

23 million men married before they were 15

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UNICEF has issued a report on the number of boys who get married around the world. It estimates that 115 million boys and men were married as children. Of these, one in five, or 23 million, were married before the

age of 15. The report is UNICEF's first ever in-depth study of child grooms. UNICEF said a lot of news focuses on young girls being forced into marriage as child brides. The new report looks at the same problem of forced marriage but with boys. The UN agency looked at data from 82 countries. It found that child marriage among boys is common in countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and nations in the Pacific. The Central African Republic has the highest rate of child grooms.

UNICEF commented on the damage child marriage does to boys. It said: "Marriage steals childhood. Child grooms are forced to take on adult responsibilities for which they may not be ready. Early marriage brings early fatherhood, and with it added pressure to provide for a family, cutting short education and job opportunities." UNICEF spoke about the harm child marriage does to boys and girls. It said: "When we think about child marriage we often think about girls, and rightly so because girls are most affected, but boys do marry in childhood." It added: "[Child marriage] creates a burden for boys to take on adult responsibilities and roles when they are still children themselves, like providing for a family."

Sources: unicef.org / independent.co.uk / theguardian.com

Writing

Countries that allow child marriage should be fined. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

report / married / estimates / study / child / groom / bride / UNESCO / common / childhood / responsibilities / pressure / fatherhood / opportunities / burden / family

True / False

- a) UNICEF said 115 million men got married when they were children. T / F
- b) The UNICEF report is its third in-depth report on child grooms. T / F
- c) UNICEF looked at data from 82 countries. T / F
- d) The Central African Republic has the highest rate of child grooms. T / F
- e) UNICEF said childhood steals marriage. T / F
- f) UNICEF said many child grooms become fathers too early. T / F
- g) The UNICEF report didn't mention anything about girls marrying. T / F
- h) UNICEF said child grooms don't have a burden to provide for a family. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. estimates | a. ending |
| 2. in-depth | b. statistics |
| 3. focuses | c. feeding |
| 4. data | d. detailed |
| 5. rate | e. harm |
| 6. damage | f. impacted |
| 7. responsibilities | g. calculates |
| 8. cutting short | h. duties |
| 9. affected | i. concentrates |
| 10. providing for | j. percentage |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about UNICEF?
- b) What do you know about child grooms?
- c) What is the youngest age at which people can get married?
- d) What would it be like to be married as a child?
- e) What should countries do to stop child marriages?
- f) Why are young boys forced into marriage?
- g) Is the legal age to marry in your country OK?
- h) What advice do you have for child grooms?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. UNICEF has issued | a. education |
| 2. UNICEF's first ever in- | b. common |
| 3. forced | c. does to boys |
| 4. child marriage among boys is | d. a report |
| 5. The Central African Republic has the highest | e. affected |
| 6. the damage child marriage | f. depth study |
| 7. added pressure to provide | g. responsibilities |
| 8. cutting short | h. rate of child grooms |
| 9. girls are most | i. for a family |
| 10. take on adult | j. marriage |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about child brides?
- What damage does marrying as a child do to children?
- What is a good age for anyone to get married?
- Should there be different ages for men and women to marry?
- What can UNICEF do to prevent child marriages?
- What three adjectives best describe this story?
- What questions would you like to ask UNICEF?

Spelling

- It teimsstea that 115 million boys...
- UNICEF's first ever ni-hpdte study
- a lot of news euofscs on young girls
- the same problem of rofedc marriage
- child marriage among boys is omconm
- the ieshtg rate of child grooms
- the agmade child marriage does
- added erusspre to
- cutting short tounciade
- girls are most dfcftae
- child marriage creates a edrnub for boys
- pvrnoiigd for a family

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. j
6. e	7. h	8. a	9. f	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Toys

You think toys are the best thing about childhood. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): school, friends or growing up.

Role B – School

You think school is the best thing about childhood. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): toys, friends or growing up.

Role C – Friends

You think friends are the best thing about childhood. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): school, toys or growing up.

Role D – Growing Up

You think growing up is the best thing about childhood. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): school, friends or toys.

Speaking – Childhood

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about childhood at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------|------------------|
| • toys | • friends |
| • candies | • living at home |
| • school | • freedom |
| • no job | • growing up |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.