

Child marriage.



Why are we here?

Child marriage.



Each year, 15 million girls are married before the age of 18¹.
That is 1 every 2 seconds, 28 girls every minute, and 41,000
every day².

20 COUNTRIES WITH THE HIGHEST RATES OF CHILD MARRIAGE*

01	Niger	76%
02	Central African Republic	68%
03	Chad	68%
04	Bangladesh	65%
05	Mali	55%
06	South Sudan	52%
07	Burkina Faso	52%
08	Guinea	52%
09	Malawi	50%
10	Mozambique	48%
11	India	47%
12	Somalia	45%
13	Sierra Leone	44%
14	Nigeria	43%
15	Zambia	42%
16	Nicaragua	41%
17	Nepal	41%
18	Madagascar	41%
19	Eritrea	41%
20	Dominican Republic	41%

* Child marriage prevalence is the percentage of women 20-24 years old who were first married or in union before they were 18 years old (UNICEF State of the World's Children, 2015). It is based on Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and other national surveys, and refers to the most recent year available during the period 2005-2013.

With 42% of girls married before 18, South Asia is home to almost half of the world's child brides.

The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) estimates that 40 percent of all child marriages in the world take place in India.

“Over 700 million women alive today were married as children.”

33 million men today were married before the age of 15 and 156 million before the age of 18.

“One in three girls in low and middle-income countries (excluding China) will marry before the age of 18.”¹

“One in nine girls will marry before their fifteenth birthday. In the least-developed countries the prevalence of child marriage is even higher—nearly one in two.”²

“50 million girls could still be at risk of being married before their 15th birthday in this decade.”³

“If nothing changes, developing countries will witness an increase in child marriage: 142 million child marriages in 2011-2020 and 151 million in the subsequent decade.”⁴

“ What is forcing, motivating, presenting an opportunity for the parents of these young girls to wed them off so early?”

Factors that contribute to child marriage:

1. Economic - financial, physical and other resources for the family
2. Social norms and perceptions - affecting peer pressure and following the practices that are working and approved by the society around them
3. Gender inequality - perception for the girl child as an non-economic contributor to the family and society at large
4. Legal structures - with respect to preventing, abolishing, and implementing
5. Ineffective reach of schemes and solutions
6. Religious structures



What and where is the impact of this practice?

A girl child born and brought up in a society which is affected by:

Economic
Social norms and perceptions
Education of the parents
Gender inequality
Religious structures

will produce a human who has the following characteristics:

1. no proper education
2. no maturity to handle household and social affairs
3. no understanding of self worth which affects self-development and personal growth
4. inability to decide for herself
5. incapable of earning for herself
6. individual with a very low self esteem

1. maternal matters
2. emotional and psychological instability
3. population and family planning
4. sexual health and diseases
5. physical and sexual abuse/violence
6. Poverty

contributes world of dangerous possibilities

Vicious circle: *A sequence of reciprocal cause and effect in which two or more elements intensify and aggravate each other, leading inexorably to a worsening of the situation*

Choice

and with this, give her a voice.

Bringing the change

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What will make the solutions holistic and effective?

What are the qualities that we must ensure in our solutions?

**Our solution and initiatives must have
elements:**

Elements of solutions:

1. Focus on individual rights
2. Focus on target segment - with respect to age, gender, player in the problem (customized initiatives for each segment. Educational programs for parents will be very different from educational programs for the community leaders)
3. Use logic and evidences instead of emotions (show value by numbers derived from case studies and pilot projects)
4. Collect facts and figures on every step (for effective monitoring)
5. Devise a multi-level approach (planned solutions in phases, years and stages)
6. Engagement of influencing community
7. Partnerships at all levels (government, family, community leaders, religious leaders)
8. Break the initiatives into phases and link it with large impact (one step at a time. For example let someone first send their daughter to school- no need to directly jump into preaching them on the issue of child marriage)



Suggestive solutions:

1. making technology work for women
2. government should incentivize those products which are focusing on making the lives of women easier - reduction in taxes and duty
3. awareness on the recognition of the work of the house wife
4. stricter legal reforms for any crime against women (ensuring lack of conflict amidst the laws)
5. free education for girl child till 10th. till age 18



Suggestive solutions:

6. employment programs schemes to be introduced in connection with girl education
7. teach them educational and skills development programs
8. CSR fund should have some percentage dedicated to girl child
9. banking sector should be friendly to the girl child
10. school and college awareness programs - for parents, school authorities and the girl child

Is prevention of future child marriages the only focus?

What about those 700 million women?

What about those 700 million women?

1. Sensitization and awareness programs to let these women know that a system exists that is working very hard for their benefit.
2. Create programs in school for married girls who left their education in between. make education flexible.
3. Introduce skill development programs for these women and get them to stand on their feet.
4. Introduce sensitization programs for the men and their extended families.
5. Introduce schemes for the families who support the education and development of their daughters in law. (something similar as what is being done for the single girl child)

Child....

Enable

Educate

Empower

