psychologically the women who works in hotel are not keep their dignity not this only but my self feels shame no one is need me to marry. Furthermore, I have been addicted by alcohol". "The majority of people in our community think a person should married either early of his or her maturity or at maturity age. I faced different psychological stress by lathing my marriage, social discrimination, abuse, hesitation, they call me by giving a new name(komoker)".

" I don t faced a serious or sever problem by my late marriage but I love child, unfortunately I don t have child until now. I regret my age is 40"

The data obtained from the key informants is also in conformity with the views of the women informants.

"As it can be seen, there are influences, most of the influence comes from the society because as I said before, most of the women of Wolkite get married early, and from this point of view, the society gives a bad name to women who delay in getting married. For example, he stands and hears various gossips from the community and these women are subjected to various psychological pressures. In addition, her childbearing period may pass and if she does not give birth when she is due to give birth, or if her childbearing period is prolonged, she may experience problems related to childbirth, and she may feel lonely "According to respondent we collect from our respondent the main consequence of delay marriage on her is I.e., stigma, discrimination, psychological stress, abuse, gossips, etc.

4.5. Informants perception of Marriage

Present generation considers marriage as necessary and a positive practice. Males have more realistic attitude about marriage while female have more emotional attitude towards it. Both genders consider it a great life incident that transforms lifestyle and provides greater responsibility. Males think that marriage is a legal sanction for sexual relationship, a gateway to bearing children and emphasize good planning to take it on. They keep self-reliance as the criterion for marriage. Females think marriage can determine happiness or sadness based on the nature of husband they get. Some females said that no marriage is better than bad marriage. (Pralhad adhikari).

In line with this one of the in-depth interviews articulated that.

"For me marriage is good because there are many advantages of marriage for adults these advantages include improve person behavior, fewer risks, mental health, spouse happier, and enjoy longer lives, lower chance of depressed, survive a major operation, raising children, build more wealth, transformative act.

Beside other informants said that.

" For me marriage is a sacred, legal, and binding union of two people to journey through adult life as partners in a personal relationship of companionship, fulfillment,

and love; and for the purpose of producing offspring. Marriage is the foundation of family, and family is the fundamental unit of society.so marriage is good for me"

Most of the single women are happy to be single, have thinking and working freedom and earn self-sufficient income. Most women believe that marriage is not necessary and not good for woman. Single woman is able to take care of themselves without marriage. Marriage is not good because it is woman burdens with regard to being single, all single women believe that single makes their lives flexible and independent in terms of living, working, finance, private time, resulting in value and happiness (Nimisha beri & Anoop beri 2013).

Many women's they perceive marriage positively. Because marriage have many benefits, based on that women perceive marriage goodly i.e., marriage is an opportunity to grow, become more financially stable, you get to enjoy intimacy without any hindrance, improve her mental health, marriage opens an opportunity to create a dream family, you get a health insurance benefit, your life style will improve. So, the benefit of marriage as an institution is that it keeps you grounded. It provides financial and emotional safety. However, if you aren't sure about marriage, then nobody should compel you to make this decision. Get married when you feel like you are ready to trust, love, and support your spouse while receiving the same number of good things from them (simra sadaf & Akhansha varghege, 2023).

" Marriage also comes with the chance of allowing you to be intimate whenever you and your partner want to. It provides you with a guilt-free night of naughtiness without contemplating if you did the right thing or not so it's good

"Marriage is ideally to share a whole life together, even if in many cases it doesn't happen that way. In my opinion, I think it has been very good. In marriage you share everything, material things, feelings, ideas, and you need to support each other".

"Marriage is a bond between two people that no one else understands. A partnership that gets each other through life when you need each other the most and share the most amazing experiences with. ' Marriage, to me, means choosing your team-mate, committing to them and working together for the rest of your lives".

Data collect from our respondent their perception about marriage is positive, according to respondent marriage is good because improve personal behavior, mental health and the foundation of family, in marriage working together, share everything's, feeling, idea and support each other.

4.5.1 The importance of marriage in the eyes of informants

Research conducted by Durkheim (1897), Ribar (2003), Waite (1995), as well as Waite and Gallagher (2000) pointed out numerous importance for married couples over their non-married counterparts. These advantages include having fewer acute illnesses; fewer fatal accidents; fewer instances of alcoholism; fewer cases of depression; a lower rate of suicide; better mental health; better sex lives; a better chance of living longer; higher salaries; better health; and a happier life.

Accordingly, the data obtained from informants confirmed the above research findings. One of the information share her view as follow

“Marriage protects human life, for individual marriage is used prevent premarital sex, out of wedlock births, and sexually transmitted diseases, because young people raised by married parents are less likely to have sex before marriage and as married women are less likely to abort their children than unmarried women. With fewer abortions, human life is more likely to be respected at all stages—from tiny, defenseless embryos to frail, disabled elderly persons. Marriage helps make homes safer places to live, because it curbs social problems such as domestic violence and child abuse. Marriage is the foundational relationship for all of society. All other relationships in society stem from the father-mother relationship, and these other relationships thrive most if that father-mother relationship is simultaneously a close and closed husband- wife relationship.” She says that Married men and women are healthier and live longer, they accumulate more money, their children are happier and tend to be more successful in life, and the overall benefit to society is significant. Married women are significantly less likely to be the victims of violent crime than single or divorced women and Married men are less likely to perpetrate violent crimes than unmarried men. The institution of marriage reliably creates the social, economic and affective conditions for effective parenting and marriage helps society to create healthier citizens”

" According to her marriage have various use /role in every society as well as per individuals. For individual person it has psychological advantage, means being married makes a person as full off personality in society, economically the individual starts to commute high responsibilities to fulfill house hold economic interest. The saving habit also expected to manage and wisely use of income, also it is the time to innovate and generate additional income source. Marriage have also productive role, and reproductive role. The legal or formal giving birth is the role of marriage. As a family it can enhance productive effectiveness in the family, it helps to fulfill human resource needs in the family to perform various tasks. It can be the source of income to the members due to its fruits, which is giving birth. As community it can be the base for economic development due that marriage can create opportunity to reproduction which leads productive man power demand"

"For me marriage brings many importance change for a person who get marriage for example, psychologically the person feels happy, since belongingness is achieved this motivate a person to be more productive, hence marriage increase productivity it reduces or share the responsibilities. It increases confidence, it improves higher living standard, through cooperation, since the solution of reducing problem that is called due to solemnness is cooperative. To sum up marriage brings importance positive change. Marring their children is the main aim of the family since they become happy due to the married of their children for family marriage brings important change for example, increase the relationship between family and children since late marriage can be one cause to create disputes between family and children, there for marriage at early is important for this problem. Generally, a family feels as they full fill their responsibility of married their children and it increases the wellbeing of family, keep culture. Most of the time un married women feels inferiority and they are very sensitive to make violation, they do not respect the norm, value of the society the main and appropriate solution to cope reduce this problem is marriage there for marriage increases the security and wellbeing of societies, keep culture etc. Generally, marriage is important for a person." From my point of view, I think that marriage has great benefit on an individual level like sexual and emotional satisfaction and taking responsibility. Taking responsibility is the first among the benefits, because when a person lives only for

himself, he does not take the same responsibility when he lives for other. But married person will have a high level of responsibility, a stable mood and the ability to understand things. As a family a contradiction of ideas is created between married families. This contradiction can bring about a new change in thinking, economy, and etc. And marriage also importance at society level. For instance, married peoples have strong, have strong relationship with large community by sharing common experience, value, normal, and they active participation for common sense, and also support together and work together at community level. It is not only this but also married people can able to admit social organization such as iqub, idir, and other social institution. Generally, marriage have numerous benefits at community level by sharing different social phenomenon at all." The data we collect from our respondent marriage has great important in every society. It is importance for individuals I.e., prevent premarital sex, it's had psychological advantage, full of personality, belongingness, increase confidence, etc. For family, I.e., increase wellbeing of family, contradiction of new ideas, it gives children and happiness, etc. additionally it's important for society, I.e., strong relationship with large community by sharing common experience, secure wellbeing of society, keep culture, etc.

CHAPTER 5

5.1 SUMMERY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 SUMMARY

The main concern of this study was exploring the cause and consequence. The findings of this study indicate that delay in marriage among females is become a common experience in wolkite town. According to the data, the main factors for delay in marriage among females are due to different reasons for example because of family, i.e. Born from lesser income family and girl family income is less to cover their house hold need and born from died family girl become late in marriage. Thus, economy circumstances are a factor for she become late or delay on marriage. In addition, cohabitation become one cause of late in marriage i.e. the economy is taken as a reason for spouses to live and share together, and when they spend most of their time collecting money and establishing a strong economy until achieve their plan, their age leads to late marriage. and a person sets criteria for future partner comfortable for her for example, a woman may set different requirement for an educated, economically independent or better assertive, optimistic, and it may take a long time for girl to find spouse who meets this requirement. Because of this girl may delay in marriage. So, from the data we collect the main reason for delay in marriage is family and economy. And they have different consequences example, baby loss, pregnancy related problem, stigma, gossip, loneliness, psychological stress, regret by married girl etc. and when we ask the respondent about perception of marriage, how did you perceived marriage all of respondents said marriage is good. i.e., In terms of accepting responsibility, sharing everything each other, economic or material. And finally, they replied the importance of marriage (individual, family, and societal level). From our respondents answer about importance of marriage they have positive attitude and perception on marriage.

5.2 Conclusions

The main objectives of this study were to know the economic cause of delay in marriage ,to describe understand the social cause of delay in marriage, to comprehend explore the consequence of delay in marriage ,to know the researches focus on late marriages between the

age of 30 and higher .key informant and personnel in wolkite town to attain research questions .Like other developing countries ,the rapid growth of late marriage has been a common phenomenon on in Ethiopia according to the results of this study late marriage in the study are as was influenced by age .as the study shows ,there are several factors that pushed these late .results from qualitative studies in depth interviews ,key informant interviews that conditions such as family economic situation ,cohabitation their economic situation, family disintegration, waiting for the right person, to achieve their goal

5.3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- based on the consequence of delay marriage the family should manage their children at their maturity age.
- Government should create employment opportunities that improve the income of family.
- Awareness creation program should be practice about the consequence of late marriage.
- local authority whose work is related to marriage should discourage late marriage.
- it's better to marriage a right age because late marriage has negative impact on person psychologically
- create awareness on society to reduce or absence saying or statement of "komoker"

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WOLKITE UNIVERSITY
COLLEAGUE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMAN
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

APPENDIX I

Preamble: Dear respondent, first we would like to thank you for your willingness to give information that makes our research easy and appropriate. We are students at Worksite University and we doing our research for our BA Degree in Sociology. We would like to thank you in advance for meeting us today. The purpose of our discussion is to collect information on the “cause and consequence of late marriage.” In this connection, you are asked to provide information on social causes, economic causes, and consequences late in marriage and your perception or personal opinion about marriage.

The purpose of this study or research is for academic purposes only. The information provided is confidential and your personal information is kept secret.

1. Identification

1.1. Interview No. _____

1.2. Date of Interview _____

1.3. Beginning time _____

1.4. Termination time _____

2. Demographic Variables

2.1. Fictitious name _____

2.2. Educational status _____

2.3. Religious Affiliation _____

2.4. Age _____

3. Causes for late marriage

3.1. Do you think that you are delayed to have a marriage partner?

- Can you tell me the reasons why you are late to have a marriage partner?

Possible probes: (to complete higher education, difficulty to find the right person, to support your family, lack of relationship stability, becoming normal with pre-marital sex and cohabitation, personal goal to achieve, personal freedom, religion, etc.).

3.2. Do you believe that your economic circumstance has an impact on your decision to marry?

Possible Probes: (to find an economically better person or wealthy person, career opportunity/unemployment, lesser in income and to increase /accumulate your capital before marriage, having poor parents in need of assistance, etc.).

4. Consequence of late marriage

4.1. Have you experienced difficulties and problems due to your marital status?

Possible probes: (Stigma; Discrimination; drug addiction; poor social interaction; risk of HIV infection; pregnancy-related problems; emotional turmoil; etc.).

5. Informants' perception of marriage

5.1. How did you perceive marriage?

5.1.1. What is your opinion about the importance of marriage? (personal, family, community & societal level importance).

Appendix III: Profile of the informants

Table 1. social demographic profile of in-depth interview participant from 05 kebele (April - May 2023)

Code of informants	Age	Educational level	Occupation	Date of interview	religion
R1	37	Degree	Accountant	27/8/2015	orthodox
R2	42	10 th grade	Shop worker	27/8/2015	Muslim
R3	39	12 th grade	Hotel waitress	27/8/2015	orthodox
R4	47	Degree	Private business	27/8/2015	orthodox
R5	44	Diploma degree	Teacher	27/8/2015	orthodox

R6	32	Diploma	Teacher	19/9/2015	Orthodox
R7	35	11 the grade	Street vending Worker	19/9/2015	Orthodox
R8	33	8th grade	Street vending Worker	19/9/2015	Muslim
R9	36	9th grade	Shop worker	19/9/2015	Orthodox
R10	34	10th grade	Labor	19/9/2015	Orthodox

			worker		
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Appendix II

Interview Guide for Key Informant Interviews

In-depth Interview with wolkite town Social affairs Office Experts

we are a student at wolkite University, Department of Sociology. Currently, we are conducting research on the "cause and consequence of late in marriage" The researcher believes that you should be included as an informant in the study, and the information obtained from you is considered very helpful for the study success. Thus, your willful participation in the study is needed. Your genuine information is very relevant to the success of this study. Whatever information you provide will be kept confidentially. So, we require you to respond to the questions frankly.

1. Identifications

1.1. Code given to an interviewee _____

1. Age _____

2. sex _____

3. Position _____

4. Year of service _____

5. Termination time _____

2. Main Issues

2.1. did you tell us the major social cause of female late in marriage?

2.2. did you tell us the major consequence of female late in marriage?

Table 2. profile of key informant interviewees from women and child affairs bureau. (April - May 2023).

code of informant	sex	Age	Marital Status	Educational level	occupation	date of interview	religion
K11	M	34	married	Degree	child and women social affair Officer	29/8/2015	orthodox
KI2	F	33	Married	Degree		19/9/2015	Protestant

Thank you for your cooperation!