



Child Marriages Decline in Rajasthan

Why in News?

Rajasthan, once regarded as a child marriage hotspot, has witnessed a dramatic decline, with **cases falling by 67% among boys** and 66% among girls, according to a study released at the [United Nations General Assembly](#) in New York.

Key Points

- **About:**
 - The study titled **“Tipping Point to Zero: Evidence Towards a Child Marriage Free India”** was conducted between 2022 and 2024 in five states by **Just Rights for Children (JRC)**, a network of over 250 child protection NGOs, in collaboration with the **Rajasthan Directorate of Child Rights**. The initiative was also supported by the Government of India and various civil society organisations.
 - The report highlights that **awareness campaigns** were the **most effective tool** for reducing child marriages, with 99% of respondents in Rajasthan identifying them as crucial.
 - It also notes that **82% of respondents considered arrests and prosecutions** as the second most impactful factor in deterring the practice.
 - Despite these improvements, the study underscores that **poor financial conditions (91%)**, cultural and traditional practices (45%), and the belief that early marriage ensures “purity” (45%) remain **persistent drivers of child marriage**.
- **Recommendations of the Report:** The report calls for **stricter enforcement of child marriage laws, better reporting mechanisms, compulsory marriage registration, and village-level awareness regarding the [Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat portal](#)**.
 - It also recommends declaring a National Day Against Child Marriage to mobilise collective action across the country.

Child Marriage

- **About:** [UNICEF](#) categorises child marriage as a human rights violation due to its adverse impacts on the development of both girls and boys.
 - [Sustainable Development Goal 5.3](#) states that Child marriage elimination is pivotal in achieving [Sustainable Development Goal 5](#), aiming for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls by 2030.
 - According to the UN, 1 in 5 young women worldwide (19%) were married in childhood in 2022.
- **Legislative Framework:** India enacted the [Prohibition of Child Marriage Act in 2006](#), establishing the legal age for marriage at 21 for men and 18 for women.
 - **Section 16** of the **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act** allows State Governments to appoint '**Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPO)**' for specific areas.
 - CMPOs are responsible for preventing child marriages, collecting evidence for prosecutions, counselling against promoting or aiding such marriages, raising awareness about their harmful effects, and sensitising communities.

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/child-marriages-decline-in-rajasthan>

