



Sample
Survey of 340
HH of Villages
Conducted by-
“ROSA”

ut Child marriage in Balrampur
District Uttar Pradesh.

Background

Child Marriage in India is a social menace as well as a criminal offence. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) report of 2023¹ reveals that India accounts for one in three of the world's child brides. India is home to the largest number of girls and women who married in childhood. According to UNICEF ,about 23% of women between 20 and 24 were married before they turned 18 (27% in rural areas and 14% in urban.

The UNICEF report further highlights that child brides include girls who marry before 18 and women who were married as children. The prevalence of child marriage varies across states and union territories in India, influenced by local customs and community structure. For instance, at least 40 percent of young women were married before turning 18 in West Bengal, Bihar, and Tripura, compared to 1% in Lakshadweep.³

Child marriage has several implications for the life and health of the children. The World Health Organisation, in a report dealing with the issue of child brides, found that though 11 % of the births worldwide are amongst adolescents, they account for 23% of the overall burden of diseases. Therefore, a child bride is doubly prone to health problems than a grown-up woman.⁴ Furthermore, another leading global body, the World Bank, reveals that child marriage is the main factor leading to early childbirth, with one assessment of 25 countries showing that an estimated 84 percent of mothers under the age of 18 had been married as children.⁵ The 2011 Census estimated that nearly 17 million children in the age group of 10–19 years were married in India. The National Family Health Survey 2019-21 (NHFS) estimates that 23.3 percent of women aged 20-24 were married before the age of 18years. A recent report by the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has identified that more than 11.4 lakh children are vulnerable to child marriage.

Child Marriage in Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh: NFHS-5 Analysis

Child marriage remains a pressing concern in various parts of India, including Uttar Pradesh. Balrampur district exhibits a significant prevalence of this practice, necessitating a focused analysis to inform policy and intervention strategies.

Prevalence of Child Marriage in Balrampur

According to NFHS-5 data, Balrampur district has a child marriage prevalence rate of 37.2%, indicating that over one-third of women aged 20–24 were married before the legal age of 18. This rate is notably higher than the state average of 15.8%, highlighting Balrampur as a high-priority area for child marriage interventions.

Rural-Urban Disparities

The prevalence of child marriage in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh stands at 17.9%, compared to 9.5% in urban regions. Given that Balrampur is predominantly rural, this disparity underscores the district's vulnerability to higher child marriage rates. IIPS India

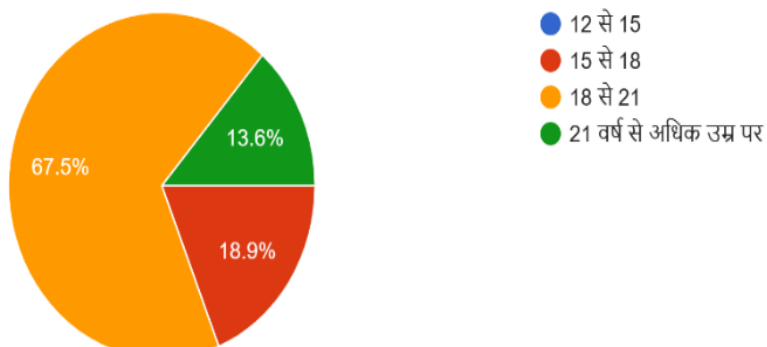
At a Glance of area and numbers of Household

- Total Families Surveyed: 340
- Total Villages Covered: 30
- Family Size Range: 5 to 13 members
- Children (0–14 years) per Family: Usually 2 to 3
- Primary Livelihood: Majority depend on daily wage labor or farming
- Monthly Household Income: ₹3,000 to ₹10,000
- Housing Condition: Mostly permanent (pucca) houses but with limited rooms

Girls' Age at Marriage

Age Group	Percentage (%)
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15 to 18 years	18.88%
18 to 21 years	67.26%
Above 21 years	13.57%



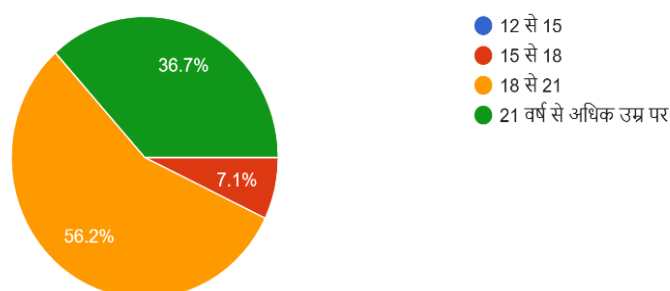
- During survey to know the marriageable age of girls among 340 HH it was observed that age of 12 to 15 showing zero in graph.
- Age of 15 to 18, the graph show that 18.9% marriage of girls are being organised
- Age of 18 to 21, As per graph 67.5% marriage of girls are being organised
- Age of above 21 year the graph shows 13.6% marriage of girls being organised

2- Age of Marriage: Data Analysis

Boys' Age at Marriage

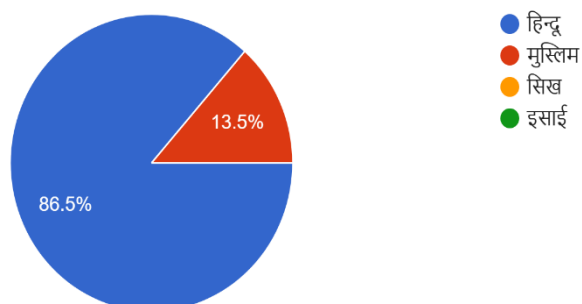
Age Group	Percentage (%)
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15 to 18 years	7.08%
18 to 21 years	56.05%
Above 21 years	36.58%



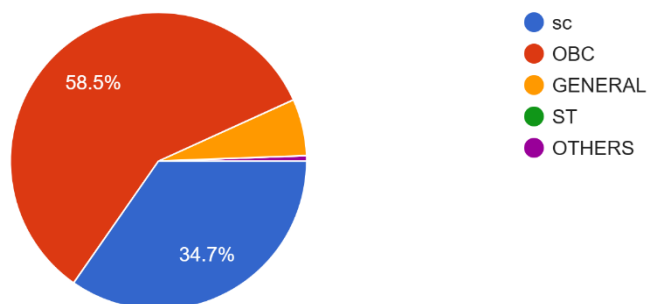
- To know the Actual status of marriages of boys in the families , a survey has been made among the 338 HH and the data collected accordingly
- During survey to know the marriageable age of boys among 340 HH it was observed that age of 12 to 15 showing zero in graph.
- Age of 15 to 18, the graph show that 7.08% marriage of boys are being organised
- Age of 18 to 21, As per graph 56.7% marriage of boys are being organised
- Age of above 21 year the graph shows 36.58% marriage of boys being organised

Religion wise data



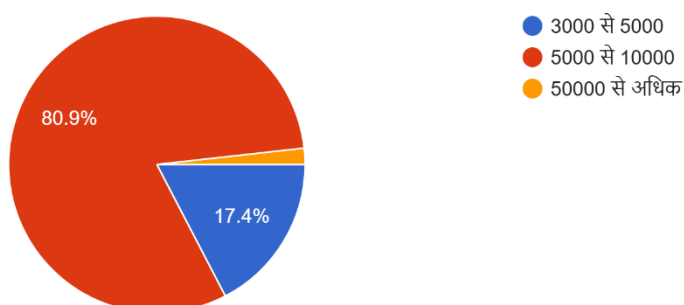
While survey it was found that out of 340 HH, 46 (13.5%) HH are Muslim community and 294(86.5%) are from Hindu the difference between both are big but impact will be according to their numbers.

Caste wise Division



On the basis of cast, After survey it was found that OBC community 58.5% is leading community, at 34.7% SC community is on second position. Impacting the community both Cast directly

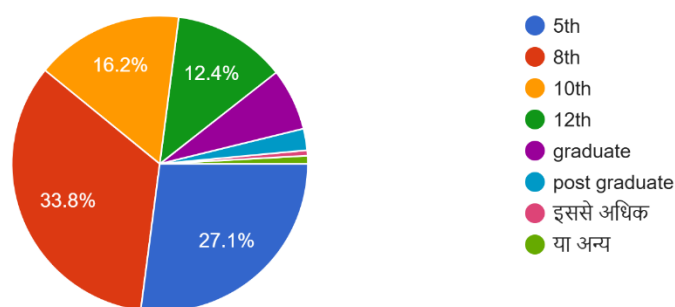
Monthly income of HH



After survey it was observed that monthly income of 80.9% households is between 5000 to 10000/-. Monthly income between 3000to 5000/- are 17.4% while very few households have monthly income more than 50000/-.

Economic status of the individual plays vital role to take decisions it may be write or wrong.

Education Status



The trends of education are found much declining after class 8th up to 8 class 33.8% HH and 27.1% having their education up to class 5th. However, 16.2% HH are found up to high school and very less HH completed their Graduate and PG i.e. 6.8% and 2.4% respectively.

After churning the data's available in the survey, it is observed that we must be keep our eye open on different component which is impacting and affecting the Child marriages

Conclusion

The survey conducted across 340 households in 30 villages of Balrampur district highlights a deeply concerning prevalence of child marriage, with 18.9% of girls married between the ages of 15–18, and 67.5% between 18–21. Although no marriages were recorded below 15, the significant number of underage marriages (below 18) remains a major issue.

Similarly, 7.08% of boys were married between 15–18, with the majority (56.7%) married between 18–21 years, showing that early marriage is not just a gendered problem but affects both boys and girls.

The underlying causes of this social evil include:

- Low household income, with 80.9% earning ₹5,000–10,000 per month.
- Limited educational attainment, with most respondents dropping out before or at middle school.
- Social norms, particularly in OBC and SC communities where awareness may be limited.
- Inadequate awareness about the legal implications and health risks associated with early marriage.

What to do NEXT-----

To address the child marriage issue in Balrampur, a multi-pronged and community-driven approach is essential. The following steps are recommended:

1. Strengthen Awareness Campaigns

- Implement village-level awareness drives involving ASHA workers, anganwadi staff, school teachers, and local leaders.
- Use street plays, posters, community radio, and storytelling to spread messages about the dangers of child marriage.

2. Empower Adolescents and Youth

- Form Child Marriage Prevention Warriors in each village.
- Engage youth clubs and adolescent groups as peer educators and ambassadors of change.

3. Education and Skill Development

- Promote continuation of education beyond Class 8, especially for girls.
- Introduce vocational training and life skills education for adolescents to give them alternative aspirations.

4. Economic Strengthening of Families

- Link low-income families to livelihood schemes (like MGNREGA, SHGs, Skill India) to reduce economic pressure leading to early marriage.

5. Strengthen Local Governance and Vigilance

- Revamp and resource Child Welfare and Protection Committees (CWPCs) at the village and block level.
- Ensure regular monitoring and reporting of at-risk families.
- Facilitate collaboration with police and child helpline services (1098).

6. Policy Advocacy

- Advocate for stricter enforcement of laws related to the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (2006).
- Push for policies supporting conditional cash transfers for delaying marriage and incentives for girl education.

7. Special efforts to prevent the child marriage.

- To make Child marriage Prevention Worrier.
- To create Awareness among the community to put their efforts over their education and better livelihood
- Marriage of Boys data showing not lesser than girls hence the child marriage of boys should not kept behind the curtain need to be highlighted to prevent.
- Through the activities youth/Adolescents will be assigned more and more responsibility to act as an ambassador in the society.