

Child Brides: Stolen Lives

Critical Issues - Lesson Plan

Grade: 11

Subject: Social Studies

Time: 1 Hour

“Consequences of Child Marriage”

Unit: 5 - World Governance	Specific Topic: Gender; Women and Children Rights
URL: http://www.pbs.org/now/shows/341/educators.html	
Lesson Description: This lesson provides a startling insight into the issue of child brides in many developing countries. The production team travels to Niger, India, and Guatemala to report on a global custom that devastates lives and keeps communities from prospering, and in this lesson, students are able to explore the effects that this issue has on the children impacted.	
Curriculum Outcomes: Grade 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Know that because conflict within any human relationship is inevitable, all social organizations must have some means of resolving conflict and making decisions that all can accept. - Know that the process of change will continue for the foreseeable future, making it necessary for people to adapt to new circumstances as they develop. - Know that issues in the future will remain complex and many-sided. Anyone wishing to understand them adequately will have to be prepared to use a dialectical thinking process to resolve the complications and contradictions. - Should the future be viewed as something to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resisted as threatening and dangerous; or - Be welcomed as a natural process of change and development? <p>In addition, by the end of this lesson students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acquire additional information about the issue of child marriage - Explore issues of gender discrimination - Learn about community-based solutions - Understand the role of education 	
Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assign participation grades for class discussion - Assign completion grades for exercise in small group activity 	Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Film “<i>Child Brides: Stolen Lives</i>” - Fact Sheet

Procedure:

Activity #1

- Show students the film "Child Brides: Stolen Lives" (55 minutes). It is a one hour documentary from NOW, the weekly newsmagazine on PBS. NOW's production team travelled to Niger, India and Guatemala to report on a global custom that devastates lives and keeps communities from prospering.

Activity # 2

- After viewing the video (it can be downloaded, viewed as streaming video, or viewed as a podcast) students are divided into small groups to discuss the societal and generational impacts of child marriage. Following this, they reconvene as a large group to discuss their findings.

- Continuing in the large group, students move on to discuss strategies to reduce child marriage and to discuss the progress made by NGOs in attempting to overcome the problem.

Small Group Activity: 20 minutes

Understand the societal and generational impact of child marriage.

1. Draw three concentric circles and label them from inner to outer: child bride, family, and community.
2. List the consequences of child marriage for the girl (early and risky pregnancy, social isolation, lack of education, few life skills, risk of HIV/AIDS, etc.).
3. List the consequences of child marriage for the family (malnourishment, infant mortality, less likely that children will attend school, etc.).
4. List the consequences of child marriage for a community (loss of a vocal active member when young mother is isolated at home, political participation, fewer female role models, women as peacemakers, etc.).
5. Draw another set of circles and list the consequences for a girl who marries later and stays in school (smaller, healthier, and better educated families, better protection, increased wages, break the cycle of poverty and sickness, etc.).

Conduct Full Class Discussion of Group Findings:

- Compare the two circles and review the role of intergeneration consequences of education or not educating a girl.
- Discuss what is meant when development experts speak of "cascading effects" of girls' education

Full Class Activity Options: 20 minutes each

A. Understanding the Strength of Community-Based Strategies to End Child Marriage

1. Review the solutions and the role of activists presented in the film:
 - Niger: changing attitudes of leadership and the sensitization brigade
 - India: intervening local administrators and boarding schools
 - Guatemala: mentoring girls and encouraging self-esteem
2. What is the rationale behind each strategy? How do these strategies address community and family inclinations towards child marriage? How is each strategy suited for the particular community?
3. On a chalkboard, list the advantages and disadvantages of the strategy (cost, risks, family separation, abuse of authority, etc.).
4. Do you expect long term success with these strategies? Which do you favor?
5. What personal traits do the activists share? How do they exhibit leadership?

B. Understanding Global Partnerships as Solutions

1. On a chalkboard, list the various individuals and organizations working to prevent child marriage (family, teachers, community leaders, local and national government, international organizations, UNICEF, UN, etc.)

Extension Resource: For further information on Global Citizenship Education (GCE) and additional resources, see **SCIC's Global Citizenship Education Modules**.