

# JOURNAL OF ADOLESCENT HEALTH

Improving the Lives of Adolescents and Young Adults

## Call for Papers: “Singularity and Diversity in Child, Early and Forced Marriage”

**Journal/Specialty:** The *Journal of Adolescent Health* is a multidisciplinary scientific journal dedicated to improving the health and well-being of adolescents and young adults. The Journal publishes new research findings in the field of Adolescent and Young Adult Health and Medicine ranging from the basic biological and behavioral sciences to public health and policy. The papers will be organized into a Supplement to be published in late 2021.

**Abstract submission deadline:** 19 February 2021

**Paper submission deadline:** 26 March 2021

### Guest editors:

1. Madhumita Das, Independent Researcher
2. Alessandra Guedes, UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti
3. Relebohile Moletsane, University of KwaZulu-Natal
4. Joar Svanemyr, Independent Researcher

The four guest editors will be supported by Margaret Greene of GreeneWorks, who will serve as editorial coordinator.

### Overview:

The field of child, early and forced marriage (CEFM, child marriage) has undergone significant growth and development in recent years. Over the last twenty years, research on CEFM has spanned every continent and extended across multiple areas related to child marriage. In 2000, the concept of child marriage had not yet garnered much attention, while now it figures as Target 5.3 in the Sustainable Development Goals. Over this period a consensus emerged on the importance of this topic and the relevance of patriarchal control of sexuality matter to understanding the complex issues and the diverse solutions to the practice of child, early and forced marriage. In 2015, the United Nations Human Rights Council unanimously adopted a resolution that recognized CEFM as a violation of human rights and understood it as “a barrier to sustainable development” that “helps perpetuate the cycle of poverty.” Ending the harmful practice of child marriage holds the promise of improving the lives of girls and enhancing the development of families, communities, and nations.

### Objectives and scope: Capturing singularity and diversity in the practice of CEFM

The objective of this Supplement is to present recent research on child marriage with an explicit focus on the diverse/divergent manifestations of the practice around the world. The geographic emphasis of

research on child marriage changed over the twenty-year period in question, ultimately including over 200 countries. We are looking for both academic observers and practitioners who will write state-of-the-art articles that emphasize perspectives from the Global South. Our hope is that these articles will bring together the diverse and multidisciplinary research on child, early, and forced marriage for a look at the field as a whole.

Themes that will be given priority in this Supplement include:

- **CONTROL OF GIRLS' SEXUALITY AND CHILD MARRIAGE:** Controlling female bodies, specifically young girls', and regulating their sexuality, continues to be under-addressed in conversations on gender equality and child, early and forced marriage. It is crucial to examine how views of female sexuality differ across cultural and political settings. Restrictions are placed on women to control their sexuality and many societies view the period of adolescents as a crucial transition point in a young girl's life. The restrictions therefore often tighten for young girls during this time and marriage is used as a way to regulate their sexual activity and potential fertility. We have a special interest in early pregnancy and its relationship to child, early and forced marriage.
- **MARRIED GIRLS:** Research on the experience of early marriage and on improving the lives of married girls remains an area of comparative weakness. One important gap is the lack of information on and work with parents-in-law and the marital family more broadly. Improving the lives of married girls will require learning more about these important people in their lives and working with them in a more strategic way. Research on dissolution and divorce will also be of great interest for this Supplement.
- **COMPARATIVE ANALYSES OF CHILD MARRIAGE:** Research comparing how child marriage is manifested in and across different geographical settings will also be prioritized. Of special interest will be contrasts in the connections between early pregnancy and child marriage and the similarities and differences between these patterns across different geographies.

#### ***Process for submitting papers***

Submit an abstract of no more than 250 words, to include Purpose, Methods, Results, and Conclusions to [JAHsubmissionsCEFM@gmail.com](mailto:JAHsubmissionsCEFM@gmail.com) by 19 February 2021.

The abstracts will be reviewed and prioritized by the regional editors. Authors of the selected abstracts will then be asked to submit a full paper to the *Journal of Adolescent Health/Elsevier* by 26 March 2021.

Author guidelines for full manuscripts can be found here:

[https://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws\\_home/505765?generatepdf=true](https://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws_home/505765?generatepdf=true)

#### ***Acceptance for review***

Manuscripts submitted to the *Journal of Adolescent Health* are reviewed internally for interest and relevance. Approximately two thirds of all submitted manuscripts are returned to the authors following this internal review by the Editors; the remaining one-third are subjected to full peer-review.

### ***Peer review and decision***

Manuscripts accepted for peer review are sent to three external reviewers. Reviewers are anonymous; authors' names are revealed. The Journal's goal is to complete peer review and reach a decision within six weeks of submission.

Manuscripts will either be declined based on reviewer comments or referred back to the authors for revision. A Revise and Resubmit decision is an invitation to present a carefully revised draft for further peer review; it is not an acceptance.

Authors are asked to complete revisions within 30 days. If the authors do not respond within 30 days, the editors may decline to consider the revision. The editors reciprocate by providing a final decision quickly upon receipt of the revision.

### ***Appeal process***

Authors may appeal decisions. All appeals are reviewed by the Editor-in-Chief, on a case-by-case basis, or a designated Associate Editor if the Editor-in-Chief is recused from the review. This appeal must: (1) be submitted by the primary author in writing, (2) rebut the negative decision, and (3) be submitted within 30 days after the decision is rendered. Consideration of the appeal will be based on the appeal letter and the version of the manuscript that was peer reviewed. The decision of an appeal is final.

### ***Acceptance for publication***

All manuscripts accepted for publication will require a written assignment of the copyright from the author(s) to the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine. Elsevier Inc. will maintain all records of the copyright for the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine. No part of the published material may be reproduced elsewhere without written permission from the publisher.

Authors will receive typeset galley proofs via e-mail from the Journal Manager at Elsevier. Proofs should arrive approximately four to six weeks following acceptance. It is the corresponding author's responsibility to carefully review typeset galley proofs for accuracy.

### ***Articles Online First***

The *Journal of Adolescent Health* publishes articles online ahead of print publication in the Articles Online First section of our web site. Articles are published online approximately six to eight weeks following the galley proofs. The online article is identical to the version subsequently published in the print journal and is citable by the digital object identifier (DOI) assigned at the time of online publication.

### ***Release to media***

Until the time of publication on the *Journal of Adolescent Health's* website, it is a violation of the copyright agreement to disclose the findings of an accepted manuscript to the media or the public. If you require an embargo date for your article, please contact the editorial office.

Authors will not have to contribute to publishing fees as the expenses associated with the Supplement will be covered by the Kendeda Fund and other Foundations.