# The Best Book Of Early People Printable PDF

**The best book of early people** is a compelling subject that intertwines the rich tapestry of human history with the profound insights offered by seminal texts. When exploring the origins of humanity, one book stands out due to its comprehensive approach, scholarly depth, and engaging presentation: "Guns, Germs, and Steel" by Jared Diamond. This book has revolutionized our understanding of how early humans evolved, migrated, and shaped the modern world. In this article, we will delve into why it is considered the best book of early people, its core themes, and how it enriches our knowledge of human history.

## Understanding the Significance of "Guns, Germs, and Steel"

### Background and Author

Jared Diamond, a renowned geographer, anthropologist, and evolutionary biologist, published "Guns, Germs, and Steel" in 1997. His multidisciplinary approach synthesizes insights from various fields to answer one of the most profound questions: Why did some societies develop advanced civilizations while others remained hunter-gatherers for millennia?

### Core Premise

The book posits that geographic and environmental factors, rather than biological differences, primarily determined the uneven distribution of power and technology among early peoples. Diamond argues that the availability of domesticable plants and animals, along with favorable climates, set the stage for the rise of complex societies.

## Key Themes and Insights

### 1. The Role of Geography and Environment

Diamond emphasizes that the natural environment significantly influenced human development:

- **Availability of Domesticable Plants and Animals:** Societies with access to productive crops like wheat and barley, and animals like sheep and goats, gained advantages in food security and labor.
- **Climate and Geography:** Fertile Crescent, with its favorable climate, facilitated early agriculture, leading to population growth and societal complexity.
- **Barriers and Pathways:** Mountain ranges, deserts, and oceans shaped migration and cultural

exchange routes.

### 2. Development of Agriculture and Settlements

The transition from nomadic hunting and gathering to settled farming communities was pivotal:

- Domestication of key crops and animals created food surpluses.
- Stable food sources supported population growth and specialization.
- Settlements led to the development of social hierarchies and technological innovations.

### 3. Technological and Cultural Advancements

Diamond discusses how technological progress was uneven and influenced by environmental factors:

- Increased food production led to technological innovations such as metallurgy and writing.
- Societies with access to resources could develop advanced tools, weapons, and transportation.
- Communication and cultural exchange accelerated in regions with favorable geography.

### 4. The Factors Behind Societal Domination

The book explores why certain societies conquered or outpaced others:

- **Guns, Germs, and Steel:** Superior weaponry, immunity to diseases, and organizational skills enabled some civilizations to dominate others.
- Exposure to domesticated animals led to the spread of infectious diseases, often devastating to indigenous populations during colonization.
- Technological innovations and resource control provided military and economic advantages.

## Why "Guns, Germs, and Steel" Is the Best Book on Early People

### 1. Interdisciplinary Approach

The book synthesizes insights from archaeology, biology, anthropology, and history, providing a holistic view of human evolution and societal development.

### 2. Accessibility and Engagement

Despite its scholarly depth, "Guns, Germs, and Steel" is written in an accessible style, making complex concepts understandable to a broad audience.

### 3. Evidence-Based Analysis

Diamond grounds his arguments in extensive research, archaeological findings, and statistical data, lending credibility and depth to his conclusions.

### 4. Thought-Provoking Perspectives

The book challenges ethnocentric views of history, emphasizing environmental and geographical determinants over notions of racial or cultural superiority.

## Impact and Legacy of "Guns, Germs, and Steel"

### Academic and Public Reception

The book received widespread acclaim, including the Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction in 1998. It influenced scholars, policymakers, and educators by providing a new lens to understand historical development.

### Influence on Education and Thought

"Guns, Germs, and Steel" is often included in university curricula and reading lists worldwide. Its insights help students grasp the profound impact of environment and geography on human history.

### Contemporary Relevance

The book's themes remain relevant as they relate to ongoing discussions about global inequality, development, and cultural interactions.

## Complementary and Related Works

While "Guns, Germs, and Steel" remains a seminal text, other notable books enrich our understanding of early peoples:

- **"Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind" by Yuval Noah Harari** ? Offers a broad overview of human history, emphasizing cognitive revolutions.
- **"The Dawn of Everything" by David Graeber and David Wengrow** ? Challenges traditional narratives about the origins of social hierarchies and civilization.

- **"The Story of the Human Body" by Daniel Lieberman** ? Focuses on biological evolution and physical development.

## Conclusion

In summary, "Guns, Germs, and Steel" by Jared Diamond stands out as the best book on early people because of its comprehensive analysis, interdisciplinary approach, and ability to explain complex historical phenomena in an engaging and accessible manner. It reshapes our understanding of human history by highlighting the profound influence of environmental factors on societal development. Whether you are a student, educator, or history enthusiast, this book offers invaluable insights into the origins of humanity and the factors that shaped our world.

If you're eager to explore the fascinating story of early humans and the forces that propelled their civilizations forward, "Guns, Germs, and Steel" is an essential read that will deepen your appreciation for the intricate web of history, environment, and human ingenuity.

The Best Book of Early People: Unlocking Humanity?s Ancient Origins

When exploring the depths of human history, few topics captivate the imagination quite like the lives of early people. From their primitive tools to their complex social structures, understanding the earliest chapters of our species provides invaluable insight into where we come from and how we have evolved. Among the countless books that delve into this fascinating era, one standout title emerges as the definitive guide to early humans: Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind by Yuval Noah Harari. While not solely focused on the earliest humans, this groundbreaking work offers a comprehensive overview of human evolution, blending scientific discovery with philosophical reflection, making it arguably the best book of early people available today.

Why Sapiens Stands Out as the Best Book of Early People

Sapiens is celebrated for its accessible narrative, interdisciplinary approach, and ability to synthesize complex anthropological, archaeological, and genetic data into engaging storytelling. Harari?s work bridges the gap between academic research and general readership, making the story of early humans both enlightening and compelling. Its broad scope covers millions of years, from the emergence of Homo sapiens in Africa to the modern world, but it pays particular attention to the pivotal moments that define early human history.

Overview of the Content

- The Cognitive Revolution

Harari begins with the Cognitive Revolution, approximately 70,000 years ago, a period that marks the emergence of modern human cognition. This phase includes:

- Development of language and communication skills
- Formation of complex social groups
- The ability to imagine and share myths, stories, and beliefs

Key takeaway: The Cognitive Revolution set humans apart from other species, enabling cooperation on a larger scale and laying the groundwork for culture and civilization.

- The Agricultural Revolution

Moving forward, Harari explores the Agricultural Revolution around 12,000 years ago:

- Transition from hunter-gatherer lifestyles to settled farming communities
- Domestication of plants and animals
- Growth of villages, towns, and eventually cities

Impact: This shift dramatically increased food production, supported larger populations, and led to the development of social hierarchies, trade, and technological advances.

- The Unification of Humankind

The book then examines how humans began to unify through:

- Shared beliefs (religions, ideologies)
- Trade networks and empires
- Cultural exchanges

Significance: These processes fostered cooperation among large groups, leading to the complex societies we see today.

- The Scientific Revolution

Although more recent, the Scientific Revolution profoundly influenced humanity?s trajectory,

affecting early civilizations and modern societies alike.

Why Sapiens is the Best Book of Early People for Different Readers

For Students and Academics

- Comprehensive overview: It synthesizes vast amounts of research into an accessible narrative.
- Interdisciplinary approach: Combines anthropology, archaeology, genetics, and history.

For General Readers

- Engaging storytelling: Harari?s clear prose and thought-provoking ideas make complex topics captivating.
- Broader perspective: It connects early human history to contemporary issues like ethics, technology, and future challenges.

For Enthusiasts of Human Evolution

- Insightful analysis: Offers interpretations and debates surrounding key discoveries.
- Rich context: Places archaeological finds within a larger narrative of human development.

Critical Acclaim and Impact

Since its publication, Sapiens has become a global bestseller, translated into dozens of languages and sparking discussions worldwide. Its influence extends beyond academia into popular culture, inspiring podcasts, documentaries, and classroom discussions. Critics praise Harari?s ability to distill centuries of research into a compelling story that challenges readers to think about what it means to be human.

Additional Notable Books on Early People

While Sapiens is widely regarded as the best, other essential titles deepen specific aspects of early human history:

- The Dawn of Humanity by Richard Leakey and Roger Lewin

Focuses on fossil discoveries and the evolution of hominins.

- Guns, Germs, and Steel by Jared Diamond

Explores environmental and geographic factors shaping human societies.

- The Human Evolution Coloring Book by Adrienne L. Zihlman

An interactive resource for visual learners interested in anatomy and evolution.

- The Third Chimpanzee by Jared Diamond

Investigates what makes humans unique compared to other primates.

How to Approach Sapiens for Maximum Benefit

- Read with curiosity: Approach the book as a journey through time, eager to learn about our ancestors.
- Take notes: Jot down interesting facts, debates, or questions that arise.
- Reflect on modern implications: Consider how early human developments influence current societal structures and future challenges.
- Engage with supplementary materials: Watch documentaries or visit museums to visualize archaeological sites and fossils.

Conclusion

In the quest to understand our origins, Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind stands out as the best book of early people due to its comprehensive scope, engaging narrative, and thought-provoking insights. It serves as both an educational resource and a philosophical meditation on what it means to be human. Whether you're a student, a history enthusiast, or simply curious about our past, this book provides an illuminating lens through which to explore the remarkable journey of early humans?from primitive ancestors to the architects of civilization. As we continue to uncover new discoveries and challenge existing narratives, Sapiens remains a cornerstone for anyone eager to grasp the profound story of humanity?s earliest days.

QuestionAnswer What is considered the best book to learn about early human history? Many experts recommend 'Guns, Germs, and Steel' by Jared Diamond as one of the most comprehensive books on early human history and development. Are there any beginner-friendly books about early people? Yes, 'The Human Evolution Coloring Book' by Adrienne L. Zihlman offers an engaging and accessible introduction to early human ancestors through illustrations and explanations. Which book

provides insights into the daily lives of early humans? 'The First Humans' by Ann Gibbons explores archaeological findings and stories about how early humans lived, hunted, and interacted. Can you recommend a book that covers the evolution of early humans? 'Your Inner Fish' by Neil Shubin traces the evolutionary journey from early fish to humans, providing context on our ancient ancestors. Is there a popular book that discusses the migration of early humans? 'Out of Africa: The Archaeological Evidence' by R. J. W. B. K. B. K. B. K. B. K. B. K. B. K. B. explores the migration patterns of early humans across continents. What is a highly recommended book about early human tools and technology? 'The Archaeology of Early Humans' by Robin Dennell offers detailed insights into the technological advancements of our ancestors. Are there any recent publications on early humans that are considered the best? 'The Origin of Our Species' by Chris Stringer is a recent authoritative work that discusses the latest research on human origins and evolution. What book should I read to understand the significance of early humans in today's world? 'Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind' by Yuval Noah Harari provides a broad overview of human history, including the role of early humans in shaping modern civilization.

**Related keywords:** prehistoric literature, ancient civilizations, early human history, cave paintings, primitive societies, archaeological discoveries, early storytelling, ancient myths, prehistoric tools, early cultures

# EARLY MARRIAGE IN SOUTH ASIA UNICEF

**Early marriage in South Asia UNICEF** has been a persistent challenge that affects millions of girls and young women across the region. Despite ongoing efforts by governments, non-governmental organizations, and international agencies like UNICEF, child marriage remains deeply rooted in social, cultural, and economic norms. This practice not only violates the rights of children but also hampers their health, education, and overall development. Understanding the causes, consequences, and ongoing initiatives to combat early marriage in South Asia is essential to fostering a future where every child has the opportunity to thrive free from the constraints of premature marriage.

## Understanding Early Marriage in South Asia

### Definition and Scope

Early marriage, often defined as a formal or informal union before the age of 18, is widespread across South Asian countries such as India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. UNICEF reports that a significant percentage of girls in these nations are married before reaching adulthood, with some regions witnessing rates exceeding 50%. This prevalence underscores the critical need

for targeted interventions.

### Cultural and Social Roots

Many communities in South Asia consider early marriage as a cultural norm, a way to preserve family honor, or an economic strategy to reduce financial burdens. Common beliefs include:

- Marriage as a rite of passage into adulthood
- Arranged marriages aligned with familial and societal expectations
- Perception of girls as economic liabilities, leading to early marriage to reduce household expenses

These deeply ingrained attitudes make addressing early marriage a complex challenge that requires sensitive and culturally aware strategies.

## Causes and Contributing Factors

### Economic Factors

Poverty is a primary driver of early marriage in South Asia. Families facing financial hardships often see marriage as a way to reduce economic burdens or secure a financial arrangement through bride price or dowry. Additionally, limited access to economic opportunities discourages girls from continuing their education.

### Educational Barriers

Lack of access to quality education and gender disparities in schooling contribute significantly to early marriage. Girls who drop out of school are more vulnerable to early marriage due to:

- Early pregnancy
- Limited awareness of their rights
- Social pressure to marry early

### Legal and Policy Gaps

Although most South Asian countries have laws setting the minimum age of marriage at 18, enforcement remains weak. Illegal marriages and customary practices often bypass legal frameworks, perpetuating the cycle of early marriage.

### Gender Norms and Cultural Expectations

Patriarchal values and traditional gender roles position girls primarily as future homemakers, leading families to prioritize marriage over education or personal development.

## Impacts of Early Marriage on Girls and Society

### Health Risks

Girls who marry early face significant health challenges, including:

- Higher risks of complications during pregnancy and childbirth
- Increased maternal mortality rates
- Limited access to healthcare and reproductive services

Early pregnancy can also lead to adverse outcomes such as low birth weight and neonatal mortality.

### Education and Economic Opportunities

Child marriage often results in girls dropping out of school, which diminishes their future employment prospects and perpetuates cycles of poverty. Lack of education also reduces awareness about health, rights, and civic participation.

### Psychosocial Consequences

Married girls frequently experience:

- Isolation from peers and community
- Increased vulnerability to domestic violence and exploitation
- Reduced self-esteem and agency

These factors hinder their personal development and ability to make informed decisions.

### Societal Development and Economic Growth

Early marriage hampers broader societal progress by limiting women's participation in the workforce, reducing economic productivity, and perpetuating gender inequalities.

## UNICEF?s Initiatives and Strategies to Combat Early Marriage

### Advocacy for Policy and Legal Reforms

UNICEF works closely with governments to strengthen laws that set the legal marriage age at 18 and ensure proper enforcement. This includes:

- Monitoring legal compliance
- Supporting the repeal of customary practices that enable child marriage
- Promoting gender-sensitive policies

### Community Engagement and Awareness Campaigns

Changing social norms requires community involvement. UNICEF supports:

- Awareness campaigns highlighting the risks of early marriage
- Involving religious and community leaders to challenge harmful traditions
- Empowering girls and their families with information about their rights

### Education and Economic Empowerment

Enhancing access to quality education and economic opportunities for girls is central to UNICEF?s approach. Strategies include:

- Supporting girls? enrollment and retention in schools
- Vocational training programs for adolescent girls
- Microfinance initiatives aimed at empowering young women

### Protecting and Supporting Vulnerable Girls

UNICEF promotes safe spaces and support services for girls at risk of early marriage, including:

- Hotlines and counseling services
- Legal assistance and shelter programs
- Mentorship and life skills training

## Challenges and Future Directions

### Persistent Cultural Barriers

Despite legal frameworks and awareness campaigns, cultural norms continue to challenge efforts to end early marriage. Sustained engagement with communities is essential for long-term change.

### Addressing Poverty and Inequality

Economic disparities exacerbate the risk of early marriage. Policies aimed at poverty alleviation and social protection are crucial.

### Enhancing Data Collection and Research

Reliable data on early marriage prevalence and its drivers help tailor effective interventions. UNICEF emphasizes strengthening data systems for better policy formulation.

### Collaborative Multi-sectoral Approaches

Combating early marriage requires collaboration across sectors, including education, health, justice, and social protection, to create comprehensive solutions.

## Conclusion

Early marriage in South Asia remains a complex issue intertwined with cultural, economic, and social factors. UNICEF?s ongoing efforts to promote legal reforms, community engagement, education, and empowerment are vital in addressing this challenge. Achieving a future where girls can fully realize their rights and potential depends on sustained commitment from governments, communities, and international partners. Eliminating early marriage is not just about protecting individual rights?it is essential for building equitable, healthy, and prosperous societies across South Asia.

Early Marriage in South Asia: An In-Depth Exploration Based on UNICEF Reports

Introduction

Early marriage remains a pervasive challenge across South Asia, impacting millions of young girls and boys annually. Recognized globally as a violation of human rights, early marriage not only curtails individual potential but also perpetuates cycles of poverty, gender inequality, and poor health outcomes. According to UNICEF, which has been actively monitoring and advocating against this practice, South Asia bears a disproportionate burden of child marriage, with profound social, economic, and health implications.

This comprehensive review delves into the multifaceted aspects of early marriage in South Asia, examining its prevalence, root causes, consequences, and ongoing efforts to eradicate it.

Understanding Early Marriage: Definitions and Scope

What is Early Marriage?

Early marriage, often defined as a formal or informal union before the age of 18, is a complex social practice influenced by cultural, economic, and political factors. While legal frameworks may set minimum marriage ages, enforcement varies across countries and regions.

Prevalence in South Asia

- Approximately 45% of girls in South Asia are married before their 18th birthday, according to UNICEF data.
- Countries like Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan exhibit particularly high rates, with some regions reporting over 60% of girls married early.
- The practice is often more prevalent in rural areas, among marginalized communities, and within certain socio-cultural groups.

Root Causes of Early Marriage in South Asia

Understanding why early marriage persists requires a nuanced exploration of socio-cultural, economic, and political factors.

Cultural and Religious Norms

- Many communities hold deeply ingrained beliefs that emphasize the importance of early marriage to preserve family honor, chastity, or religious traditions.
- Certain religious and cultural practices endorse or normalize early unions, viewing them as essential rites of passage.

Economic Factors

- Poverty is a significant driver; families may marry off daughters early to reduce financial burdens or receive dowry.
- In agrarian societies, early marriage is sometimes viewed as a strategy to secure economic stability or social alliances.

Educational Barriers

- Limited access to quality education, especially for girls, correlates with higher rates of early marriage.
- Lack of awareness about the legal age of marriage and the implications of early unions further perpetuates the cycle.

Gender Inequality and Social Norms

- Societal norms that prioritize male authority and subordinate female agency contribute to early marriage.
- Expectations for girls to assume domestic roles early in life diminish their opportunities for education and personal development.

Political and Legal Gaps

- Weak enforcement of laws prohibiting child marriage allows the practice to persist.
- Legal loopholes, such as exceptions or lack of documentation, facilitate early unions.

Consequences of Early Marriage

The repercussions of early marriage are profound, affecting health, education, economic prospects, and social development.

Health Impacts

- Maternal and Infant Health Risks: Early marriage often leads to adolescent pregnancies, which carry higher risks of maternal mortality, obstetric fistula, and complications.
- Increased Vulnerability to Violence and Exploitation: Young brides are more susceptible to domestic violence, sexual abuse, and exploitation.
- Limited Access to Healthcare: Early married girls may have limited autonomy to seek health services or make decisions about their reproductive health.

Educational and Economic Outcomes

- Disruption of Education: Early marriage frequently results in school dropout, depriving girls of skills and opportunities.
- Economic Disempowerment: Lack of education and vocational skills limits income-generating potential, trapping families and individuals in poverty.

Social and Psychological Effects

- Loss of Childhood and Personal Development: Early marriage curtails personal growth and the pursuit of aspirations.
- Psychological Trauma: Forced marriage and early motherhood can lead to depression, anxiety, and social isolation.

Intergenerational Impact

- Children of early married girls tend to have poorer health outcomes and are more likely to marry early themselves, perpetuating the cycle.

Regional Variations and Specific Country Contexts

India

- Despite legal prohibitions, child marriage remains prevalent, particularly in states like Bihar, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.
- Efforts include awareness campaigns, legal enforcement, and community engagement initiatives.

Bangladesh

- One of the countries with the highest rates of early marriage, driven by poverty and traditional norms.
- Government and NGOs focus on education, empowerment, and legal enforcement.

Nepal

- Cultural practices and economic hardship contribute to early marriage, especially in marginalized communities.
- Programs aim to improve access to education and reproductive health services.

Pakistan

- Early marriage is widespread, often linked to religious and cultural traditions.
- Interventions include legal reforms, community dialogues, and girl empowerment programs.

UNICEF?s Role and Initiatives in Addressing Early Marriage

UNICEF has been at the forefront of efforts to combat early marriage in South Asia through multi-sectoral strategies.

Advocacy and Policy Support

- Working with governments to strengthen laws prohibiting child marriage.
- Promoting the enforcement of existing legal frameworks and closing loopholes.

Community Engagement and Education

- Mobilizing community leaders, religious figures, and local organizations to challenge social norms.
- Implementing awareness campaigns highlighting the health and social risks of early marriage.

Girls? Empowerment and Education

- Promoting access to quality education for girls, including scholarship programs and safe school environments.
- Supporting life skills education and vocational training to enhance girls? agency.

Health and Reproductive Services

- Ensuring adolescent girls have access to reproductive health services.
- Providing information on contraception, maternal health, and rights.

Data Collection and Research

- Monitoring prevalence trends and evaluating intervention effectiveness.
- Utilizing data to inform policy and program design.

Challenges in Eradicating Early Marriage

Despite concerted efforts, several obstacles hinder progress.

- Cultural Resistance: Deep-rooted traditions and social norms are resistant to change.
- Legal Enforcement Gaps: Weak judicial systems and lack of accountability allow illegal marriages to occur.
- Socioeconomic Barriers: Poverty continues to drive families to marry off daughters early.
- Limited Access to Education: Infrastructure deficits and safety concerns restrict girls? school attendance.
- Gender Inequality: Persistent gender biases undermine efforts to empower girls.

Strategies for Sustainable Change

Achieving the goal of ending early marriage in South Asia requires comprehensive, culturally sensitive, and multi-layered approaches:

- Strengthening Legislation and Enforcement

- Harmonize laws across countries.
- Increase penalties for violations and improve reporting mechanisms.

- Community-Led Interventions

- Engage local leaders to challenge harmful norms.
- Foster community dialogues to promote alternative rites of passage.

- Enhancing Education and Economic Opportunities

- Expand free, quality education for girls.
- Develop livelihood programs that reduce economic incentives for early marriage.

- Promoting Gender Equality

- Address patriarchal norms through media campaigns and school curricula.
- Empower girls to participate in decision-making.

- Monitoring and Data-Driven Policies

- Invest in robust data collection to track progress.
- Tailor interventions based on localized needs.

Conclusion

Early marriage in South Asia remains a complex challenge intertwined with cultural, economic, and social factors. While significant strides have been made through policies, community engagement, and educational initiatives, much work remains to be done. UNICEF?s role in advocating, empowering, and supporting governments and communities is crucial in transforming societal norms and ensuring that children?especially girls?can realize their full potential free from the harms of early marriage.

Achieving the elimination of early marriage in South Asia demands sustained commitment, innovative solutions, and a collective effort from all sectors of society. Only through comprehensive strategies that respect cultural contexts yet promote the rights and well-being of young people can lasting change be achieved.

QuestionAnswer What are the main factors contributing to early marriage in South Asia according to UNICEF? UNICEF identifies factors such as gender inequality, poverty, cultural norms, lack of access to education, and limited awareness about the impacts of early marriage as primary contributors to the prevalence of early marriage in South Asia. How does early marriage impact girls' health and education in South Asia? Early marriage often leads to early pregnancy, which increases health risks for girls, and interrupts their education, limiting their future economic opportunities and perpetuating cycles of poverty. What specific initiatives has UNICEF implemented to combat early marriage in South Asia? UNICEF collaborates with governments and local organizations to promote girls' education, raise awareness about the harms of early marriage, and support policy changes that enforce legal age restrictions and provide social services for at-risk youth. What are the legal frameworks regarding early marriage in South Asian countries, and how effective are they? Most South Asian countries have laws setting the minimum marriage age at 18; however, enforcement varies, and customary practices often undermine legal protections, making it challenging to eliminate early marriage entirely. How has COVID-19 pandemic affected rates of early marriage in South Asia? The pandemic has led to increased poverty, school closures, and reduced access to support services, resulting in a rise in early marriages as families see it as a way to cope with economic hardships and safety concerns. What role do cultural and societal norms play in perpetuating early

marriage in South Asia? Cultural traditions, societal expectations, and gender norms often prioritize marriage at a young age for girls, viewing early marriage as a means to preserve family honor or ensure economic security, which sustains its prevalence despite legal and health concerns.

**Related keywords:** early marriage, South Asia, UNICEF, child marriage, women's rights, gender equality, adolescent girls, education, health risks, social norms

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