

Lesson Plan – Increasing Awareness of Child Marriage

TOPIC: Increasing Awareness of Child Marriage	TARGET-AGE RANGE: 12–15	TIME: 45 minutes
SUBJECT: Life Skills		
IDEAL NUMBER OF LEARNERS: 40		
<p>WHAT ADVANCE PREPARATION, IF ANY, IS REQUIRED OF THE TEACHER FOR THIS LESSON?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If possible, review Ending Child Marriage in Africa—A Brief by Girls Not Brides to make sure you are familiar with the latest facts about child marriage. If you have access to your country’s statistics about child marriage you can add in that information when discussing the answers to the quiz. • Review your country’s legal frameworks for information about the legal age of marriage." Be prepared to share this information with the learners. • Hang the True and False signs on opposing walls in your classroom. 		
<p>LEARNING OUTCOMES:</p> <p>By the end of this lesson learners will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) State at least three facts about child marriage. [knowledge] 2) Convey a core message about the impact of child marriage. [attitude] 		
<p>LIFE SKILLS DEMONSTRATED IN THIS LESSON:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Think critically about the issue of child marriage. 		
<p>RESOURCE MATERIALS FOR TEACHER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ending Child Marriage in Africa—A Brief by Girls Not Brides, accessible here: http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Child-marriage-in-Africa-A-brief-by-Girls-Not-Brides.pdf • True or False Quiz about Child Marriage – Teacher Guide • Two signs on 8.5 x 11 paper—One piece with “True” written on it and one with “False” written on it 		
<p>MATERIALS FOR LEARNER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 		



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This lesson is enhanced when learners have the following background knowledge: Content from the International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education—Key Concept 1 – Relationships, Learning Objective 1.4 – Long-term Commitments, Marriage, and Parenting

PROCEDURE:

Step 1)

Introduce the concept of child marriage by asking the learners, “Can anyone share with the group what you know about child marriage?” Take a few responses from volunteers and make sure to add the following if the learners did not offer it. “Child marriage is when adolescents under the age of 18, and sometimes as young as 8 or 9, are married to adults, generally without their consent. Child marriage can happen to both boys and girls, but often it impacts girls much more than boys. Child marriage happens all over the world, including many countries here in sub-Saharan Africa. Today’s lesson will help us understand the issue of child marriage more and then use our new knowledge to help raise awareness among others in our families and communities.” Next explain that forced marriage is a little bit different and is defined as, “Forced marriage is when a marriage takes place without the consent of the individuals getting married, where pressure or abuse is used to ‘force’ one or both people to marry against their will. A forced marriage can happen to anyone; of any gender, of any age and is a form of violence.”

Step 2) 5 minutes for Steps 1 & 2

Explain to students, “Now we’ll take a short quiz to figure out what you already know about child marriage and add in some new information. I will be reading some statements and I want you to decide for yourself whether you think that statement is True or False. If you believe the statement is true, you move to the side of the room where the “True” sign is hanging. Or if you think the statement is false, you move to the other side of the room where the “False” sign is hanging. It is okay to guess since a lot of this information may be new to you or may have changed in the last few years. Are there any questions?” If there are no questions, instruct students to stand up and begin by reading the first statement on the True or False Quiz about Child Marriage – Teacher Guide.

Step 3) 20 minutes

Once students have moved to the sign that represents their belief, have students talk quickly with others who are on the same side about why they believe that statement is either True or False. Then gather the class’s attention and ask the following questions:

- Why do you think that statement is true?
- Why do you think that statement is false?
- The correct answer is (and fill in the answer and key facts from the Teacher Guide).

Continue with the same process using statements 2–5 as time allows. Then have learners return to their seats.

Step 4) 5 minutes

Once learners have settled back in their seats, ask the following processing questions:

- What did you learn about child marriage from that activity?
- How do you feel about child marriage now knowing this new information?
- Do others in your family and community know about child marriage? Why or why not?



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PROCEDURE (CONTINUED):

Step 5) 10 minutes

Explain by stating the following, “Child marriage is an issue that more people need to know about given the impact on adolescents and their children. Next you are going to turn to the person next to you and share what you would say if you were to tell others in your community about child marriage. Make sure you share some correct facts about child marriage and communicate these facts in a way that will grab the attention of others.”

Ask the learners to pair up with someone else and give them 5–10 minutes to each share their message with each other.

Step 6) 5 minutes

Close the lesson by asking the following questions:

- What was it like to share a message with someone else about child marriage?
- What did you notice about what you said and what your partner said?
- What information about child marriage do you find most easy to remember?
- Now that you know more about child marriage, who do you think you might share this information with and why?
- What could someone do if they were worried about this happening to them?

KEY MESSAGES OF LESSON:

- 1) Child marriage has damaging impacts on girls’ health and well-being.
- 2) Child marriage is more common in sub-Saharan Africa than most think.

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING OBJECTIVES AT CONCLUSION OF LESSON:

- Teachers can have learners write down the core message that they shared about child marriage and submit them for assessment of the learning objectives.

HOMEWORK WITH FOCUS ON FAMILY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES:

- None

POSSIBLE ADAPTATIONS:

- 1) Large class size—If the class size is too large to allow moving around the classroom during the True/False activity, the teacher can have learners raise their hands for True and keep their hands in their laps to indicate False. This still allows the learners to guess the answers but does not require movement.
- 2) Limited materials/technology—None

SOURCE: Nora Gelperin, M.Ed., Director of Sexuality Education and Training, Advocates for Youth, 2014 and Child Marriage in Africa – A Brief by Girls Not Brides, 2014



True or False Quiz About Child Marriage – Teacher Guide

Directions: Teachers should read each statement aloud to their learners. Ask learners to decide whether they believe the statement is true or false. Then the teacher should share the correct answer and the following key messages about each statement written below.

1) In sub-Saharan Africa, 40% of women are married as children. TRUE

Key Points:

- All African countries are faced with child marriage.
- In East and Southern Africa, child marriage affects 37% of girls.
- Some girls as young as 8–9 are forced to marry adult men by their family.

2) Child marriage occurs when a girl falls in love very young. FALSE

Key Points:

- Families in extreme poverty feel that child marriage will reduce their expenses and/or provide them some income from a bride price.
- For some families, they are following tradition.
- Sometimes marriage for young girls is perceived by the family as a way to ensure their safety from physical or sexual assault.

3) Girls who are forced to marry young often have children very young and most can not continue with their schooling as a result. TRUE

Key Points:

- Many girls become pregnant soon after they are married, even though their bodies are not mature enough to have a baby safely.
- Many girls drop out of school to care for children or do household chores.
- Some girls who are married young never get the opportunity to attend school even before they are married.

4) Girls who give birth before the age of 15 generally don't have problems during childbirth. FALSE

Key Points:

- Girls' bodies are not mature enough to have a safe pregnancy and delivery and there are often very serious consequences.
- Girls who give birth under the age of 15 are five times more likely to die in childbirth than girls who give birth in their 20s.

5) Girls who are forced to marry young often have an equal say in the relationship. FALSE

Key Points:

- Girls who marry very young are more likely to be beaten and forced to have sex by their husbands than girls who marry later in life.
- Girls who marry young are not able to insist their husbands use protection, like condoms, and are therefore at greater risk for getting HIV and other STIs, in addition to pregnancy.

