

Barriers and supports to reducing early child bearing among newly married adolescent girls in Zinder Region

In-depth Interview Guide: Married adolescents (WITH CHILDREN)

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In-depth Interview Guide: Married adolescents (WITH CHILDREN)

Date of interview: [__|__ / __|__ / 2_0_|_ / __
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Time of interview: Start [__|__:__|__] End [__|__ : __|__]

Interviewer name (s) _____

Note-taker name _____

Anyone else present for the interview? If so, his/her name _____

Good morning/afternoon. Thank you for taking the time to speak with me today.

My name is _____, and I'm here on behalf of CARE Niger working on a study about early child birth among married adolescents.

We are conducting a series of discussions to learn from about early child birth among married adolescents in this community, what people think about this issue, and what supports can be provided to help young girls who want to delay birth. Participation in the interview is completely voluntary and you don't have to answer any question you don't want to answer. None of your responses will be shared with anyone outside of the research team.

I will also be tape recording the discussion for future reference but will not be identifying the speakers on the tape. The interview may take some time but we are willing to take breaks or come back on another day, if that is more convenient for you.

CARD SORTING

Today we are going to start with a game, using picture cards to describe different thoughts and ideas that you have about your life.

[INSERT CARD SORTING EXERCISE HERE]

INTERVIEW

Now that we have used the cards to think about your life and opportunities, I want to ask you about some more specific questions about life for an adolescent girl in your community. This will include things that are similar to what we have already discussed. If at any point you want to use the cards to help you express your thoughts, feel free to do so.

First, I'm going to share a story with you about a young girl in a neighboring village. This is an imaginary story, so let's give our character in this story a name. How about Samira? After I tell you the story, I will ask some questions about Samira and her experience.

Samira is a 16-year-old girl who has just gotten married. She lives with her husband and his family, where she helps them with farming work. Samira's two sisters got married at age 15 and each had their first baby by age 16. However, Samira and her husband discussed their future together and have decided to delay having their first child for the first two years

1. What would members of your community say about Samira's decision to delay child birth for the first two years of marriage? Probe: What would they think about Samira? What would they *think about her husband? Her family?*
2. What would people think if they knew Samira's husband and family support her decision to delay child birth? Probe: *Would they support it more/less? What would they think of her husband? What would they think of her (natal) family?*

3. If she faced negative reactions from community members, should Samira change her decision? Probe: *Why/why not?*
4. If a married adolescent in your community wanted to delay child birth like Samira did, what kind of support would she need? Probe: *Where would she get that support? Family support? Community support? Health care support?*
5. What are some of the benefits a young girl like Samira may gain by delaying birth?
 - a. Probe: *What about benefits to her husband? To her other family members? Of all these benefits, which are the most important?*
6. What are some of the drawbacks of a young girl like Samira might face in delaying birth?
 - a. Probe: *What about benefits to her husband? To her other family members? Of all these benefits, which are the most important?*

C. Now I would like to ask you about opportunities for married adolescents/couples who want to delay birth.

Ok, now we will return to the story of Samira. Let's see what happened since Samira delayed her first birth.

Since deciding to delay birth, Samira has taken a training course on XXXXX. She now works at XXXXXX earning X,XXXCFA a week. She is saving to help build a new house with her husband before they have their first child. Until then, she is using the contraceptive pill to prevent pregnancy.

7. What would people in your community think about Samira pursuing a new opportunity instead of having a child right away?
 - a. Probe: *Would they approve? Would they disapprove? Why/why not?*
8. What opportunities could a married adolescent girl in your community pursue if she didn't have a child right away? Probe: *Employment [Probe on types of employment – agriculture, tailoring, etc]? Skills training? Education? Others?*
 - b. *Of the opportunities listed, which are the most likely to be acceptable for a young girl in this community?*

9. I want you to think of opportunities like the ones you just mentioned in your community. For your own life, what kinds of opportunities are most appealing to you? *Can you give an example of someone who is engaged in an activity that you would like to pursue? Please explain why that opportunity is appealing to you? What does that opportunity offer you/your family?*
10. Thinking of the opportunities that you just mentioned, do you think you would be able to pursue them if you had a child right away?
 - c. If not, would you prefer to delay child birth in order to pursue these opportunities? Why/Why not?
 - d. If yes, how would having a child right away affect your ability to pursue these opportunities?
11. What are some barriers you could face in pursuing these opportunities? *Probe: Barriers from family? Barriers from husband? Barriers from community? Economic barriers? Employment barriers? Of all these barriers, which are the most difficult to overcome?*
12. In your own life, who do you turn to when you need help or support?
13. Who are the people in your life who would support you to delay child bearing?
14. Who are the people in your life who would support your pursuit of opportunities other than immediate child bearing? *If no one, please explain why no one would support you.*

D. Understanding of SRH and contraceptive methods

Now I would like to ask you some questions about methods to prevent pregnancy. It's ok if you do not know the answers, just do the best you can.

15. Where do you get your information about ways to prevent pregnancy?
 - a. *Do you talk to your friends about this? Husband? Parents? Health care providers? Others?*
16. What are all the methods you know of to prevent pregnancy? Probe gently until she cannot list any more. **[If they do not know any contraceptive methods, skip to #21]**
17. Are there some methods of contraception that are better than others? *If yes, which ones are better? And why?*
18. What are the possible side effects of the contraceptive methods that you listed? (Probe separately for each method.)
19. Where can a married adolescent girl in your community go to obtain a contraceptive method?

20. What, if any, are the barriers to accessing modern contraceptive methods for a married adolescent girl in your community?
21. Who decides if a married woman can use a method to prevent pregnancy? *Probe: self? Husband? Parents? Is it different for older married women than young married women? If so, how/why?*
22. Do you discuss how many children to have and when to have them with your husband? *Probe: If not, why not? If yes, probe on what they discuss.*
23. Do you discuss ways to delay/prevent pregnancy with anyone? *If not, why not? If yes, with whom? What do you discuss?*
24. Who in your life, if anyone, would support you in using a method to delay/prevent pregnancy?

E. Experiences having a child

Now I would like to ask you some questions about your own experiences having a child.

25. Before becoming pregnant, who did you talk to about having children? *Probe: What did you talk about [elaborate on topics of discussion]?*
26. How did you decide when you were ready for your first child? *Probe: Discussed with husband? Discussed with parents? Decided by herself? Did not make a decision, it just happened? Who, if anyone, encouraged you to get pregnant? Who, if anyone, encouraged you to delay birth?*
27. Did you want to get pregnant at the time of your first pregnancy? If yes, why? If no, why not?
28. What were the benefits of having your first pregnancy/child at that time?
29. What were the drawbacks of having your first pregnancy/child at that time?
30. Were you using any method of pregnancy prevention when you became pregnant for the first time? If yes, which method? If not, why not?

F. Next, we want to hear more about your life day-to-day.

31. Describe a typical day for you: what do you do? Where do you go? How far are you travelling (where are you going? And how are you getting there? Walking? Moto? Public transportation?) Does anyone go with you?
32. Now I want you to think back to the most recent decision you made (for example, decision to go somewhere, decision to do something, decision to spend money, etc). What was the decision you made? Was anyone else involved in that decision? What other types of decisions do you typically make on your own? What kind of decisions do you make with others?

33. In a typical week, who do you spend most of your time with? Probe: Ask her to list as many people as she can think of. How much time do you spend with each of those people? How often do you see each of those people?
34. Who, if anyone, in your life/community who you could rely on for help? Who could you go to for advice? Who could you go to for material support (for example money, shelter, etc)? Who could you go to for news/information?
35. Are there groups that you have joined? If so, what kind of groups are these? What do you do when you are together? Are there groups that are of interest to you, but you haven't joined them? If so, why not?
36. How do you learn about things happening in your community:
 - a. Probe: where do you learn about formal events (such as a community meeting)
 - b. Probe: where do you learn about informal events (the birth of a child)?

G. Finally, I would like to know what you think about programming that would help adolescent girls delaying child birth and pursue other opportunities to having children right after marriage.

37. What kind of programming do you think would be helpful for married adolescents who want to delay child birth? *Probe: Media? Community-based? Skills training? Education? Health service/knowledge?*
38. What types of programming for married adolescents, if any, already exists in your community?
39. What would be the main challenges for having married adolescents participate in this type of programming in your community?
40. Would you be supportive of programs that help married adolescents pursue alternative opportunities to having children right after marriage in your community? Why/why not?

Now I would like to ask some background questions about you and your household.

1.1 What day, month and year were you born?	Day Month Year	
1.2 How old were you at your last birthday?	Years old <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> CROSS-CHECK WITH DATE OF BIRTH AND RECONCILE	

1.3 Can you read, for example, a newspaper?	Yes 1 No 2	
1.4 Have you ever attended school?	Yes 1 No 2 → 1.6	
1.5 What is the highest level of schooling you attended? (CIRCLE HIGHEST SCHOOL LEVEL)	Primary 01 Secondary 02 Post-Secondary 03	
1.6 Are you currently working for pay?	Yes 1 No 2 →	1.10
1.7 About how many hours a week do you work?	Hours <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	
1.8 What type of work do (did) you do? PROBE	
1.9 How much do (did) you earn in a week?	Weekly wage Enter currency....	
1.10 What is your religion?	None 01 Muslim 02 Other..... (SPECIFY)	
1.11 Now I have some questions about your family. Is your father alive?	Yes 1 No 2 →	1.14
1.12 Does he live in the same household as you?	Yes 1 No 2	
1.13 Do you find it difficult or easy to talk with your father about things that are important to you?	Very easy 1 Easy 2	

	Average 3 Difficult 4 Very difficult 5 Do not see him 6	
1.14 Is your mother alive?	Yes 1 No 2 →	1.17
1.15 Does she live in the same household as you?	Yes 1 No 2	
1.16 Do you find it difficult or easy to talk with your mother about things that are important to you?	Very easy 1 Easy 2 Average 3 Difficult 4 Very difficult 5 Do not see her 6	
1.17 Do you have any older brothers?	Yes 1 No 2 →	1.19
1.18 Do any live in the same household?	Yes 1 No 2	
1.19 Do you have any older sisters?	Yes 1 No 2 →	1.21
1.20 Do any live in your household?	Yes 1 No 2	
1.21 What month/ year did you marry your husband?	Month Year	
1.22 How old were you when you got married?	Age in years	

1.23 Have you ever been pregnant?	Yes 1 No 2 →	1.30
1.24 How old were you the first time you got pregnant?	Age in years	
1.25 Do you have any living children?	Yes 1 No 2 →	1.29
1.28 If yes, how many?	No. of girls No. of boys	
1.29 Are you currently pregnant?	Yes 1 → No 2	1.32
1.30 Are you using any method of contraception to prevent pregnancy?	Yes 1 No 2 →	1.32
1.31 What method contraception are you using?	Pill 1 Injection 2 Condoms 3 IUD 4 Implant 5 Withdrawal 6 Other..... 7	
1.32 In your home, do you have access to...?	Radio Yes No →	1.35
1.33 In your home, who decides what you listen to on the radio?	Myself 1 My Husband 2 Other (explain)_____	
1,35 Do you have access to a portable phone?	Yes No →	FINISH
1.36 Does anyone else read the messages sent to this phone?	Yes – Who? _____ No	

I want to thank you for taking the time to speak with me today. Is there anything else on this topic that you would like to share?

Before I go, we would like to speak to the adults that matter most in your life about these same issues. We are asking you to share the names of one female and one male in your life that greatly influence your choices around child birth and alternative opportunities to having children right after marriage.

Can you please name:

- 1) The most influential female person in your life? If not obvious, what is her relationship to the interviewee?
- 2) The most influential male person in your life? If not obvious, what is his relationship to the interviewee?

Thank you for your time!