

## FACTS ABOUT CHILDREN

### CHILD MARRIAGE

The risk of child marriages has heightened as a result of the pandemic's economic fallout, as vulnerable households could be forced to adopt coping mechanisms.

According to data reported by Child line, a nodal agency of the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development protecting children in distress, out of 92,203 interventions, some 5,584 during the lockdown (35 percent) were related to child marriages. Of this number, 97 percent were minors (18 years and below) and 91 percent were girls.

Child line India claims to have compiled reports of 5214 child marriages reported between March to June across India. Child line, a children's helpline, has reported a 17% increase in distress calls related to early marriage of girls in June and July this year compared to 2019.

**Reference:** Domestic violence and other crimes (Deepika Bahl, Shalini Bassi, and Monika Arora, "The Impact of COVID-19 on Children and Adolescents: Early Evidence in India," ORF Issue Brief No. 448, March 2021, Observer Research Foundation.)

