

Rajasthan State Strategy and Action Plan for Prevention of Child Marriage

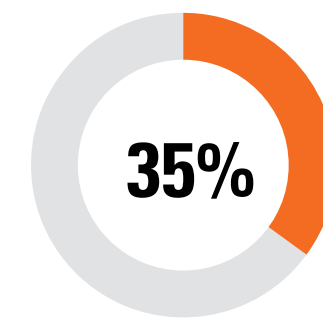
Towards creating a child marriage free Rajasthan



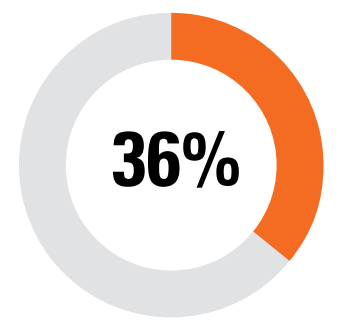
Context

The root causes of child marriage in Rajasthan:

- Girls perceived as a social and economic burden
- Girls not provided education at par with boys
- Poor social and economic status of girls and women
- Deep-rooted cultural beliefs related to age of marriage
- Poor knowledge of legal rights
- Little access to information and choices among girls



GIRLS



BOYS

in Rajasthan are married below the legal age (NFHS-4)

Government of Rajasthan launched a State Strategy and Action Plan for Prevention of Child Marriage in 2017 to accelerate the decline in child marriage.

Guiding principles and key approaches

Human rights-based

Multi-sectoral

Evidence-based

Cognisant of drivers of child marriage

Assets building

Coalition and partnership building

Community systems strengthening

Leveraging resources

Differential geographic and local district specific approach

Focused on greater engagement with adolescents, community members, and government and development partners.

Vision

A state where every girl and boy is empowered to exercise her/his rights and take informed decisions to realise her/his aspirations, without being under the risk of child marriage, with equal access to opportunities for education, health, skills and livelihood.

Goal

To make Rajasthan child marriage-free by preventing incidents of child marriages, empowering girls and boys and providing socio-economic, legal, education and health services to those affected by it

Timeframe

Ten years with activities demarcated as short term (two years), medium term (five years) and long term (10 years)

State Strategy and Action Plan builds on existing policies and programmes

National level

Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (2006) (PCMA)

Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (2009) (RTE)

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act (2015) (JJ Act)

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act (2012)

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)

Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) and Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY)

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)

Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)

Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK)

Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)

State level

State Child Policy (2003) | Rajasthan State Adolescent and Youth Policy (2007) | State Girl Child Policy (2013)

Mukhya Mantri Rajshree Yojana | Aapki Beti Yojana | Mukhya Mantri Hunar Vikas Yojana | Palanhar Yojana

Holistic framework to approach the issue of child marriage

The strategy recognises the risk factors, norms, beliefs and social and economic systems that contribute to entrenching the practice of child marriage and the role played by stakeholders at various levels to create a protective environment for children.

Its proposed interventions adopt an integrated socio-ecological model (SEM) approach, with the process of changing social norms supported by the availability of alternative opportunities for children, the creation of an enabling environment and structural improvements including effective implementation of legislation.



Key partners and stakeholders

Adolescent girls and boys, family and community members

School Management Committees (SMCs), self-help groups (SHGs) and religious leaders

Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members

Legal functionaries

Media, private partners and academic institutions

UN agencies, development partners, Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and civil society

Child Protection Committees (CPCs), Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs)

Field-level workers and service providers

Government of Rajasthan

Differential strategies for high, medium and low prevalence districts

Changing social norms that drive child marriage by disseminating edutainment materials, implementing state-wide joint campaign 'Sanjha Abhiyan – Bal Vivah Mukht Rajasthan', enhancing capacities of local CPCs to spread awareness and engaging with elected representatives, PRI members, community gatekeepers, religious bodies and media to be strong advocates against child marriage

Designing district-specific strategies through action plans based on child marriage prevalence (high, medium and low), implementation of 'Sanjha Abhiyan – Bal Vivah Mukht Rajasthan' and coordinated efforts of civil society organisations (CSOs)

Improving legal and policy environment with focus on rights by effectively implementing policies and laws at all levels, identifying complementarities in their provisions, strengthening monitoring, rehabilitation and redressal mechanisms, building capacities of CMPOs, Marriage Registration Officers and Special Juvenile Police Units (SJPU)

Increasing access to safe and quality education by strengthening implementation of programmes and schemes, enhancing student awareness about the effects of child marriage and reporting violations of the PCMA, strengthening teacher-community, teacher-parent and teacher-student interfaces, and integrating gender, rights education, life skills and PCMA awareness in primary and secondary school curricula

Providing access to quality health, nutrition and reproductive health services by educating health service providers on ill effects of child marriage and early pregnancy (and including the topics in their routine training), training them to deal with cases of violence (including gender-based), building adolescent networks to access counselling and improve health-related behaviours, strengthening delivery of family planning services and maternal and child health services for married adolescents

Building avenues for economic development and livelihoods by strengthening delivery of existing skills and livelihoods programmes and schemes, channelising youth energy at the block level to train adolescents on vocational skills, and mainstreaming entrepreneurship development and financial literacy as part of the school curriculum

Empowering adolescent girls and boys by strengthening their collectives, identifying local role models and champions, engaging adolescent reporters (Kishori Reporters) to increase reporting and developing partnership fora of civil society to advocate for child and adolescent rights

Strengthening data management by developing Management Information System (MIS) with specific indicators related to child marriage, strengthening vital registration systems, developing inter-linkages among sectoral data and developing community-based monitoring systems to track child-related indicators

Multi-sectoral partnership building at state and district levels by synergising efforts and resources of UN agencies, development partners, academic institutions, NGOs and civil society, and roping in corporates and foundations

EXPECTED IMPACT

Adolescents, both boys and girls, thrive in an environment where they can realise their aspirations without the fear of early marriage and any form of discrimination and violence.

Political and social support garnered to strive towards making Rajasthan child marriage free and investing in addressing the needs of already married adolescent boys and girls through coordinated and concerted efforts by the state government, development partners, civil society, communities and young people.