



# Ending child marriage with administrative ownership

The Government of India's Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006 mandates that getting girls married below the age of 18 years and boys below the age of 21 years is a cognisable and non-bailable offence. The Rajasthan Prohibition of Child Marriage Rules 2007 have been implemented in line with the provisions of the PCMA. District-level task forces (DTFs) have been constituted with convergent membership in order to ensure adherence to the Rules.

## ROLES OF DTF MEMBERS

### District Collector

- Ensures formation of DTF and Block Task Force (BTF)
- Organises situational analysis after which progress is monitored
- Guides effective implementation, monitoring and supervision of the District Action Plan (DAP)
- Reviews progress, prepares status updates and ensures that DAP and Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs) are submitted in a timely manner.

### NGO representative

- Ensures that the NGO works collaboratively with the government department
- Ensures that data sets of adolescent groups in the community are prepared
- Ensures support to frontline workers to form adolescent groups and conduct awareness training on ending child marriage.

### Department of Women Empowerment – Nodal agency

- Ensures implementation and monitoring of all DAP activities and coordinates with line departments and stakeholders
- Supports Child Development Project Officer (CDPO), Supervisor, Anganwadi Worker, ASHA Sahyogini, and Saathin in creating an environment conducive to preventing child marriage
- Creates awareness on major schemes related to adolescent empowerment like Kishori Shakti Yojana, Rajshree, Janani Suraksha Yojana etc. and tracks progress
- Ensures counselling services to adolescents (through Mahila Shakti Kendras, Mahila Salah Evam Suraksha Kendras and CHILDLINE) who say 'no' to child marriage or want to nullify marriage.

### District Panchayat Officer, Panchayati Raj Department

- Ensures prevention of child marriage through counselling of parents and relatives
- Creates awareness about child protection issues among adolescent boys and girls
- Creates awareness about the PCMA and consequences of child marriage in gram sabhas on a regular basis
- Ensures enrolment and retention of all children, especially girl children, in schools
- Activates village level Child Protection Committees.

### Member Secretary, District Legal Service Authority

- Provides free and competent legal aid (counselling and legal advice) and free legal services in conduct of cases before courts and tribunals
- Spreads legal awareness on child marriage and various issues of legal importance among the public, particularly targeting beneficiaries of social legislations
- Organises legal literacy classes in colleges and jails, and legal awareness programmes for women and children in need of care and protection
- Undertakes any other necessary tasks for successful implementation of the DAP.

### Police

- Ensures that police officers are trained on the provisions of the PCMA
- Ensures that officers follow rules and regulations related to child marriage
- Ensures that FIRs are lodged and investigated. No police officer can refuse to accept a complaint which may be made orally or in writing. All complaints must be converted into FIRs without delay.
- Reports matters to the Child Marriage Prohibition Officer (CMPO) for her/him to gather evidence about the case of child marriage
- Enquires whether a child marriage is being held
- Ensures proper implementation of Standard Operating Procedures
- Undertakes any other necessary tasks for successful implementation of the DAP.

### District Education Officer, Department of Education

- Organises awareness training of Block Education Officers, Cluster Resource Coordinators, school teachers, School Management Committees and Village Development Committees on preventing child marriage
- Ensures tracking of block-level dropout rates
- Ensures regular reporting
- Undertakes any other necessary tasks for successful implementation of the DAP.

### Child Marriage Prohibition Officer

- Prevents solemnisation of child marriages by taking such action as s/he may deem fit
- Collects evidence for effective prosecution of persons contravening provisions of PCMA
- Advises either individual cases or generally counsels residents of the locality not to indulge in promoting, helping, aiding or allowing solemnisation of child marriages
- Creates awareness about the ill effects of child marriage
- Sensitises the community on the issue of child marriage
- Furnishes such periodical returns and statistics as the state government may direct
- Discharges such other functions and duties as may be assigned to her/him by the state government.

### Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee (CWC)

- Ensures training of stakeholders on their roles and responsibilities in preventing child marriage
- Ensures that children who say 'no' to child marriage receive benefits
- Ensures that all victims are produced in front of the CWC
- Ensures counselling of both victims, their parents and community members.

### Block Development Officer

- Ensures that quarterly meetings of BTF are held on a regular basis
- Ensures follow up actions in a time-bound manner
- Ensures effective implementation, monitoring and supervision of the project
- Ensures that CDPO and CMPO submit quarterly progress reports to the District Social Welfare Officer
- Undertakes any other necessary tasks for successful implementation of the DAP.