

6th International Conference on Intercultural Education “Education and Health: From a transcultural perspective”

Arranged Marriages: Women For Sale.

María del Mar Pastor Bravo^{a,*}, Pilar Almansa Martínez^a, Ismael Jiménez Ruiz^a

^aUniversity of Murcia. Faculty of Nursing, Campus de Espinardo, Espinardo 30100, Murcia, España.

Abstract

Introduction: Arranged marriages are traditional in Africa, South-east Asia, The Middle East and Latin America. Due to migration the practice has been extended today to western world countries. Many families choose their daughters' husbands according to wealth, so converting the woman into a tradable good.

Aims: To explore the attitudes of a group of Moroccan women and men on the practice of arranged marriages in exchange for a dowry.

Methodology: An ethnographic qualitative methodology is used. The sample comprises five women and six men aged between 20 and 30 years and resident in the Oriental Morocco. Information was collected by semi-structured interview until data were complete.

Results: Dowry. The argument is that it is a religious obligation to pay a dowry to the bride's family prior to matrimony and subjects were in favor of the practice. Arranged marriages for money. The dowry leads many families to arrange their daughters' marriages and to trade with them as a means of improving their economic situation. Marriages are also arranged for reasons of honor. When the bride is still a girl or is opposed to the marriage, we are up against a forced marriage. The women interviewed were against these marriages for reasons of religion, love and women's rights.

Conclusions: Although the men and women defended the payment of a dowry to the bride's family, the women were more sensitive to the problems of arranged marriages and expressed disagreement with this practice which infringes rights and endangers the health of the woman.

© 2014 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Ltd. Open access under [CC BY-NC-ND license](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/).

Selection and peer-review under responsibility of HUM-665 Research Group “Research and Evaluation in Intercultural Education”.

Keywords: arranged marriage; forced marriage; women's health; nursing; gender.

1. Introduction

There are various forms of violence towards women and some come from within the family, such as that related to dowry, forced marriage, early marriage and crimes committed in the name of honor (Medicumsundi Andalucía, 2011).

Arranged marriage traditionally occurs in Africa, South-east Asia, the Near East and Latin America. Migratory phenomena have taken the practice to western countries (SURGIR). In response to this, the European countries are trying to prevent this situation through legislative measures, hardening immigration laws and demanding requirements to achieve family reunification (Briones Martínez, 2009).

In many countries it is common practice to pay a dowry to bride's family. Since marrying off a daughter provides money to the family, the future husband is chosen according to his wealth. This concealed sale reduces the woman to merchandise, with the resulting arranged marriages, in exchange for a dowry, in which women accept marriage to a man chosen by her parents. This practice means that young brides are often obliged to marry men of twice their age or even very old men (Ockrent, 2006).

It is necessary to distinguish between arranged and forced marriages; the latter occurs when one of the spouses does not agree to the marriage and is forced into it. Another type of forced marriage is child or early marriage, when one of the spouses is under 18 (Generalitat de Catalunya, 2009).

Forced and arranged marriages are not made exclusively for economic reasons, but often to restore family honor. This is the case of Amina, a Moroccan girl who, after being raped was married to her assailant in order "to save her honor" following string pressure from the Prosecutor's Office and the family judge in charge of the proceedings (Pridmore & Walter, 2013).

These situations continue in Morocco despite the new family code law (2004), which in article 4 specifies: "*Marriage is an agreement based on the mutual consent to establish a legal and lasting union between a man and a woman. It is designed for a life of mutual fidelity, purity and the establishment of a stable family, under the leadership of both parties, in agreement with the provisions herein*". This law was an important, although not definitive, step forward for women's rights, since it did not specify that there should be "free and full consent between the spouses to be", as occurs in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights under article 16 (1948).

Some of the negative outcomes of child marriage are the separation from the family and friends, the loss of freedom to relate with people of the same age, to take part in community activities, and fewer chances to receive official education (UNICEF, 2011). It is also associated to areas of forced work, slavery, prostitution, violence towards victims, sexual and abuse and serious psychological traumas. Victims are also exposed to sexually transmitted infections and premature pregnancies which can lead to complications and malnutrition in mothers and babies alike (UNICEF, 2007).

Both forced and arranged marriages can lead to women entering a cycle of poverty and lack of protection, since most are exposed to violence, abuse and forced sexual relations (ACNUR/UNHCR).

To prevent both forced and arranged marriages, the legal and policy framework must go hand in hand with education in order to increase economic opportunities for women (Sabbe et al. 2013).

In this sense, health professionals and, in particular nursing, are in the ideal position to identify, assist and support victims of this type of marriage (Griffith & Tengnah, 2009).

2. Aims

To explore the attitudes of a group of Moroccan women and men on the practice of arranged marriages in exchange for a dowry.

3. Methodology

The methodology used is qualitative and ethnographic, since the aim of the research is to detect the singular nature of attitudes and knowledge about arranged marriages in exchange for a dowry by studying these from their

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/1114699>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/1114699>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)