

CHILD MARRIAGE AND TEENAGE PREGNANCY

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THE CHILD BRIDE



INDIA AND CHILD MARRIAGE



- 1929- 18 FOR MALE AND 14 FOR FEMALE
- 1970- LEGAL AGE FOR MARRIAGE WAS 15
- 1978- 21 FOR MALE AND 18 FOR FEMALE
- 2023- 21 FOR BOTH MALE AND FEMALE

UNICEF REPORT

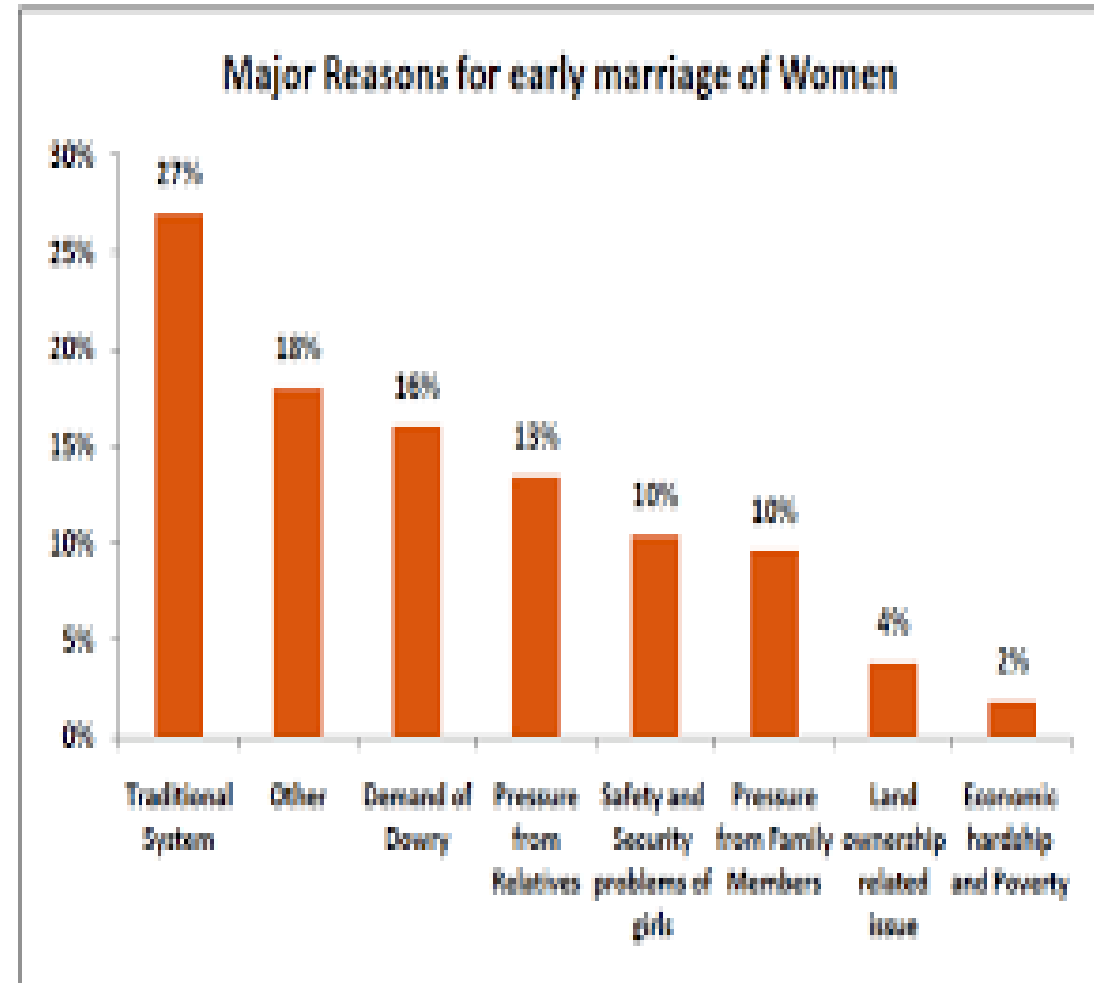
2005-
2006

•47%

2015-
2016

•27%

REASONS



COVID AND CHILD MARRIAGE

SHOCKING STATISTICS

**226.3
million**

Child brides in
India—1/3rd of
the global total
(March 2022)

**99.8
million**

Married before 15

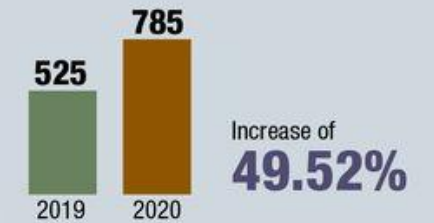
**1.5
million**

Married before 18,
every year

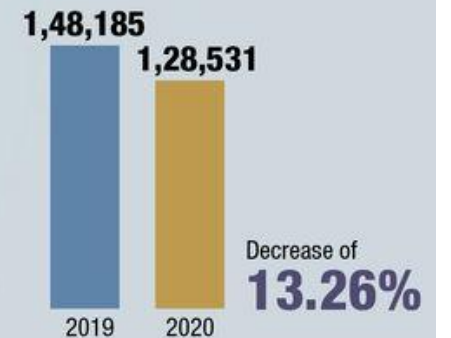


CHILD MARRIAGE CASES IN INDIA

While overall crime decreased,
child marriage increased



ALL CRIMES IN INDIA



SOURCE UNICEF INDIA, NCRB

GRAPHICS SYAM KRISHNAN/ RESEARCH SRAVANI SARKAR/ ILLUSTRATION JAIRAJ T. G.

NFHS 5

NFHS Round	Prevalence of Female Child Marriage
NFHS-1 (1992-93)	54.2%
NFHS-2 (1998-99)	50.0%
NFHS-3 (2005-06)	47.4%
NFHS-4 (2015-16)	26.8%
NFHS-5 (2019-21)	23.3%

LAWS IN INDIA

- **THE CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT ACT OF 1929[SARDA ACT]**
- **THE PROHIBITION OF CHILD MARRIAGE ACT,2006**
- **PREVENTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT,2012**
- **LAW ON MARITAL RAPE-2017**

TEENAGE PREGNANCY



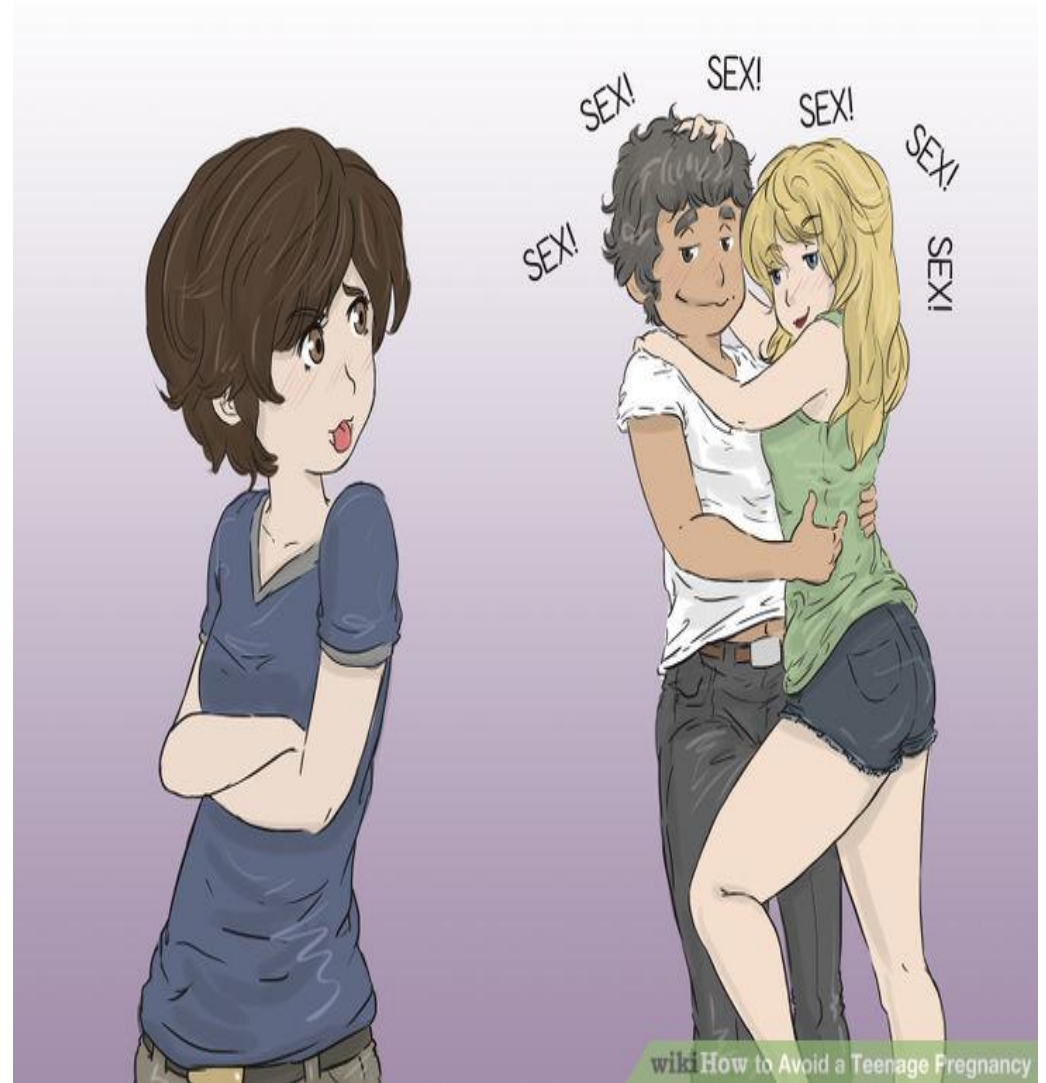
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A MAJOR PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM

- NFHS 4 says 27% of our girls get married by the time they turn 18. NFHS 5 shows a marginal decrease of 1% in teenage pregnancy.
- More than 50% of these girls who got married have already given birth.
- Prevalence of teenage pregnancy is inversely proportional to the levels of education.
- Prevalence is 9.2% in the rural areas compared to 5% in the urban areas.
- A UN report says India bears economic losses of \$7.7 billion a year due to teenage pregnancies which is grossly equal to 12% of our GDP.

TEENAGE ROMANCE

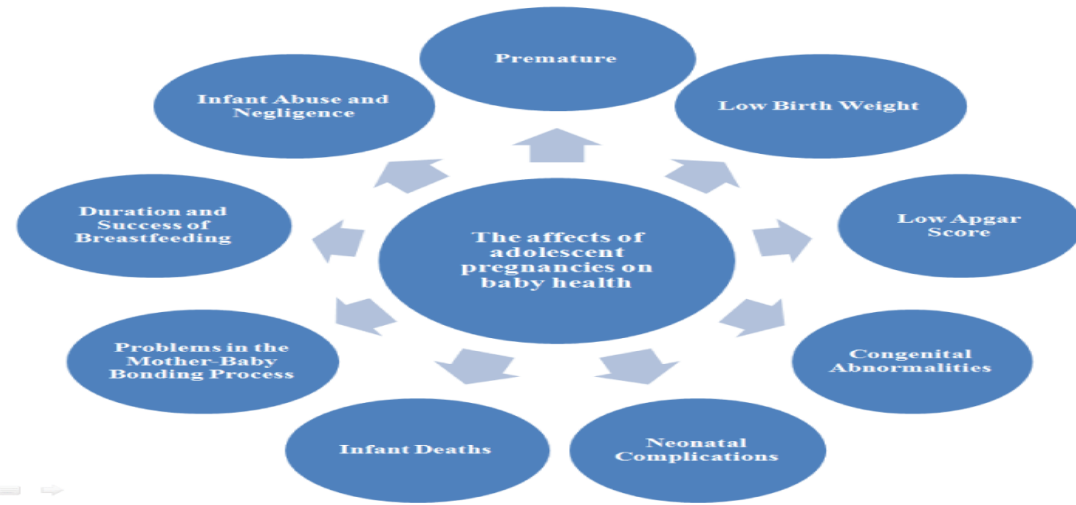
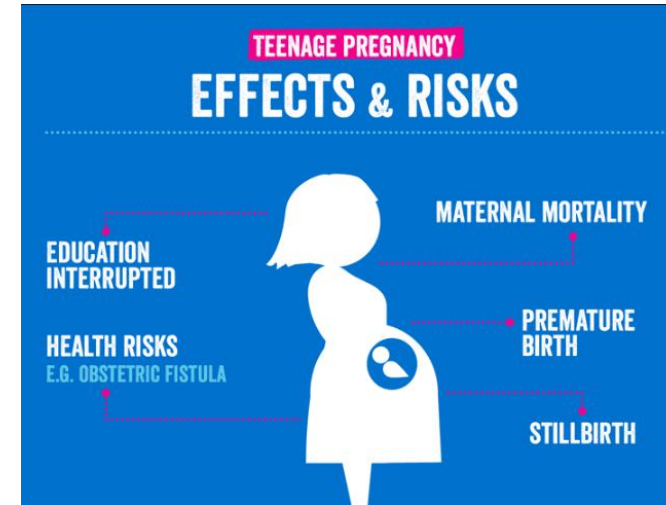


TEEN LOVE AND PREGNANCY

Reasons why teens *want* to get pregnant...

- Sexual Feelings – puberty results in tremendous fluctuations in emotions and endorphins
- Reluctance to talk about serious issues – sometimes uncomfortable talking with parents, adults about feelings they're having, might feel embarrassed; often listen to myths or half-truths about sex, therefore acting on misinformation.
- Desire for love & affection: see how much attention they can get; baby showers, etc.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY



INTERGENERATIONAL CYCLE OF ANAEMIA



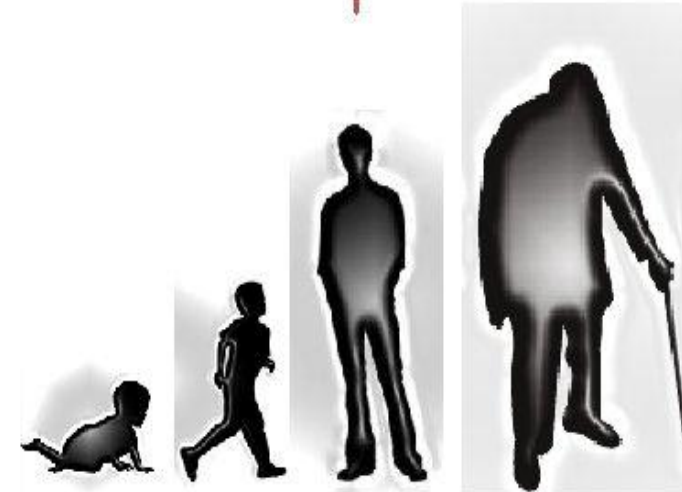
Developmental Origin of Health and Disease - Barker's Hypothesis -

The barker's hypothesis

What happens here



Can influence health here



**SAY NO TO
CHILD
MARRIAGE**

END CHILD MARRIAGE



**I say "No" to child Marriage
I Support Education of Girl child**

THE ASSAM STORY



Assam government begins 'WAR' on Child Marriage with strict police action, over 4000 cases registered

74% of rural women not completed even 10 yrs of schooling



FEMALE LITERACY IS THE KEY

