



Child marriage in India: The Chains of Tradition

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⁴*Offence against Children and Juvenile Offences*, Published by Central Law Publications 2013,238”.

⁵Offence against Children And Juvenile Offences, Published by Central Law Publications 2013,241.

⁶Offences Against Children And Juvenile Offence, Published by Central Law Publications 2017,63”.

⁷“[https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-](https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights#:~:text=Article%2016,and%20to%20found%20a%20family)

⁸rights#:~:text=Article%2016,and%20to%20found%20a%20family”. “Dr. S.S Singh, Offences Against Children And Juvenile Offence, Published by Central Law Publications 2017,64”.

⁹“<https://nhrc.nic.in/sites/default/files/International%20Covenant%20on%20Civil%20and%20PoliticalRights.pdf>”

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ARTICLE INFO ABSTRACT

Marriage is considered a sacred connection by the vast majority of Indians. It is considered a union between two families rather than two people. Marriage was regarded as an important and necessary part of human life, as well as a holy relationship. Marriage is no longer regarded a sacred act or relationship, but rather an obligation. Certain harmful rituals or practices breach the sacredness of marriage, such as 'child marriage', which entails marriage between minors who have not reached the legal age to get married. According to Child Marriage Act, 2006 Section 2(a) define “**child** means a person who, if a male, has not completed twenty-one year of age, and if a female, has not completed eighteen years of age”; and 2(b) define “**child marriage** means a marriage to which either of the contracting parties is a child; Child marriage is still practiced for a variety of reasons, including poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, social/cultural practices, and females being considered an economic burden, among others.

This research paper will discuss child marriage, its history, origins and effects, legislative perspectives, judicial approaches, and suggestions for combating such a social evil practice.

Key words:

Child marriage, Poverty, Inequity, Discrimination, Impact on health, Strict Laws.

1. Introduction

Marriage in India is not only regarded as a sacred or holy union of two persons, but also as a connection of two families. Marriage in India is more of a religious ceremonial and sacred obligation than a personal decision or convenience; parents usually plan weddings. Marriage was considered a sacrament rather than a contract among Hindus. A married couple is expected not only to have children, but also to raise them with care and affection in order to raise worthy citizens who would one day be obliged to assume the obligations of the family, society, and nation. Because of its virtual importance's, the marriage has always been regarded as the basic social institution to be upheld and protected by all those who want human race and civilized society to coexist.³

However, as time passes, marriage no longer holds the same importance. Marriage is no longer regarded a sacred connection, but rather a communal responsibility. Nowadays, marriage is regarded as a transaction rather than a holy bond that can be broken. It is no longer regarded a union between two families, but rather a relationship between two human individuals. Now unhealthy customs or practices of society violated the

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sacredness of this institution⁴ such as Child Marriage. Child marriage means a marriage between two children or among the two individuals who have not completed their legal age to perform such act is called child marriage.

Child marriage is neither a novel idea nor a new tradition. This custom has existed in India for millennia. Despite new legislation requiring a girl to be at least 18 years old to be legally married, a high percentage of females aged 15 to 19 are already married, and half of those who are married have given birth. This is one of the most important social and legal problems confronting Indian society today. Child marriage is still practiced in India for a variety of reasons, including poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, culture, religious, and many more. People or families of children are performing child marriage for sake of culture or religious reasons but they all are not aware about consequences of the early marriages. Children who are the victim of such custom are not aware about the importance of marriage when they are made party to perform this custom

2. Research Methodology

For this study, both "doctrinal and non-doctrinal methods of research will be used." For the doctrinal component, the researcher would rely mostly on sources such as publications (including eBooks) about child marriage, Acts, reports, and surveys released by organisations. The researcher will also rely on numerous judicial responses from the Hon'ble Apex Court and High Courts on child marriage issues. Internet sources, journals, periodicals, and newspaper articles would also be used for study. For the Empirical research data will be collected from the state of Punjab. The Questionnaire method will be used for the data collection.

3. Research Objective

- To research about the causes of child marriage.
- To examine about the effects of child marriage.
- To analysis the role of Indian Judiciary to prevent child marriage

4. Review of Literature

4.1. Child Marriage In India (Socio-legal and Human Rights Dimensions), authored by Jaya Sagade, Published by Oxford University Press, Second Edition-This book provides a thought – provoking analysis of the reasons why child marriage, which effectively deprive children of their childhood ,in particular the girl child, are allowed. It argues that child marriage have adverse impact on the physical and mental health of the child, this revised edition highlights the latest developments in India in the context of child marriage.

4.2. Woman And The Law, authored by Dr. Dalbir Bharti, Published by A P H Publishing Corporation – Author have made an humble attempt to create awareness among the people about adverse effect of Social evil such as child marriage, dowry and prostitution and to impress upon them to make effective use of various laws to prevent and punish crime against women

4.3. Law Relating to Women and Children, authored by Dr.Anjani Kant, Published by Central Law Publications, Allahabad, 2012 edition- The legal status of Women and children has been discussed in the book. Recent Landmark judgments delivered by the Honorable Supreme Court and various High Courts till the celebration of the “Women’s Empowerment Year, 2001” and thereafter, having also been discussed in the book. In the first few pages of the present work, nominal list of case has been provided.

4.4. Offences against Children and Juvenile Offence, authored by Dr .S.K. Chatterjee, Published by Central Law Publications, Allahabad, Second Edition, and Reprint: 2019-This book is divided into two parts .In part 1 there are fourteen chapter relating to offence against children and Part -II deals with juvenile justice, and the primary aim of the book is to provide the students, teachers and researchers a handy source on the topic ‘offences against children and javelined offence’. It is an Endeavour to make available a book which contains various relevant provisions and case laws pertaining to children

4.5. Offences against Children and Juvenile Offence by Dr. S.S. Singh, Published by Central law Publications-The book is particularly addressed to law teachers, Law students, research scholars. This book is an outcome of intense study made by the author during his long teaching experience of the subject. The book include Law relating to offence against children in India now stands enriched by our parliament enacting .The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act,2006.The Indian Penal code,1860, The Immoral Traffic (Prevention)Act,1956,The Bonded Labor System (Abolition),Act 1976

⁴“Dr. S.K.Chatterjee, *Offence against Children and Juvenile Offences*, Published by Central Law Publications 2013,238”.

5. International law related to child marriage

Child marriage has existed in India from ancient times, and it is impossible to determine its roots. A child marriage is a traditional practice in which girls are married at a young age and sent to their matrimonial homes, either on the day of their wedding or after some time, when they begin or have their first menstrual cycle. When the girls married, they went to their in-laws' house and were responsible for their husbands and in-laws' families, as well as all domestic chores. If they are unable to do all such tasks, manage their workload, or adjust to a new setting. They had to listen bad words from their in-laws and due to this environment a girl who got married young age some time or most of the time slips into depression or other problems and with passing time they also got pressure to have child as early as possible after marriage and sometimes girls to fulfill this wish or demand of in-laws they got early pregnant which have not only effect on their physical health but also it has adverse impact on their mental health.

So to avoid such consequences various laws at national level as well as many treaties and convention at international level that help to cope up with such circumstance and to avoid child marriage.

- Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum age for Marriage, 1962.
- Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 1979.
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), 1948.
- Convention on the Rights of the child, 1989
- International Convention on Civil and Political Rights(ICCPR), 1966

5.1. Convention on Consent to Marriage age for Marriage, 1962

According to Article 1 of the Convention, *“No marriage shall be legally entered into without the full and free consent of both parties, such consent to be expressed by them in person after due publicity and in the presence of the authority competent to solemnize the marriage and of witness as prescribed by the Law”*

Further, Article 2 states that, *“State Parties to the present convention shall take Legislative action to specify a minimum age for marriage. No marriage shall be legally entered into by any person under this age, except where a competent authority has granted a dispensation as to age, for serious reasons, in the interest of the intending spouses.”*⁵

5.2. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), 1979

This convention states that child marriage should not be legalized and their should be minimum marriage age limited to get married and all marriages that are performed that all should be legally register and Article 16 of this convention states, *“Marriage and Family Life, states that all women and men have the right to choose their life partner or spouse, to have equal responsibly and to decide on how many children”*.

Article 16(2) of these convention provides that the *“the betrothal and the marriage of a child shall have no legal effect, and all necessary action, including legislature, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage and to make the registration of marriage in an official registry compulsory”*.⁶

5.3. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), 1948

This Universal Declaration of Human Right provides that under Article 16 that *“Men and Women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a Family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and its dissolution.(2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.”*⁷

5.4. UN Convention on the Rights of Child, 1989

To be legally married, one must be under the age of eighteen, according to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is acknowledged in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that children have inherent human rights. So, the Convention shows that we've come a long way from seeing kids as beneficiaries of special treatment from the state, communities, and families; now we see them as the bearer of rights guaranteed by international law.⁸

5.5 International Convention on Civil and Political Rights(ICCPR),1966

⁵ Dr. S.K. Chatterjee , Offence against Children And Juvenile Offences, Published by Central Law Publications 2013,241.

⁶“Dr. S.S Singh, Offences Against Children And Juvenile Offence, Published by Central Law Publications 2017,63”.

⁷“<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights#:~:text=Article%2016,and%20to%20found%20a%20family>”.

⁸“Dr. S.S Singh, Offences Against Children And Juvenile Offence, Published by Central Law Publications 2017,64”.

Article 23 of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights; create it in order to protect the right of adults to marry. No marriage may be solemnized unless both parties give their informed and voluntary consent, as stated in the same provision.⁹

6. Causes and effect of child marriage

Child marriage is a custom in which children are married at very young age and the main victim of this kind of custom is girl child. Girl child when married at such young age they are denied from some basic rights such as right to education, and when girls are married at young age then everything how she behave, how she talks how she sits or with whom she is talking is mostly controlled by the in laws family or by mother in law and if she do any act which is against the wish of her in laws family then she is torched by the family or some time there in laws says ill word to her family because she is not doing the act according to the wish of her in laws and they are treated as the unpaid labor as after the marriage happen in laws family put all the household responsibility on a girl.

Child marriage is performed because of number of reasons such as Poverty, Protecting the girl child's sexuality, Lack of education, Gender discrimination and many other. Early marriages bring number of disadvantages such as limited education, High level of unprotected sexual relations, restricted social mobility and Domestic violence, etc.

6.1. Cause of Child Marriage

- **Poverty**- Early marriage allow the poor families to reduce the responsibility of daughters so mostly poor families perform child marriage or welcome such custom to reduce the economic burden from their shoulder to shift it to the grooms' families.
- **Dowry** – It is believed that if girl is married at young age then the dowry which is given to the husband family will also be less as it is believed the more the age of the bride the more dowry has to give and if married at young age then low dowry has to give so due to this mind set it is a cause of child marriage.
- **Sacred Act** - it is also believing that if the girl is married before her first menstrual cycle starts then it's is regarded as sacred act and this act will bring happiness and wealth to the girl child family and this is also one of the causes of child marriage.
- **Protecting the girl from heinous crimes**- It is also believed that in society married and un married girls are viewed from different perspective and unmarried girls are more unsafe and they are at high risk of physical or sexual assault or other heinous crimes so to protect girls from such crimes the parents of girls perform early marriages of their girls.

6.2. Effect of Child Marriage

- **Illiteracy** – Child marriage continue the cycle of illiteracy as after the marriage girls are denied to go to school and to get education due to which illiteracy rate increases and this cycle continues as after marriage girls are supposed to look after the house hold work and all the responsibility of the in laws house are shifted to the shoulder of girl child due to which she if want to peruse her education then also she cannot do so because she has to manage all the work and do work which is given to her after her after marriage and if she did not do so then she has to face consequences of the same.
- **Domestic violence** – As girls are married at young age they are supposed to do all the work of the family without anyone help by her on and if unable to do work because of any reason then she has to face domestic violence from her in laws family or if they don't abuse her then they told about her this attitude to the groom who out of anger do domestic violence with her to teach her lesson that such type of attitude should not be done in coming times.
- **Sexual violence** – When girls are married at young age at that time they are not aware about the sexual relation they sometime unknown about this kind of relation and when their husband to have sexual relation then they are not aware as a result sexual violence is done with then not only this they sometimes end up get pregnant and give birth at young age.

⁹“<https://nhrc.nic.in/sites/default/files/International%20Covenant%20on%20Civil%20and%20PoliticalRights.pdf>”

- **Impact on Mental health** – Early child marriage have adverse impact on mental health as after marriage girls went to their in laws home and that time there is so many environmental changes and after marriage there is consistent pressure over a bride to get pregnant and give a child to family as in early marriage when a girl is not sexually and physically fully developed at that time when such pressure is put on her to get pregnant as a result many girls get pregnant as in such early age girls are not aware about protective sexual relationships and to fulfill this demand they got pregnant and as a result after pregnancy or during pregnancy they undergo number of changes emotionally and physically which she unable to discuss with any one and it affects her mental health which some time leads to depression, Anxiety, Sleepless nights, Behavior disorder.

Child marriage is not only a custom but a social evil which take away the basic rights from the children and take away their childhood away from them. Child marriage is practice in India from time immemorial and it is still present in India after having number of laws. Child marriage is a crime which is done against both male and female but if we compare then adverse impact of child marriage is over the health of the girl. Child marriage is performed by the parents of the children at young age that the bride groom doesn't know the impact and importance of such custom.

7. Legal Insights

Child marriage is a custom which is prevailing in India from time immoral and this practice still continue in India because of number of reasons and this practice is still performed in various parts of the country and parents or elder member perform child marriage and did not think about the effects of child marriage. To stop or to prevent such practice various laws are made to prevent this practice and help the children to live healthy childhood free from such evil practices.

As child marriage was common practice in India during British rule eleven-year-old girl found dead after getting rapped by her adult husband. After this incidence was one the reason the need of the regulation related to child marriage. As that time there is British rule so they were more interested in business and profit making despite opposition from British and after rejecting a number of bills, It was in 1927 when Rai Sahib Haribilas Sharda presented the Hindu Marriage Bill. The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 was passed after the bill was referred to the Joshi Committee in 1929 and the imperial Legislative Council of India approved it in 1929.

7.1. The Child marriage Restraint Act, 1929

The Child Marriage Restraint Act was passed on 28 September 1929. There is total 12 sections in the Act under the Act section 2 (a) define "*child means a person who, if a male, has not completed twenty- one year of age, and if a female, has not completed eighteen year of age*": and 2(b) "*child marriage means a marriage to which either of the contracting parties is a child*";

Section 4 of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 which says a male above 21 years of a age marrying a girl below 15 years of age is punishable up to three months, simple imprisonment and also liable to fine.

Under section 5 "Punishment for solemnizing a child marriage –which says as *whoever performs, conduct or directs any child marriage shall be punished with simple imprisonment which may extend to three months and also liable to fine, unless he proves that he had reason to believe that the marriage was not a child marriage*".

It was later altered such that the minimum age for girls to be married was set at 18 years and the minimum age for guys was changed to 21 years. Originally, the minimum age for girls was set at 14 years and the minimum age for boys was fixed at 18 years.

This act is also known as Sharda Act the main objective of the Act is to eradicate the evil of child marriage and this act was passes in 1929. And other objective of the Act is to safe guard the life of girl child and to avoid early deaths of such minor mothers.¹⁰

7.2. Drawbacks of the Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929

The act was proved to be failure .The punishment provisions only extend up to a couple of months there is no strict punishment and fine which is imposed is also minimal and complaint has to fill against the offender to held liable to get punished under the act.¹¹

Due to drawbacks and failure of the child marriage restraint Act 1929 a new act the prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 came.

7.3. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006

The new Act is aimed to prohibited child marriage, protect and provide relief to the victim of child marriage and it also increases the punishment for the people who promote abet or solemnize child marriage. Under

¹⁰Child Marriage Restraint Act.1929.

¹¹<https://blog.ipleaders.in/child-marriage-restraint-act-1929/>

the Act section 2 (a) “child means a person who, if a male, has not completed twenty-one years of age, and if a female, has not completed eighteen years of age”; (b) “child marriage means a marriage to which either of the contracting parties is a child”;

Section 3 of the Act: “Every child marriage is voidable at the option of the contracting party who was a child at time of marriage was solemnized and a decree of nullity can be obtained by such person by filing the petition before the District court within the 2 years after attaining the majority for annulations of marriage and in this situation The district court shall make an order directing both the parties and their parents or guardians to return to other party, money gold,, ornaments and other valuable things which was given or exchange during the wedding”¹².

Section 9- Punishment for male adult marrying a child. – “Whoever, being a male adult above eighteen years of age, contracts a child marriage shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees or with both”.

Section 10 “Punishment for solemnizing a child marriage. –whoever performs, conducts, directs or abets any child marriage shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment which may extend to two years and shall be liable to fine which may extend to one lakh rupees unless he proves that he had reasons to believe that the marriage was not a child marriage”.

Section 11 “Punishment for promoting or permitting solemnization of child marriages. – including attending or participating in a child marriage, shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment which may extend to two years and shall also be liable to fine which may extend up to one lakh rupees”.

Section 16 states that the state government must designate an officer or officers to be known as child marriage prohibition officers. These officers will be considered public servants under Section 21 of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860). The officers' duties under this section include taking whatever action the officer deems fit to prevent child marriage, raising community awareness about the issue of child marriage, and carrying out any other duties assigned to them (3).The act does not have a significant impact because child marriage is still legal and can be annulled at the child's request, and because cool marriage is still prevalent in India.¹³

8. Legal Analysis from the judiciary: Exploring the case laws

As child marriage is still prevailing in India which effects the child growth and take away the basic rights. Indian judiciary addresses child marriage through various legal provision and passed number of judgment to strengthen implementation and awareness:

- “Neetu Singh vs. the state and ors.¹⁴ - The high court of Delhi held that the marriage of minor is neither void nor voidable, it is punishable”.
- “Sushila Gothlal vs. State of Rajasthan¹⁵ – Directed the state should take necessary steps to stop child marriage by punishing all involved in such marriages”.
- “Smt Seema v. Ashwin Kumrar¹⁶ –The Supreme court concluded that the registration of Marriage was necessary to reduce the abuse in marriage and child marriage”.
- Lata Singh v. State of Uttar Pradesh¹⁷ – The matter at hand concerns the constitutionality of marriage between members of different castes. Legal precedent discusses the case of Petitioner Lata Singh and her husband, who were the targets of threats made by Petitioner brother due to their caste differences. Subsequently, the criminal proceedings were invalidated under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, following the filing of the written petition under Sections 366 and 368 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. Those responsible for such acts of violence and harassment should face harsh punishments, according to the Supreme Court. So, she can wed anybody she wants, and she has the right to be cheerful, which is a basic right that isn't explicitly stated in the constitution but was added to Article 21 by the Honorable Supreme Court through Article 32.

¹²<https://bba.org.in/wp-content/uploads/pdf/the-prohibition-of-child-marriage-act.pdf>

¹³ *The prohibition of child Marriage Act, 2006.*

¹⁴1999IIAD(DELHI)37,77(1999)DLT601,I(1999)DMC634,1999(49)DRJ70,(1999)121PLR47.

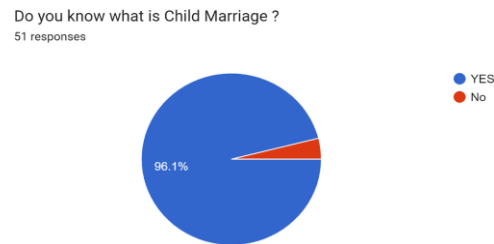
¹⁵ AIR1995RAJ90,I(1995)DMC198,1994(2)WLC502,1994(2)WLN245

¹⁶ Transfer Petition (civil)291 of 2005

¹⁷ 19003 of 2020.

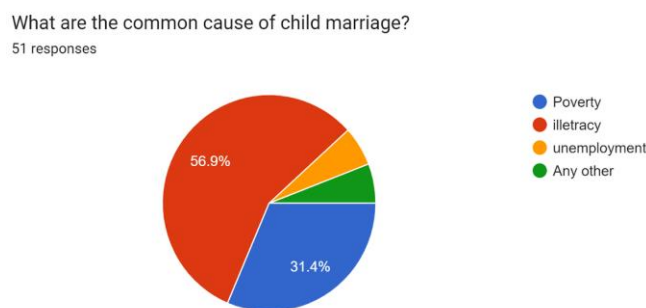
9. Field work

Figure 1



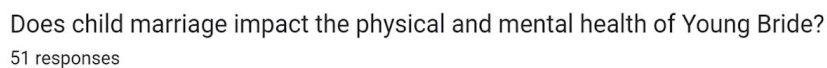
From the above data collected it can be concluded that most of the respondents know what is child marriage as 96.1% opted for the option yes that means that they know what child marriage is.

Figure 2



From the above figure it can be concluded that according to respondents the common cause of child marriage is illiteracy with 56.9%, then poverty with 31.4% and unemployment ,any other with 5(3.9)% each.

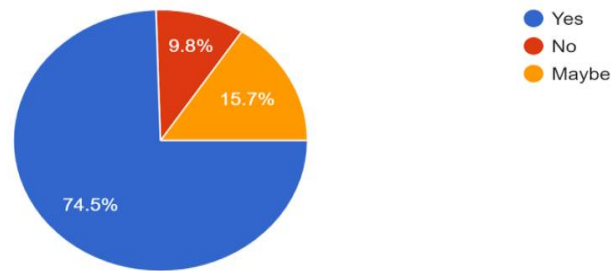
Figure3



From the above data collected it can be concluded that most of the people agree that child marriage impact the physical and mental health of young bride as 94.1% responded at option yes , then may be by 2% and no be 1% .

Figure 4

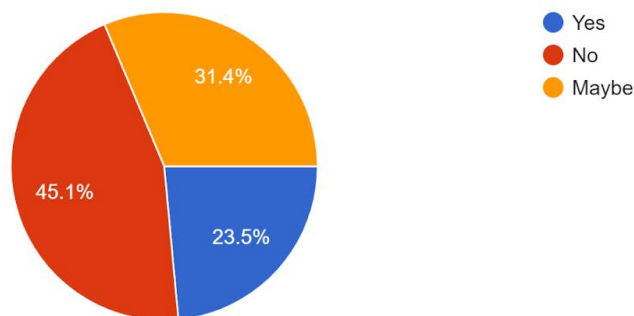
Does cultural or Societal norms contribute to the prevalence of child Marriage ?
51 responses



From the above data collected it can be concluded that 74.5% agree that cultural or societal norms contributed to the prevalence of child marriage and 15.7% opted for maybe be that means they are not sure about it and then 9.8% opted for no.

Figure 5

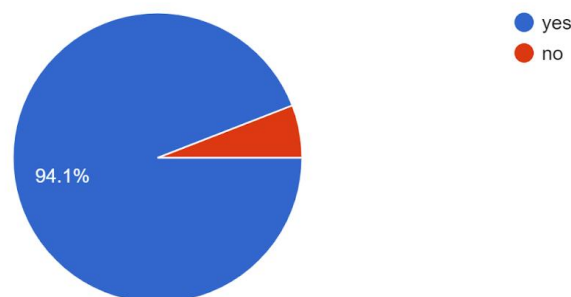
Is present laws are enough to control child marriage ?
51 responses



From the above data connected it can be concluded that 45.1% respondent agree that present laws are not enough to control child marriage in India and 31.4% opted for may be and 23.5 % opted for yes.

Figure6

Do you think child marriage have more adverse effect on girls?
51 responses

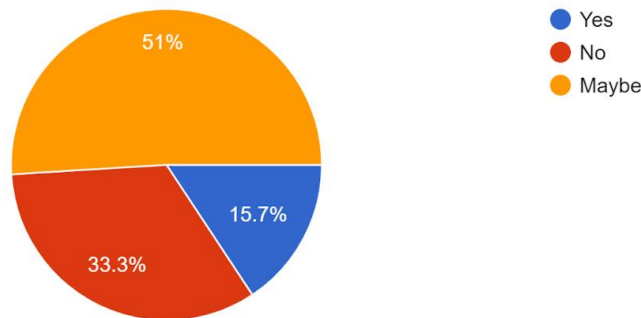


From the above data concluded that 94.1 % agree that child marriage have more adverse impact over girls.

Figure7

Are child protection organization are working to combat child marriage are sufficient ?

51 responses



From the above data concluded 51% opted for maybe that means they are not sure that NGOs are working sufficiently or not to prevent child marriage,33.3% opted for no and 15.7% opted for yes.

Q) How to prevent child marriage (suggestion)?

Ans According to the suggestion given by the respondent awareness should be made to stop child marriage by doing campiness, strict laws should be made and strict punishment should be given to people who perform or play any part in solemnizing child marriage. Empower the youth and parents of the child should also be educated that child marriage has adverse impact over the mental and physical health of child and they should encourage their daughter to get education so that they are financially independent as child marriage not only effect these young kids but also have adverse effect over the coming generation.

10. Conclusion

Child marriage is practice which is been present in India from time immoral. This practice is done because of number of reasons such as many families merry their girls at young age because it believed that marrying girl before her menstrual cycle start is like a sacred act and it will bring good fortune to family and many families perform early marriage because they thing girls are economic burden on their shoulders and they believe girls actual home are there in laws home and if girls are not married at particular time and sent to schools or study they might choose partner of their choice and this step is also seen as shameful by the families and some believe if girls are married at early age then less dowry has to give and at young age it's easy to conceive baby so early marriage of children are performed and not all this there are other reasons that child marriage is performed and when girls are married at young age then there is constant pressure to get pregnant and start family so after marriage girls are the more victim as after marriage no school going is allowed only she has to remain in the home and to take care of the family and children so in this circumstance if girl is not able to adjust then she face violence from her in laws . To prevent child marriage legislature the law making body passed an act to combat this social evil but it is still present in indie not only legislature but also judiciary passed number of judgments to prevent child marriage this is still in practice because people are choosing to ignore this issue and they if see it is practicing near their locality then also they choose to remain silent and not to report this issue and other there are laws but when it comes to implementation they not implemented strictly.

11. Suggestions

- Raise Awareness about the harmful consequences of child marriage.
- Promote girls education and empower them with the skills and knowledge to make choices about their lives.
- Strengthen the implementation of existing laws against child marriage.
- Conduct awareness programs targeting parents and communities to challenge traditional norms that may promote child marriage.
- Strict laws should be made to remove child marriage.
- People should raise voice against the child marriage if they see child marriage is performed near them and they should report them and should not ignore.
- Certain schemes should be made by the government that encourage child education and prevent child marriage.

- The religious practices or cultural practices that are promoting child marriage should be boycotted by the people.
- There should be a proper mechanism that check about how many child marriage are performed in a particular states,
- The provisions related to secrecy should make in statutes or acts about the people who report such issues.

12. Reference

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2. https://india.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/analytical_series_1_-_child_marriage_in_india_-_insights_from_nfhs-5_final_o.pdf
3. <https://www.childlineindia.org/a/issues/child-marriage>
4. <https://blog.ipleaders.in/all-about-the-prohibition-of-child-marriage-act-in-india/#:~:text=Section%2012,shall%20be%20void%20ab%20initio.>
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8. <https://www.studocu.com/in/document/lovely-professional-university/family-law/child-marriage-in-india-a-social-legal-analysis/31465235>

12.1. Acts

- The child marriage restraint Act, 1929.
- The prohibition of child marriage Act 2006.
- The Indian penal code, 1860.

12.2. Books

- Child marriage in India (Socio-legal and Human Rights Dimensions) by Jaya Sagade.
- Women and the Law by Dr. Dalbir Bharti
- Law relating to women and children by Dr. Anjani Kant.
- Offence against children and juvenile offence by Dr. S.K Chatterjee.
- Offense against children and juvenile offence by Dr. S.S Singh.