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Sociology Research Proposal

Gender Inequality and Nonconsensual Bride Abduction In Kyrgyzstan

INTRODUCTION

Although the 20th and 21st centuries began with many societies progressing towards gender equality, women in Kyrgyzstan have endured inequality's impact since then due to male domination in all aspects of life. Many young girls in the country are haunted by the fear of being kidnapped and be wedded to total strangers regardless of their plans for the future, until the day this actual thing happen. This problem of bride-napping has worsened since then, currently being a major cause of suicide cases among the marriageable girls and women. In this study, the investigation aims at answering the questions of whether there exists an association between gender inequality and bride abduction. Studies on this particular question are missing, but suggestions from various studies point out that these two variables could have a relationship. Pursuing the question and some others will adopt a standard scientific approach. First, the study will investigate the association between gender inequality and bride-napping. Then, it will investigate the effects of progressive laws, education, and government support for the political empowerment of women. Answering these question will help contribute the existing effort to curb the practices and even open doors for future research on the same.

BACKGROUND

Bride-napping has presented many challenges to women in Kyrgyzstan as it is associated with the conditions similar to those of crimes that qualify as human rights violations. It allows the rape of women, an experience that more than 2000 go through every year sometimes even before they are forced to marriage (Hays 2019). Based on research, the rape of young girls is a psychology play aimed at stigmatizing them so that they can succumb to the pressure and agree

to be married by the abductor. Worse, any attempt to evade the abduction and possible success in it become a ticket for not only stigmatization and rejection, but also a reason to never be considered for marriage again.

Studies on the impacts of bride abduction have arrived as highly disturbing findings. Becker, Bakhrom, and Susan (2016) in their working paper, found that the practice has adverse impacts on the weight of the babies born in the resultant marriages. Several other studies, including Malhotra (2010) and Jordana (2014) had earlier revealed this impacts with the consideration of the conditions that originate from forced marriage age-sensitive fertility. Issues such as low birth weight, resultants health complications in children, as well as the health of the mothers are frequent in Kyrgyzstan and can have a far-reaching influence on the wellbeing of both individuals and societies. Also, widespread psychological problems come from the bride abduction-based marriages as a study by both Kleinbach and Gazbubu (2013) reveals. According to Kleinbach and Gazbubu (2013), a significant number of victims end up stressed, depressed, and suicidal. Therefore, an effort to reduce the practice in Kyrgyzstan can solve many problems that women face. In agreement with this, Kleinbach and Gazbubu (2013) recommend education programs for women as a solution. Other improvements on women's status in societies have been discovered through other approaches such as the enforcement of progressive laws. These proven strategies shine a light on the investigations this study seeks to conduct and report on findings.

Bride abduction in Kyrgyzstan like other gender-related issues, is caused by gender inequality. Ample research exists tying gender inequality to some negative practices such as

domestic violence, rape culture, unemployment, and exclusion from political participation. Overall, these practices affect economic growth, and social development (Mikkola and Carrie 2007). Therefore, addressing bride-napping will necessitate successful strategies in promoting women welfare through empowerment. Numerous studies covering women empowerment have indicated that these gender-based adversities and discrimination tend to reduce with increased efforts by institutions, individuals, and communities. A perfect example is the Millennium development goal three that saw many women in Africa and Asia achieve education and employment status. With this in mind, this study goes ahead to define the problem of bride-napping in Kyrgyzstan and then establish an approach to the solution.

Problem Statement

The problem this study focuses on is that of bride abduction due to gender inequality. Here, the assumption is that addressing gender inequality will help reduce the issue of bride abduction, among other mentioned issues. Specifically, in Kyrgyzstan, gender inequality leaves women powerless and thus vulnerable to violence, many other crimes. Women in the country need the freedom to make their marriage choices and decisions, social life, and education. They need to plan for their preferred fertility age when they can have their first, second, and last baby without being forced by society, families or even male figures who intend to marry them. In this study, the possibilities available through governance, education, and political empowerment are investigated. The study hopes that the genuine findings it gathers can be useful in improving the position of women in Kyrgyzstan societies.

Research Aims, Questions, and Objectives

This study aims to create an understanding of the way gender inequality in Kyrgyzstan relates to the cases of bride-napping that have been on the rise since the post-soviet governance. In the course towards achieving these aims, the following objectives will be used.

Research question

The central research question that will be guiding this study is that; does a correlation between gender inequality and non-consented bride-napping in Kyrgyzstan exists? The other question this study has prepared to help adequately answer the central question is, can women empowerment through progressive laws, education, and in political leadership, help reduce the cases of bride abduction?

Objectives

- i. To investigate any positive relationship between gender inequality and bride- napping.
- ii. To find out the effect of progressive laws on bride-napping prevent further non-consensual cases.
- iii. To find the effects of the government's effort to promote political leadership at all levels among women on their ability to make marriage decisions.
- iv. And to find out the effect of delivering education to the next generation on both gender inequality and bride-napping.

Rationale

The study on gender inequality and bride abduction phenomena in Kyrgyzstan is necessary so that the negative outcome associated with the practice can be reduced and prevented. The social issues stemming from the practice include suicides, poor health, poverty, and violence. According to Hays (2019:4), “three girls committed suicide in three different cases of bride-napping in the north-eastern Issyk-Kul province, in a period of between 2010 and 2012.” The number of such cases of these is higher when the national statistics are considered. Also, many marriages end through divorce. “About 60 percent of 268 marriages in Kyrgyzstan have ended in divorce, which does have serious implication to those who take that path” (Hays 2019: 3). For example, women are rejected by their family, or at least denied their privileges as daughters in the family. This serves as a serious tool used to discourage those abducted and married from leaving their marriages. These adverse impacts of any attempt to evade forced marriage seem to be culturally implanted as the control in favor of men’s’ superiority in Kyrgyzstan. They are, however, not only the force behind many women’s perseverance and submission to abductors, their families, and society at large. There are other factors such as a pluralistic legal system in Kyrgyzstan, economic motivations, and bad culture. Therefore, finding from this study can support the development of effective policies in education, health, and employment. More importantly, it will sensitize the academic, research, and business communities on the criticality of preventing bride abduction from different approaches.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Bride Abduction

According to a study by Koishigulova, Ospanova, Syrgakbaeva, and Abdimanuly (2014: 4970), “bride-napping refers to the abduction of a bride by a young man with intentions of marrying.” Young men gain support from their families and society and even awarded some respect in the community while the rights of women are violated. As such, bride kidnapping in Kyrgyzstan, also called Alaa Kachuu in local lingua “is of three types; (1) consented by the girl that is same as elopement, (2) consented by the parents without girl’s knowledge, and (3) the unconsented at all” (Koishigulova et al 2014:4971). Although this issue of bride abduction has been associated with the traditions of Kyrgyzstan being male-centered, adequate research invalidates this claim. A study by Kleinbach, Ablezova, and Aitieva (2005) rejects bride-napping as a tradition –as it is forced marriage in many parts of Asia and Africa but accepts it as a symbolic relic of more prevalent and violent practices. The reason for this is that the practice was rare in the 18th and 19th centuries. The underpinning cause, however, is one of the world concern, and that of gender inequality. Gender inequality the situation in which one gender is denied the opportunities, capacity, and involvement in decision making, in major social, economic, and political matters.

Bride-napping in Kyrgyzstan has been widely covered as a complex and continuously evolving issue, but specific details about it in findings are in disagreement. Specifically, some studies conclude it as culturally implanted, while others relate it to economic needs or the unreliable rule of law in the country (Werner et al. 2018). However, they all agree on the

impactful violation of some conventions on human rights. Currently, there exist studies on bride-napping including those that justify it with much focus on the motivation, demographic, and psychological implications of the practice. It is evident that little or no research on bride-napping from the approach of gender equality or lack of it (gender inequality) exist, and this makes foreseeable chances of reducing bride-napping in modern Kyrgyzstan unidentified and unutilized. The other variable of gender inequality, however, is well documented and a look at the available literature shines a light on the importance of finding the inequality-bride-napping connection.

Gender Inequality

Gender inequality is a global problem that many countries under their multinational membership have attempted to solve in the past three decades. Luckily, some efforts, such as the expired Millennium Development Goal (MDG) have led to positive changes in many countries. However, such success in Islamic societies remains low. Bliss (2012) referring to the previous reports on Gender inequality quotes that “some 121 million children girls being the most, miss school for household chores management and forced marriages at adolescent” (P. 23). Therefore, it is no coincidence that women remain the most mistreated, uneducated, politically weak, and low waged, even in developing nations.

Gender inequality has been studied under the needs of literacy, economic, and political development in different countries. For this reason, positive outcomes such as increased employment of women, and elections of women leaders have increased in recent years. There are, however, some issues that seem to persist for so long. For example, women remain the least

compensated for their work in many sectors, despite them enduring equal conditions at workplaces. In Hollywood, women directors receive lower pay than male directors, yet they remained objectified to take roles requiring nudity and mistreatment (Heldman and Haggard 2018). In many other countries, the fight for inclusion of at least two-thirds gender rule in leadership remains a struggle of centuries. The consequences of gender inequality come to women as suffering, denial of important needs, and violence.

In Kyrgyzstan, gender inequality is evident in major public sectors of employment, education, and in the trend of violence (Frank 2018). For example, the United Nations statistic of gender violence reveals that women are the victims, with 83 percent of them suffering from various forms including battery, sexual, and bride-napping ("Gender Equality in the Kyrgyz Republic" 2018). Still, this study finds no coincidence between this rate of violence and the 30-67 percent of women who are kidnapped into marriage with 65 percent of these marriage cases being unconsented ("Gender Equality in the Kyrgyz Republic" 2018). Unfortunately, studies investigating this relationship are missing, with the nearest associations some studies have managed to confirm that of gender inequality and access to justice for bride-napping victims (Langford and Elzar 2014) as well as that of bride-napping and females civic participation in Kyrgyzstan (Muldoon and Casabonne 2017). Among the areas that women participation and protection is needed, forced marriages remain the most ignored areas that this study argues must be addressed. Therefore, this study must close these gaps in this particular subject, probably by investigating the key critical areas in the fight against bride-napping such as the detection of the association, role of education, government's laws, and women empowerment

for political leadership. In the next sections of this part of the study, themes regarding each of this area are formulated.

Theoretical Understanding of Gender Inequality and Bride Abduction.

While gender remains the social, psychological, and cultural differences between a man and a woman, gender inequality becomes the notion that men and women are unequal and its consequences such as perception, treatment, and grouping. Sociology sees gender inequality from different positions, out of which theories on inequality has been developed. In this study, gender inequality is investigated from the perspective of groups; conflict. In conflict theory, sociologists understand that the social world is best described in terms of conflict or tension between existing groups in our case, male and females. Karl Marx developed this theory forcing on economic phenomena. In this phenomenon, the bourgeoisie (or capitalists) remains in a constant struggle against the proletariat or (the peasant workers) (Simon 2016). In this line of reasoning, this study puts men and women in the conflict theory to help explain the social world phenomena. According to this theory, social groups engage each other for the control of scarce resources such as power, wealth, and status, thus leading to conflict between them (Simon 2016). Therefore, the population involved in this conflict is described along the winner-loser line and the outcomes such as torture mutilation, violence, humiliation, and exploitation of the losing party.

Gender inequality results from the conflict between men and women for power, and this explains the reasons social structures are designed for the triumph of males. Unfortunately, attempt to change these structures triggers resistance by the group that benefits from the tension.

Interestingly, men in Kyrgyzstan and those in leadership have been accused of not acting against bride-napping, something this study can only explain as the resistance. With time, however, the resistance has been weak as many strategies have been developed to curb gender inequality through the empowerment of women using education and political tools.

The Association between Gender Inequality and Bride-napping

The studies on this particular theme lack despite much attention to the problem by the individual, government, and dedicated organizations. While this here can be declared as a misguided conclusion, it is evident that very little effort is made to prevent bride-napping in Kyrgyzstan, as Chung (2016) reveals. For example, a reliable database or what can be used as official statistics are non-existent. Instead, multiple sources have statistics that disagree, and this can lead to several questions, including that of the validity and integrity in the data collection. According to Najibullah (2011), some non-governmental sources have established that it is only 40 percent of marriages in Kyrgyzstan that happen through bride abduction with cases between 68 and 75 percent being consented (P. 8). Muldoon and Casabonne (2018), however, established that only one fifth (20 percent) happen through bride abduction while only 65 percent of these are non-consensual. Although, such differences in data for the essential figures that can be used to find a long-lasting solution to bride-napping are likely to occur from different methods used, it is logical to say that such variation of data does not guarantee effectiveness in the strategies used to determine the severity of the problem and reality of the solution. It is also possible that different forces such as the need to protect the nature of the societies have resulted in this variation, as some cultural matters are sensitive and not easily disclosed.

Even then, this study hopes to achieve significantly in establishing the relationship between gender inequality and bride abduction, possibly using some methods. One method is a continuum theory approach that investigates the occurrence of phenomena in a population over some time without interruption (Beyerstein 2005). Such phenomena as widespread bride-napping have a cause. Therefore, and if two different times are analyzed on the same measure say the rates of bride abductions then there are many differences to be noted.

Initially, and as mentioned before, the rates of bride abduction in Kyrgyzstan were lower in the 18th and 19th centuries than those of modern times. The post-soviet forces such as governance have made today's Kyrgyzstan society worse for women than it was before (Fleming 2015). Borrowing from an epic story of Manas, Sataeva (2017) notes that "there were no precedents of non-consensual bride kidnapping in both the 17th and 18th centuries when this story was written" (P.15). The importance of the Epic of Manas serves to help researchers trace the resilience of social or cultural behavior from the first generations, and this makes the tale of Manas important tool for understanding the way continuum theory explains the practice. A summary given by Sataeva (2017) regarding some findings by an ethnographer F.A. Fiels'trup shows that in 1920, bride-napping occurred rarely, and it was punishable by a fine. So, how did this crime (deviance) become so much normalized to today's level of incidences, currently causing suicides?

Looking at the Epic of Manas, however, this study identifies that Manas who was respected figure in that society was given two wives as a present, a situation in which although different from non-consented abduction, can be a force arrangements (Sataeva 2018). This points

out that women had no equal rights as men and could be gifted as objects. In this study's opinion, this gender inequality deeply rooted in Kyrgyzstan traditions must have allowed the normalization of bride-napping through time and space (continuum elements) to the modern situation of the practice. For this reason, this study believes that bride-napping is deeply rooted in the long historical gender inequality in the region. It will, therefore, use these variables explained in the methodology section to investigate this possibility identified through the continuum theory approach.

The Effects of Progressive Laws, Education, And Women Empowerment on the Bride abduction

Progressive laws. Research establishes that enforcement of laws to control specific human behavior yields positive results, especially when such policies are well supported by culture. However, and while the issue of bride abduction is surrounded by violations of women's rights and other crimes, the practice has remained resilient due to some conditions that favor the practice. According to "New Law in Kyrgyzstan Toughens Penalties for Bride Kidnapping" (2013), there are more than 11,800 cases of bride-napping in Kyrgyzstan, with serious crimes such as rape affecting more than 2000 girls (P. 1). Also, only 1,500 cases end us with a judicial sentence in the country ("New Law in Kyrgyzstan Toughens Penalties for Bride Kidnapping" 2013). The ineffectiveness in the registration of laws regarding bride abduction and the enforcement agency in Kyrgyzstan is one key reason the practice remains prevalent in the region. As an Islamic nation, the legal system in Kyrgyzstan villages is run by the council of elders who pretty much are oriented towards the protection of male domination and power display. However, in 2013, the former president of Kyrgyzstan led the amendment of the

Criminal Code that saw the perpetrators of rape, violence, and abduction against women to serve for ten years in prison. Therefore, “abductors could escape the hands of the law or serve only three years at best” (Hsu 2014:2). With such a gesture from the government, that violation of human rights of women will not be entertained, experts have argued that the practice is likely to reduce. Other groups, including sports club, have joined the course in promotion of Article 155 of the criminal code to see that women and girls are safe.

Regarding such legislative efforts, this study is optimistic. One historical indicator comes from the way the earlier mentioned millennium development goal three promoted the welfare of women and girls in many parts of the African and Asia. Schuler, Lenzi, Nazneen, and Bates (2013) found that the enforcement of government and nongovernmental policies in Bangladesh ended up reducing cases of intimate partner violence through strengthening women’s sense of their rights. Similar cases of success have occurred in many areas where the government enforce progressive laws. For this reason, this study believes that the Criminal Code and other legislation in Kyrgyzstan are likely to improve the experience of women.

Similarly, the government’s promotion of women leadership in the country can increase the speed towards low cases of bride abduction. According to "Gender Equality in the Kyrgyz Republic" (2018), “ensuring equal participation of people of both genders in the governance of Kyrgyzstan can improve democratic governance and peacebuilding” (P. 6). More importantly, it will promote women’s decision making on matters of marriage to ensure they rise above the domination of men. Issues that make women powerless such as discrimination, violence, exclusion from economic decisions, and employment are likely to reduce with political

empowerment by the government through effective means (Janghorban et al. 2014). Finally, this study is optimistic that delivery of education to women and girls will promote their wellbeing, capacity to make decisions of their own and even become economically independent. Studies in the last decades seemed to agree that promoting women's education and political leadership significantly elevates the position social and cultural norms have placed them for generations. Kabeer (2005) observed that a combined effect of education, employment, and political participation end up reducing the institution bias, discrimination, and denial of freedom that have constrained women's ability to make strategic life choices. Essentially, women need to make their decisions on who to marry, when, when to have children and also file divorce when marriage does not work out as expected without the fear of stigmatization and shaming.

In brief, this section has looked into the available literature on the correlation between gender inequality and bride-napping, and the impacts that three important factors that are education, empowerment of women for leadership, and strengthening of progressive laws can have on the current status of women in Kyrgyzstan. During the discussion on various identified issues, this study identified various gaps left in literature, and even explained its rationale and plans to investigate them. In the next section, the methods, tools, and measures to be used in this research are explained.

METHODOLOGY AND RESEARCH DESIGN

This study's objective is to identify the possible association between gender inequality and the long-standing practice of bride abduction in Kyrgyzstan. The study will utilize various tools, methods, and measures that will help achieve this objective adequately for both its

adoption in policy formulation, further exploration of the issues of bride-napping, and in confirming or guiding other studies on similar issues discussed here.

Hypothesis

For fairness in consideration of different viewpoints and potential directions that the data planned to be used can point to for this study's both discussion and conclusion, it is important to generate hypotheses. Based on the literature review, the following are sets of hypotheses that will be tested.

Set 1

***H0** A positive correlation between gender inequality and the practice of bride-napping in Kyrgyzstan exist.*

Set 2

***H0** New progressive laws that toughen penalties for bride kidnapping prevent the practice of non-consensual bride adulation from happening.*

Set 3

***H0** The Government's promotion of women's political leadership at all levels enables women to gain more power that they deserve.*

Set 4

***H0** Delivering education to the next generation, particularly to the young girls, can help prevent the problem of gender inequality as well as stop the non-consensual bride kidnapping.*

Research Design

The study has contemplated on the appropriate design and identified the Quantitative one as the most fulfilling the above objectives and research questions. Essentially, quantitative design works best in a situation where a social phenomenon needs to be investigated, and various perspectives are identified and quantified ("Research Tools: Interviews & Questionnaires – Research Methodology in Education" 2019). The issue of bride abduction is a social phenomenon that not only occurs in social contexts but also has far-reaching social impacts. For this reason, this study will utilize this approach to come up with a conclusion on relationships between various factors.

Sampling Method

Given that this study's focus will be the group of married people in Kyrgyzstan, the most appropriate sampling method for use will be non-probabilistic purposive sampling. Unlike probability sampling, purposive sampling does not rely on the randomized selection of participants (John and David 2013). However, it increases chances to capture the genuine experience brought about by bride abduction to society since it will be focusing on possible victims (those in marriage) of immediate observers of the phenomena. The selected participants,

therefore, will likely uphold the quality of responses and data expected to come from this activity.

Data Collection and Tools

Data collection in scientific terms comes as activities leading to the availability of the planned data for use in a study. The methods to be used in this study are the analysis of existing data and survey method.

Choice Of Methods And Rationale.

1. *Analysis of Existing data. The study will use the existing data to achieve its objectives.*

The reason for this being that apart from being popular in recent research, using existing data is highly efficient and helps many more variables deemed necessary to answer the study's original hypotheses. The sources to be used are existing database of governments, institutions, and organizations, and that has been collected in the last five years. For example, the united nation and world health organization houses data from progressive studies in Kyrgyzstan and focusing on the bride abduction. However, Hui and Michael (2014) warn that the existing data may be subject to the limitations of the private and public registry hosting them, while its availability is based on some national efforts. In preliminary consideration, this study identified readily available registries meaning that the only worry will be developing perfect criteria for both data quality and adequacy in variables description. For this reason, this study will adopt the criteria for analysis of secondary data such as the one given by Hui and Michael (2014).

2. *Survey Method.* The other method for data collection will be the survey method. A survey is a process that usually makes use of questionnaires. As data collection instruments, questionnaires engage participants through questions on various issues. The reason for this method is to gather primary data ("Research Tools: Interviews & Questionnaires – Research Methodology in Education" 2019) about the phenomena on the ground. Also, the survey can be highly helpful in assessing current situational aspects of married people, specifically to capture different beliefs, reactions, and underlying feelings. Although the survey method has been accused of ineffective in studying controversial issues and for not allowing flexibility in design (Sincero 2012), this study will put these into considerations to prevent possible limitation during the study.

Using these two different methods will provide the study with both primary data (survey) and secondary data (existing data), thus allowing the comparison of variables. It is for this reason that this study intends to use the two of them together with consideration of available solutions to their limitations for full benefits of validity, accuracy, appropriateness, and success in solution description.

3. *Questionnaires.* Questionnaires help discover the things people are thinking about when conducting social research. The questionnaire planned for use in this study (See Appendix) will have both closed and open-ended questions. Each of these types has a unique role in the study, as the closed questions ensure that the exact aspect of research is asked and answered ("Research Tools: Interviews & Questionnaires – Research Methodology in Education" 2019). Similarly, the open-ended question has a special role

in the study, but that associated with the participant's freedom to let his or her mind roam freely around the issue asked. In a way, open-ended questions help identify underlying reasons, thinking, and feelings about something. Close-ended questions restrict the participants to only the asked question and require short questions such as yes, no, and maybe. Finally, the questions will address various factors such as level of education, political views, and opinion on bride-napping. These will help in the test of the hypotheses as such factors will be the study's variables.

Variables.

The study will utilize both types of variables, independent and dependent. Independent variables are not subject to changes in the aspects of the issue under investigation, unlike dependent that tends to vary as condition changes. The independent variables to be used in this study is gender inequality, which is likely to be demonstrated by the comparative analysis as non-varying. The dependent variable will be non-consensual bride abduction that is expected to change with the changes in various factors such as education, policy implementation, and political empowerment of women for leadership roles.

Plan and Execution of the Study

The study is planned to begin early July 2019 and continue for three months to September. The following timeframe will be used.

Sta ge	Task																														
1	Dates	July 05--July 10					July 10- Au 03					Aug 03 -Sep 02					After Sept 2019														
2	Planning And Material Preparation																														
3	Data Collection And Analysis																														
4	Report Writing																														
5	Submission And Presentation																														

DATA INTEGRITY AND ETHICS

Ethics in research is concerned with data validity, integrity, and welling of participants. In this study, data integrity standards will be observed to ensure that no privacy, liberty, and security issues come up. First, the participants will be equipped with all information concerning the study, the data to be collected, ways it will be used, and the rights they have as participants. Also, questionnaires will be administered to participants who will respond to them anonymously. The reason for this is that bride abduction as a practice is surrounded by cultural understanding, shaming, and secrecy that major stakeholders may not want to disclose. Finally, all permits required for the use of some data obtained from the existing data will be sought after, and alternatives found if owners of such data are unavailable.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study will close the gap that previous studies on bride abduction in Kyrgyzstan have not addressed. It will establish the relationship between gender inequality and equality with the prevalence of cases of bride abduction. In doing so, it will use a quantitative research design, with elements of correlational and comparative approaches. Also, data will be used from various databases, but not later than five years. The results expected are those that can be used in academic investigations as well as policy development to help in the prevention of bride-napping. Finally, this study will focus on data integrity and participants' rights.

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APPENDIX - SURVEY

1. What is your gender?

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male

2. Did you get married with your consent?

- ☐ Yes → please skip to the question 4
- ☐ No → please go on to question 3

3. How did you get married?

- ☐ An arranged marriage with parental consent
- ☐ Child marriage with parental consent
- ☐ Being abducted for marriage with parental consent
- ☐ Being abducted for marriage without parental consent
- ☐ Other (please specify) : _____

4. How old were you when you got married?

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 19 - 24
- ☐ 25 - 34
- ☐ 35 - 44
- ☐ 45 - 55
- ☐ 65 or older

5. What is the highest degree or level of education you have completed?

- ☐ Less than a High School Diploma
- ☐ High School Degree or equivalent
- ☐ Some College
- ☐ Professional Degree
- ☐ Trade/ Technical/ Vocational Training
- ☐ Associate Degree
- ☐ Bachelor's Degree
- ☐ Master's Degree
- ☐ Doctorate

6. Which of these describes your income last year?

- ☐ \$0
- ☐ \$1 to \$9,999
- ☐ \$10,000 to \$24,999
- ☐ \$ 25,000 to \$ 49,999
- ☐ \$50,000 to \$ 74,999
- ☐ \$75,000 to \$ 99,999
- ☐ \$100,000 to \$149,999
- ☐ \$150,000 and greater

7. Which political party do you belong to?

- ☐ Agrarian Labor Party of Kyrgyzstangyzstan
- ☐ Agrarian Party of Kyrgyzstangyzstan
- ☐ Ak Zhol
- ☐ Alga Kyrgyzstangyzstan Party
- ☐ Ar-Namys Party
- ☐ Ata-Jurt
- ☐ Other (please specify) : _____
- ☐ None

8. Have you ever experienced gender inequality/ gender discrimination?

- ☐ Yes → please go on to question 9
- ☐ No → please skip to the question 10

9. If “Yes,” where was it?

- ☐ An interview
- ☐ School
- ☐ Your working environment
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

10. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a) Men and women are equal. | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| b) Men are better leaders than women. | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| c) Men should earn more money than their partners. | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| d) Men have more power over women | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| e) Women should have the same right as men. | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| f) Women are only good for cooking and cleaning. | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |

11. Do you think gender inequality exists in society?

- ☐ Yes, → please go on to question 12.
- ☐ No, → You are done with this survey. Thank you for your time.

12. How do you think these inequalities could be improved?

- ☐ Improved Government Policies
- ☐ Action Taken Against Employers
- ☐ Deliver Education to The Next Generation
- ☐ Get More Women in Politics
- ☐ Other (please specify) : _____