

These are the facts on the status of Child marriage in pastoralist Ethiopia, (Afar and Somali Regions. All the information stated in here was derived from a baseline study done by ODI, Save the children, Embassy of Ireland, Gender and Adolescence Global Evidence(gage)

girls in Afar marry earlier than their peers in Somali.

very high rates of child marriage in both regions.

Afar and Somali are unique among Ethiopia's regions in that they have not yet revised their Family Code to outlaw child marriage.

child marriage among girls aged 15–17 is declining nationally; it appears to be increasing in Afar and Somali.

67% of those in Afar and 55% of those in Somali were married before the age of 18

child marriage is seen as normal in both Afar and Somali contexts.

Arranged marriage is common in Afar; most girls do not want to marry when they do.

In Somali, most marriages are adolescent-driven.

An unmarried adolescent girl, with her sister, who will be getting married Afar region, Ethiopia

Female caregivers' marriage practices, by region

	Afar	Somali
average current age of the CG	37	38
mean age at marriage	16.2 years	17.4 years
married before age 18	88%	58%
married before age 15	14%	8%
marriage arranged by parents	97%	74%
felt ready to marry at the time	38%	77%

Marriage practices of adolescent girls
from the sample group

Afar

3% Ever married

15.8 Mean age at marriage (among married)

87% Married before age 18 (among married)

22% Married before age 15 (among married)

87% Marriage arranged by parents (among married)

36% Felt ready to marry at the time (among married)

Somali

4% Ever married

15.6 Mean age at marriage (among married)

88% Married before age 18 (among married)

22% Married before age 15 (among married)

21% Marriage arranged by parents (among married)

97% Felt ready to marry at the time (among married)

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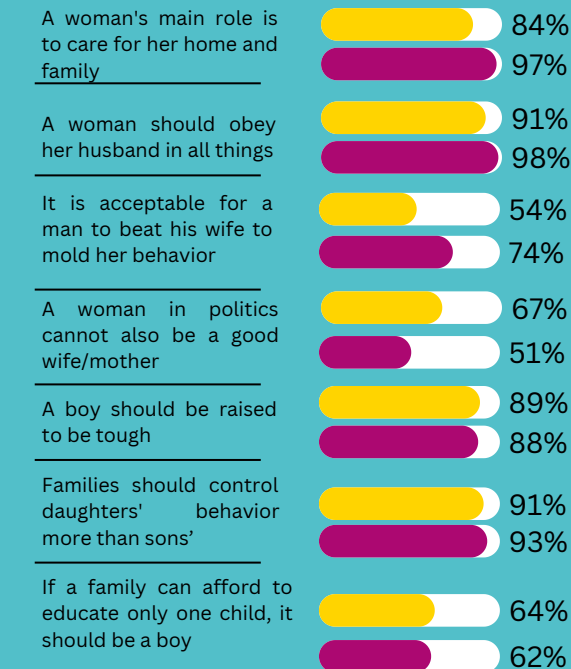
Facts on child marriage in pastoralist Ethiopia



Adolescents' knowledge of the marriage law

Our survey found that despite government efforts to inform the public about the legal age of marriage, it is vanishingly rare for Afar and Somali adolescents to admit knowing that the national law stipulates 18 years (see Table 24). In Somali, only 2% of adolescent girls and boys reported knowing the law, and of those, only half (56%) had accurate knowledge. In Afar, only 7% of adolescent girls and boys reported knowing the law, but of those, nearly all (93%) accurately identified 18 as the legal age for marriage.

Caregiver personal beliefs about gender roles



● Somali ● Afar



"nowadays, absuma marriage culture is declining... The process is like, if a girl reaches puberty, then the parent will start looking for a guy that can marry their child. They support the groom and bride if they are first cousins, but if it is marriage by love, it will be arranged between the girl and the guy who wants her. And then the parents are usually not involved. "

A 16-year-old girl from kebele A

child marriage genuinely is more common because girls lack other options – were significantly more likely to agree that child marriage is normal than those in kebeles closer to the woreda town (93% vs. 82%; $p < .01$). Boys (73%) and male caregivers (69%)

In Afar also agree that child marriage is typical or girls in their communities, but they are significantly ($p < .01$) less likely to agree than girls and female caregivers, perhaps because they are not living with constant worries about being 'left on the shelf' – because unlike girls, boys and men do not become 'too old' to marry

community gender norms disadvantage girls and women.

deeply inequitable personal beliefs about gender roles.

Gender norms

Men tend to be more conservative than women in regard to gender

Adolescents' personal beliefs about gender are deeply inequitable but gender differences are fairly small.