

State Strategy and Action Plan for Prevention of Child Marriage

Towards creating a child marriage free Rajasthan



Government of Rajasthan



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Towards creating a child marriage free Rajasthan

2017

अनिता भदेल

राज्य मंत्री (स्वतन्त्र प्रभार)
महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग
राजस्थान सरकार



MESSAGE

It gives me immense pleasure that a comprehensive State strategy and Action plan has been prepared to address the age-old menace of child marriage. As we all know, child marriages are highly prevalent in Rajasthan and is a gross violation of human rights of the children. Child marriage has a grave impact on their health, education and over all development, with intergenerational implications.

Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by 193 member states across the globe, has underlined the importance of eliminating all harmful practices which include child marriage under SDG 5, which focuses on achieving gender equality and women and girl empowerment.

Over the last decade, Rajasthan has shown tremendous improvement in social and educational indicators especially maternal mortality, infant mortality and literacy rate, but the number of girls marrying below the legal age still remains a concern. In order to address this issue in a holistic manner, the Department of Women and Child Development and other departments of the Government, along with UNFPA , UNICEF, civil society, international organisations and others, have come together to develop a comprehensive State Strategy and Action Plan for Rajasthan.

I am happy that the State Strategy and Action Plan is robust and well-thought-through and provides ways to take important steps, get people together and start a people's movement to make Rajasthan, child marriage free in the next 10 years.

Today, let us all renew our pledge for empowering our youth with better health and educational opportunities and make Rajasthan a 'Child Marriage Free State'.

Anita Bhadel

Purpose & Organisation of the Document

The State Strategy and Action Plan document, committed to end child marriage in Rajasthan seeks to provide a guided vision and direction of the Government of Rajasthan which will be executed by various departments, development partners and all stakeholders concerned. The document articulates the principles, strategy, vision, objectives, actions, coordination mechanisms and resources that will ensure effective implementation of the actions/interventions to end child marriage in Rajasthan. The Comprehensive State Strategy and Action Plan document and a State Plan of Action, aim to mobilise and harmonise multi-pronged efforts to end child marriage by strengthening intersectoral and departmental partnerships and collaborations within the government, along with intensive efforts by UN/international agencies, civil society organisations and larger communities.

The Rajasthan State Strategy and Action Plan (SSAP) for preventing child marriage anchors various interventions and activities on addressing the aforesaid drivers. The intricacies of these drivers run deep and require concerted and consolidated efforts from various stakeholders ranging from the government, judiciary, civil society, development partners, communities, networks, families, to individual boys and girls. It builds on existing policies and programmes while focusing on greater engagement with adolescents, community members, government and development partners.

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Section 1

Introduction

Investing in adolescents, particularly adolescent girls, accelerates the process of empowering them with the knowledge, skills and assets necessary to help them fulfil their dreams and maximise their potential. Unless concrete steps are taken and strategies adopted to end child marriage, these dreams will remain unrealised.

Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) hinges on the realisation of the human rights of the youth and adolescents. One practice that violates human rights of adolescents is that of “child marriage” which has a grave impact on their health, education, sexual and reproductive health rights in addition to their overall development. The effect of child marriage has intergenerational implications. Hence, there is an urgent need to have a concrete and consolidated response of various stakeholders to prevent child marriage. Prevalence of child marriage is widespread in India and any effort to address this issue should take into consideration the complexities of the various factors that drive the community to succumb to this harmful practice.

Child marriage does not occur in isolation and is perpetuated by a multiplicity of complex factors. Available research evidence on factors that contribute to this practice indicates that a range of social and economic factors sustain this practice. The commonly identified factors include patriarchal structures, norms and expectations, socio-cultural and religious customs and practices, poverty and economic factors, notions of safety and security, lack of awareness



about law and lack of access to education and skill training. However, the significance of a particular factor may vary from one context to another as well as from region to region.

Child marriage restricts the normal transition of a child through his/her adolescence period, increases vulnerability to ill health, discrimination towards education and social opportunities and exposure to all kinds of violence. Evidence from across the globe shows that child marriage among girls is a strong contributing factor for maternal mortality and infant mortality. Child marriage limits the agency of an individual to make informed choices, thereby restricting the person's access to information, avenues for skill building and pursuing of aspirations.

Evidence from several research studies clearly indicate that not only is child marriage a gross violation of human rights, but also tends to impact most aspects of human life. Early child and forced marriages curtail freedom of choice and opportunities, besides reinforcing existing structural inequalities related to age, gender, class, caste, religion, sexuality and political economy. The health consequences due to early child bearing and greater responsibilities in the household result in harmful outcomes, both at the individual and societal levels. Also, higher infant, child and maternal mortalities are attributed to child marriage. Girls discontinuing education on account of getting married has long-term consequences. Available data suggests that the prevalence of domestic violence is higher for those who have been married at an early age. At the macro level, child marriage contributes to continuing the intergenerational cycle of poverty, further marginalising women. The consequences of child marriage are adverse for both sexes, but more stark and significant in the case of girls. Many girls who are married young are exposed to violence, isolation and confinement. The lack of support from family and community often leads to extreme sexual violence and harassment.

Rajasthan has been and continues to be a high prevalence state for child marriage in India; the prevalence being much higher than the national average. Widely accepted, child marriages are part of the societal fabric. It is common practice to get children

“The health consequences due to early child bearing and greater responsibilities in the household result in harmful outcomes, both at the individual and societal levels.”



Some Facts on Child Marriage

- ✓ Child Marriage Restraint Act introduced in 1929
- ✓ Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 replaces the above Act after 70 years
- ✓ 17 million children in the age group of 10-19 years are married, bulk of them (13 million) are girls (Census 2011)
- ✓ Biggest drop in child marriage confined to girls below 15 years of age
- ✓ No girls in 0-9 years currently married, but large number in 15-17 age group married (Census 2011)

married on auspicious days such as *AkshayTritiya/AakhaTeej* and *Peepal Purnima* and even during *Mrityubhoj/Mausar* (death feast organised when a family member dies) as a cost saving measure. The practice of *atta-satta* (exchange of brides) is also common in the state.

Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by 193 member states across the globe, has underlined the importance of eliminating all harmful practices which include child marriage under SDG 5, which focuses on achieving gender equality and women and girl empowerment. The state of Rajasthan is committed to develop a concrete State Strategy and Action Plan to prevent child marriage in the state and at the same time, address the needs of already married children so that the effect of child marriage can be minimised.

The State Strategy and Action Plan document, committed to end child marriage in Rajasthan seeks to provide a guided vision and direction of the Government of Rajasthan which will be executed by various departments, development partners and all stakeholders concerned. The document articulates the principles, strategy, vision, objectives, actions, coordination mechanisms and resources that will ensure effective implementation of the actions/ interventions to end child marriage in Rajasthan. The Comprehensive State Strategy and Action Plan document aims to mobilise and harmonise multi-pronged efforts to end child marriage by strengthening intersectoral and departmental partnerships and collaborations within the government, along with intensive efforts by UN/international agencies, civil society organisations and larger communities.





Section 2

Addressing Child Marriage in Rajasthan: Figures and Trends

Addressing gender-based discrimination in various facets of life is key to achieving gender equality, which would inevitably contribute to improving critical human development indicators.

Rajasthan, in the last few decades has shown considerable improvement in its various demographic and socio-economic indicators.

Female literacy has increased **from 43.5% to 52.66%** between 2001 and 2011

Infant mortality has decreased **from 67 to 46** per 1,000 live births between 2004 and 2014 (SRS)

Maternal mortality has decreased **from 388 to 244** between 2004-06 to 2011-13 per 100,000 live births.

In spite of these improvements, Rajasthan faces great challenges in addressing harmful practices like child marriage and sex selection. Census 2011 has indicated that Rajasthan has 31.6 percent girls married under the age of 18 years in comparison to the national average of 17 percent (0-4 years prior to Census 2011). Even though there has been a decline in terms of child marriage from 52 percent in 2001 to 31.6 percent in 2011, the number of marriages before the age of 18 warrants serious attention.

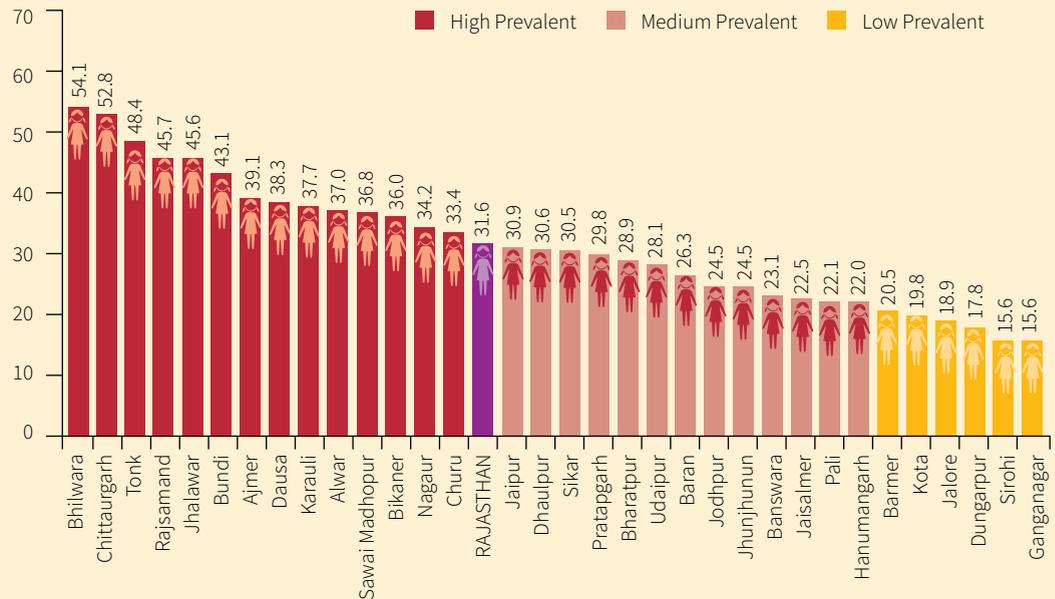
In terms of child sex ratio, Rajasthan has seen a decline of 21 points from 909 in 2001 to 888 in 2011. There is a wide disparity between the male and female literacy rates in Rajasthan.



This is also seen in terms of the infant mortality and other critical indicators. In the context of universalisation of elementary education, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at the primary level was 98 in 2010-11, compared to 102 in 2013-14. The percentage of girls to total enrolment at the primary level was 46.33 percent and at the upper primary level, 44.69 percent. At the secondary level, while enrolments have increased, it is below national average. Rajasthan also has a higher gender disparity at secondary and higher secondary levels compared to the national average. Addressing gender-based discrimination in various facets of life is key to achieving gender equality, which would further contribute to the improvement of critical human development indicators.

Figure 1

% of girls married before the age of 18 years, 0-4 years prior to Census of India 2011.



Based on the prevalence of child marriage, the districts in the State can be categorised into High, Medium and Low.



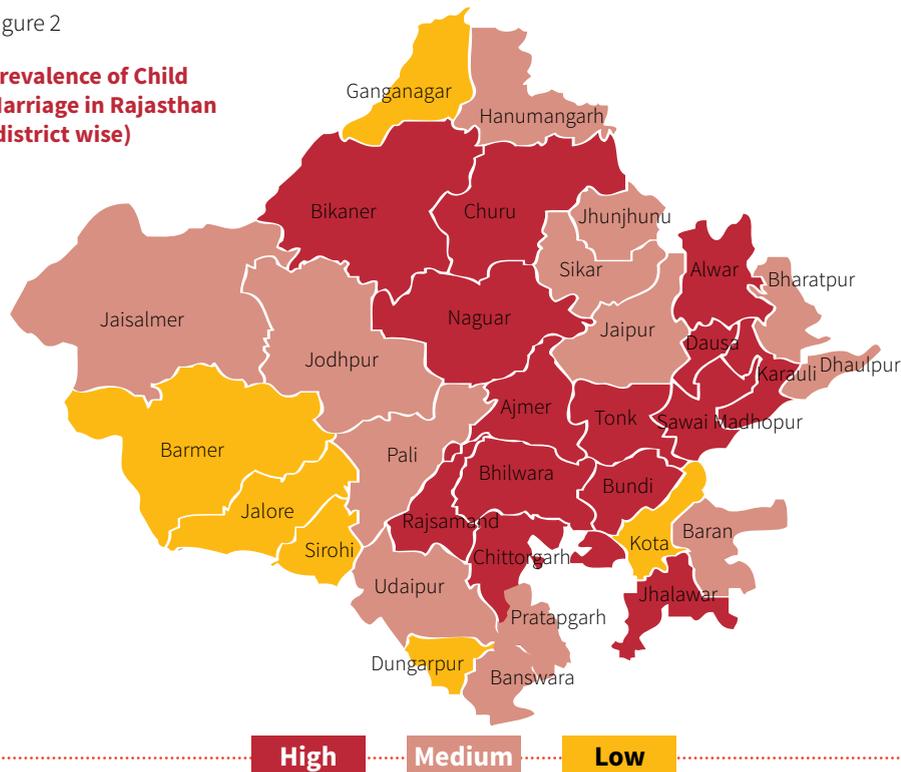
“ Approximately 7.2 lakh girls in Rajasthan were married before the age of 18 years, 0-4 years prior to Census 2011. ”

Child marriage in Rajasthan

Rajasthan ranks number one among the eight Empowered Action Group (EAG) states with the highest prevalence of child marriages (Annual Health Survey 2011-12). The NFHS 4 (2015-16) states that 35.4 percent girls are married below the age of 18 years. However, the Census 2011 figures indicate that Rajasthan ranks third among all the states of India with respect to child marriage. Approximately 7.2 lakh girls in Rajasthan were married before the age of 18 years, 0-4 years prior to

Figure 2

Prevalence of Child Marriage in Rajasthan (district wise)



Census 2011. While child marriage is prevalent in all the districts, the census figures show wide variations between the districts. About 14 districts in the state have high prevalence of child marriage when compared to the state average. The district social development indicators show that the districts with high prevalence of child marriage are skewed in other indicators like sex ratio, child sex ratio, female literacy rates etc.

The differential context in the districts of Rajasthan warrants a local context based and multi-sectoral strategy to address the issue of child marriage. The strategies should take into account drivers of child marriage in order to get maximum impact in reducing incidence of child marriage.





Section 3

Drivers of Child Marriage

An integrated approach that involves multiple stakeholders and government departments will accelerate the decline in child marriages. Suggested interventions must further the process of changing social norms supported by opportunities that contribute to creating an enabling environment duly backed by institutional frameworks, structural improvements, community forces and effective legislation.

Child marriage is both a symptom and consequence of the inequalities of caste, class, religion, economy and most importantly, gender inequality. Therefore, multiple sets of factors contribute to the prevalence and persistence of child marriage. Studies on early childhood marriages conducted in Rajasthan show that there are economic and social compulsions which promote child marriage. The root cause of child marriage or any other harmful practice is embedded in the entire concept of gender based discrimination, leading to the low value accorded to girls and women. Hence, the critical drivers of child marriage range from low value of girls, traditional norms and social practices, poverty, safety and security, access to schooling especially secondary education, extent of the implementation of various gender related legislations and gender biased opinions of community based networks and organisations. Even though child marriage affects both boys and girls, various studies and data sets indicate that girls are more vulnerable to child marriage.

Low value of girls stems from the deep-rooted patriarchal mindset of society. This invariably leads to a differential value of boys and girls, with greater disadvantage to girls who tend



to be viewed as a burden to society. It is very important to influence this mindset and engage with gatekeepers of society to design measures that enhance the value of the girl child, thereby addressing gender based discrimination. Traditional norms and practices across the length and breadth of Rajasthan often promote those decisions of families and communities that contribute to the adoption of harmful practices like child marriage and sex selection. In order to make a dent in reducing the impact of harmful traditional practices, efforts should be directed to weed out those norms and values that inhibit the survival and development of the girl child and promote discrimination.

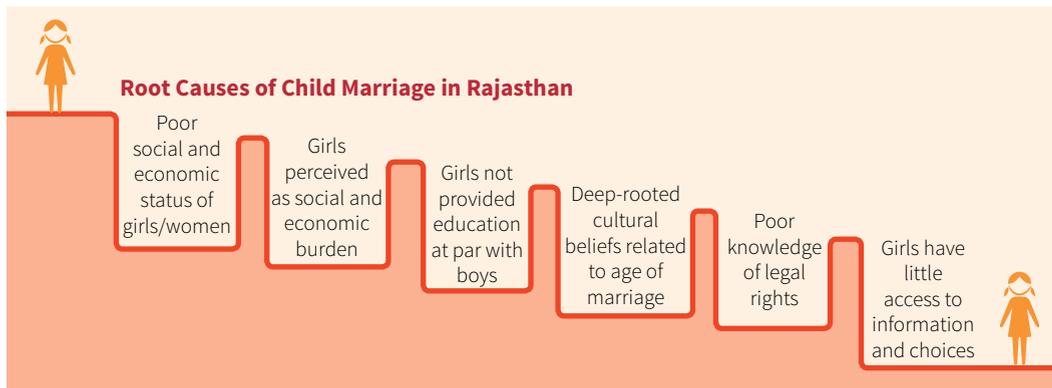
Economics related to raising girl children in a society, especially in rural and financially vulnerable contexts, often push the families to consider child marriage as it is perceived to offset huge future financial costs. The costs of higher education and the demand for dowry, drive families to a point where they are desperate to marry their daughters off at an early age. The other contributing factor for child marriage is the element of safety and security of the girl, especially in the adolescent period. Economic, safety and security factors need to be addressed through focused communication, increasing awareness among the community on completion of education that would further link the girls to greater economic opportunities and stronger legislation to address gender based violence.

Various studies and research reports have shown that lack of access to schooling, especially the secondary and higher secondary levels, is a prime driver of child marriage. This is often due to the absence of schooling facilities at an accessible distance, a low gender sensitive environment, economic limitation of families and gender entrenched norms. Enhancing access to schooling and stronger implementation of various schemes that promote girl-child education will act as strong deterrents to prevent child marriage.

The informal community based networks often perpetuate the harmful traditional norms that put girls and women in a disadvantageous position, thereby promoting child marriages. Practices like “*Atta Satta*” and “*Nata Pratha*” in some parts of Rajasthan are evidence that

“Various studies and research reports have shown that lack of access to schooling, especially the secondary and higher secondary levels, is a prime driver of child marriage.”





these socially entrenched harmful norms lead to child marriage. Engaging with informal community based networks, mobilising the community against these practices, leveraging the presence of civil society organisations and influencing community leaders are some of the strategies to address this driver of child marriage.

Low awareness of gender related legislations and weak institutional mechanisms also contribute to child marriage. A stronger implementation of gender and child related legislations would act both as a deterrent for child marriage and recourse for those affected by child marriage.

The weak agency of the girl child restricts the adoption of choices and exercising of decisions for overcoming the harmful practices that affect her life. Often the agency of the girl child is influenced by the patriarchy and gender norms prevalent in society. Engaging at the individual level through access to information, life skills and services will empower the agency of girls to make more informed decisions and enable them to access networks and forums to realise aspirations.

The Rajasthan State Strategy and Action Plan for preventing child marriage anchors the various interventions and activities on addressing the aforesaid drivers. The intricacies of these drivers run deep and require concerted and consolidated efforts from various stakeholders ranging from the government, judiciary, civil society, development partners, communities, networks, families, to individual boys and girls.





Section 4

Policies and Programmes

The State Strategy and Plan of Action will build on existing policies and programmes and will focus on greater engagement with adolescents, community members and government and development partners.

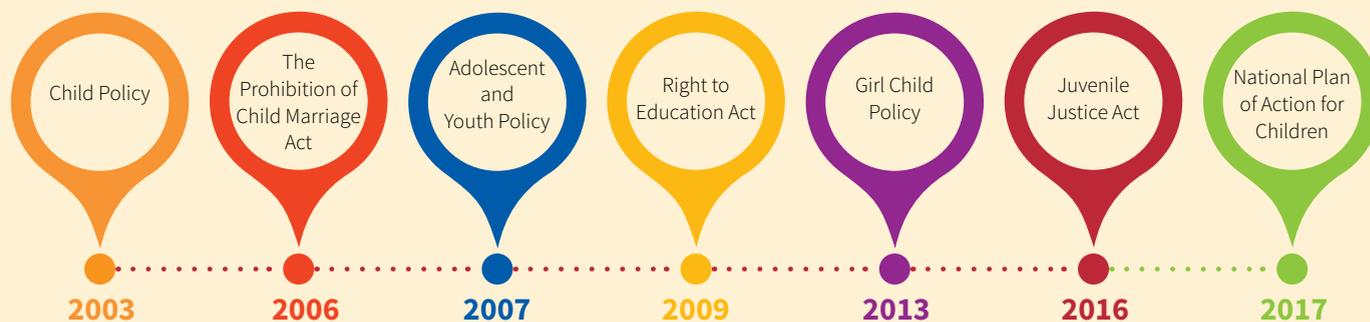
In an effort to address child marriage and other issues of children and adolescents, several policies and programmes have been initiated in the state. These policies are meant to ensure that the rights of children and adolescents are protected. A state **Child Policy** was prepared by the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Rajasthan in 2003. With a focus on the girl child, the policy aims to create a safe, secure and conducive environment with equal opportunity for growth and survival of all children. In 2007, the **Rajasthan State Adolescent and Youth Policy** was formulated. It primarily focused on the need to facilitate access to information, livelihood, education, life skills, employment, nutrition and health services as well as various opportunities for growth and development for adolescents and youth. In 2013, the **Girl Child Policy** was drafted. It envisioned that the girl child shall have an enabling environment for her survival, growth, development, protection, empowerment and participation for exercising her right of life with dignity and without discrimination.

At the central level, several legal frameworks were introduced that have addressed the issue of protection of child rights. **The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (2006)** makes marriage



Figure 3

Timeline of Landmark Legislations from 2003 to 2016



of males before the age of 21 years and of female before 18 years illegal and a punishable offence. **The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (2009)** was introduced to ensure entitlement to free and compulsory education to all children within the age group of 6-14 years. **The Juvenile Justice Act (Care and Protection of Children) 2015**, Section 14(XII), notes that a child who is at imminent risk of marriage before attaining the age of marriage and whose parents, family members, guardian and any other persons are likely to be responsible for solemnisation of such marriage is vulnerable and needs care and protection.

In the area of education, the Rajasthan government has rolled out various initiatives to enhance access and quality of primary and secondary education. *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* and *Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan* have increased the access for girls to primary and secondary education. Residential schools like KGBVs and the *Sarda* Girls Hostels have enhanced access for children of vulnerable groups. Forums like *Meena Manch* (Platform for Girls in the schools) and *Adhyapika Manch* (Platform for teachers) have been constituted at schools for girls and teachers to come together, enhance their own skills and knowledge. Further, this platform encourages girls' education by creating an enabling environment in



schools. The scheme of providing bicycles to girls is increasing access and encouraging retention of girls. Schemes like transport vouchers for girls have been brought to overcome hurdles in accessing education.

To empower girls and address gender based discrimination, the Directorate of Women Empowerment is strengthening the implementation of schemes like **SABLA** and **Kishori Shakti Yojana**, in order to reach out-of-school adolescent girls and provide them with an avenue to access information related to health, nutrition, life skills and opportunities, as non-formal education and vocational training. To address sex selection and promote girls' education, the directorate is spearheading the implementation of **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** Scheme in 14 districts of the state. As one of the landmark schemes for girl child survival, health and education, the state government has introduced **Mukhya Mantri Rajshree Yojana**, which provides financial assistance to girls at regular intervals, linked to critical milestones.

To promote the health of the adolescents, the **Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram** launched under the National Health Mission envisages to address both nutritional and reproductive health as well as mental needs, by providing adolescent health services through identified clinics and by developing peer educator network forums in identified high priority districts as per the health indicators. Schemes like Weekly Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation Programme (WIFS) and Menstrual Hygiene Scheme (MHS) address the nutritional and reproductive health aspects of adolescents. Apart from these, programmes like the Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) Days, **Janani Suraksha Yojana** and community distribution of non-clinical contraceptives provide an opportunity for young married adolescent girls to avail maternal and child health services.

Protecting the rights of a child is an important factor to ensure holistic growth. The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) aims to create a protective environment for children and contribute to the improvement of the wellbeing of children in difficult circumstances, as well as to the reduction of vulnerabilities, situations and actions that lead to abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment and separation of children. **Aapki Beti Yojana**, a Rajasthan government scheme provides cash incentives to girls enrolled in class 1-12 of below



poverty line (BPL) households, who are orphans or have one surviving parent. The *Mukhya Mantri Hunar Vikas Yojana*, started in 2011-12, focuses on providing higher education/skill building programme to beneficiaries of *Palanhar Yojana* and children staying in institutional homes (both government and non-government). The state is providing skill development programmes for adolescents.

The State Strategy and Action Plan will build on existing policies and programmes and will focus on greater engagement with adolescents, community members, government and development partners.





Section 5

State Strategy and Action Plan

Working with adolescents, will be just one critical part of the Action Plan. Unless all stakeholders are identified and involved through multiple avenues and pathways, with commitment and accountability, the Plan will not transition from being a document to a result-driven strategic intervention.

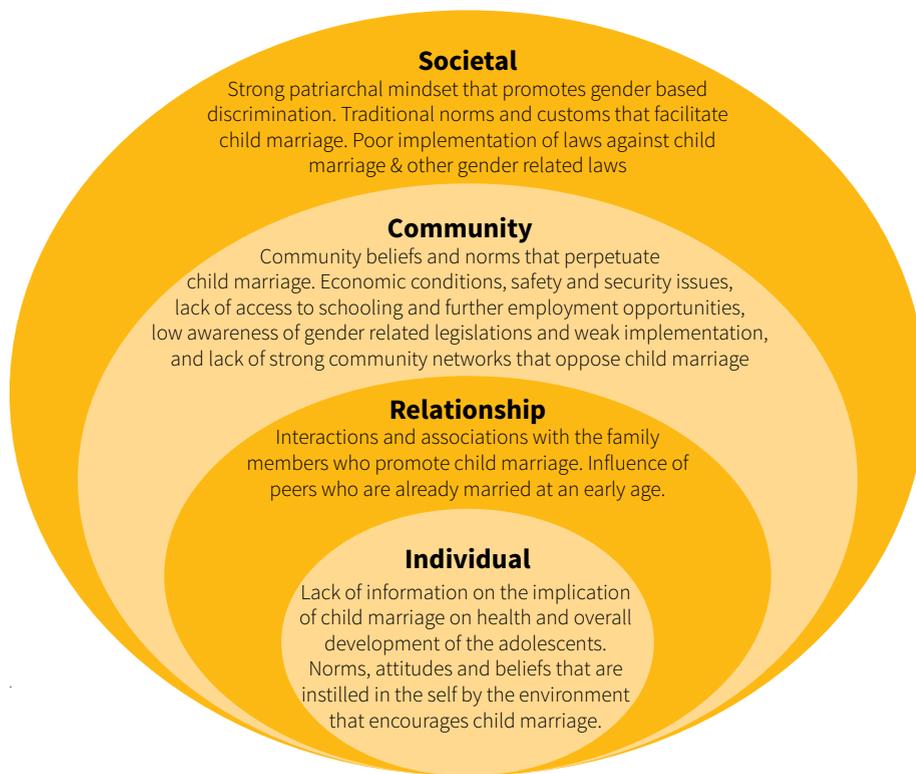
A careful analysis of the drivers and consequences of child marriage seems to clearly suggest that the approach to the State Strategy and Action Plan must find ways to combine both macro and micro level factors in ways that would impact an adolescent's life; by giving them opportunities to make informed choices and operate within a safe environment free from violence. The interdependence of various factors can be easily understood within an ecological framework, where an adolescent's life impacts and is impacted upon by factors that operate at various levels.

The strategy is based on the four-level ecological model of development (Dahlberg and Krug 2002) that promotes a holistic approach which recognises not only the risk factors, but also the norms, beliefs and social and economic systems that create and sustain the conditions where child marriage thrives. The framework also recognises the respective roles that different stakeholders play to create a protective environment for children. The model stipulates that all stakeholders have different responsibilities at different levels of operation to shape and influence the life-course of a child. The influences will be included at the individual, interpersonal community and societal level.



Figure 4

Holistic Framework to Approach the Issue of Child Marriage



It is based on the premise that in order to accelerate the decline in child marriage, interventions need to adopt an integrated approach, where the process of changing social norms is supported by the availability of alternative opportunities for children, the creation of an enabling environment and structural improvements including effective implementation of legislation.



Vision

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

Goal

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

Objectives

- ◆ To strengthen the policies and systems to deliver programmes and services.
- ◆ To empower adolescents, especially girls, with information, knowledge and skills to exercise their rights and choices for protection against the gender-based harmful practices.
- ◆ To mobilise communities and community-based networks for change in existing norms, attitudes, beliefs and practices that promotes child marriage and other harmful practices.
- ◆ To strengthen implementation of Prohibition of Child Marriage Act and other related legislations and child protection systems to prevent child marriages and to uphold rights of the child.
- ◆ To develop a robust data system and intermediary indicators that would help track the progress of child marriage related programmes and interventions in the State.

Figure 5

The Guiding Principles of the State Strategy and Action Plan



Figure 6 **Differential Approach**

Differential strategies for High, Medium and Low Prevalence districts. Across districts, the effort would be to enable an intensified effort in high prevalence districts, to accelerate the pace of change in medium prevalence districts and sustain the good efforts in low prevalence districts.

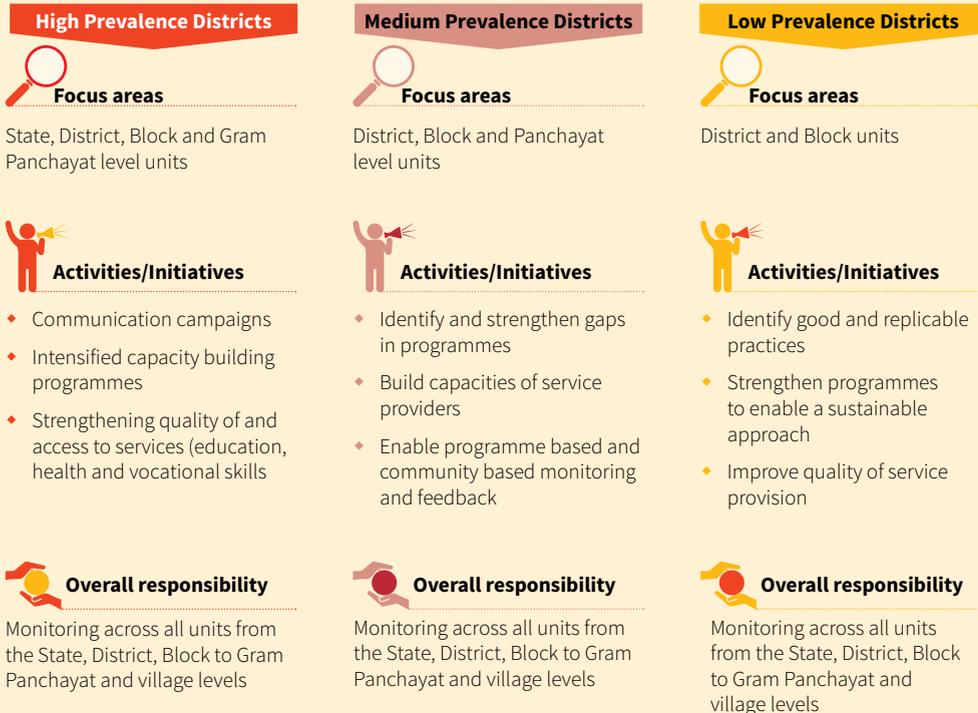
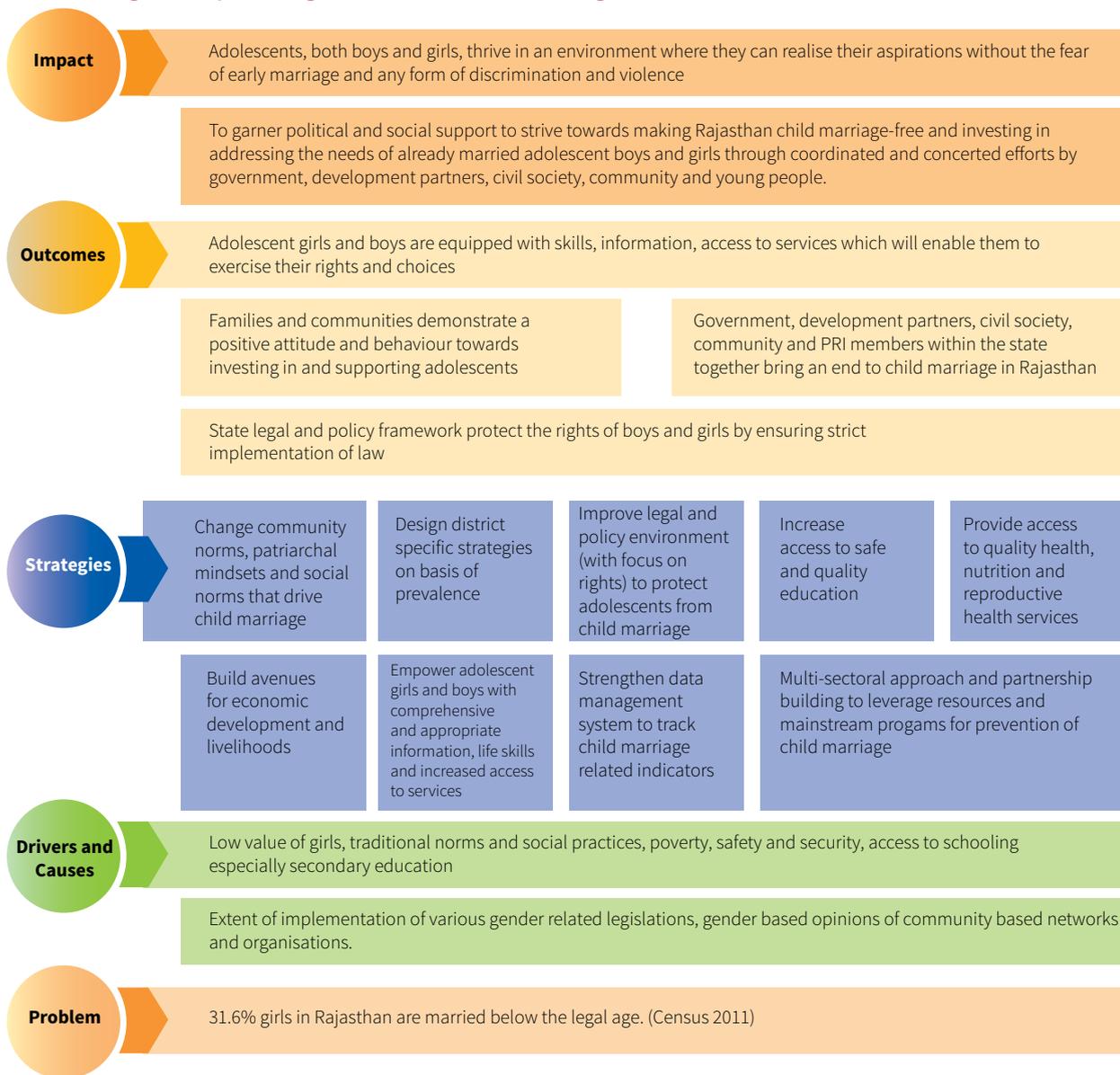


Figure 7

Outlining a Theory of Change Framework for Child Marriage



Key Strategies

Focus areas and proposed strategic interventions

Strategic Focus Area 1: Change community norms, patriarchal mindsets and societal beliefs that drive child marriage

- 1.1 Develop and disseminate information briefs and edutainment materials about the implications and consequences of child marriage at the community level.
- 1.2 Launch a State-wide joint campaign “*Sanjha Abhiyan – Bal Vivah Mukta Rajasthan*” and mobilise the community through the medium of folk songs, skits and art.
- 1.3 Build capacities of grassroot level committees like Village Health Sanitation Committees and Child Protection Committees to spread awareness on child marriage and increase reporting on incidents of child marriage.
- 1.4 Engage with media on issues of child marriage and the various drivers that cause child marriage in order to promote sensitive reporting and upholding rights of the child.
- 1.5 Engage elected representatives at State, District and *gram panchayat* level to be strong advocates against child marriage.
- 1.6 Strengthen involvement of *Panchayati Raj* functionaries (local governance officials) in addressing child marriage and using *gram sabha* as a platform to influence the mindset of the community.
- 1.7 Engage with community level stakeholders that include opinion makers and gatekeepers to adopt a stand against child marriage and provide rehabilitative support for those affected by it.
- 1.8 Leverage strengths of religious bodies and trade associations to influence the mindset of communities to act against child marriage.

Strategic Focus Area 2: Design district specific strategies on the basis of prevalence

- 2.1 Develop district specific action plans based on the intensity of the prevalence of child marriage (high, medium and low)
- 2.2 Plan and execute the district-wide joint campaign of “*Sanjha Abhiyan – Bal Vivah Mukta Rajasthan*”.
- 2.3 Synergise and coordinate efforts of various civil society organisations in the district.



Strategic Focus Area 3: Improve legal and policy environment (with focus on rights) to protect adolescents from child marriage

- 3.1 Effective implementation of policies and laws and stipulate the roles and responsibilities and accountability of different stakeholders at state, district, block and community level in policy and law enforcement.
- 3.2 Awareness Generation on government policies, laws and schemes related to child marriage, child protection and adolescent empowerment.
- 3.3 Enhance legal-awareness on various child-protection and gender related legislations.
- 3.4 Strengthen rehabilitation and redressal mechanisms for children affected by marriage.
- 3.5 Undertake capacity building of the CMPOs, Marriage Registration officers and Special Juvenile Police Units on continuous basis.
- 3.6 Identify complementarities in reference to various provisions of laws like PCMA, POCSO, Juvenile Justice Act and IPC.
- 3.7 Rationalisation of human resources for strengthening implementation of PCMA.
- 3.8 Strengthen monitoring mechanisms for implementation of laws related to prevention and prohibition of child marriage.
- 3.9 Strengthening of bodies under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme to address the issue of Child Marriage.

Strategic Focus Area 4: Increase access to safe and quality education

- 4.1 Strengthen implementation of existing programmes and schemes to increase reach of girls to quality education, retention and reducing of absenteeism, especially those from vulnerable backgrounds.
- 4.2 Enhance awareness among students on the effects of child marriage, the PCMA Act and avenues for reporting cases of violation of the PCMA Act.
- 4.3 Strengthen teacher community, teacher-parent and teacher-student interface through multiple platforms.
- 4.4 Integrate Gender, Rights education, Life Skills and PCMA (with focus on rights of child and implications of harmful practices of Child Marriage) in primary and secondary school curriculum.



Strategic Focus Area 5: Provide access to quality health, nutrition and reproductive health services

- 5.1 Equip health service providers on ill-effects of child marriage and child bearing under the age of 18
- 5.2 Build networks among adolescents for accessing counselling services at the health centre and connect adolescents to other adolescent clubs for improving health-related behaviours.
- 5.3 Engage with training institutions to integrate sexual and reproductive health rights of adolescents in the various curricula of training for different cadres of health service.
- 5.4 Strengthen delivery of family planning services for married adolescents to delay child births and promote spacing between births.
- 5.5 Enhance access to maternal and child health services for married adolescents at the institutional and community level.
- 5.6 Build capacities of health service providers to deal with cases of violence, particularly gender based violence.

Strategic Focus Area 6: Build avenues for economic development and livelihoods

- 6.1 Strengthen the delivery of existing programmes and schemes related to skills and livelihood for enabling adolescents to access them.
- 6.2 Channelise youth energy at block level to train adolescents on vocational skills.
- 6.3 Mainstream entrepreneurship development and financial literacy as part of the school curriculum.

Strategic Focus Area 7: Empower adolescent girls and boys with comprehensive and appropriate information, life skills and increased access to services

- 7.1 Strengthen the Adolescent Girls /boys Collective across schemes through convergent action
- 7.2 Identify local role-models and champions to showcase their achievements despite challenges.
- 7.3 Engage adolescent reporters (*Kishori* Reporters) to increase reporting of initiatives, case studies and success stories related to adolescent programmes and community based initiatives that protect the Rights of child and adolescents.



- 7.4 Develop partnership forums of civil society to advocate for the right of children and adolescents.

Strategic Focus Area 8: Strengthen the data management system to track child marriage related indicators

- 8.1 Develop the management information system with specific dashboard indicators to track interventions related to addressing child marriage.
- 8.2 Strengthen vital registration systems to capture marriage.
- 8.3 Generate evidence on benefits of delaying marriage, retention of girls in school and providing adolescent friendly health services through primary and secondary data.
- 8.4 Develop inter-linkages among sectoral data related to issues of education, health and protection of children.
- 8.5 Develop community based monitoring system to track child related indicators.

Strategic Focus Area 9: Multi-sectoral approach and partnership building to leverage resources and mainstream programs for prevention of child marriage

- 9.1 Develop convergent mechanisms at the state and district-level for the various sectors to coordinate their respective schemes and programmes related to children and adolescents.
- 9.2 Synergise efforts and resources of UN agencies, development partners, academic institutions NGOs, civil society and others to address the issue of child marriage and related harmful practices.
- 9.3 Rope in corporates and foundations to mainstream programmes related to preventing child marriage in their respective programmes and field areas.



Implementation framework and action plan

The implementation framework details the role of various departments and indicators to monitor performance. The implementation of the Action plan will be undertaken in partnership with UN agencies, Development partners, NGOs and Civil Society.

Sr. No.	Strategic Focus Areas	Activities	Time Frame ¹			Department	Means of Verification
			Short Term (2 years)	Medium Term (5 years)	Long Term (10 years)		
Strategic Focus Area 1 - Change community norms, patriarchal mindset and societal beliefs that drive child marriage							
1.1	Develop and disseminate information briefs and edutainment materials about the implications and consequences of child marriage at the community level.	Organise a workshop on development of advocacy & communication plan for the state.	√			Department of Women and Child Development.	Developed and printed materials, workshop reports, posts on social media.
		Hold rounds of consultation on development & standardisation of communication materials on the issue.		√			
		Use social media and other media to garner public opinion against the issue.	√	√	√		
		Provide programme planners and implementers an advocacy and action tool to assess how each district is doing in terms of various indicators linked to addressing child marriage. A key component of this tool will be an online dashboard that would analyse cumulative and triangulated impact vis-à-vis various indicators.		√			

¹The time frame indicates 1) marking in the respective column alone signifies the completion of activity, 2) marking of the medium and long term column indicates those activities that would be started after two years and sustained till 10 years and 3) marking in all the columns indicate sustained activity over 10 years.



Sr. No.	Strategic Focus Areas	Activities	Time Frame ¹			Department	Means of Verification
			Short Term (2 years)	Medium Term (5 years)	Long Term (10 years)		
		Hold consultative meetings with development partners and NGOs to integrate community based programmes to address child marriages in their existing programmes.	√			Department of Women and Child Development.	
1.2	Launch a State wide joint campaign “ <i>Sanjha Abhiyan – Bal Vivah Mukh Rajasthan</i> ” and mobilise the community through the medium of folk songs, skits and art.	Launch a state-wide joint campaign.	√			Department of Women and Child Development.	Report on the launch of Joint Action.
		Develop campaign logo and signature song for the campaign.	√				Guidelines issued by the Directorate to roll out the joint campaign in the districts.
		Integrate the campaign components in all the outreach activities of the government programmes.		√		All departments.	Circulars issued.
		Utilise the existing platforms (<i>Atal Seva Kendra, anganwadi centres, sub health centres, SMC etc.</i>) at the village/ <i>gram panchayat</i> level to anchor the campaign to engage with the community.	√	√	√	Department of Women and Child Development, Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, Education, Health	Circulars issued.



Sr. No.	Strategic Focus Areas	Activities	Time Frame ¹			Department	Means of Verification
			Short Term (2 years)	Medium Term (5 years)	Long Term (10 years)		
1.3	Build capacities of grassroots level committees like Village Health Sanitation Committees and Child Protection Committees, Standing Committees on Social service at gram panchayat to spread awareness on child marriage and to increase reporting on the incidents of child marriage.	Develop training resources on the issue of child marriage and legal provisions.	√			Department of Women and Child Development.	Training materials and training reports.
		Integrate resource materials on child marriage in the existing capacity building programmes/ trainings for grass-root level committees.		√		Department of Women and Child Development/ Department of Health and Family Welfare/ Directorate of Child Rights/ Department of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development.	Training reports.
1.4	Engage with media on issues of child marriage and the various drivers that cause child marriage in order to promote sensitive reporting and upholding the rights of the child.	Disseminate issue briefs and contextualise data on child marriage and its numerous drivers.		√		Department of Women and Child Development/ Department of Public Relationship.	Printing of issue briefs, data.
		Hold a sensitisation workshop for various forms of media – print and electronic, on how to report cases related to child marriage, upholding the rights of the child.	√				Report.
		Media Campaign.	√	√	√		Newspaper clipping, television news bytes and reports.



Sr. No.	Strategic Focus Areas	Activities	Time Frame ¹			Department	Means of Verification
			Short Term (2 years)	Medium Term (5 years)	Long Term (10 years)		
1.5	Engage elected representatives at state, district and gram panchayat level to be strong advocates against child marriage.	Orient elected representatives at the state, district and gram panchayat level and development of communication briefs.		√		Department of Women and Child Development/ Department of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development.	Report, communication briefs.
		Undertake advocacy with public representatives.	√				Report.
1.6	Strengthen involvement of <i>panchayati raj</i> functionaries (local governance officials) in addressing child marriage and using <i>gram sabha</i> as a platform to influence mindset of the community.	Sensitise PRI members by integrating the issue of child marriage in the training module of <i>Panchayat Raj</i> Department.		√		Department of Women and Child Development/ Department of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development.	Guidelines and reports of activities.
		Share communication briefs and actionable points which they can pursue in the village with PRI members.	√				Printed materials on communication briefs.
		Hold special <i>gram sabhas</i> on the issue of child marriage throughout the state.	√	√	√		
		Develop guidelines for <i>Model Child Marriage-free Gram Panchayats</i> .	√				
		Select and depute a State Brand Ambassador for Child marriage-free Rajasthan.	√				
		Institutionalise yearly awards for child-marriage-free <i>gram panchayats</i> .	√				
		Issue guidelines to facilitate child marriage-free gram panchayats.	√				



Sr. No.	Strategic Focus Areas	Activities	Time Frame ¹			Department	Means of Verification
			Short Term (2 years)	Medium Term (5 years)	Long Term (10 years)		
1.7	Engage with community level stakeholders that include opinion makers and gatekeepers to adopt a stand against child marriage and provide rehabilitative support for those affected by it.	Organise public hearings and “ <i>Ratri Choupals</i> ” and other platforms to interact with the communities.	√	√	√	Department of Women and Child Development/ Rajasthan State Legal Service authorities/ Rajasthan State Women’s Commission/ RSCPCR/District Administration.	Order for the dialogues at various levels. Reports on the dialogues.
1.8	Leverage strengths of religious bodies and trade associations to influence the mindset of communities to act against child marriage.	Develop communication briefs specific to various religious bodies and trade associations on the issue of child marriage.	√			Department of Women and Child Development.	Printed communication briefs.
		Hold sensitisation workshop for religious bodies on prevention of child marriage.	√				Reports of the workshop.
		Issue guidelines to various trade organisations/associations concerned with marriage arrangements for prevention of child marriages.	√				Guidelines.
		Reporting by these bodies on any incidents of violation of PCMA Act	√	√	√		Reports.



Sr. No.	Strategic Focus Areas	Activities	Time Frame ¹			Department	Means of Verification
			Short Term (2 years)	Medium Term (5 years)	Long Term (10 years)		
Strategic focus area 2 – Design district specific strategies on the basis of prevalence							
2.1	Develop district specific action plans based on the intensity of the prevalence of child marriage (high, medium or low).	Analyse district specific data and develop district specific action plans.	√			Department of Women and Child Development, District Administration.	Action plan, reports, meeting minutes, progress reports.
		Review progress on implementation of action plans.		√	√		
2.2	Plan and execute the district wide joint campaign of “ <i>Sanjha Abhiyan – Bal Vivah Mukh Rajasthan</i> ”.	Develop district specific plans for the joint campaign “ <i>Sanjha Abhiyan – Bal Vivah Mukh Rajasthan</i> ”.	√			Department of Women and Child Development & District Administration.	Action plan, reports.
		Roll out the joint campaign in the 11 high prevalence districts, through <i>Bal vivah Mukh Rajasthan Rath</i> and undertake community mobilisation using resource materials.	√	√			
		Organise activities in medium and low prevalence districts.	√	√	√		
		Campaign through <i>Sapno ka Mandana</i> (community wall art) in the selected blocks of districts.	√	√	√		Reports and photographs.



Sr. No.	Strategic Focus Areas	Activities	Time Frame ¹			Department	Means of Verification
			Short Term (2 years)	Medium Term (5 years)	Long Term (10 years)		
2.3	Synergise and coordinate efforts of various civil society organisations in the district	Identify various civil society organisations in the district for synergising and coordinating	√			Department of Women and Child Development.	Action plan, reports, meeting minutes.
		Developing a mechanism at the district level to synergise and coordinate the efforts with civil society organisations.		√			
Strategic Focus Area 3 - Improve legal and policy environment (with focus on rights) to protect adolescents from Child Marriage							
3.1	Effective implementation of policies and laws and stipulate the roles and responsibilities and accountability of different stakeholders at state, district, block and community level in policy and law enforcement.	Review the existing Prohibition of Child Marriage Rules 2007.		√		Department of Women and Child Development, law/home.	Development of amended rules of prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006.
		Amend the rules based on the suggestions from the review.		√			
		Appoint more number of CMPOs at District, block and village level.		√			
		Develop an SOP for stakeholders who are involved under PCMA Act at the state and district level.	√				SOP issued.
		Develop a protection mechanism and incentivize the informer of child marriage.		√			Orders and circulars.
3.2	Awareness generation on government policies, laws and schemes related to child marriage, child protection and adolescent empowerment.	Sensitise communities about the relevant legislations and policies and schemes on girl's education, rights and gender equality.	√	√	√	Department of Women and Child Development, RLSA, Department of SJE, Department of Home, Department of Education.	Reports.



Sr. No.	Strategic Focus Areas	Activities	Time Frame ¹			Department	Means of Verification
			Short Term (2 years)	Medium Term (5 years)	Long Term (10 years)		
3.3	Enhance legal awareness on various child protection and gender related legislations.	Organise legal literacy camps on a regular basis at block and panchayat levels.	√	√	√	RSLSA / Department of Women and Child Development, Home.	Reports.
		Sensitise judicial officers and public prosecutors in all districts, on child marriage, PCMA and annulment.		√			Reports.
		Facilitate the fast-track redressal system for those adolescents who want to nullify their marriage and explore provision of compensation through victim compensation scheme and provide legal aid.		√	√		Guidelines/orders.
3.4	Strengthen rehabilitation and redressal mechanisms for children affected by marriage.	Identify existing barriers in providing rehabilitation and redressal services to girls.	√			Department of Social Justice and Empowerment.	Report.
		Address identified barriers and strengthens rehabilitation and redressal mechanisms.		√			Orders issued by the department.
		Train functionaries of shelter homes under JJ Act and women shelter homes for dealing with children affected by early marriage.		√			Training report.



Sr. No.	Strategic Focus Areas	Activities	Time Frame ¹			Department	Means of Verification
			Short Term (2 years)	Medium Term (5 years)	Long Term (10 years)		
		Prepare policy recommendations for making the child marriage annulment procedure easy and fast.		√		Department of Law / Department of Women and Child Development.	Order.
		Rehabilitation spaces for children affected by child marriage or at risk of child marriage, allocated in shelter homes, care homes, health institutions and facilities run by established and recognised NGOs.		√		Department of Social Justice and Empowerment/ Department of Health and Family Welfare/ Department of Woman and Child Development.	Circular and orders issued.
3.5	Undertake capacity building of CMPOs, Marriage Registration Officers and Special Juvenile Police Units (SJPU) on a continuous basis.	Develop training materials for sensitisation of CMPOs, marriage registration officers and SJPU on issues related to child rights.	√			Department of Women and Child Development / Rajasthan Police Academy/HCM RIPA.	Training module.
		Sensitisation workshops on child marriage for CMPOs, marriage registration officers and SJPU.		√			Reports.
3.6	Identify complementarities in reference to various provisions of laws like PCMA, POCSO, Juvenile Justice Act and IPC.	Organise a Consultation to review different laws related to child protection, cull out complementary and contradictory provisions in reference to child marriage and suggest recommendations to address the same.		√		Department of Women and Child Development / Department of Social Justice and Empowerment / RLSA.	Recommendations acted upon by the government.



Sr. No.	Strategic Focus Areas	Activities	Time Frame ¹			Department	Means of Verification
			Short Term (2 years)	Medium Term (5 years)	Long Term (10 years)		
3.7	Rationalisation of human resources for strengthening implementation of PCMA.	Establish a comprehensive adolescent empowerment unit at Directorate of Women Empowerment.	√			Department of Women and Child Development.	Establishment of the unit.
		Strengthen existing Helpline centre/child line at the district level to counsel and provide support for adolescents at risk of child marriage.	√			Department of Women and Child Development/ Directorate of Child Rights.	Reports.
3.8	Strengthen monitoring mechanisms for implementation of laws related to prevention and prohibition of child marriage.	Review existing gaps in the monitoring of implementation of the laws related to prevention and prohibition of child marriage.	√			Department of Home, Department of Women and Child Development, District Administration.	Reports.
		Strengthen reporting systems and ensure the monthly, quarterly reports from the districts.	√	√	√		
3.9	Strengthen bodies under Integrated Child Protection Scheme to address the issue of child marriage.	Develop training materials and integrate content through the ICPS training modules.		√		Department of Social Justice and Empowerment.	Training module.
		Build capacity of Child Welfare Committee members/district child protection units for rehabilitation of children rescued from incidents of child marriage.		√			Training Reports.



Sr. No.	Strategic Focus Areas	Activities	Time Frame ¹			Department	Means of Verification
			Short Term (2 years)	Medium Term (5 years)	Long Term (10 years)		
Strategic Focus Area 4 - Increased access to safe and quality education							
4.1	Strengthen implementation of existing programmes and schemes to increase the reach of girls to quality education, retention and reducing of absenteeism especially for those who are from vulnerable backgrounds.	Review existing programmes and schemes related to retention of girls and prepare an actionable document on the areas that need improvement.		√		Department of Education.	Report on the actionable points and letters to concerned Departments for action.
		Implement findings from the review and monitor progress of the implementation of schemes and programmes.		√	√		
		Hold meetings of concerned departments to discuss reasons and possible methods to maximise retention in secondary and higher secondary classes.	√				
		Promote intersectoral convergence of schemes of various departments related to girl child education, to maximise retention in secondary and higher secondary classes.	√	√	√		
		Pursue innovative strategies to increase the availing of benefit of schemes like transport vouchers, bicycles for girls and conditional cash transfer to offset the hurdles of distance and economic burden to education.	√	√	√		



Sr. No.	Strategic Focus Areas	Activities	Time Frame ¹			Department	Means of Verification
			Short Term (2 years)	Medium Term (5 years)	Long Term (10 years)		
		Increase investment in residential schools for girls from the marginalised society.		√			
		Increase provision for bridging the educational gaps of out of school children.	√	√	√		
4.2	Enhance awareness among students on the effects of child marriage, the PCMA Act and avenues for reporting cases of violation of the PCMA Act.	Develop IEC materials especially for children on the issue and provisions of the Act.	√			Department of Women and Child Development / Department of Education.	Printed materials.
		Issue guidelines/orders to the secondary and higher secondary schools to display the IEC materials and initiate discussions on the issue of child marriage in the assembly, session.	√			Department of Education.	Issue of order.
4.3	Strengthen teacher-community, teacher-parent and teacher-student interface through multiple platforms.	Develop briefs on the issue of child marriage and its implications and strategies to address it.	√			Department of Education, Department of Women and Child Development.	Communication briefs.



Sr. No.	Strategic Focus Areas	Activities	Time Frame ¹			Department	Means of Verification
			Short Term (2 years)	Medium Term (5 years)	Long Term (10 years)		
		Initiate regular dialogue among teacher-parent, teacher-community and teacher-student through platforms of school management committees, parent-teacher meetings, <i>meena manchs</i> and <i>adhyapika manchs</i> to generate awareness on the importance of investing in education and preventing drop-outs.	√	√	√	Department of Education.	Reports on the discussions.
		Analyse existing schemes to improve girls' education, identification of barriers and development of district specific and problem specific strategy and action plan to remove the existing barriers.	√			Department of Education.	Report on the study and action plan.
4.4	Integrate Gender, Rights education, Life Skills and PCMA (with a focus on rights of a child and implications of the harmful practices of child marriage) in primary and secondary school curriculum.	Develop resource materials for integration of gender and child rights education in existing training of teachers in coordination with DIET, SIERT and Board of Secondary Education (BSER).		√		Department of Education.	Materials and Order.
		Train teachers on revised curriculum by Integrating Gender, Child Rights education, Life Skills Education and PCMA.		√		Department of Education.	Training reports.



Sr. No.	Strategic Focus Areas	Activities	Time Frame ¹			Department	Means of Verification
			Short Term (2 years)	Medium Term (5 years)	Long Term (10 years)		
		Engage with B.Ed colleges to integrate issues related to child marriage in their training module.		√		Department of Higher Education and Universities in Rajasthan.	Training curriculum.
		Introduce a chapter on Child Marriage and its consequences along with the legal provisions of child marriage for Class VIII.		√		Department of Education	
		Identify existing challenges faced by the girls in the schools.	√			Department of Education.	Report.
		Make environments of secondary and higher secondary schools gender sensitive by making available functional toilets, infrastructure and trained counsellors.	√	√	√	Department of Education.	Supervisory visit reports.
Strategic Focus Area 5 – Provide access to quality health, nutrition and reproductive health services							
5.1	Equip health service providers on the ill effects of marriage and child bearing before the age of 18.	Develop training materials and modules for training health service providers on child marriage, adolescent development.	√			Department of Medical Health and Family Welfare,	Reports and photographs.
		Build capacities of health service providers in health institutions/ villages on the ill health effects on child marriage.	√			Department of Education.	
		Integrate adolescent issues under the 104 helpline for counselling services.	√				



Sr. No.	Strategic Focus Areas	Activities	Time Frame ¹			Department	Means of Verification
			Short Term (2 years)	Medium Term (5 years)	Long Term (10 years)		
		Strengthen the health institutions to provide adolescent friendly health services.	√	√	√		
		Strengthen coordination between education and health department for provision of health check-ups and counselling services in schools.	√				
		Motivate the ASHA worker to create awareness on ill health effects of marriage and child bearing before the age of 18 with adolescent girls at village level.		√			
5.2	Build networks among adolescents for accessing counselling services at the health centres and connect adolescents to other adolescent clubs for improving health related behaviours.	Form adolescent clubs and link adolescents with existing clubs (if available).	√	√	√	Department of Medical Health and Family Welfare, & Department of Women and Child Development.	Report on adolescent clubs formed.
		Develop and disseminate guidelines for discussions on the health implications of child marriage.		√		Department of Medical Health and Family Welfare.	Guidelines, reports.
		Roll out the peer educator initiative under RKSK in the identified districts.	√	√	√		
		Conduct awareness generation drives in the villages on the adolescent friendly health services/RKSK.	√	√	√		



Sr. No.	Strategic Focus Areas	Activities	Time Frame ¹			Department	Means of Verification
			Short Term (2 years)	Medium Term (5 years)	Long Term (10 years)		
5.3	Engage with training institutions to integrate sexual and reproductive health rights of adolescents in the various curricula of the trainings for different cadres of health service.	Develop resources on sexual and reproductive health rights of adolescents, especially young married adolescent girls.	√			Department of Medical Health and Family Welfare.	Resource materials.
		Integrate resource materials in the various curriculum of the trainings for the different cadres of health service.		√		Department of Medical Health and Family Welfare.	Training reports.
5.4	Strengthen delivery of family planning services for married adolescents to delay child births and promote spacing between births.	Orient service providers and field staff on delivering family planning services for married adolescents.		√		Department of Medical Health and Family Welfare.	Training reports.
		Monitor delivery of FP services to married adolescents.		√	√		Progress reports.
		Strengthen capacities of the ASHAs to engage with young married couples in order to motivate them to delay and promote spacing between births.	√	√	√		HMIS reports.
5.5	Enhance access to maternal and child health services for married adolescents at the institutional and community level.	Orient service providers and field staff on delivering maternal & child health services to married adolescents.	√			Department of Medical Health and Family Welfare.	Training reports.
		Monitor delivery of maternal & child health services to married adolescents during MCHN days.	√	√	√		Progress reports.



Sr. No.	Strategic Focus Areas	Activities	Time Frame ¹			Department	Means of Verification
			Short Term (2 years)	Medium Term (5 years)	Long Term (10 years)		
5.6	Build capacities of health service providers to deal with cases of violence, particularly gender based violence.	Integrate resource materials to deal with cases of violence, particularly gender based violence, in existing training programmes for health service providers.		√		Department of Medical Health and Family Welfare.	Resource materials.
		Build capacity of health service providers on revised training modules.		√			Training reports.
		Establish one-stop crisis management centres in more districts, apart from Jaipur.	√	√	√	Department of Women and Child Development,	Progress reports.
		Monitoring the cases of violence treated and referred by health service providers.	√	√	√	Department of Medical Health and Family Welfare.	Progress reports.
		Integrate indicators in the existing monitoring formats/ mechanisms.	√				
Strategic Focus Area 6 - Build avenues for economic development and livelihoods							
6.1	Strengthen delivery of existing programmes and schemes related to skills and livelihood for enabling adolescents to access them.	Identify barriers in accessing existing programmes and schemes related to skills and livelihood by adolescents, especially girls.	√			Department of Labour, Skill, Employment and Entrepreneurship,	Reports.
		Create awareness on existing programmes.	√	√	√	Department of Agriculture, Industries and Department of Women and Child Development.	Reports.
		Monitor progress on improvement in access to existing programmes and schemes related to skills and livelihood by adolescents.		√	√		Progress reports.



Sr. No.	Strategic Focus Areas	Activities	Time Frame ¹			Department	Means of Verification
			Short Term (2 years)	Medium Term (5 years)	Long Term (10 years)		
		Engage with private partners, corporates and training institutes to design demand driven skill development courses for adolescents.		√			Reports.
6.2	Channelise youth energy at block level to train adolescents on vocational skills.	Develop guidelines to establish youth resource centres at the block level.		√		Department of Youth Affairs and Sports,	Guidelines.
		Establish youth resource centres at the block level to train adolescents on vocational skills.			√	Department of Labour, Skill, Employment and Entrepreneurship.	Reports.
6.3	Mainstream entrepreneurship development and financial literacy as part of the school curriculum.	Develop materials on entrepreneurship development and financial literacy.	√			Department of Education / Department of	Resource materials.
		Integrate materials in the existing curriculum.		√		Women and Child Development.	Revised curriculum.
		Build capacity of teachers on the revised curriculum and facilitation of session by teachers.		√	√		Reports.



Sr. No.	Strategic Focus Areas	Activities	Time Frame ¹			Department	Means of Verification
			Short Term (2 years)	Medium Term (5 years)	Long Term (10 years)		

Strategic Focus Area 7 – Empower adolescent girls and boys with comprehensive and appropriate information, life skills and increased access to services

7.1	Strengthen the Adolescent Girls/ boys Collective across schemes through convergent action.	Review existing gaps and develop an action plan to address the existing barriers.	√			Department of Women and Child Development	Reports.
		Develop resource materials and/or adapt these to existing materials.	√			Concerned Departments.	Progress reports.
		Implement the action plan and monitor the improvement in access to schemes by adolescent girls.		√	√	Department of Women and Child Development & concerned departments.	Resource materials/ Reports.
		Form adolescent club/linkages with existing clubs.		√			Progress reports.
		Build capacity of peer educators, facilitators and facilitate sessions on materials and encourage interaction with parents and family members, especially on issues related to child marriage.	√	√	√		Training reports, progress reports.



Sr. No.	Strategic Focus Areas	Activities	Time Frame ¹			Department	Means of Verification
			Short Term (2 years)	Medium Term (5 years)	Long Term (10 years)		
7.2	Identify local role models and champions to showcase their achievements despite challenges.	Identify local role models and organise interaction of role models with adolescent boys & girls.	√	√	√	Department of Women and Child Development & concerned departments.	Reports.
7.3	Engage adolescent reporters (<i>Kishori</i> Reporters) to increase the reporting of initiatives, case studies and success stories related to adolescent programmes and community based initiatives that protect the rights of children and adolescents.	Identify potential adolescent reporters (<i>Kishori</i> Reporters).	√			Department of Women and Child Development & concerned departments.	List of identified adolescent reporters (<i>Kishori</i> Reporters).
		Build capacity of identified adolescent reporters (<i>Kishori</i> Reporters).		√			Training reports.
		Undertake regular reporting by adolescent reporters (<i>Kishori</i> Reporters) on issues related to adolescents, child marriage, violence, etc.		√	√		Reports by adolescent reporters (<i>Kishori</i> Reporters).
		Conduct periodic review of progress.		√	√		
7.4	Develop partnership forums with civil society organisations to advocate for the rights of children and adolescents.	Form forums with civil society organisations to advocate for the rights of children & adolescents, as well as conduct regular meeting of the forum.		√		Department of Women and Child Development.	Reports, meeting minutes.



Sr. No.	Strategic Focus Areas	Activities	Time Frame ¹			Department	Means of Verification
			Short Term (2 years)	Medium Term (5 years)	Long Term (10 years)		
Strategic Focus Area 8 – Strengthen data management system to track child marriage related indicators to inform decision making							
8.1	Develop a management information system with specific dashboard indicators to track interventions related to addressing child marriage.	Develop a management information system to track interventions related to addressing child marriage.		√		Department of Women and Child Development, Department of Planning & Statistics.	MIS, progress reports, meeting minutes.
		Monitor and review progress using MIS.		√	√		
8.2	Strengthen the vital registration systems to capture marriages.	Identify existing gaps/barriers in the registration of marriages.	√			Department of Women and Child Development, Department of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, Department of Local Bodies.	Reports, meeting minutes, progress reports.
		Strengthen vital registration systems to capture marriages.		√			
		Monitor progress of the vital registration systems to capture marriages.		√	√		
8.3	Generate evidence of the benefits in delaying marriage, retention girls in school, providing adolescent friendly health services, through primary and secondary data.	Identify gaps in terms of data and evidence in the areas of benefits in delaying marriage, keeping girls in school, providing adolescent friendly health services, through primary and secondary data.		√		Department of Women and Child Development, Research Institutions, UN agencies and other identified institutions.	Reports, policy briefs/ publications.
		Generate data & evidence and share it with concerned stakeholders.		√	√		



Sr. No.	Strategic Focus Areas	Activities	Time Frame ¹			Department	Means of Verification
			Short Term (2 years)	Medium Term (5 years)	Long Term (10 years)		
		Invest in qualitative research to better understand changes taking place in the lives of the girls and to gain insights on the effectiveness of the different components of the action plan.		√	√		
8.4	Develop inter-linkages among sectoral data related to the issues of education, health and protection of children.	Conduct analysis of data related to the issues of education, health and protection of children.		√		Department of Women and Child Development and other identified institutions.	Reports, policy briefs/ publications.
		Share the analysis and knowledge products with concerned stakeholders.		√			
8.5	Develop a community based monitoring system to track child related indicators.	Develop a portal for registration of grievances related to child marriage and tracking.	√			Department of Women and Child Development and other identified institutions.	Reports, meeting minutes, progress reports.
		Development of Mobile application for reporting incidents of child marriage	√				
		Develop a community based monitoring system to track the progress on child related indicators.		√			
		Monitor and review progress using the community based monitoring system.		√	√		



Sr. No.	Strategic Focus Areas	Activities	Time Frame ¹			Department	Means of Verification
			Short Term (2 years)	Medium Term (5 years)	Long Term (10 years)		
Strategic Focus Area 9 - Multi-sectoral approach and partnership building to leverage resources and mainstream programs for prevention of child marriage							
9.1	Develop convergent mechanisms at the state and district level for the various sectors to coordinate their respective schemes and programmes related to children and adolescents.	Develop more convergent mechanisms/strengthen existing mechanism at the state level and district level for the various sectors to coordinate their respective schemes and programmes related to children and adolescents.	√	√	√	Department of Women and Child Development, & concerned departments.	Orders, meeting minutes.
		Conduct regular meetings of the committees to facilitate convergence and monitoring of the progress of convergence.		√	√		
9.2	Synergise efforts and resources of UN agencies, development partners, academic institutions, NGOs, civil society and other to address the issue of child marriage and related harmful practices.	Organise regular meetings among Government of Rajasthan, UN agencies, NGOs, civil society and others to synergise their efforts in the areas of child marriage and related harmful practices.	√	√	√	Department of Women and Child Development.	Reports, meeting minutes.
9.3	Rope in corporate bodies and foundations to mainstream programmes related to preventing child marriages in their respective programmes and field areas.	Identify potential opportunities for partnerships with corporate bodies and foundations.		√		Department of Women and Child Development.	Reports, meeting minutes.
		Develop partnerships with corporates and foundations to mainstream programmes related to preventing child marriage through their respective programmes and field areas.		√			



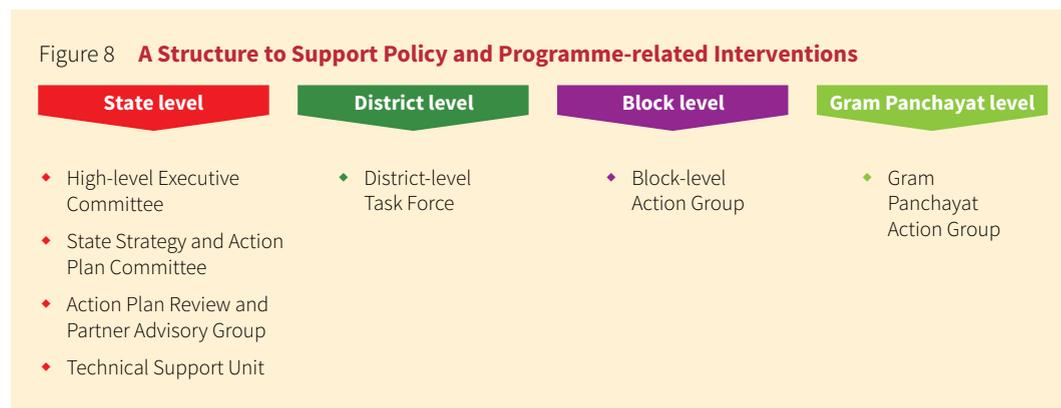


Section 6

Institutional Mechanisms

Desk research of why existing programmes/legislations did not deliver 100% results in bringing down incidence of child marriage in Rajasthan, point towards weak mechanisms to track progress, monitor performance, undertake qualitative assessments/reviews and implement mid-course corrections.

The Rajasthan State Strategy and Action Plan, being a dynamic and result-oriented plan, needs a robust institutional mechanism to plan, implement, monitor, review and, if needed, undertake policy correction/s to achieve the impact envisaged under the plan. In this regard, the following approach is proposed:



1. State High Level Executive Committee

At the highest level, a state high level Executive Committee will be constituted under the chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary. The State executive committee will be the same as the committee under the *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* Scheme. The Executive Committee will have senior officials of Department of Women and Child Development, Health, Education, Home Affairs, Social Empowerment and Justice, Youth Affairs and Sports, Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, State legal service authorities, UNFPA and UNICEF. Principal Secretary/ Secretary, WCD will be the member secretary of the Executive Committee. The committee will meet bi-annually and will review the State Action Plan, as well as take policy-level decisions to strengthen implementation.

2. State Strategy and Action Plan Committee

Quarterly Review of the State Strategy and Action Plan will be undertaken by the State Strategy and Action Plan Committee under the chairpersonship of the Principal Secretary / Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development. The Commissioner, Directorate of Women Empowerment will be the Member Secretary and will share the status of the implementation. The Head of the Departments of Health, Education (primary and secondary), Home Affairs, Social Empowerment and Justice, Youth Affairs and Sports, Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, representatives of UNFPA and UNICEF will be members of this committee and will share the Annual Action Plan (on the basis of the State Strategy and Action Plan) of each department for achieving the objectives of the State Strategy and Action Plan. The group will work towards convergence and coordination across various departments. State Strategy and Action Plan Committee will be responsible for developing guidelines and protocols for the implementation of the State Strategy and Action Plan. The State Strategy and Action Plan Committee will oversee the preparation and implementation of departmental and district action plans. The Committee will also put together capacity building frameworks, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and MIS for effective monitoring.

3. Action Plan Review and Partner Advisory Group

The State Strategy and Action Plan will be reviewed once in two months. This internal review will be undertaken under the chairpersonship of the Commissioner/Director, Directorate of



Women Empowerment. The programme officers of the concerned districts, identified civil society organisations, academic and research institutions and development partners working in the area of addressing the issue of child marriage and representatives from UN agencies will participate in this meeting. The programme officers will share their district-wise details of activities, strategies, success stories and innovations carried out in the district under the implementation of the plan. The members of the identified civil society organisations would share experiences from the field, challenges and issues in terms of rolling out the action plan and share the best practices.

4. Technical Support Unit

A State Technical Support Unit will be established at the Directorate of Women Empowerment to spearhead the activities envisaged under the State Strategy and Action Plan. Technical consultants will be part of the unit to provide technical inputs for the implementation of the State Strategy and Action Plan. The various protocol guidelines, training modules and communication materials will be developed by the Technical Support Unit.

5. District Level Task Force

A District Level Task Force will be set up at the district level under the chairpersonship of the District Collector. The District Task force of State Strategy and Action Plan will be co-terminus with the district task force of girl child policy. The task force will have representation of district level officers from various departments; the police, PRI representatives and local NGOs. The District Level Task Force will closely monitor and review the progress on the State Strategy and Action Plan across the district. The District Level Task Force will directly report the progress made under the State strategy and Action Plan to the Executive Committee via the office of the Commissioner, Women Empowerment.

6. Block Level Action Group

A Block Level Action Group will be convened under the chairpersonship of the SDM, with representation from PRIs, other CMPOs and other government officials. This group will ensure proper implementation of the SSAP and monitor progress at the block level. The action group



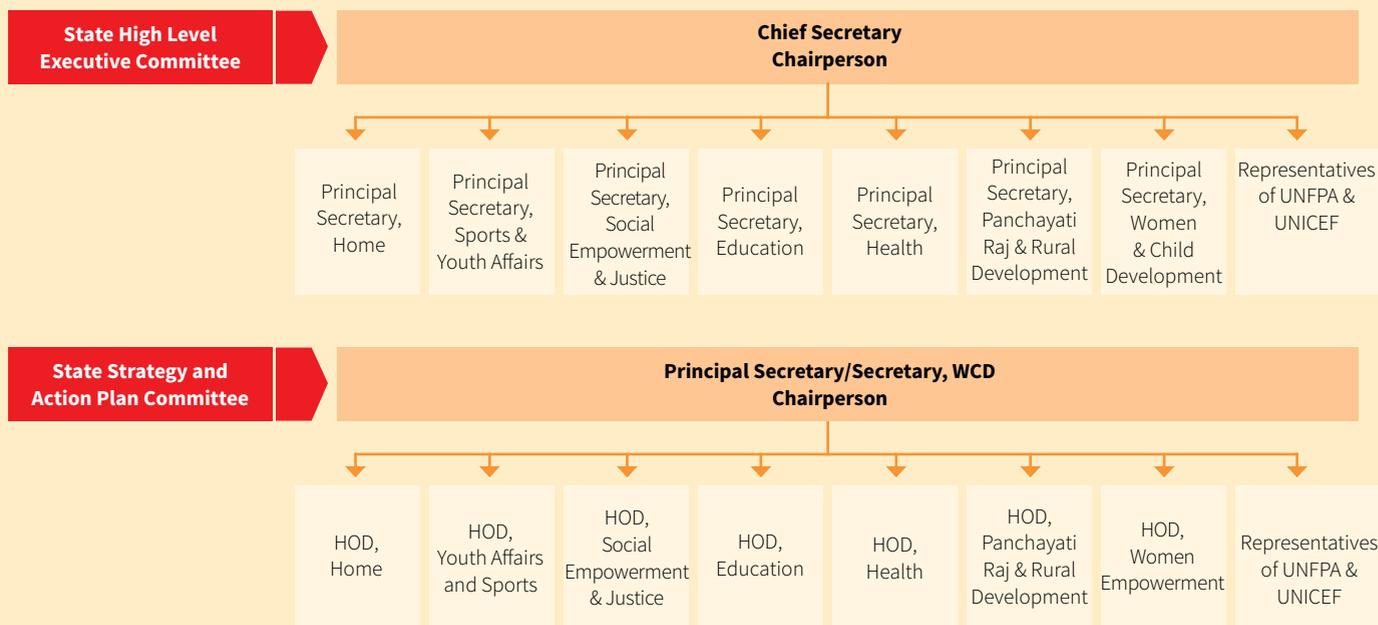
will also provide feedback/recommendations for locally relevant strategies to the District Level Task Force.

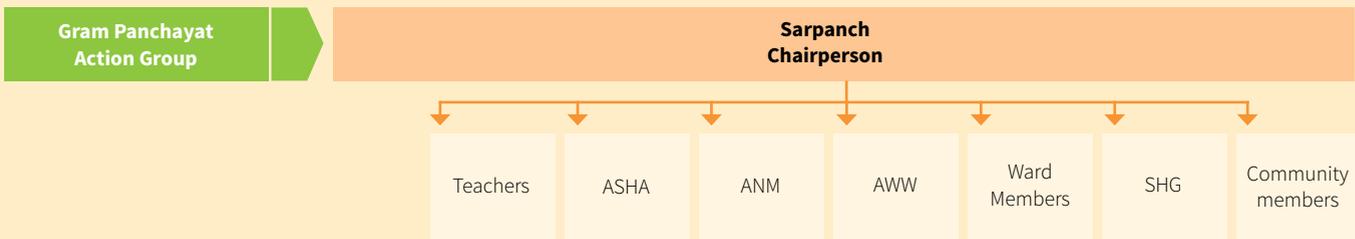
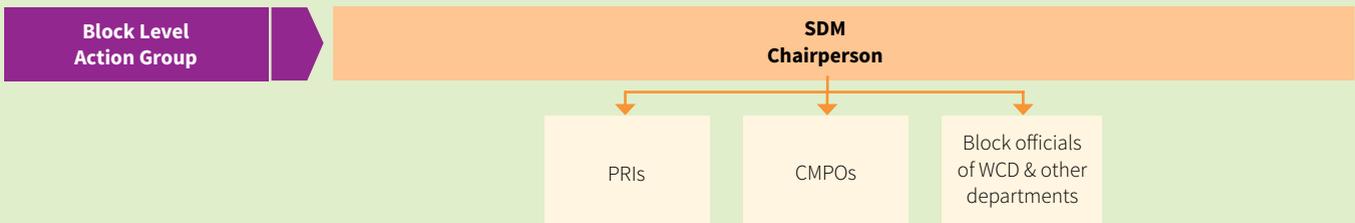
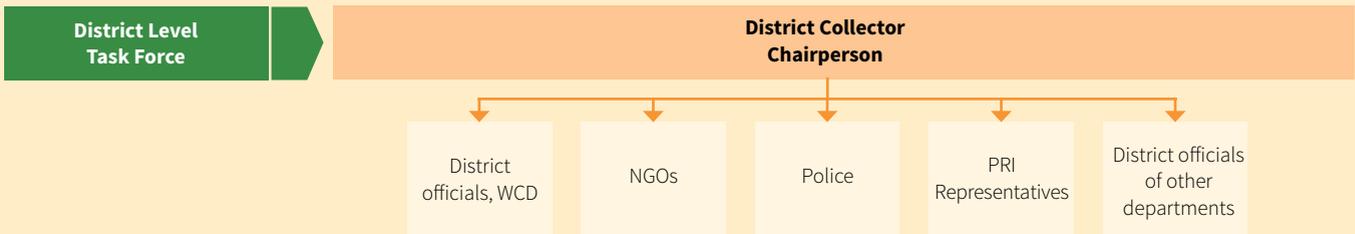
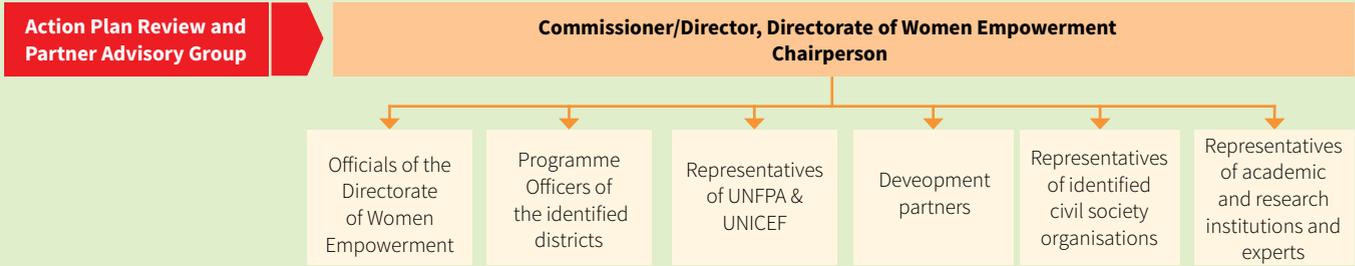
7. Gram Panchayat Action Group

The Standing Committee on Social Services constituted in every *gram panchayat* will act as a *Gram Panchayat* Action Group that will coordinate, monitor and ensure that no child marriage takes place in the *gram panchayat* area. One of the major agenda points of the Standing Committee’s meeting is to review regularly the status of child marriage in their jurisdiction. The members of the group will keep a close watch on child marriages in their area and ensure strict implementation of the law. They will also bring the issues of child marriage to centre stage in the ‘gram sabhas’ and engage closely with gate-keepers, including community leaders and communities that promote child marriage. They will identify role-models to advocate the empowerment of girls and boys in their panchayats and make panchayats child marriage free.

Figure 9

Proposed Institutional Arrangements to Support Governance and Execution







Section 7

Partnerships

Recognising the power of mutli-stakeholder partnerships that work towards a joint cause, namely bringing down level of child marriages from the current 31.6% to the desired 0% is the only way to ensure optimal results and long-lasting behavioural change in attitudes, mindsets, behaviours and actions.

The implementation of the State Strategy and Action Plan involves a united effort of the Government of Rajasthan, development partners, NGOs, community members, PRIs, adolescent boys and girls and media houses. In order to co-create something as impactful as a child marriage-free Rajasthan, successful partnership is very essential. These partnerships will not only compliment the efforts of the government, but also will synergise and multiply the efforts for a quantum leap in achieving the goal of making Rajasthan child marriage-free.

Making and sustaining partnerships with eye fixed on a common goal

Creating an environment and milieu where existing partnerships are strengthened and new ones forged. Also where trainings are held and refresher trainings are planned since behaviour change with respect to a harmful practice like child marriage can be weeded out only if backed by extremely strong and committed patrons, activists, opinion makers, policymakers, programme managers, academia, health workers and other grassroots functionaries.



Figure 10

**Wide Range of Partnerships
to Strengthen Strategic
Goals and Actions**





Section 8

Monitorable Indicators

The indicators of the SSAP to prevent child marriage must reflect the progress of the strategic interventions while capturing the impact.

The prime goal of making Rajasthan child marriage free, involves resource-intensive surveys for the purposes of measure. Hence, the plan is to have intermediary indicators to denote the achievement of the goal.

Way to go.....

Measuring progress and impact through a set of impact indicators that address the sensitive age band of 15-24 years along with critical dashboard indicators that cover the entire lifespan of the adolescent as also his/her range of interactions at the community, societal, household and policy levels.



1. Impact indicators

- a. Percentage of women aged 20-24 married before age 18.
- b. Percentage of women aged 20-24 married before age 15.
- c. Percentage of men aged 20-24 married before age 21.
- d. Percentage of births by girls aged 15-19 years, attended by skilled health personnel.
- e. Percentage of girls aged 15-19 who have their need for family planning satisfied by modern methods.
- f. Percentage of adolescent girls of secondary school that are out of school.
- g. Maternal mortality ratio

2. Critical dashboard indicators to gauge the progress in achieving the goal

- a. Influencing community mind-set
 - i. Percentage of PRI members sensitised on the issues of child marriage and other harmful practices.
 - ii. Percentage of villages, *gram panchayats* and blocks covered by the joint campaign.
- b. Designing district specific strategies on the basis of prevalence
 - i. Number of districts that have developed annual district action plans with monitorable indicators.
- c. Improve legal and policy environment (with focus on gender and human rights) to protect adolescents from child marriage
 - i. Percentage of the functionaries (CMPO and SJPs) trained on the PCMA and JJ Act.
 - ii. Percentage of judicial officers and other legal functionaries sensitised on the PCMA, JJ Act and other gender related legislations.
 - iii. Percentage of girls and boys affected by child marriage who are provided access to rehabilitation and redressal mechanisms.
 - iv. Percentage of the trained functionaries of various committees constituted under various legislations.



- d. Enhanced access to safe, quality and gender sensitive education
 - i. Percentage of secondary and higher secondary schools having functional toilets.
 - ii. Percentage of school management committees sensitised on the issue of child marriage and tracking dropouts.
 - iii. Percentage of out-of-school adolescent girls linked to a non-formal education in the high and medium prevalence districts.
 - iv. Percentage of dropouts while transitioning from the elementary to secondary level and secondary to higher secondary level.
- e. Access to quality health, nutrition and reproductive health services
 - i. Percentage of health institutions providing adolescent-friendly health services.
 - ii. Percentage of health service providers oriented to address the needs of married adolescent girls.
 - iii. Percentage of married and unmarried girls aged 15-19 years who are provided reproductive health services at the institution and community level.
- f. Economic development and livelihood
 - i. Percentage of girls aged 16-19 years linked to the vocational training programmes.
 - ii. Percentage of functional youth centres providing career counselling and skill training.
- g. Empowerment of adolescent girls and boys with comprehensive and appropriate information, life skills and increased access to services
 - i. Percentage of adolescent girls covered under programmes and schemes related to adolescent empowerment in the identified high and medium prevalence districts.
 - ii. Percentage of adolescent boys covered under programmes and schemes related to adolescent empowerment in the identified high and medium prevalence districts
 - iii. Percentage of anganwadi centres implementing curriculum based intervention for empowering adolescent girls.



- h. Multisectoral approach and partnership Building to leverage resources and to mainstream the issue of child marriage
 - i. Number of districts covered by the partner organisations with interventions related to child marriage.
 - ii. Number of civil society organisations sensitising people on the issues related to child marriage and other harmful practices.
- i. Strengthening data management systems to track child marriage related indicators
 - i. Number of research studies and assessments undertaken to generate evidence.
 - ii. Vital registration systems strengthened to capture the data related to birth and marriage registrations.
 - iii. Online portal for reporting and tracking grievances



Abbreviations

AHS	: Annual Health Survey
ASHAs	: Accredited Social Health Activists
AWWs	: Anganwadi Workers
BBBP	: Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
BLAG	: Block Level Action Group
BPL	: Below Poverty Line
BSER	: Board of Secondary Education
CMPO	: Child Marriage Prohibition Officer
DIET	: District Institute for Education and Training
DISE	: District Information System on Education
DLTF	: District Level Task Force
EAG	: Empowered Action Group
FP	: Family Planning
GER	: Gross Enrolment Ratio
GPAG	: Gram Panchayat Action Group
HCM-RIPA	: Harish Chandra Mathur Institute of Public Administration
HMIS	: Health Management Information System
ICPS	: Integrated Child Protection Scheme
IPC	: Indian Penal Code
IMR	: Infant Mortality Rate
JSY	: Janani Suraksha Yojana
KGBVs	: Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyayas
KSY	: Kishori Shakti Yojana
MCHN	: Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition
MHS	: Menstrual Hygiene Scheme



MMHVY	:	Mukhya Mantri Hunar Vikas Yojana
MMR	:	Maternal Mortality Ratio
NFHS	:	National Family Health Survey
NHM	:	National Health Mission
PAG	:	Partner Advisory Group
PCMA	:	Prohibition of Child Marriage Act
POCSO	:	Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act
PRIs	:	Panchayati Raj Institutions
RSCW	:	Rajasthan State Commission for women
RSCPCR	:	Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights
RKSK	:	Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram
RMSA	:	Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan
RLSA	:	Rajasthan State Legal Service Authority
SAG	:	State Action Group
SDGs	:	Sustainable Development Goals
SDM	:	Sub Divisional Magistrate
SHG	:	Self Help Groups
SIERT	:	State Institute of Educational Research and Training
SJPU	:	Special Juvenile Police Units
SRS	:	Sample Registration System
SMC	:	School Management Committee
SSA	:	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
SSAP	:	State Strategy and Action Plan
TSU	:	State Technical Support Unit
UNFPA	:	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	:	United Nations Children Fund
WCD	:	Women and Child Development
WIFS	:	Weekly Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation Programme



Glossary

- ◆ ***AkshayTritiya/Aakha Teej***

Celebrated as the birthday of Lord Parasurama who is the sixth incarnation of Lord Vishnu, it is considered an auspicious day by Hindus and Jains who believe that it brings good luck and success, especially for new ventures.

- ◆ ***Peepal Purnima***

Celebrated in the western states of India on a full moon day, when women pray for the prosperity and longevity of their husbands' life by tying threads around a peepal tree.

- ◆ ***Mrityubhoj/Mausar***

A custom among Hindus wherein after the death of an individual, the family observes a mourning period of 12 days followed by a function on the 13th day for the liberation of the departed soul. At least 13 Brahmins are fed, followed by a feast for relatives, friends and neighbours.

- ◆ ***Atta-Satta***

Meaning give and take, it is a form of bride exchange involving the simultaneous marriage of a brother-sister pair from two households.

- ◆ ***Nata Pratha***

It is a traditional system in Rajasthan where a married woman can go away with another man in lieu of money paid to her husband or his family by the second man.

- ◆ ***Meena Manch***

It is a forum of school girls inspired by the animation series “*Meena*”, produced by UNICEF to promote the value and rights of the girl child.



- ◆ ***Adhyapika Manch***

Is a platform for women teachers to enhance and assert their identities. These forums have also become rallying points for them to develop themselves as creative and articulate professionals.

- ◆ ***Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme***

The *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* scheme is to celebrate the girl child and enable her education in order to prevent gender biased sex selective elimination, ensure survival and protection of the girl child and ensure education of the girl child.

- ◆ ***Mukhya Mantri Rajshree Yojana***

Launched by the Government of Rajasthan, this scheme is focused on improving the condition of the girl children by providing them a better life and empowering them to make a difference in their own lives

- ◆ ***Aapki Beti Yojana***

Aapki Beti Yojana, a Rajasthan government scheme provides cash incentives to girls enrolled in class 1-12 of below poverty line (BPL) households, who are orphans or have one surviving parent.

- ◆ ***Palanhar Yojana***

A scheme by Rajasthan's State Social Welfare Department, with an aim of providing a family atmosphere to growing orphans who are living in state run orphanages, by encouraging interested families, issueless couples or relatives of orphaned children to take responsibility of these children.

- ◆ ***Sanjha Abhiyan – Bal Vivah Mukt Rajasthan***

The Rajasthan State Government, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) A district level campaign called "Sanjha Abhiyan" to make Rajasthan child marriage-free, involved multiple stakeholders - The Rajasthan State Government, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)



- ◆ ***Mandana***

Mandana paintings are wall and floor paintings of Rajasthan, India. They are drawn to protect home and earth, welcome gods into the house and as a mark of celebrations on festive occasions.

- ◆ ***Sahyogini***

Sahyogini (also known as ASHA in other states) is a community level worker whose role is to function as a health care facilitator, a service provider and to generate awareness on health issues.

- ◆ ***Mahila Salah Suraksha Kendras***

Counselling centres within the police stations of Rajasthan, for assisting the police in bringing about reconciliation between spouses in matters of domestic violence.



