

# Status of child marriage among adolescent girls in Nepal

*Bishnu Prasad Dulal<sup>1\*</sup>, Bikram Adhikari<sup>1</sup>, Abriti Arjyal<sup>1</sup>,  
Pratistha Dhakal<sup>1</sup>, Sushil Baral<sup>1</sup>*

*<sup>1</sup> HERD International; \* Corresponding author*



Swikriti Parajuli. CHILD MARRIAGE IN NEPAL. View Your Choice.  
[.https://www.viewyourchoice.org/2021/11/child-marriage-in-nepal.html](https://www.viewyourchoice.org/2021/11/child-marriage-in-nepal.html) [assessed in 30th March 2024]

**Presentation by:**  
**Mr. Bishnu Prasad Dulal**

[www.herdint.com](http://www.herdint.com)

**HERD**  
International

**Date: 10 to 12 April 2024**

# Background

- Child marriage is a human rights violation affecting young individuals who marry before the age of 18, with lasting adverse socio-cultural and economic impacts.
- Studies show that child marriage increases the likelihood of experiencing intimate partner violence, unwanted pregnancy, and lack of healthcare during pregnancy and other family and community related impact.
- SDG 5.3 aims to “eliminate all harmful practices, such as **child, early and forced marriage** and female genital mutilations” by 2030”.
- In the federalized context of Nepal, child marriage has gained attention as a threat to women’s health.
- However, there are differences in the prevalence of early marriage across Nepal.

# Objectives

The study aims:

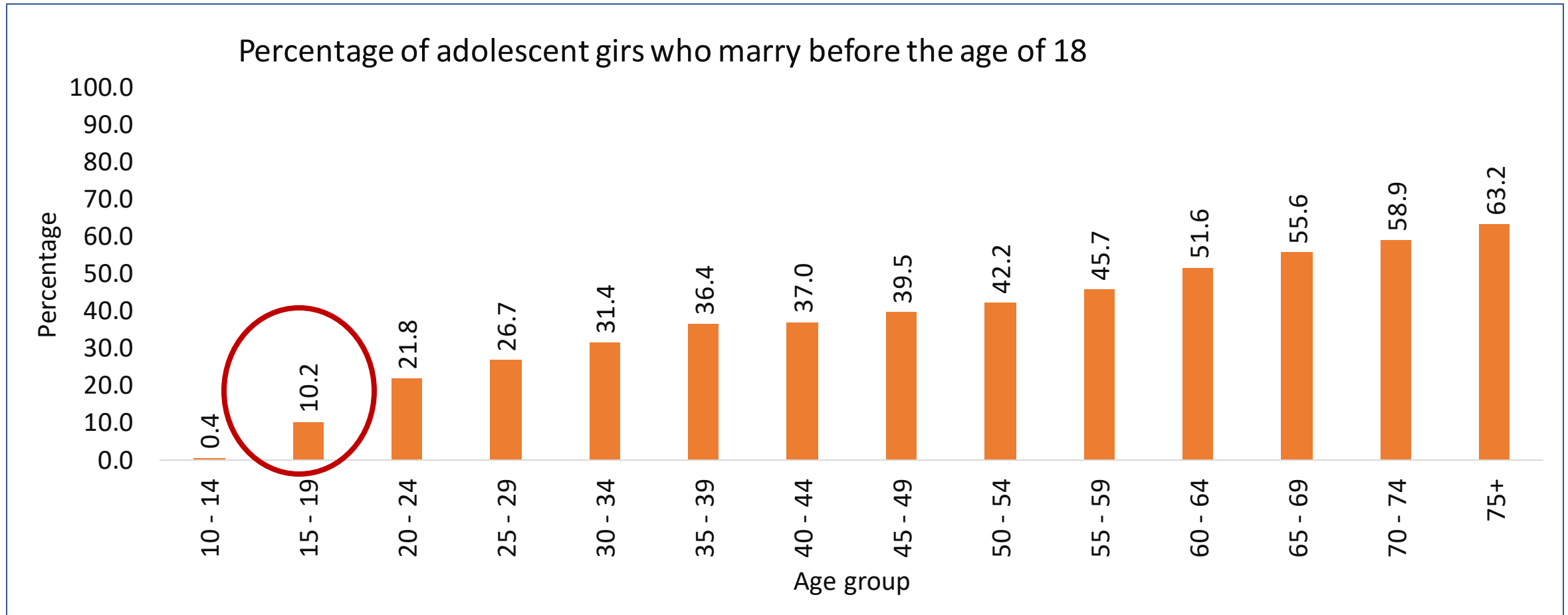
- To generate evidence about the disparities in the status of child marriage in Nepal
- To explore the potential factors associated with child marriage in Nepal

# Methodology

- **Study design:** Secondary analysis of local level wise aggregated data from population and housing census 2021
- **Statistical analysis:** We fitted a linear regression model to determine the association of early-age marriage at different local levels with literacy rate, province, local levels, ecological belt and caste composition of local level.
- Results were presented as beta coefficients and 95% confidence interval (CI).

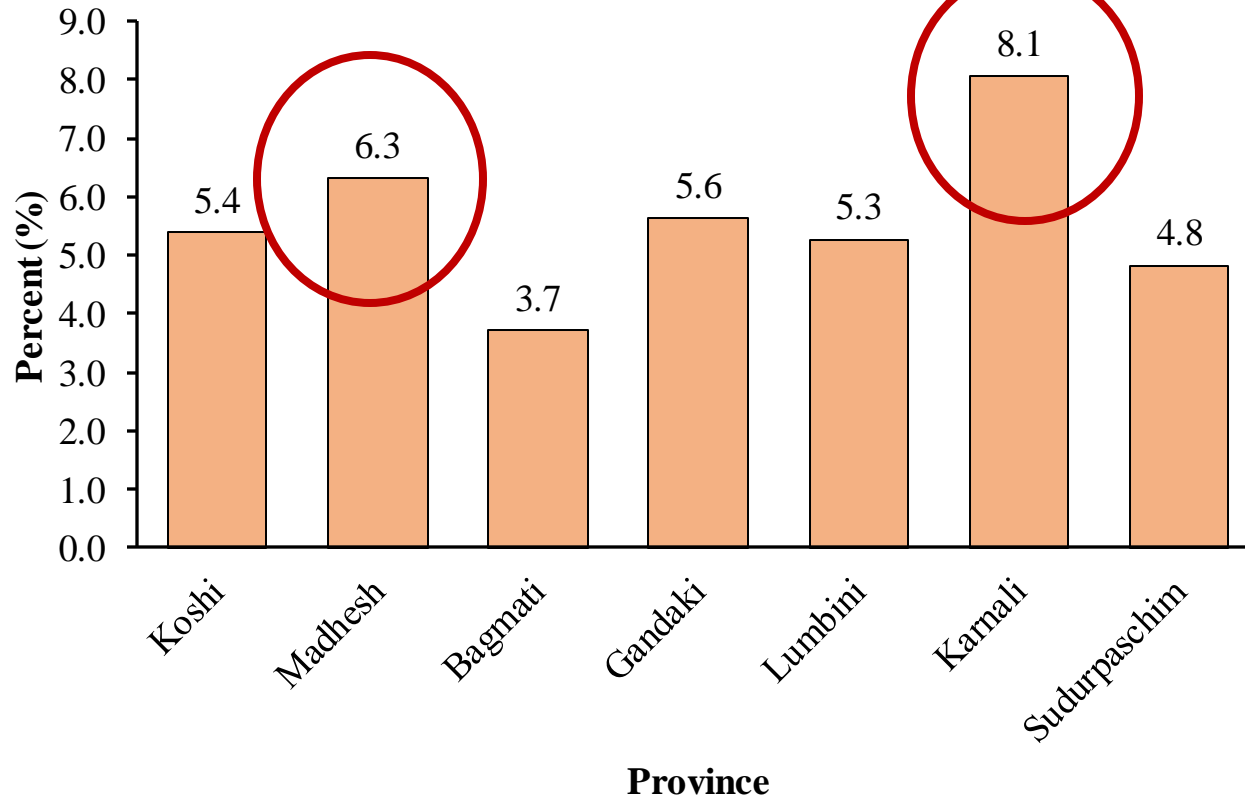
# Child marriage in Nepal

Currently, 5.4% of adolescent girls (10-19 years) marry before the age of 18

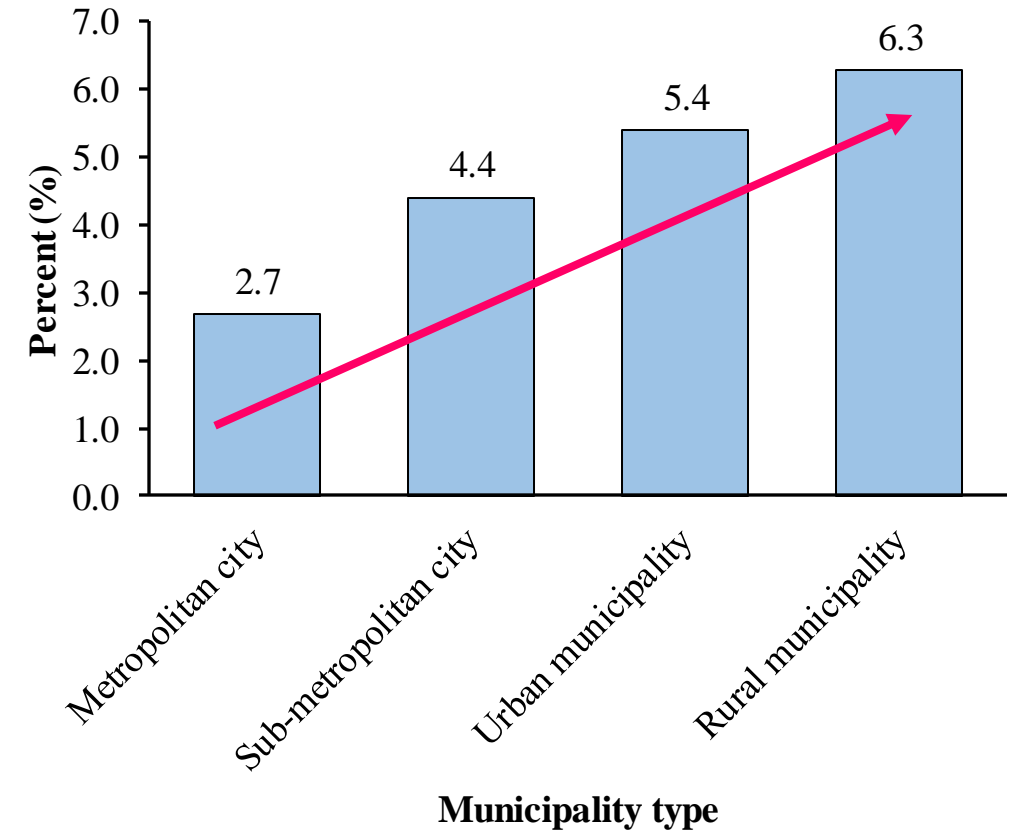


# Disparities in child marriage

Province wise early marriage % among adolescent girls

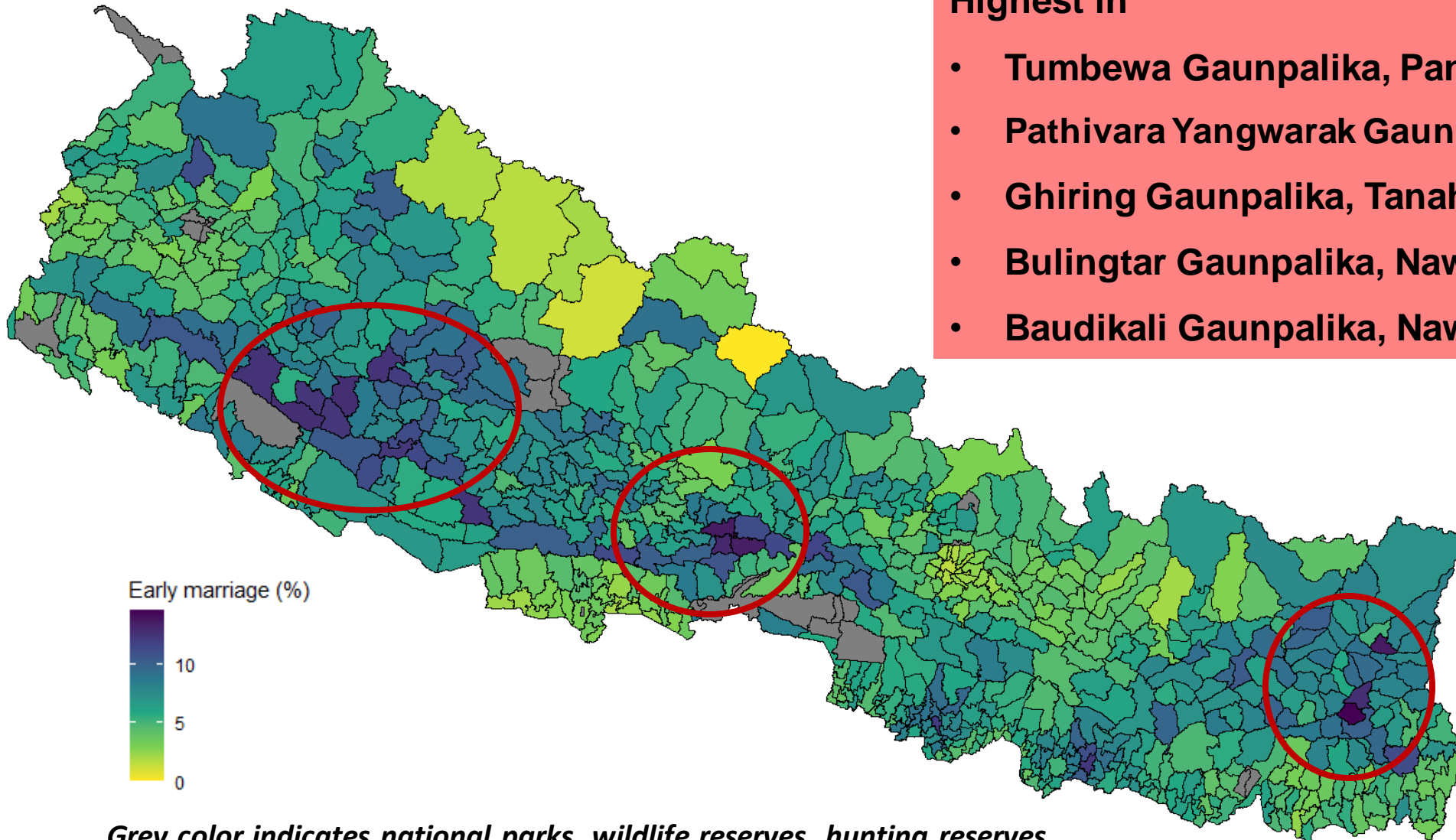


Municipality type wise early marriage % among adolescent girls





# Local level-wise disparities in child marriage





# Association with child marriage

Variable	N	Estimate	p	
Literacy rate	749	-0.02 (-0.04, 0.01)	0.229	
Municipality type	Metropolitan city	6	Reference	
	Sub-metropolitan city	11	1.25 (-0.76, 3.26)	0.222
	Urban municipality	276	2.17 (0.52, 3.81)	0.010
	Rural municipality	456	2.73 (1.06, 4.39)	0.001
Province	Bagmati	119	Reference	
	Koshi	137	2.13 (1.60, 2.66)	<0.001
	Madhesh	136	2.93 (2.17, 3.69)	<0.001
	Gandaki	83	1.94 (1.34, 2.54)	<0.001
	Lumbini	109	1.97 (1.35, 2.59)	<0.001
	Karnali	77	3.26 (2.63, 3.90)	<0.001
	Sudurpaschim	88	0.94 (0.35, 1.54)	0.002
	Ecological belt	Hill	349	Reference
Mountain		124	-1.13 (-1.58, -0.69)	<0.001
Terai		276	-1.21 (-1.66, -0.77)	<0.001
Percent of Dalits	749	-0.02 (-0.04, 0.00)	0.052	

- Provincial variation in the prevalence of child marriage is existed, with higher rates observed in Karnali, Madhesh, and Koshi province.
- Rural areas, are more vulnerable to higher rates of child marriage.

# Conclusion

- Eliminating child marriage by 2030 in Nepal remains challenging due to ongoing prevalence (5.4%) among adolescent girls.
- Targeted interventions are necessary to combat child marriage, considering diverse cultural and socioeconomic contexts across the country.
- Programs should prioritize rural areas, especially in Karnali, Madhesh, and Koshi province.
- Further studies is still required to delve into the underlying issues and identify factors that hinder the effectiveness of efforts to eliminate child marriage in areas with higher prevalence. This will inform targeted interventions at the local level.

# Thank you!



## Generating Evidence, Improving Lives



herdinternational4380



HERDIntl



www.herdint.com



Scan  
Me

# Photo and bio



## Brief bio:

Mr. Bishnu Prasad Dulal works at HERD International as the "Lead - Information System and Population Services." He holds a master's degree in Population Studies from Tribhuvan University. Since 2003, he has been actively engaged in research and development, with a focus on public health, population, and health systems.