

FACTS AND FIGURES ON CHILD MARRIAGE IN INDIA

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Child marriage is on the global development agenda. It is included in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 5.3 is to eliminate the practice of child marriage by 2030. This practice is more rampant in India and occurs among girls and boys.

- ✓ One-third of the world's child brides live in India. Of the country's 223 million child brides, 102 million were married before turning 15.
- ✓ In terms of child marriage prevalence, India ranks fourth among the eight South Asian Countries.
- ✓ Majority of Indian child brides, i.e. 50%, live in five states: Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh is home to the largest population of child brides, with 36 million.
- ✓ Approximately one in four young women in India were married or in union under the age of 18.
- ✓ In India, the prevalence of child marriage varies across states and union territories. Over 40 per cent of young women were married before turning 18 in Bihar and West Bengal, compared to less than 5 per cent in Lakshadweep.
- ✓ Girls who live in rural areas or come from poorer households and have little or no education are at greater risk of child marriage.
- ✓ Child marriage is less common among boys than girls, and the practice among boys could be eliminated by 2030 if progress is accelerated.

(Source: <https://www.unicef.org/india/media/1176/file/Ending-Child-Marriage.pdf>)

