

1. Authors- **Ruby Alambusha***, **N.K. Singh****

2. Title- **Child Marriage: A study on its differential in Rajasthan**

3. Sub Theme: **Child Marriage in India: Socio-legal and Human Rights Dimensions**

4. **Abstract**

This paper, using data primarily collected through field survey of 2000 women of Rajasthan aged between 20-25 years, examines the child marriage and its differentials in Rajasthan. Female infanticide and child marriage are the two baneful practices, which deteriorates the status of the womenfolk in Rajasthan.

The problem of child marriage has been a great concern for demographers because it is directly linked with high fertility rate. Over 6.4 million young girls in India are being married before the age of 18 years (Census 2001). Despite many government and non-government efforts, the practice continues to thrive in Rajasthan. It is a common sight to find young children, being married during the ceremony of Akkha Teej. In Rajasthan, the percentage of women in the age group of 20-24 years married before 18 years of age is as high as 57% (National Family Health Survey-III; 2005-06).

The objective of this paper is to,

1. To identify different patterns of child marriage in rural area of Rajasthan.
2. To find out the factors responsible for child marriage.
3. To identify dominant aspects of child marriage.
4. To assess the impact of legislative measures on the practice of child marriage.
5. To delineate the influence of urbanization on child marriage.

Child marriages are common in Ajmer and Kota districts. 80.6% of the marriages in Ajmer district and 72.5 percent marriages in Kota district are child marriages. Only 5 to 10% of girls get married after the age of 20 years. Big farmers seem to be gradually doing away with child marriages but small cultivators and farm workers have more child marriages. Higher castes have lesser incidence of child marriages as compared to other casts. Exposure to urban areas has helped in reduction of child marriages. It is found that the child marriage cannot be curbed merely by legislations. Education and community development can play a positive role in reducing the incidence of child marriage.

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